

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0243

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.27 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Blackwater  
Aggregates (Bradwell Quarry) - 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

# **Blackwater Aggregates (Bradwell Quarry)**

## **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 Blackwater Aggregates regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex, CM77 8EP. 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 Bradwell Quarry (Blackwater Aggregates).

### **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	How the project's alignment can accommodate the potential development of the Bradwell Quarry Monk's Farm site.	By deadline 7
7.2	The risk that pylon locations may permanently sterilise mineral reserves within the quarry area.	By deadline 7
7.3	Concerns whether an alternative alignment could reduce mineral sterilisation and requires revised design information for assessment.	By deadline 7
7.4	Concerns the potential effects of overhead line oversail on ongoing mineral extraction operations.	By deadline 7
7.5	Relates to ensuring National Grid's permanent access needs while accommodating quarry operational requirements.	By deadline 7

<b>SoCG ID</b>	<b>Summary of matter under discussion</b>	<b>Deadline for resolution</b>
7.6	Concerns temporary construction impacts on quarry operations and the need for detailed construction plans to understand these effects.	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 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**

Blackwater Aggregates has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex, CM77 8EP. The proposals understood as: *"Extraction of 6.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel (from Site A7 as identified in the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014) including the retention of the existing access onto the A120, the processing plant (including sand and gravel washing plant), office and weighbridge, ready mix concrete plant, bagging unit, DSM plant, water and silt management systems. In addition, extension of the internal haul road into Site A7 and access for private and support vehicles to the Site A7 contractors' compound via Woodhouse Lane and Cuthedge Lane. Restoration of Site A7 to agriculture and biodiversity (species rich grassland and wetland).* This site has been granted permission under reference ESS/12/20/BTE with associated conditions. The current status is "Pending Consideration" with the Essex County council which was submitted on 6th of August 2025. This is an active site.

Furthermore in due course the Bradwell Quarry will (subject to mineral planning consent being granted) extend into Monk's Farm, Pantling's Lane, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Essex. CO5 9PG for the purposes of extraction of sand and gravel. This will become area A8 (Essex County Council mineral planning department reference site A47). The mineral rights in Monks Farm are owned by Blackwater Aggregates.

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

### **Discussions Held**

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

- 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: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

- Site meeting at Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- 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	Route Scenarios	<p>The Applicant has identified the interface between the Norwich to Tilbury project and the Bradwell Quarry Monks Farm development. To accommodate ongoing discussions and potential changes to the planning status of the Monk's Farm site, the Applicant has developed a design scenario that provides flexibility for future adjustments. This scenario is summarised in the Design Development Report (5.15) and in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement (6.4).</p> <p>30/04/26- The two blue lines shown represent alternative route options. The Applicant has committed to the alternative</p>	<p>Blackwater Aggregates submitted the area 8 (area A47 Council ref.) for incorporation into the Mineral Local Plan. Consultation closed in July 2024, and BA await the outcome of the submission.</p> <p>30/04/26 - Please can you explain why there are two blue lines (picture below) shown as a deviation from Monks Farm, heading south to</p>	Ongoing discussion with detailed design to be progressed.	<p>ESS/12/20/BTE planning application with Essex County Council on behalf of Blackwater Aggregates.</p> <p>Essex County Council Mineral Local Plan Review – Assessment of Candidate Sand and Gravel Sites –</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>option and will now progress with this as the preferred scenario. This has been confirmed to the ExA at Deadline 4 in (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document.</p>	<p>a new pylon TB85). We note that the tower base number is marginally different to the numbering shown on the NG interactive Map (Tb85 shown below is TB83 on interactive Map).</p> <p>Is the plan below the correct plan we should be working from, showing the correct revised route?</p> <p>When will the design Review be finalised?</p>		<p>A47 Bradwell, Monk's Farm Design Development Report (5.15) Chapter 4 (Project Description) Environmental Statements (6.4)</p>
7.2	<p>Permanent sterilisation of minerals under electrical infrastructure pillar of support</p>	<p>National Grid notes the potential change in planning status of the Monk's Farm site and the concerns from Blackwater Aggregates in relation to potential mineral sterilisation. As a result, NG identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two interfaces. A summary of the scenario has been included in the Design</p>	<p>NG to confirm the extent of the protective area around each pylon base if route on existing plans remains unaltered.</p> <p>BA have made clear, through previous consultations, questionnaires and site meetings with NG of the</p>	<p>Ongoing discussion with key points to be confirmed.</p> <p>2 BA have requested the alignment is relocated towards the eastern and southern most</p>	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>Development Report (5.15) and Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4) submitted with the DCO application. National Grid welcomes ongoing discussions with Blackwater Aggregates to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to the alternative option and will now progress with this as the preferred scenario. This has been confirmed to the ExA at Deadline 4 in (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document.</p>	<p>potential significant mineral sterilisation and consequential financial compensation claim arising if the scheme negatively impacts gravel extraction.</p>	<p>point within the route corridor. BA await revised plans from NG showing this re-alignment for further consideration.</p>	
7.3	Alternative Routeing Scenario at Bradwell Quarry	<p>An alternative scenario has been developed that adjusts the overhead line between TB084–TB087. This scenario moves TB086 and TB085 further south, with TB084 positioned closer to the Order Limits, to reduce sterilisation within the quarry. The Applicant considers that siting these pylons at the edge of the development area will lessen mineral sterilisation while maintaining construction access between TB084 and TB085.</p>	<p>BA were informed their suggestion to re-route to an alternative location within the corridor makes little or no marginal cost difference to the scheme. This would make a portion of the mineral reserve financially viable.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussion with key points to be confirmed.</p> <p>BA await revised plans from NG showing this re-alignment for further consideration.</p>	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>The Limits of Deviation have been widened to allow additional flexibility should further extraction opportunities arise.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to the alternative option and will now progress with this as the preferred scenario. This has been confirmed to the ExA at Deadline 4 in (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document.</p>			
7.4	Oversail of Minerals Sites	<p>The Applicant confirms that site operations can generally continue beneath overhead line oversail where standard electrical clearance requirements are met. The overhead line will be designed to comply with these established clearance standards. Where operational constraints arise that directly result from the oversail,</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to the alternative option and will now progress with this as the preferred scenario. This has been confirmed to the ExA at Deadline 4 in (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document.</p>		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/ resolved.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.5	Permanent Operational Access	The Applicant requires ongoing access to its assets for operational purposes. The DCO includes defined access routes; however, the Applicant is open to agreeing alternative arrangements with site operators where this better reflects on-site activities. Specific access requirements will be confirmed as the detailed design progresses.		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/ resolved.	
7.6	Temporary Construction Effects	The Applicant confirms that temporary construction measures such as haul roads, utility diversions and reinstatement will be planned to minimise disruption to ongoing site operations. The Applicant will provide detailed construction layouts and access arrangements once final design and construction planning are complete and will ensure that any temporary impacts on existing site infrastructure or activities are properly addressed and reinstated.		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/ resolved.	

