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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.44 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Fulcrum
Pipelines Limited - 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

Fulcrum Pipelines Limited

Draft Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG, which can also be referred to as an interface agreement) has been prepared to outline the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Fulcrum Pipelines regarding utilities interfaces in relation to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project.

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 Fulcrum Pipelines Limited

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 Interface Identification and Categorisation	15 individual interfaces have now been identified in this area. National Grid recognises the potential for Project construction and associated mitigation works to impact Fulcrum Pipelines' assets and undertakings and seeks Fulcrum Pipelines' confirmation of potential impacts and any associated need for adequate mitigations.	Resolution likely by Deadline 7
7.2 Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Assets	Understanding the previously identified Fulcrum Pipelines' asset to be non-metallic and without cathodic protection, National Grid does not anticipate impacts resulting from electrical interference arising due to its close proximity to the proposed Project overhead line. Nor are interference impacts anticipated for other Fulcrum assets within the vicinity of the Project. National Grid recognises the potential for	Resolution likely by Deadline 7

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
	Project construction and associated mitigation works to impact Fulcrum Pipelines' assets and undertakings, however, and seeks Fulcrum Pipelines' confirmation of potential impacts and any associated need for adequate mitigations	
7.3 Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Land or Rights	In accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 National Grid is currently corresponding with landowners believed to have an interest in land and/or property within the Project's order limits. This includes provision of plans of how Fulcrum Pipelines' holdings may be affected, as well as details of a Land Rights Strategy and a feedback questionnaire.	Resolution likely by Deadline 7
7.4 Construction Practices and Mitigations	National Grid seeks agreement from Fulcrum Pipelines that standard best practices during construction will be adequate to protect and maintain access to their assets. National Grid anticipates the detail and implementation of such measures will be agreed via future liaison between the National Grid construction contractor and Fulcrum Pipelines.	Resolution likely 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, 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 consultations and one statutory consultation to inform its proposals, together with further targeted consultations.

5. Stakeholder Role

Fulcrum Pipelines Limited is an owner and operator of gas pipeline networks and related infrastructure and is identified as a licensed independent gas transporter. Interfaces between the Norwich to Tilbury Project and Fulcrum Pipelines' assets have been identified. As such, early engagement with Fulcrum Pipelines was undertaken to establish the nature of the interfaces and any assets or rights potentially impacted by the Project.

Engagement to Date

Engagement undertaken to date with Fulcrum Pipelines includes:

Date	Method	Description
24 March 2023	Email from LSTC (on behalf of National Grid)	Sharing of Fulcrum Gas Infrastructure Interface Memo identifying Project interface area with Fulcrum Pipelines' asset at Dunton

Date	Method	Description
28 March 2023	Email from Fulcrum Pipelines	Confirming identified pipeline is non-ferrous and does not have cathodic protection so will not be affected by the Project.

Development of the Project design, engineering solutions and mitigation measures now enables more detail regarding the nature of interfaces with Fulcrum Pipelines' assets to be shared. Further engagement with Fulcrum Pipelines is sought to confirm interface details, identify potential impacts to stakeholder assets and rights, and agree the form of any necessary mitigations prior to DCO submission.

6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				

7. Matters currently under discussion

ID	Issue	Fulcrum Pipelines position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.1	Interface Identification and Categorisation	02/02/26 – Fulcrum have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received.	12/04/26 - Further to National Grid's identification of the Project's potential interface with Fulcrum Pipelines' assets at Dunton, 15 individual interfaces have now been identified in this area. These include one interface with a construction haul road bellmouth junction, and 14 interfaces associated with Distribution Network Operator (DNO) mitigation works (comprising overhead line dismantling, underground cable crossings, and access route interfaces). Further detail is provided within the relevant documentation. National Grid seeks Fulcrum Pipelines' verification of the location and nature of these interfaces.	Norwich to Tilbury Interface Schedule with Fulcrum Pipelines Jun25; Crossing Points kmz and GIS files (shared in confidence)

ID	Issue	Fulcrum Pipelines position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.2	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Assets	02/02/26 – Fulcrum have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received.	<p>12/04/26 - Understanding the previously identified Fulcrum Pipelines’ asset to be non-metallic and without cathodic protection, National Grid does not anticipate impacts resulting from electrical interference arising due to its close proximity to the proposed Project overhead line. Nor are interference impacts anticipated for other Fulcrum assets within the vicinity of the Project.</p> <p>National Grid recognises the potential for Project construction and associated mitigation works to impact Fulcrum Pipelines’ assets and undertakings, however, and seeks Fulcrum Pipelines’ confirmation of potential impacts and any associated need for adequate mitigations (see below)</p>	
7.3	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Land or Rights	02/02/26 – Fulcrum have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received.	12/04/26 - In accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 National Grid is currently corresponding with landowners believed to have an interest in land and/or property within the Project’s order limits. This includes provision of plans of how Fulcrum Pipelines’ holdings may be affected, as well as details of a Land Rights Strategy and a feedback questionnaire.	

ID	Issue	Fulcrum Pipelines position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.4	Construction Practices and Mitigations	02/02/26 – Fulcrum have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received.	02/02/26 - National Grid seeks agreement from Fulcrum Pipelines that standard best practices during construction will be adequate to protect and maintain access to their assets. National Grid anticipates the detail and implementation of such measures will be agreed via future liaison between the National Grid construction contractor and Fulcrum Pipelines. Should Fulcrum Pipelines have bespoke mitigation requirements or Protective Provisions, National Grid requests these are shared for review and mutual agreement.	To be agreed – to refer to Fulcrum Pipelines' guidelines or requirements for working near assets, or if relevant, Protective Provisions

8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Fulcrum Pipelines Limited

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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