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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.26 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Cadent Gas
- 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

Cadent Gas

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 Cadent Gas Limited (Cadent) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Cadent assets.

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 Cadent Gas Limited.

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 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.

4. Stakeholder Interests

Cadent has legitimate interests that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of Cadent underground assets.

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

National Grid and Cadent have identified approximately 175 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and Cadent Assets. These interactions and Cadents associated requests for mitigation are categorised below by the nature of the interaction. Any site-specific interaction requests are to be defined further to the below crossing categorisations through continued detailed design and engagement.

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with Cadent to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2023
 - Introductory meeting to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
- 2024
 - Engagement on anticipated impacts to existing Cadent assets
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference study methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Cabling interactions focused meeting
 - Updates to the crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Discussion following issuance of Norwich to Tilbury Scoping Document encompassing all project interactions.
 - Further discussion on studies outcome of AC Interference impacts to Cadent assets.
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
 - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground.
- 2026
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions.
 - Further development of the draft Statement of Common Ground.

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1				

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.1	Bellmouth Junction	17/02/26 – Cadent require RAMS to be provided prior to works start. Additionally the plant protection team may be required to attend on site during excavation works.	28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG. RAMS will be provided prior to start of works. Reasonable notice period can be provided to Cadent so as to allow on-site supervision during excavation works. The Bellmouth Junction Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions. Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.2	Trackway	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards Trackway interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.3	Haul Road Crossing	17/02/26 – Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards haul road crossing interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>The Haul Road Crossing Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.4	Stringing Position	17/02/26 – Demarcation of the pipeline within the stringing position is required and the earth protection zone must be built away from the pipe. No equipment or materials is to be stored atop the demarcated	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>National Grid commit to demarcating pipelines located within stringing positions where applicable.</p>	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
		easement usually 3m either side of the pipeline but can be 6m.	The Stringing Position Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions. Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation	
6.5	Crossing Protection	<p>17/02/26 – National Grid should bridge over the pipeline with the scaffolding ensuring to avoid Cadents easement width.</p> <p>RAMS are to be submitted and supervision required for construction of scaffolding.</p> <p>For anchors, Cadent could consider reduced clearance if required.</p> <p>While not currently envisaged, the requirement for bearing calculations on the asset may be requested by Cadents Civil team subject to further review.</p>	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>RAMS will be provided prior to start of works.</p> <p>Reasonable notice period can be provided to Cadent so as to allow on-site supervision during excavation works.</p> <p>Where able National Grid will attempt to bridge over the scaffolding to avoid the Cadent easement for installation of screw anchors.</p> <p>The Crossing Protection Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.6	Construction Laydown	17/02/26 – National Grid are required to demarcate the pipe, fence off and avoid the easement.	28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
		<p>No storage is permitted atop Cadents assets.</p> <p>Where required by Cadent trackway crossing points are to be installed.</p> <p>RAMS are to be submitted to the local plant protection team in advance of works commencement.</p>	<p>site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>National Grid commit to demarcating pipelines located where applicable.</p> <p>National Grid can commit to demarcating the pipeline within the laydown areas where applicable in addition to providing RAMS where required by Cadent.</p> <p>The Construction Laydown methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.7	Overhead Line Crossing	<p>17/02/26 - During stringing it is understood the bonds will be pulled out with a vehicle, e.g. ATV.</p> <p>Cadent require an agreed crossing point and adequate protection against rutting to avoid a reduced depth cover.</p>	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>National Grid will agree with Cadent a defined crossing point and adequate protection as required.</p> <p>The Overhead Line Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p>	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.8	400kV Underground Cable Crossing	<p>17/02/26 – Trial holes will need to be booked with Cadent for these works as the results will be required to feed into the design.</p> <p>A minimum of 600m separation is required between existing and proposed assets.</p> <p>On site supervision required and if a weld is exposed then Cadent will need to inspect the weld to monitor coating damage and stress state of the pipe when excavated.</p> <p>It is recommended for National Grid to start engaging at least 12 months in advance of these crossings as the local operations team will need to be planned in.</p>	<p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p> <p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to liaise with Cadent to arrange trial holes to determine asset locations.</p> <p>600mm separation requirement is noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further consideration.</p> <p>Reasonable notice period can be provided to Cadent so as to allow on-site supervision during excavation works.</p> <p>National Grid note the timeframe requirements for engagement with Cadent local operations teams.</p> <p>The 400kV Underground Cable Crossing Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.9	Permanent Access	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards permanent access interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.10	Pylon Working Area	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards pylon working areas interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.</p> <p>The Pylon Working Area Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.11	Outfall Working Area	17/02/26 - Trial holes will need to be booked with Cadent for these works as the results will be required to feed into the design.	28/04/26 - National Grids detailed design partners have engaged with Cadent to further define the site-specific crossing conditions with the intention of appending these site-specific conditions to the final SoCG.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
		A minimum of 600m separation is required between existing and proposed assets.	<p>The request for trial holes and 600mm separation distance at outfall working areas is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.</p> <p>The Outfall Working Area Construction Methodology has since been provided to Cadent to facilitate the review of proposed interactions.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation</p>	
6.12	UKPN Overhead Line Wood Pole Dismantling	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards UKPN overhead line wood pole dismantling interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - UKPN will engage directly with Cadent to agree crossing conditions in relation to the UKPN component of the Norwich to Tilbury DCO.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation.</p>	
6.13	UKPN Overhead Tower Dismantling	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards UKPN overhead tower dismantling interactions with Cadent assets.	<p>28/04/26 - UKPN will engage directly with Cadent to agree crossing conditions in relation to the UKPN component of the Norwich to Tilbury DCO.</p> <p>Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation.</p>	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.14	UKPN Cable Crossing	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards UKPN cable crossing interactions with Cadent assets.	28/04/26 - UKPN will engage directly with Cadent to agree crossing conditions in relation to the UKPN component of the Norwich to Tilbury DCO.	
			Crossing of Cadent assets will be further governed by clauses within the Protective Provisions under negotiation.	
6.15	Alternating Current (AC) Interference	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards AC Interference interactions with Cadent assets.	17/02/26 - Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with Cadent in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.	
			A revised AC interference study has now been issued to Cadent for review and comment.	
			National Grid are also progressing an outline mitigation design report to submit to Cadent detailing the extent of AC interference mitigations.	
6.16	Protective Provisions		20/04/26 - National Grid and Cadent Water have made substantial progress towards agreeing a set of bespoke protective provisions.	
			National Grid reiterates it's intent to include a set of agreed protective provisions within the draft DCO at the earliest opportunity to do so.	

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Cadent Gas Limited

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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