

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0207

# Norwich to Tilbury

## Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Overview -  
Clean Version

Final Issue C

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**nationalgrid**

# Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	29 August 2025	DCO Application
B	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
C	10 April 2026	Deadline 3

# Statements of Common Ground

## 1. Overview

- 1.1.1 In accordance with government guidance (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published 30 April 2024), the Applicant has been developing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with a number of statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties throughout project development. The SoCGs seek to identify matters on which parties agree, and to track progress towards the resolution of any matters where agreement has not yet been reached.
- 1.1.2 The SoCGs are largely structured as follows:
- Summary of key engagement undertaken to date with the consultee
  - Table(s) summarising the key interests of the Parties (arranged by topic/discipline where relevant) and the status of each matter:
    - ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion;
    - ‘Under discussion’ indicates where issues are the subject of active ongoing discussion;
    - ‘Agreed’ indicates where an issues has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant welcomes the clarity provided in the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]** regarding SoCGs. We note that no additional stakeholders (beyond those listed within this document) were requested by the Examining Authority to require a SoCG.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant also welcomes the level of engagement from stakeholders during the pre-application and pre-examination phases, together with the progress that has been made on the SoCGs in advance of Deadline 4.
- 1.1.5 In some limited cases, specific issues have been categorised as ‘not agreed’ by a local authority where it is the Applicant’s view that these matters are still under further discussion. In such cases, the local authority has agreed that further discussions will be had on these specific matters. This applies to the following matters:
- South Norfolk District Council: Tables 3.4 and 3.5
  - Suffolk County Council: Tables 3.8 and 3.11
  - Tendring District Council: ID 3.2.11, Tables 3.5, 3.7 and 3.11
  - Braintree District Council: Table 3.8
- 1.1.6 The Applicant looks forward to continued engagement with stakeholders to resolve outstanding matters as far as possible and will reflect this engagement in updated SoCGs submitted at Deadline 4 as per the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]**.

## 2. List of SoCGs and status

- 2.1.1 As requested by the Examining Authority in Written Question GEN 1.18, this SoCG overview document has been updated to clearly provide a list of SoCGs which:
- Includes both the name of the organisation as well as the location/name of the development which the SoCG related to (if relevant), such as the location/name of the solar farm or housing proposal
  - States whether the organisation is a statutory consultee, an Affected Person (AP), and whether they are a non-IP
  - Number each of the SoCG in the table consecutively
  - Includes all examination library references.
- 2.1.2 For the purposes of this document, a Non-Interested Party (Non-IP) is a stakeholder who did not submit a Relevant Representation and did not request to become an IP accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority.
- 2.1.3 A Statutory Consultee refers to those included in **5.1 Consultation Report – Appendix F: List of prescribed consultees identified and consulted during statutory consultation [APP-072]**
- 2.1.4 An Affected Person is a stakeholder who has an interest in land within the project Order Limits as per **Lands Rights Tracker [REP2-011]**

Table 2.1 SoCGs submitted with the DCO application

SoCG No	Examination Ref	Consultee	Consultee type	Latest status/version
1.	REP1-010	Norfolk County Council (NCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
2.	REP1-012	Suffolk County Council (SCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
3.	REP2-012	Essex County Council (ECC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 2
4.	REP1-016-	Thurrock Council (TC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
5.	REP1-018	South Norfolk District Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
6.	REP1-020	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
7.	REP1-022	Tendring District Council	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 1
8.	REP1-024	Colchester City Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
9.	REP1-026	Braintree District Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
10.	REP1-028	Chelmsford City Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
11.	REP1-030	Brentwood Borough Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1

<b>SoCG No</b>	<b>Examination Ref</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Consultee type</b>	<b>Latest status/version</b>
12.	REP1-032	Basildon Borough Council	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
13.	REP1-034	Natural England	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 1
14.	REP1-036	Historic England	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 3
15.	REP1-038	Environment Agency	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
16.	REP1-040	Combined IDBs - Water Management Alliance	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 1
17.	REP1-042	Norfolk Wildlife Trust		Submitted Deadline 1
18.	REP1-044	Suffolk Wildlife Trust		Submitted Deadline 1
19.	REP1-046	Essex Wildlife Trust	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
20.	REP1-048	National Highways	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
21.	REP1-050	Barnards Farm Airfield	Non-IP	Signed and dated at Deadline 1
22.	REP1-052	Thurrock Airfield	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
23.	APP-111	Network Rail	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted with DCO application
24.	REP1-088	Innova Renewables (Hall Farm Energy Storage Project, south of Norwich Main substation)	Affected Person	Submitted with DCO application
25.	APP-113	Anglian Water	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted with DCO application

