

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0264

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.48 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Arelion  
- 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

# **Arelion**

## **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 outstanding points of discussion between National Grid and Arelion 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 Arelion.

### **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 - Interface Identification and Categorisation	15 individual interfaces have been identified between the Project and Arelion assets. National Grid seeks Arelion's verification of the location and nature of interfaces. National Grid have also provided to Arelion a proposed construction methodology statement.	Resolution likely by Deadline 7
7.2 - Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Assets and Associated Mitigations	Arelion's works being affected by EXA's civils proposals as Arelion rent duct space within their duct for sub-duct/fibre. National Grid will work with both Utility companies around this.	Resolution likely by Deadline 7
7.3 - Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Land or Rights	National Grid has not been able to confirm whether Arelion land holdings may be affected by the Project but requests Arelion to provide any further information on land or rights matters to be identified and considered.	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 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 for development consent 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 Interests**

Arelion is a telecommunications company providing fibre-based network connectivity services. 5 individual interfaces between the Norwich to Tilbury Project and Arelion assets have been identified. Engagement with Arelion is sought to establish the nature of the interfaces and any assets or rights potentially impacted by the Project, and to agree the form of any required or recommended mitigations prior to conclusion of the DCO examination.

## 6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				

## 7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Arelion position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.1	Interface Identification and Categorisation	<i>03/02/26 – Arelion have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received.</i>	<p>13/04/26 - Following development of the Project design and the undertaking of utilities searches, 5 individual interfaces have been identified between the Project and Arelion assets. These include the following crossing types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 overhead line</li> <li>• 1 bellmouth junction</li> <li>• 3 Distribution Network Operator (DNO) mitigation works</li> </ul> <p>Further detail is provided within the relevant documentation. National Grid seeks Arelion's verification of the location and nature of these interfaces.</p>	Norwich to Tilbury Interface Schedule with Arelion August25; Crossing Points KMZ and GIS files.

ID	Issue	Arelion position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.2	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Assets and Associated Mitigations	06/05/26 – Arelion’s works being affected by EXA’s civils proposals as Arelion rent duct space within their duct for sub-duct/fibre. If EXA decide to divert their ducts, then Arelion would need to supervise EXA’s civils and divert their sub-duct/fibre. Alternatively, if EXA decide to slew/lower their ducts, as suspected, then Arelion would need to potentially create/relocate fibre slack and supervise any slewing/lowering.	<p>National Grid have also provided to Arelion a proposed construction methodology statement.</p> <p>03/02/26 - Subject to confirmation of the nature of interfaces, National Grid recognises the potential for the Project to impact Arelion assets and their function during construction and/or operational phases.</p> <p>National Grid seeks agreement from Arelion that standard construction practices will be adequate to protect and maintain access to their assets but recognises the potential for diversionary works or other additional measures to be sought, dependent on impacts. National Grid anticipates the detail and implementation of such measures will be agreed via proposed engagement between the National Grid construction contractor and Arelion during the detailed design phase.</p> <p>Should Arelion have bespoke mitigation requirements, National Grid requests these are shared for early review and mutual agreement, including in relation to associated matters of costs, liability and consents.</p> <p>National Grid have now received C3 estimates from Arelion and are seeking to put</p>	

ID	Issue	Arelion position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
			<p>in place the contractual requirements stipulated to further the identification of mitigations requested.</p> <p>07/05/26 - Arelion's apparatus is installed within duct infrastructure owned by EXA, within which Arelion maintains sub-duct and fibre assets. As such, any proposed civils works undertaken by EXA have the potential to impact Arelion's infrastructure. In the event that EXA undertakes duct diversions, Arelion would be required to carry out corresponding diversion works to its sub-duct and fibre, together with appropriate supervision of the civils activities. Alternatively, where EXA proposes slewing or lowering of ducts, Arelion may be required to implement fibre management measures, including the provision or relocation of fibre slack, and to oversee such works to ensure the continued integrity and operation of its network. National Grid will work with both Utility companies around this.</p>	

ID	Issue	Arelion position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.3	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Land or Rights	<i>03/02/26 – Arelion have been engaged and approach for further comment. The SoCG will be updated as feedback is received</i>	03/02/26 - National Grid has not been able to confirm whether Arelion land holdings may be affected by the Project but requests Arelion to provide any further information on land or rights matters to be identified and considered.	

## 8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Arelion

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

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

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

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