

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0232

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.16 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Quintas
Group (Brick Kiln Solar Farm) - Clean Version**

Final Issue B

May 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

**Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)**

nationalgrid

Revision History

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

Quintas Group (Brick Kiln 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 Quintas Group regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Brick Kiln Solar Farm, land south of Brick Kiln Road, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk. 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 Quintas Group

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.

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
7.1	Discussing the final conductor specifications and whether the revised pylon location (RG14) fully mitigates shading, land sterilisation, or operational impacts on the solar farm.	To be confirmed once the detailed design is finalised. Likely beyond deadline 7.
7.2	Further clarity is required on the undergrounding of the UKPN cabling. Agreement is also needed on mitigation measures and the scope of an indemnity for losses and disruption.	To be confirmed once detailed design is finalised. Likely beyond deadline 7.
7.3	Extent of earthing interactions between the NG infrastructure and the solar farm, pending the completion of a detailed earthing study. Any required modifications to existing equipment will be identified once this study is provided.	Earthing study completed once detailed design is finalised. Likely beyond deadline 7.

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
7.4	Clarity on exclusion zones, and the alignment of the 11kV diversion through the solar farm. Associated temporary shading, earthing and operational impacts require further definition as design progresses.	To be completed once the detailed design is finalised. Likely beyond deadline 7.
7.5	Earthing clearances, and detailed construction methodologies from both NG and UKPN. Long-term operational interactions such as shading, land constraints, and earthing coupling will be confirmed once detailed studies are provided.	To be completed once the detailed design is finalised. Likely beyond 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

Quintas Group has been in correspondence with National Grid over the potential interaction with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as Brick Kiln Solar Farm at land south of Brick Kiln Road, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk. The site is an existing solar farm development in operation since 2016.

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 Quintas Group to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Quintas Group or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

Engagement history

- 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 Dates: 5th November 2024, 12th January 2026, 13 February 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	Permanent loss of development footprint	<p>The Applicant has designed the overhead line route to avoid permanent loss of Brick Kiln Solar Farm infrastructure wherever possible. The current design places pylon RG14 outside the solar farm boundary to reduce shading and operational impacts. The Applicant recognises Brick Klin Solar Farm'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 at detailed design and will be shared with Quintas Group once available.</p>	<p>Quintas Group understand that NG cannot avoid oversail and pylon design and arrangement. Pylon RG13 cannot be relocated due to archaeological reasons. It is Quintas understanding that RG14 is now planned to be located outside the Brickkiln Solar Farm boundary - Updated conductor height and span designs required.</p> <p>Shading impact assessment required- Quintas are able to provide this if agreed / required.</p>	Ongoing discussion	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>The Applicant will commit to agreeing the outcome of a shading study with Quintas Group, once the detailed design is finalised, to understand any potential shading impact resulting from the Project. The Applicant will address the outcome of the shading study and seek to mitigate any effects where possible.</p>			
7.2	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works	<p>The Applicant will not require the removal of any PV panels for tower erection. However, there may be a need for the temporary removal of panels during tower stringing activities, after which they would be reinstated.</p> <p>There may also be a requirement for sections of the existing overhead line to be undergrounded, and this is to be agreed directly with UKPN.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures, including earthing, shading, and operational restrictions currently unknown.</p> <p>NGET to provide Brickkiln Solar Farm with a comprehensive, full and legally binding indemnity to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any generation losses. Any losses or damage to solar farm infrastructure, including panel tables and associated apparatus, and any direct or consequential business losses suffered by Brickkiln Solar Farm, including outage-related costs and costs incurred in 	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>repairing or replacing panel tables, as a result of such damage or disruption. Any additional O&M and staffing costs. Any grid-related charges, liabilities, or penalties. Any professional fees. Any direct or consequential business losses arising from the diversion works associated with the 11 kV line.</p>		
7.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	<p>The Applicant recognises Brick Klin Solar Farm’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 all potential solar sites for earthing impact from the OHL. Previously, the Applicant completed an earthing screening study of existing sites close to the Project route. The study demonstrated the Project will have no earthing impact on existing</p>	As above.	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG.	

