

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0231

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground - EDF  
Renewables (Bloy's Grove Solar Farm) - Clean Version**

**Final Issue B**

**May 2026**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027**

**nationalgrid**

# Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4

# **EDF Renewables (Bloy's Grove Solar Farm) Draft Statement of Common Ground**

## **1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground**

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to outline the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Ashgreen Energy Limited (an EDF Power Solutions company) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Bloy's Grove Solar Farm.

The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process.

## **2. Parties to the SoCG**

This SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Ashgreen Energy Limited (an EDF Power Solutions company) ("EDF").

## **3. Summary of matters under discussion**

As requested by the Examining Authority, the below table provides an 'at a glance' summary of matters which are under discussion, together with a deadline by which such matters are expected to be resolved.

<b>SoCG ID</b>	<b>Summary of matter under discussion</b>	<b>Deadline for resolution</b>
7.1	The Applicant's design avoids any permanent loss of EDF's development area, with only oversail expected and shadowing/buffer distances still to be assessed. Further details of construction techniques associated with OHL construction and stringing are to be provided.	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely beyond deadline 7
7.2	The haul road will stay within the DCO boundary and may require temporary panel removal, for which EDF expects compensation if unavoidable.	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely beyond deadline 7

<b>SoCG ID</b>	<b>Summary of matter under discussion</b>	<b>Deadline for resolution</b>
7.3	Earthing interactions between the two sites may require changes, and the technical implications for EDF's earthing need clarification.	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely beyond deadline 7
7.4	The haul road location may temporarily affect EDF's site and lead to compensation, with construction methodology and access requirements still to be defined. Clarity regarding panel installation around haul road	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely beyond deadline 7
7.5	EDF needs shading and access impact information, and NG will provide data so any operational impacts can be assessed and compensated if verified.	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely beyond deadline 7
7.6	EDF's site will be built before NG's works begin, and EDF requires NG's programme milestones to coordinate timelines.	By deadline 7

## **4. Background**

### **4.1 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 five 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.

## **5. Stakeholder Interests**

EDF has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the Bloy's Grove Solar Farm, close to Brick Kiln Lane, Norwich. The proposal is understood as the: *Installation of a solar farm comprising: ground mounted solar panels, access tracks; inverter/transformers, substation; storage, spare parts and welfare cabins, underground cables and conduits, perimeter fence; CCTV equipment, temporary new site entrance and access track, temporary construction compounds, and associated infrastructure and planting scheme.* This scheme has been granted planning permission (Ref: 2021/2495) and is currently under construction.

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 EDF to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how EDF or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures. It is acknowledged that EDF requires further information from National Grid in order to be able to understand such impacts.

EDF request protective provisions or an agreement to document agreed mitigations and remedial measures.

## Discussions Held

- Non-statutory consultation April-June 2022 (graduated swathe)
- Non-statutory consultation June – August 2023 (draft alignment)
- Statutory consultation April – July 2024
- Landowner consultation June – July 2025
- Teams Meeting Date: 24th February 2025, 12th January 2026, 26th January 2026, 28th April 2026
- The parties continue to engage through regular email correspondence in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground.

## 6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				

## 7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.1	Potential Permanent Loss of Development Footprint	<p>The Applicant's internal design process of the Overhead Line route has avoided location of assets that would result in loss of development with oversail only and no pylon proposed to be located within the area of development.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to work with EDF renewables as the detailed design develops to understand any potential shading implications.</p> <p>As a result, no permanent loss of development footprint is required.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the stakeholders concerns in relation to</p>	<p>EDF Renewables understand that no permanent loss of footprint will arise from NG asset placement design.</p> <p>Information required: How much buffer if required from the pylon to EDF infrastructure?</p> <p>Shadowing effects of OHL and tower(s) – NG lands team &amp; EDF to provide assessment based upon Rochdale parameters for assessment have been provided by the Applicant.</p>	Ongoing Discussions	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>potential shading implications of the Project on the solar development.</p> <p>At this time, and until the detailed design is developed, the Applicant is not in a position to be able to confirm the full extent of any potential impact. The Applicant will commit to agreeing to a shading study with the stakeholder. As part of the commitment, the Applicant will share detailed design information and confirm tower/OHL heights and locations with the stakeholder as soon as reasonably practicable. The Applicant will then work with the stakeholder to agree a methodology and undertake a 'shading study' to understand any potential impacts on the development. The Applicant will commit to adhering to the outcome of the study.</p>	<p>Overshadowing will have effects on electricity generation. As the Bloy's Grove project has a Power Purchase Agreement in place, there is a concern that a reduction in generation will have contractual implications.</p> <p>Whilst discussion are ongoing, EDF requires to see urgent progress on the Applicants actions so that effects of its project can be properly understood during the examination period.</p>		
7.2	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works	National Grid will continue to work with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand any implications on potential panel removal or replacement. NG will work with EDF to minimise the impact to panels as far as reasonably practicable.	It is EDF's preference that the requirement for panel removal is avoided. Its solar site will be operational and grid connected and also subject to other	Ongoing Discussions	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>05/05/26- The Applicant acknowledges the Stakeholder’s position regarding the operational status of the solar site, including its grid connection and contractual obligations, and the potential impacts associated with removal or modification of PV infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant will seek, through detailed design, to avoid or minimise interaction with existing solar infrastructure, including routing the overhead line and associated haul road to reduce the need for panel removal where reasonably practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the Applicant will continue to engage with the Stakeholder to develop appropriate mitigation, protection measures, and safe systems of work, taking into account the energised status of the site.</p> <p>The Applicant also recognises the potential for wider operational and commercial implications (including loss of generation and associated liabilities) and will address these through appropriate agreements, including consideration of compensation where applicable.</p>	<p>contractual power supply commitments (PPA) by the time that the Applicant wish to implement the haul road and SuDS and any other works. Even temporary removal of panel will cause significant disruption and may create broader liabilities that run beyond the disturbance/temporary loss of generation capacity. The impact of removing sufficient PV tables to facilitate the proposed haul road would not be limited to only the tables removed, the modules will be connected in strings to the inverters that will then connect to the sites 33kV network. Any alterations to the PV modules connected to an inverter is likely to result in restringing of modules and</p>		