SoCG No	Examination Ref	Consultee	Consultee type	Latest status/version
26.	APP-114	Essex & Suffolk Water	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted with DCO application
27.	REP1-054	Exolum International UK Ltd	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
28.	APP-116	National Gas Transmission	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted with DCO application
29.	REP1-056	Scottish Power Renewables - East Anglia 1 & East Anglia 3 (onshore components of offshore wind farm, north of Bramford)	Statutory consultee Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
30.	REP1-058	MSP Fairwind Limited (Fairwinds Solar Farm, Laindon Essex)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
31.	REP1-060	Brook Farm Aerodrome	Non-IP	Signed and dated at Deadline 1
32.	REP2-022	Dedham Vale National Landscape and Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 2
33.	REP1-073	Suffolk Constabulary	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 3
34.	REP1-074	Essex Police	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 3
35.	REP1-075	Lower Thames Crossing		Submitted Deadline 1
36.	REP1-076	Affinity Water	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
37.	REP1-077	Flying Trade Group Ltd (Warehouse centre, north of Wick Lane, Ardleigh)	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
38.	REP1-078	Essex International Jamboree (Scouts and Guides event, Chelmsford)		Submitted Deadline 1

<b>SoCG No</b>	<b>Examination Ref</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Consultee type</b>	<b>Latest status/version</b>
39.	REP1-079	Orsett Golf Club	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
40.	REP1-080	Clearserve Limited (Landfill/aggregate recycling, east of Tilbury North substation)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
41.	REP1-081	Equinor – on behalf of Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extensions (onshore components of offshore wind farms, Norwich Main substation)	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
42.	REP1-082	LIH Dunton Hills Limited (Housing, Lower Dunton Road, Essex)		Submitted Deadline 1
43.	REP1-083	Bloor Homes (Housing, Chadwell St Mary Essex)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
44.	REP1-084	Crest Nicholson Operations Ltd / Bellway Homes Ltd (Housing, Lower Dunton Road, Essex)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
45.	REP1-085	EDF Renewables (Bloy's Grove Solar Farm, Brick Kiln Lane Norwich)	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
46.	REP1-086	Quintas Group (Brick Kiln Solar Farm, Mulbarton Norfolk)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
47.	REP1-087	Ralos Projects Ltd (proposed Solar Farm, Ash Norfolk)	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
48.	REP1-088	Innova Renewables (Park Gate Farm Solar Park, Rivenhall Braintree)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
49.	REP1-089	Conrad Energy (solar farm, Mountnessing Essex)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1

<b>SoCG No</b>	<b>Examination Ref</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Consultee type</b>	<b>Latest status/version</b>
50.	REP1-090	Low Carbon Limited (Crouch Solar Farm, north-west of Basildon)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
51.	REP1-091	Verdant Energy (Solar farm, Somersham Road, Mid Suffolk)	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
52.	REP1-092	Eden Renewables (Cressing Solar Farm, Cressing Braintree)		Submitted Deadline 1
53.	REP1-093	Pace Nano Energy (Grange Farm Solar, Old Bury Road Suffolk)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
54.	REP1-094	Pivoted Power (Pivot Battery Project, east of Norwich Main substation)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
55.	REP1-095	Cadent Gas	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
56.	REP1-096	Blackwater Aggregates (Bradwell Quarry, Essex)	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
57.	REP1-097	SRC Group (Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86, Essex)	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
58.	REP1-098	SRC Group (Crown Quarry mineral site A79, Ardleigh Essex)	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
59.	REP1-090	Ingrebourne Valley Limited (mineral extraction, Stanford Le Hope)	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
60.	REP1-100	SRC Group (Sheepcote Quarry, Chelmsford Essex)	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
61.		Tritton Farming Partnership and Brett Aggregates (Lowleys Farm Mineral Site, Chelmsford Essex)	Non-IP	Not submitted - further to discussions with the stakeholder, it was agreed not to submit a draft SoCG at