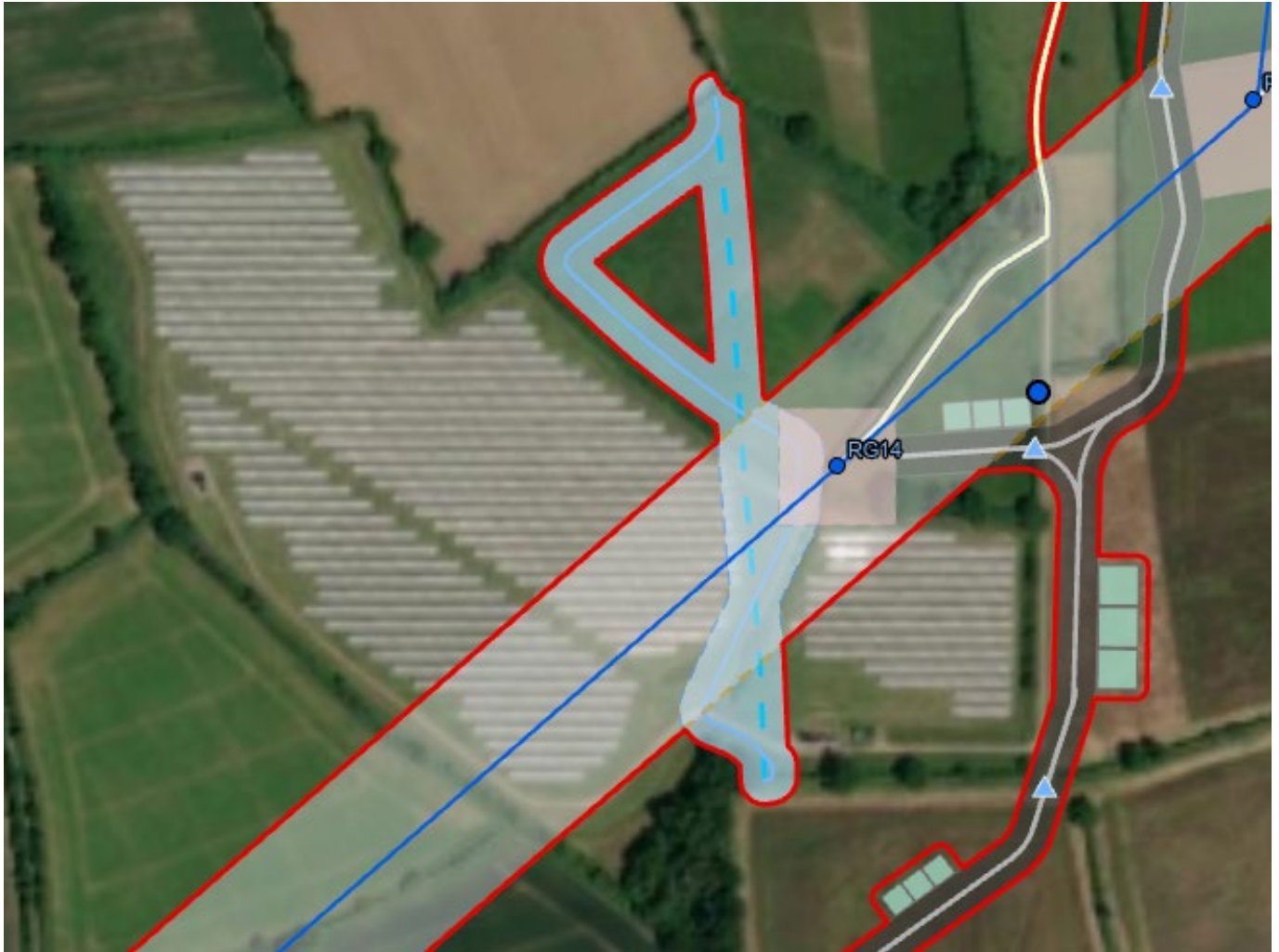
ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>solar farms. The earthing report will be completed once the detailed design is finalised.</p> <p>Any earthing interaction and coupling studies will be compliant with BS EN 50522, ENA TS 41-24 and the relevant national and National Grid OHL design standards.</p>			
7.4	Temporary Construction Effects	The proposed access route extends from the north and is located outside of the solar farm site, with no expected impact on the solar panels, requiring their removal.	<p>Information required regarding access and haul road arrangements. Mitigation measures including earthing, shading and operational restrictions required.</p> <p>Full details of the proposed 11kV diversion through the Solar Farm required.</p> <p>Construction access arrangements, particularly in relation to crossing points, exclusion zones and isolation requirements.</p> <p>Shading impact assessment required – Quintas are able to perform this if agreed / required.</p>	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.5	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	The Applicant acknowledges the need for detailed construction methodologies from UKPN for the 11kV diversion. Pylon RG14 is now located outside the solar farm boundary. The Applicant will provide the required earthing study and share construction methodologies as soon as they are developed. Clearance, earthing interaction and potential shading impacts will continue to be addressed through detailed engagement.	<p>Potential Issues with woodland, land designations and flood plains. The potential shadowing effect appears to be minimal from discussions. This has not yet been fully discussed but will be raised as part of ongoing engagement and will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Detailed construction methodologies, including any outages or isolations required as a result of the 11kV diversion and overhead stringing works.</p> <p>Regarding RG14, finalised spatial coordinates outstanding.</p> <p>Clearance between pylon earthing and Brickkiln Solar Farm's perimeter earth conductor.</p> <p>Earthing interaction studies to ensure no residual coupling risk.</p>	Ongoing discussion	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			Full earthing interaction and coupling study compliant with IEC 61936-1 and IEEE 80, and provide Brickkiln Solar Farm with a copy.		

Current Active Site

Figure 1 Location of Brick Kiln 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 Quintas Group

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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