The parties agree to:

- Commit to engage constructively with other parties in respect of detailed engineering design to facilitate beneficial outcomes for all developments in so far as it relates to overlapping interests
- Commit to update the other parties where material change to their project occurs or is imminently expected

Figure 1 Interface between Bradwell Quarry and the Project Alignment

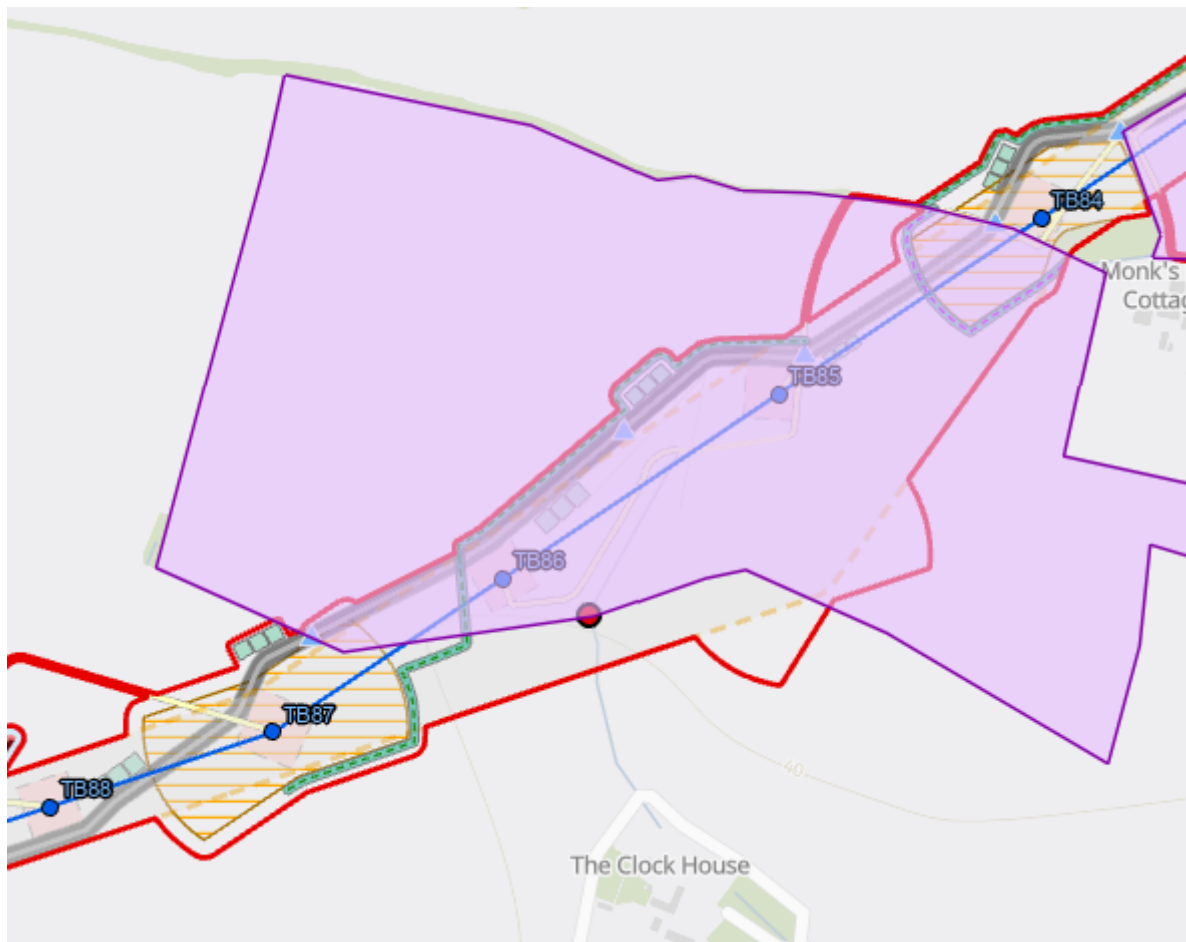
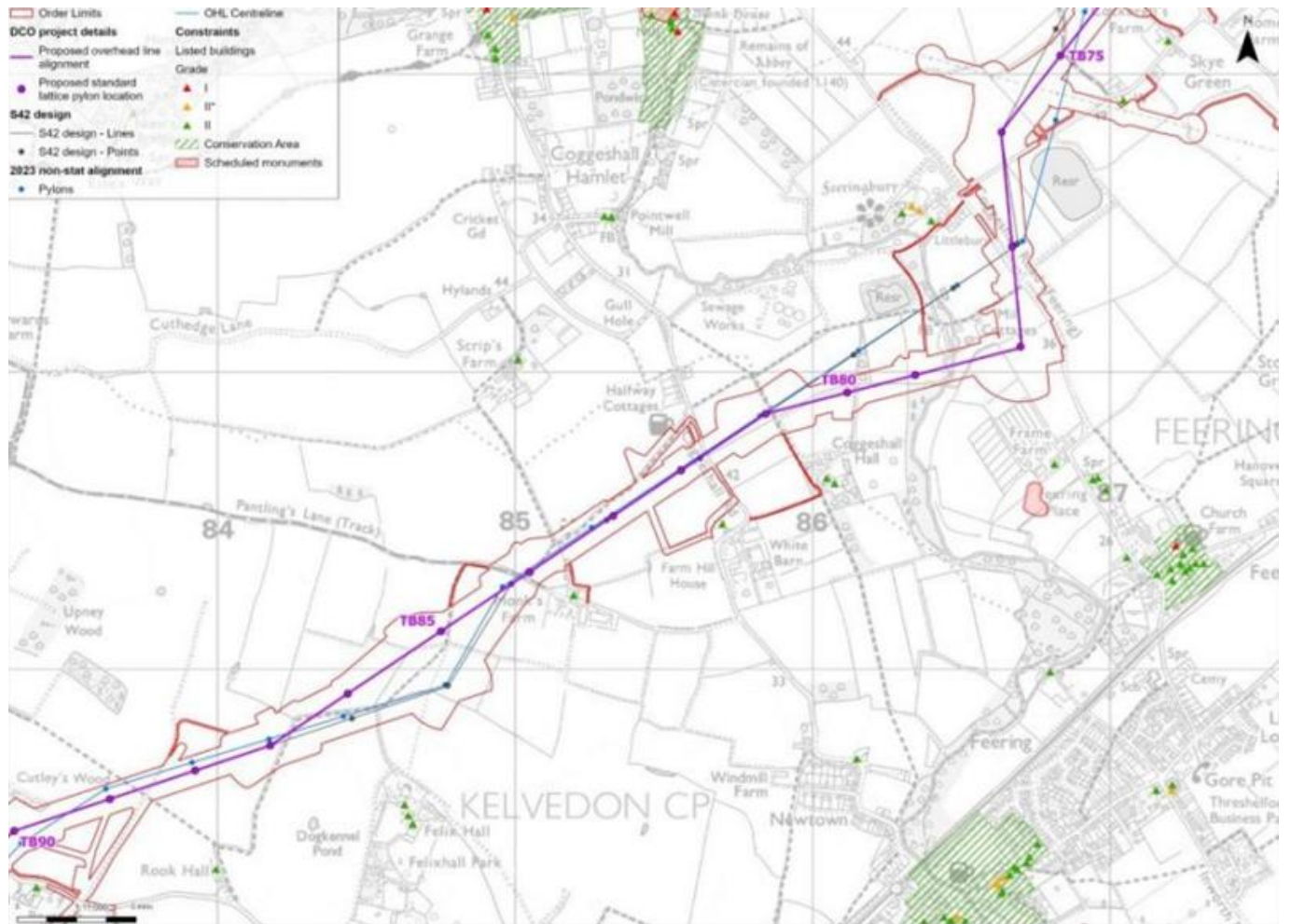


Figure 2 Alternative Project Alignment



## 8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Bradwell Quarry (Blackwater Aggregates)

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

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

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

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