SoCG No	Examination Ref	Consultee	Consultee type	Latest status/version
				Deadline 1. Both parties are continuing discussions with a view to reaching agreement.
62.	REP1-101	Chase Farm Airfield	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
63.	REP1-102	South Norfolk Model Flying Club	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
64.	REP1-103	Raydon Wings Aerodrome		Submitted Deadline 1
65.	REP1-104	Priory Farm Airfield		Submitted Deadline 1
66.	REP1-105	Tibenham Aerodrome		Submitted Deadline 1
67.	REP1-106	Letter - Wattisham Flying Station	Non-IP	The MOD DIO is in agreement that a separate SoCG with Wattisham Flying Station is not required. A letter stating this has been sent to Wattisham Flying Station, copied to the MOD DIO, and is provided under this document reference number.
68.		MOD DIO (aviation safeguarding)	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Not submitted – further to discussions with the stakeholder, a draft SoCG has not been submitted. Both parties are continuing discussions with a view to reaching agreement.
69.	REP1-107	East of England Ambulance Service	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 1
70.	REP1-108	Norfolk Constabulary	Statutory consultee Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1

<b>SoCG No</b>	<b>Examination Ref</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Consultee type</b>	<b>Latest status/version</b>
71.	REP1-109	UK Power Networks	Statutory consultee Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
72.	REP1-110	British Pipeline Agency	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1
73.	REP1-111	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	Statutory consultee Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
74.	REP1-112	Transmission Capital	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
75.	REP1-113	Virgin Media	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
76.	REP1-114	Vodafone	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
77.	REP1-115	Arelion	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
78.	REP1-116	Cityfibre	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
79.	REP1-117	Energy Assets Networks	Statutory consultee Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
80.	REP1-118	ESP Utilities Group	Statutory consultee Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
81.	REP1-119	euNetworks	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
82.	REP1-120	EXA Infrastructure	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1

<b>SoCG No</b>	<b>Examination Ref</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Consultee type</b>	<b>Latest status/version</b>
			Non-IP	
83.	REP1-121	GTC	Statutory consultee Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
84.	REP1-122	Lumen Technologies	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
85.	REP1-123	Verizon	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
86.	REP1-124	Zayo	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
87.	REP1-125	Gigaclear	Affected Person Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
88.	REP1-126	Associated British Ports	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
89.	REP1-127	Peel Ports	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
90.	REP1-128	Hutchison Ports	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
91.	REP1-129	Tarchon	Non-IP	Submitted Deadline 1
92.	REP1-120	Sport England	Statutory consultee	Submitted Deadline 1
93.	REP1-131	White Notley FC	Affected Person	Submitted Deadline 1

### 3. Review of need for SoCGs

3.1.1 As part of the Examining Authority’s Written Question process, question GEN 1.20 asks the Applicant to review the need for a SoCG with seven stakeholders. The Applicant has undertaken this review, the outcome of which is noted in the following table.

Table 3.1 Review of need for SoCG

Stakeholder	SoCG required?	Justification
East Anglian Air Ambulance	No	Occasional user of Broomfield Hospital helipad. No operational impacts are assessed, as per Essex and Herts Air Ambulance as similar aircraft types and flight procedures will be used.
Broomfield Hospital (Air Ambulance)	No	Engagement with the operator of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance (principal user of Broomfield Hospital helipad) confirmed the proposed route will have no impact on the Air Ambulance operations. (see Table A15.2.4 of <b>6.15.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 15.2 – Review of Aviation Impact [APP-267]</b> )
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safeguarding and Airfield Advisory Team (AAT)	No	The Applicant engaged with the CAA AAT throughout Project development, until the AAT were disbanded in March 2025, therefore an SoCG is unable to be progressed.  The Applicant considers the CAA AAT’s Position Statement (March 2025), included in the examination via Appendix 26 of the <b>Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council Local Impact Report – Appendices [REP1-179]</b> , to remain extant.
General Aviation Awareness Council	No	<b>8.4.8 Applicant’s Comments on any Further Information or Submissions Received by Deadline 2</b> provides the Applicant’s detailed response to the <b>General Aviation Awareness Council Written Representation [REP2-050]</b> .  GAAC is a non-statutory body that represents aerodrome operators with whom the Applicant is already progressing SoCGs. To develop an SoCG with the GAAC would duplicate the positions captured in these SoCGs.