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>inverters in order to maintain the required parameters. In instances where the haul road intersects the PV tables, cables would have to be routed and protected under the road, or the part of the field would need to remain depowered. It is therefore preferred that the Applicant route the OHL/haul road so that no solar panels are required to be removed. If not, compensation for loss of revenue/other losses and liabilities will be required and detailed collaboration and safe working arrangements, having regard to the likely energised status of the project.</p>		

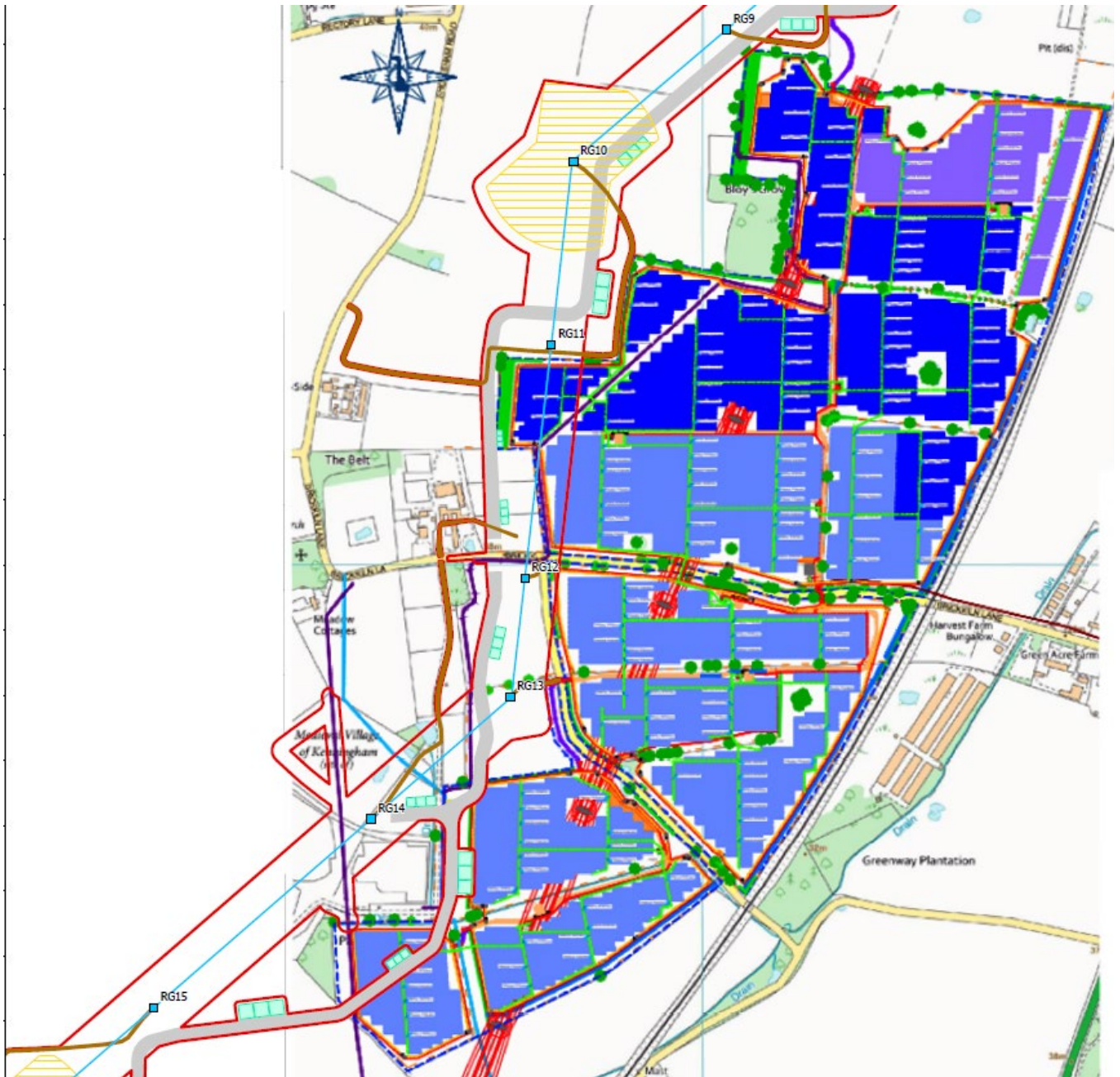
ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	<p>The Applicant recognises the stakeholder's concerns in relation to potential earthing implications of the Project on the stakeholder's solar development. Where additional earthing is required as a result of the Project, the Applicant will work with stakeholders to ensure sites are protected.</p> <p>The Applicant is commissioning a report to screen interfacing sites for earthing impacts from the proposed OHL, Previously, the Applicant completed an earthing screening study on existing interfacing sites. The study demonstrated the Project will have no earthing impact on solar farms near the Project alignment.</p> <p>The earthing study will be complete once the detailed design is finalised. Any earthing interaction and coupling studies will be compliant with BS EN 50522, ENA TS 41-24 and the relevant national and NG OHL design standards. The Applicant will adhere to the outcome of the earthing study.</p>	<p>Clarify impact to EDF site. Are NGET suggesting we may need to install additional earthing? Bloy Solar EDF site will have it's own independent earth grid. The Applicant to clarify the position and any necessary mitigation and additional works required within EDF's site. This must be considered on a worst case basis now, rather than awaiting further detailed design, in order that the parties can fully understand the implications.</p> <p>These matters should be addressed in an agreement between the parties.</p>	Ongoing Discussions	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.4	Temporary Construction Effects	<p>The Applicant has confirmed that the temporary construction haul road will remain in the position shown in the current Order Limits. If this results in temporary disruption to EDF infrastructure, EDF may be entitled to compensation for losses arising from The Applicant's construction activities.</p> <p>With this confirmation, the Applicant would like to understand EDF's installation of PV panels in this location according to their programme.</p> <p>05/05/26-The Applicant will continue to refine the SuDS design through the detailed design stage, seeking to minimise interaction with operational solar infrastructure where reasonably practicable. The Applicant will engage with the Stakeholder to better understand constraints and ensure that any overlaps are avoided or appropriately mitigated.