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Constabulary**

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nationalgrid

Norfolk Constabulary

Draft Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to reflect the current understanding of the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Norfolk Constabulary regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with Norfolk Constabulary. The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is between National Grid and Norfolk Constabulary.

3. Background

3.1 Description of the Project/Development

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('National Grid') owns and maintains the national high voltage electricity transmission network throughout England and Wales. The transmission network connects the power from where it is generated to the regional Distribution Network Operators who then supply businesses and homes.

National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales, and its statutory duty is to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989.

National Grid has developed plans for Norwich to Tilbury (referred to as the 'Project'). The Project would support the UK's net zero target through the connection of new low carbon energy generation in East Anglia and by reinforcing the transmission network.

The Project comprises reinforcement of the transmission network between the existing Norwich Main Substation in Norfolk and Tilbury Substation in Essex, via Bramford Substation, the new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation and the new Tilbury North Substation.

The reinforcement is needed because the existing transmission network, even with current upgrading, will not have sufficient capacity for the new renewable energy (a substantial proportion of which would be generated by offshore wind) that is expected to connect to the network over the next 10 years and beyond. Completion of the Project, together with other new reinforcements across the country, will meet this future energy transmission demand both in East Anglia and across the UK.

The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and National Grid is seeking development consent under statutory procedures set by government. NSIPs are projects of certain types, over a certain size, which are considered by the government to be of national importance, hence permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the relevant Secretary of State (in this case the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero). Instead of applying to the local authority for planning permission, the developer must apply to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that would grant development consent.

National Grid has submitted an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority (consisting of 5 examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, will make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn will decide on whether development consent should be granted for the Project.

The Project is identified as critical to delivering a network which supports the clean power pathways for 2030 delivery.

The Planning Act 2008 places duties on National Grid as the DCO applicant to consult with prescribed or affected persons as well as to take account of responses to consultation and publicity. In accordance with these statutory requirements, National Grid has undertaken two non-statutory and one statutory consultation to inform its proposals, with further targeted consultations.

4. Stakeholder Interests

Norfolk Constabulary is the territorial police force for the county of Norfolk. It is part of the national police force under the Home Office remit. Norfolk Constabulary provides law enforcement, community safety, roads policing and emergency police response services in Norfolk. In relation to Norwich to Tilbury, it is anticipated that Norfolk Constabulary's role would extend to the safe policing of abnormal loads where required.

National Grid is seeking to ensure that the interests of both parties and how they may be affected by the interaction are understood. From this position the aim is for the parties to agree actions to avoid or reduce the implications and for any remedial measures to be agreed. On this basis we seek the input from Norfolk Constabulary to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Norfolk Constabulary or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

National Grid has engaged with Norfolk Constabulary on the Project throughout the pre-application process. Table 4.1 provides an overview of the key engagement that has taken place between National Grid and Norfolk Constabulary.

Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Norfolk Constabulary.

ID	Date	Format	Topic/Description
4.1	August 2024	Meeting	AIL routes discussion meeting – joint meeting with Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk County Council to discuss AIL routes, including Abnormal Load Officers (ALOs) who cover Norfolk & Suffolk.
	April 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Norfolk County Council AIL Workshop with Suffolk Constabulary (including joint Norfolk and Suffolk ALOs present).
			National Grid held a Essex County Council AIL Workshop with Suffolk Constabulary (including joint Norfolk and Suffolk ALOs with fNorfolk Constabulary) present.
			National Grid held a Suffolk County Council AIL Workshop with Suffolk Constabulary (including joint Norfolk and Suffolk ALOs with Norfolk Constabulary) present.
	July 2025	Meeting	AIL monthly meeting – Suffolk Constabulary (including joint ALOs) & Essex Police.
	August 2025	Meeting	AIL monthly meeting – Suffolk Constabulary (including joint ALOs) & Essex Police.
	September 2025	Meeting	AIL monthly meeting – Suffolk Constabulary (including joint ALOs) & Essex Police.
	October 2025	Meeting	AIL monthly meeting – Suffolk Constabulary (including joint ALOs) & Essex Police.
	November 2025	Meeting	AIL monthly meeting – Suffolk Constabulary (including joint ALOs) & Essex Police.

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1				

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.1	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Access Routes	This matter remains under discussion between Norfolk Constabulary and National Grid.	<p>Routes proposed to be utilised by AILs are shown in the AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A of the CTMP [APP-310]).</p> <p>These have been developed following consultations with Norfolk Constabulary. As part of these consultations, draft route information was shared in April 2025.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Norfolk Constabulary as the proposed AIL access routes are developed further, including with respect police force resourcing implications associated with the routes considered.</p>	
6.2	Communications and Notification	This matter remains under discussion between Norfolk Constabulary and National Grid.	The approach to providing communications and notification to Norfolk Constabulary is set out in Section 5.10 of the CTMP	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
			<p>[APP-309]. This framework is to be adopted and updated by the Main Works Contractor(s) and is considered to be suitable and appropriate for the present stage of project development.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Norfolk Constabulary on this matter.</p>	
6.3	Incident Management	This matter remains under discussion between Norfolk Constabulary and National Grid.	<p>Section 5.10 of the CTMP [APP-309] establishes that the Main Works Contractor(s) is anticipated to develop an Incident Management Plan in consultation with Norfolk Constabulary, alongside other emergency service Stakeholders. This would be intended to establish agreed procedure(s) to manage any incidents which may occur on the sections of the highway network proposed to be utilised by the Project.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Norfolk Constabulary on this matter.</p>	
6.4	Protest Management	This matter remains under discussion between Norfolk Constabulary and National Grid.	Similarly to the approach to the management of Highway incidents described above, it is anticipated that the Main Works Contractor(s) will engage with Norfolk Constabulary in order to establish an agreed procedure for managing protest activities.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
			National Grid will continue to engage with Norfolk Constabulary on this matter.	
6.55	Community Engagement	This matter remains under discussion between Norfolk Constabulary and National Grid.	<p>Community Engagement and Public Information measures are set out under Section 3.3 of the CTMP [309]. This sets out information which will be made available to local communities by the Main Works Contractor(s), and the public communications systems which will be established by the National Grid community relations team. It is further anticipated that specific Community Liaison activities will be carried out, as detailed within Section 6.5 of the CTMP.</p> <p>Where complaints are raised by members of the public, these will be addressed by the Main Works Contractor(s) and the National Grid Project team. The proposed approach for this is set out in Section 6.7 of the CTMP.</p> <p>This approach to Community Engagement is considered to be suitable, and appropriate for the present stage of Project development.</p> <p>Further discussions will take place between Norfolk Constabulary and the appointed construction contractor when appropriate.</p>	

7. Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon by the undersigned parties:

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Norfolk Constabulary

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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