

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0244

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.28 Draft Statement of Common Ground - SRC Group
(Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86) - 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

SRC Group (Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86) 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 SRC Group regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86. 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 (NG) and SRC Group (SRC).

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	Awaiting clarification on the proposed alternative routing scenarios	By deadline 7
7.2	Detailed information to assess mineral sterilisation impacts, including effects along the overhead line route	By deadline 7
7.3	Detailed information on the alternative scenarios	By deadline 7
7.4	Information to understand the oversail implications on the proposed scenario changes	By deadline 7
7.5	Clarity on how access requirements align with oversail. Potential sterilisation of minerals and reduction of recycling capacity	By deadline 7
7.6	Information to assess temporary construction impacts. Potential for quarry closure, halted recycling, and preventing construction/use of the proposed asphalt plant.	Likely to be resolved 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 recent targeted consultations.

5. Stakeholder Interests

SRC Group has legal interests that have the potential to interact with Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the Martell Minerals Site A85 & A86.

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

Discussions Held

Meeting Dates: 22nd November 2023, 10th December 2024, 15th September 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 response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.1	Route Scenarios	<p>The parties acknowledge that each interaction between the projects is influenced by various locational and site-specific factors.</p> <p>National Grid is proposing an alternative scenario to cover a potential change to the planning status of sites in respect of the Minerals Local Plan. The alternative scenario provides an alignment that seeks to reduce effects to the extent possible.</p> <p>A summary of the alternative scenario has been included in the Design Development Report (5.15)</p>	<p>SRC does not understand this statement as it is unclear, ambiguous and unspecific.</p> <p>SRC does not understand this statement as it is ambiguous and unspecific. SRC has no knowledge of the two Scenario options.</p>	Ongoing Discussion	<p>Design Development Report (5.15).</p> <p>Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4).</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.2	Permanent sterilisation of minerals under electrical infrastructure pillar of support	<p>and Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4) submitted with the DCO application.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes ongoing discussions with SRC Group to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design.</p> <p>National Grid acknowledges SRC's concerns in relation to the potential minerals site. As such, NG has identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two sites. A summary of the scenario has been included in the Design 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 SRC to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges SRC's concerns regarding the potential minerals site. The Applicant has</p>	<p>SRC has not been provided with any specific information so can only comment in general terms. Sterilisation has the potential to extend also into the route of the overhead lines, in addition to the pillars of support for the pylons. Mineral sterilisation will lead to void sterilisation and consequent impacts on recycling volumes. These impacts cannot be assessed without consideration of the information requested above.</p> <p>SRC does not agree that NG has sole discretion in this matter but is able to agree that any financial claims will be dealt with on a claim by claim basis.</p> <p>This request has only been put to SRC on 03/02/26.</p>	Ongoing Discussion	<p>Design Development Report (5.15).</p> <p>Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4).</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>sought to position the towers as far north as practicable of the red line boundary to minimise impacts within SRC's site. This alternative scenario is reflected in the (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document submitted at deadline 4.</p> <p>The Applicant has also requested an extraction depth drawing to better understand the potential interaction between the proposed towers and the quarry.</p>			
7.3	<p>Alternative Routeing Scenario at Martell's Site A85-A86</p>	<p>National Grid has identified interface between the Norwich to Tilbury project and the Martells site. As a result, NG identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two projects. A summary of the scenario has been included in the Design Development Report (5.15) and Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4) submitted with the DCO application.</p>	<p>SRC has no knowledge of the alternative scenarios and is therefore unable to comment in a meaningful way. SRC notes the items which NG acknowledges.</p> <p>SRC has no knowledge of the alternative scenarios and is therefore unable to comment in a meaningful way.</p> <p>SRC has no knowledge of the alternative scenarios and is therefore unable to comment in a meaningful way</p>	<p>Ongoing Discussion</p>	<p>Design Development Report (5.15). Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4).</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>This alternative scenario is reflected in the (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document submitted at deadline 4.</p>			
		<p>The Applicant welcomes further engagement in relation to the alternative scenario as the detailed design develops.</p>			
7.4	Oversail of Minerals Sites	<p>National Grid has identified interface between the Norwich to Tilbury project and the Martells site. As a result, NG identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two projects. A summary of the scenario has been included in the Design 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 SRC This alternative scenario is reflected in</p>	<p>SRC has no knowledge of the scheme or alternative scenarios and is therefore unable to comment in a meaningful way. SRC notes NG’s confidence however, mineral sterilisation will lead to void sterilisation and consequent impacts on recycling volumes.</p>	Ongoing Discussion	<p>Design Development Report (5.15). Chapter 4 (Project Description) of the Environmental Statement (6.4).</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
		<p>the (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document submitted at deadline 4.</p> <p>The Applicant welcomes further engagement in relation to the alternative scenario as the detailed design develops.</p>			
7.5	Permanent Operational Access	<p>National Grid requires access at all times to installed equipment, to allow for future maintenance. The Development Consent Order will include a defined route for such access, however the parties can agree access arrangements that better respond to the status of a site by voluntary agreement, as an alternative, National Grid would like to continue to work with SRC Group to agree such arrangements.</p>	<p>No further details have been provided at this stage but it is agreed that National Grid will require an access for maintenance at all times. However specific information as referred to above has not been provided so SRC is not in a position whereby it can comment on this in a meaningful way. A permanent operational access could lead to sterilisation of mineral reserves, resultant tipping void and a reduction on recycling volumes. The need for Permanent Operational Access may be at odds with NG's statements in respect of Oversail.</p>	Ongoing Discussion	

ID	Issue	National Grid response	Stakeholder position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.6	Temporary Construction Effects	<p>National Grid will continue to engage with SRC Group to understand temporary construction arrangements and the interface with the Martells Site.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with SRC as further information is provided and detailed design progresses.</p>	<p>This is acknowledged, however, the information requested by SRC since 15/09/25 has not been provided SRC is not in a position whereby it can comment on this in a meaningful way. The potential temporary construction effects cannot be understated as it could lead to the closure of the quarry, its extension, the recycling, the industrial units and will prevent the construction and use of the proposed asphalt plant.</p> <p>Timing of Temporary Construction may have a bearing in respect to mineral, void and recycling sterilisation.</p>	Ongoing Discussion	

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 the Project alignment and the Martells Minerals site.



8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For SRC Group

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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