

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0245

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.29 Draft Statement of Common Ground - SRC Group
(Crown Quarry mineral site A79) - 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 (Crown Quarry mineral site A79) 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 Crown Quarry. 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	Information relating to the oversail implications on the proposed scenario changes	By deadline 7
7.2	Detailed technical information needed to understand the extent of mineral and void sterilisation	By deadline 7
7.3	Information on the alternative routing scenario	By deadline 7
7.4	Information to understand oversail implications on assess potential mineral and recycling sterilisation impacts	By deadline 7
7.5	Details regarding access route, how permanent access requirements may sterilise mineral reserves or conflict with previous design statement	By deadline 7
7.6	Construction information to assess the potential temporary impacts, including possible disruption to quarry operations, recycling and future site development	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 one or more 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 would 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.

A planning application for a northern extension to Crown Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel and subsequent restoration using inert materials together with the necessary associated infrastructure and access improvements has been submitted to the local planning authority and is under consideration. The application was submitted on 17th February 2026.

Planning Application - Erection of an asphalt plant, ancillary facilities, together with the use of an existing access road. This was submitted on 29 September 2025 and is still awaiting a decision.

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 Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Colchester.

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: 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 Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
7.1	Route Scenarios	<p>The parties acknowledge that each interaction between the projects is influenced by various locational and site-specific factors. National Grid recognises that the current alignment crossing the A12 will affect the proposed development of industrial units and asphalt plant and will interact with the overhead line.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>SRC does not understand this statement as it is unclear, ambiguous and unspecific. This is acknowledged and it may extend to affect the existing quarry, in particular, its restoration. However, without the provision of the information requested from NG on 15/09/25 and since the full implications cannot be considered further.</p> <p>SRC is not aware of the details of the precise location of TB20, nor of the details of the associated overhead line or the implications of the construction period and once installed. SRC questions the NG review of the mitigation options absent of SRC's involvement. Equally, there may be</p>	<p>NG to provide the information requested for further consideration by SRC at their meeting on 15 September 2025 and since.</p> <p>NG undertaking a review, absent of SRC engagement/involvement. SRC await the information requested at their meeting on 15 September 2025 and since.</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
		<p>application. National Grid welcomes ongoing discussions to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design.</p> <p>National Grid have been reviewing mitigation options in reference to TB 20(first pylon from the A12) which is situated in the existing quarry site and are now committing to the alternative scenario to move the position of the pylon.</p> <p>This is reflected in the (8.11) Approach to Scenarios document submitted at deadline 4.</p>	<p>consequent mineral and void sterilisation matters to consider</p> <p>SRC is not aware of the details of the precise location of TB20, nor of the details of the associated overhead line or the implications of the construction period and once installed. SRC questions the NG review of the mitigation options absent of SRC's involvement.</p> <p>SRC raised the prospect of the relocation TB21(Immediately west of the A12) and a possible relocation of TB20</p>	<p>NG undertaking a review, absent of SRC engagement/involvement. SRC await the information requested at their meeting on 15 September 2025 and since.</p> <p>It is not known if NG are contemplating this or whether it forms part of the options for mitigation as described by NG</p>
7.2	Permanent sterilisation of minerals under electrical infrastructure pillar of support	<p>National Grid anticipate that while there will be sterilisation of the tower areas, especially for TB18 and potentially TB017, stand off areas will allow for the rest of the site to be extracted.</p> <p>SRC group to provide anticipated extraction areas and depths so that sterilisation could be reviewed by National Grid.</p>	<p>Given that the information requested by SRC since 15/09/25 has not been provided SRC is not in a position whereby it can agree this.</p> <p>This request has only been put to SRC on 03 February 2026. Nevertheless, given that the information requested by SRC since 15/09/25 has not been provided SRC is not in a position whereby it can provide this information.</p> <p>Equally, mineral sterilisation will lead to void sterilisation and consequent impacts on recycling volumes. These impacts</p>	<p>SRC await the information requested at the meeting on 15 September 2025 and since.</p> <p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to provide this information once it has had the opportunity to give the</p>

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
			<p>cannot be assessed without consideration of the information requested on 15/09/25 and since.</p> <p>The consequences may effect both the existing quarry as well as the proposed northern extension.</p>	<p>matter due consideration</p> <p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to provide this information once it has had the opportunity to give the matter due consideration</p> <p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to consider this matter further</p>
7.3	Temporary access for construction	National Grid acknowledge that the proposals for the haul road will impact the potential for extraction at TB18 and TB17. As above, SRC to provide extraction areas for review.	Given that 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 SRC hold the reasonable opinion that the consequences of any temporary accesses for construction are not limited solely to	Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to provide this information once it has had the opportunity to give the

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
			<p>TB17 and TB18 but to the whole for the route as it interacts with SRC's holdings.</p> <p>In particular, proposals for access off Old Ipswich Road as set out prior to the meeting of 15/09/25 will 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>matter due consideration</p> <p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to consider the implications further and advise NG accordingly.</p>
7.4	Oversail of Minerals Sites	National Grid anticipates that mineral extraction can be carried out under the overhead line but will confirm clearances.	This is helpful to know 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.	Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to give this matter further consideration
7.5	Permanent Operational Access	National Grid requires access to installed equipment to be maintained at all times. The development consent order will include a defined route for such access, but the parties agree that by voluntary agreement, alternative arrangements, that better respond to the particular status of site operator activities could be adopted where agreed by the parties with the use of the formal	<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 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.</p> <p>In particular, proposals for access off Old Ipswich Road as set out prior to the</p>	Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to give this matter further consideration

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
		<p>agreement to be utilised if such discussions fail to proceed.</p> <p>The Applicant requires continuous access for maintenance, with a defined DCO route.</p>	<p>meeting of 15/09/25 will 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. The need for Permanent Operational Access may be at odds with NG's statements in respect of Oversail.</p>	
7.6	Temporary Construction Effects	<p>Details will vary by site but may include positioning of temporary haul roads within site boundaries; the installation of services and utilities diversions; repair / compensation for any damage to existing equipment</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>	<p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to give this matter further consideration. Absent of this information SRC verbally proposed alternatives at the meeting on 15/09/25 and is willing to engage further on this.</p> <p>Following receipt of the information requested by SRC on 15 September 2025 and since, SRC is willing to give this matter further consideration</p>

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 Interaction between TB17 to TB20



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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