</p>	<p>Confirmation of haul road requirement outstanding – possibility of compensation (as set out above) will be required.</p> <p>Detailed methodology required for initial stringing, to include dimensions of CDM areas at each tower – Temporary haul road from South.</p> <p>There is a need for a clearer understanding of the extend of SuDs required within Bloy's Grove site. There appears to be several areas of overlap with panel areas currently.</p> <p>EDF are considering making the temporary access route into Bloys Grove solar farm permanent (Planning currently states</p>	Ongoing Discussions	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>temporary) – Northern access route to site – Church Road (Section 73) – Design implications unknown currently.</p>		
7.5	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	<p>The Applicant recognises Bloy Solar’s concerns in relation to potential shading implications of the Project on the stakeholder’s solar development.</p> <p>The final pylon design, conductor type and position information is expected to be confirmed once the detailed design is finalised. Once this information is available the Applicant can share this information with EDF. Provisional information can be shared ahead of this time.</p> <p>The Applicant will seek to undertake a shading study with the stakeholder to identify the extent of any potential shading impact and agree any potential mitigation.</p>	<p>The Applicant should assess shading effects on a worst case basis utilising its Rockdale parameters. This needs to be understood in advance as it may reduce the renewable energy benefits of the project and is not just a compensation matter.</p> <p>Can NGET advise what access requirements will be needed during operational phase to towers and whether this will impact the EDF site?</p> <p>NGET to confirm what type / size of vehicles / machinery will be required access? EDF considers</p>	Ongoing Discussions	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.6	Timescales	EDF's renewable energy development is expected to be fully constructed before the Applicant begins its construction works. Consequently, the Applicant's activities will occur within a completed and operational built environment.	<p>that this level of coordination is likely to be a matter that requires an agreement between the parties.</p> <p>EDF Renewables have approval of S73 Planning Application for a Minor Material Amendment to confirm solar design layout on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This will give more certainty around built design and site interaction NGET to provide key programme milestones.</p>	Ongoing Discussions	

Figure 1 Location of Bloy's Solar Farm in relation to the Project alignment



## 8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For EDF Renewables

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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