Stakeholder	SoCG required?	Justification
British Gliding Association	Yes	A draft SoCG has been proposed to the BGA for progression and submission.
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited	No	<p>The three projects – Norwich to Tilbury, North Falls, and Five Estuaries - are proactively coordinated on all matters relevant to final design and potential construction interfaces. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tripartite Position Statement - setting out jointly developed measures to avoid significant cumulative effects across three key topics; traffic and transport (particularly construction traffic), landscape screening, and operational noise.</li> <li>• Outline Protocol (Onshore Substations Operational Noise and Noise Complaints Protocol) - confirming that a joint maximum permissible noise level at sensitive receptors has been agreed and apportioned between the three projects.</li> <li>• Parallel DCO requirements and protective provisions - ensuring consistent and enforceable cross-project controls are embedded directly within each scheme’s DCO.</li> </ul> <p>Given these established and effective collaboration mechanisms, a SoCG would simply duplicate information already secured through binding requirements and agreed technical documents and therefore would not provide further clarity or benefit to the Examination.</p> <p>The same position was taken during the Five Estuaries DCO Examination, where National Grid did not enter into a SoCG with the offshore wind projects, as it would not have added value beyond the coordination arrangements already in place.</p>
Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm		

# Appendix A.

# SoCGs not proposed

# Appendix A

## SoCGs not proposed

- A.1.1 The Applicant has been engaging with other statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the development of the DCO application. SoCGs with these consultees are unlikely to be produced at this stage for the reasons set out in Table A.1 below.
- A.1.2 Please note that while the Applicant has been engaging with neighbouring authorities as prescribed consultees throughout project development, it is the Applicant's view that SoCGs are not required with stakeholders other than those listed above, and neither has a SoCG been requested by them.

Table A.1 SoCGs not currently proposed

Consultee	Justification
Canal and River Trust	No interaction with the project (confirmed in statutory consultation response and relevant representation)
National Trust	Consultee confirmed no SoCG required
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation. Any matters relevant to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service may be captured as part of Norfolk County Council's SoCG.
Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation. Any matters relevant to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service may be captured as part of Suffolk County Council's SoCG.
Essex Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation.
NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation
Port of Tilbury	No longer interacting due to changes made following statutory consultation
East Anglian Air Ambulance	No impact to aviation movements, did not respond to statutory consultation
Broomfield Hospital (Air Ambulance)	Consultee confirmed no impact in statutory consultation response
Boxted Airfield	Disused airfield

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Elmsett Airfield	No identified impact
Garnons Farm Airfield	No identified impact
Laindon Airfield/Bensons Farm Airfield	No identified impact, outside aviation assessment scope
Long Stratton Airfield	No identified impact
Nayland Airfield	No identified impact
Wormingford Airfield	No identified impact
Brock Farm aerodrome	Not operational
Crowfield aerodrome	No identified impact
Dysons Farm helipad	No identified impact
Hinderclay Meadows aerodrome	No identified impact
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safeguarding	No response to engagement to date, have been liaising with CAA Airfield Advisory Team throughout project development
Civil Aviation Authority – Airfield Advisory Team (AAT)	<p>Significant engagement throughout project development, however the AAT were disbanded in March 2025 before a SoCG was able to be agreed.</p> <p>CAA AAT provided a position statement regarding Norwich to Tilbury before their disbandment. Discussions regarding aviation are ongoing with Suffolk County Council and other councils as relevant.</p>
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)	Non-prescribed. Have engaged throughout project development process, engagement ongoing. See Table 3.1
British Gliding Association	SoCG now proposed – see table 3.1
North Falls	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential.
Five Estuaries	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential
MOD DIO (abandoned pipelines)	Latest data suggests originally identified interface pipeline now Exolum.
Met Office	Engaged during project development and confirmed no impact.
Openreach	Heads of Terms to be agreed, commercially confidential.

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