

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0258

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.42 Draft Statement of Common Ground - UK Power
Networks - 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

UK Power Networks

Draft Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to reflect the current understanding of the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and UK Power Networks (UKPN) regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with UKPN assets. The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any bespoke protective provisions included in the draft DCO for the protection of UKPN, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is between National Grid and UK Power Networks Ltd.

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	Ongoing discussions between the Applicant and UK Power Networks regarding collaboration on diversionary works and UKPN powers afforded with the DCO. Negotiations are underway to agree Protective Provisions and deed of undertaking.	Resolution by end of examination.

4. Background

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, would 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.

5. Stakeholder Role

UKPN is the UK's biggest electricity distributor delivering power to 8.3 million homes and businesses across London, the east and south east of England. It operates in these areas as UKPN on behalf of its three Electricity Distribution Licence holding companies: London Power Networks plc, South Eastern Power Networks plc and Eastern Power Networks plc.

UKPN have a significant volume of diversionary works applied for the Norwich to Tilbury DCO to facilitate the projects delivery and as such benefit from provisions contained within the DCO allowing such work to be carried out subject to a successful DCO.

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 UKPN to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how UKPN or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects, and reach agreement on the implementation of such measures.

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

- 2021
 - Initial engagement between UKPN and National Grid on the project.
- 2022
 - Further early engagement carried out, including agreeing need for Feasibility Study to be carried out.
- 2023
 - Introductory meeting under the Feasibility Study to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
 - Strategic engagement noting early-stage design proposals
- 2024
 - Progression of conceptual design proposals based on advancing Norwich to Tilbury Front End Engineering Designs (FEED)
 - Development of design guidance for Norwich to Tilbury UKPN related diversion requests
 - UKPN development of Initial Feasibility Drawings, including proposed DCO boundaries
 - Discussions and provision of information to aid National Grid's application for Early Construction Funding for the Norwich to Tilbury project via Ofgem.
- 2025
 - Further engagement on Initial Feasibility Drawings including proposed DCO boundaries ahead of DCO submission.
 - Initial engagement on project programme interdependencies.
- 2026
 - Legal engagement to negotiate a bespoke overarching agreement for UKPN works to be carried out and protection of existing assets.
 - Detailed Design engagement on DCO UKPN diversionary works.

6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				

7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.1	Ongoing Diversionary Works Collaboration and UKPN powers afforded with the DCO.	19/11/25 - Eastern Power Networks plc objects to the making and confirmation of the Order unless at the cost of the acquiring authority there are first provided to it on no less favourable tenure suitable alternative sites and suitable alternative rights in, on, over or under land in substitution to those to be acquired and/or temporarily used under the above Order and in, on, over or under which there are first installed and commissioned Electric Lines and Electrical Plant in substitution for those in the land to be acquired and/or temporarily used under the above Order, before that land is acquired and/or temporarily used so that my client can carry out its statutory functions	16/04/26 – Engineering, Consenting and Lands discussions in respect of all UKPN diversionary works requested via the DCO and the powers afforded to do so within the DCO for the benefit of UKPN are ongoing. Further legal negotiations are ongoing to agree the requested deed of undertaking and Protective Provisions so as to satisfy UKPN concerns and allow the withdrawing of UKPN’s objection to the project as noted.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<p>and contractual obligations no less efficiently than previously.</p> <p>Conversations are ongoing currently with the Acquiring Authority but please treat this letter as an objection by Eastern Power Networks plc to the relocation and extinguishment of rights and apparatus mentioned above because their relocation will be detrimental to the carrying on of its undertaking. No alternative land, rights and apparatus for those proposed to be acquired under the above Order are in currently fully in place.</p> <p>Eastern Power Networks plc reserves the right to amend or supplement its objections in the light of any information that later becomes available.</p> <p>The above objection(s) will be deemed to be withdrawn upon signature of an appropriate deed of Undertaking by an authorised signatory of the Acquiring Authority.</p>		

8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For UK Power Networks

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com