

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0272

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.56 Signed Statement of Common Ground -
Verizon - 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

Verizon

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 Verizon 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 Verizon.

3. Background

3.1 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.

4. Stakeholder Role

Verizon is a telecommunications company providing broadband services. 2 individual interfaces between the Norwich to Tilbury Project and Verizon assets have been identified. Engagement with Verizon 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.

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1	Interface Identification and Categorisation	<p>There are two locations where the Norwich to Tilbury project crosses Verizon assets:-</p> <p>A1089 Dock Approach Road, Tilbury, Essex</p> <p>A128 Brentwood Road, Chadwell St. Mary, Essex</p> <p>At these locations Verizon has optical fibre cables within a duct route owned by EXA Infrastructure and access chambers adjacent to EXA chambers. All in the public highway.</p>	20/04/26	Norwich to Tilbury Interface Schedule with Verizon August25; Crossing Points KMZ and GIS files.
5.2	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Assets and Associated Mitigations	<p>As the duct route is owned by EXA Infrastructure, the specific measures for protection etc would be agreed between EXA Infrastructure and National Grid and in consultation with Verizon.</p> <p>If diversionary works are needed, Verizon will use the NRSWA 1991 C.O.P. 'Measures Necessary Where Apparatus is Affected by Major Works (Diversionary Works)' which allows for engagement and agreement of scope.</p>	20/04/26	
5.3	Potential Project Impacts on Stakeholder Land or Rights	<p>All of the Verizon apparatus is in the public highway at these locations, however a diversionary route across private land is proposed under the Lower Thames Crossing Scheme as a temporary measure for the A1089 Dock Approach Road section. Current projection is 2027 for this temporary route. National Grid commit to adequately protecting the temporary diversion route as required and through consultation and agreement with Verizon.</p>	20/04/26	

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6. Matters currently under discussion

ID	Issue	Verizon position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
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7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: Simon Pepper 

Position: Project Director

Date: 08/05/2026

For GTC

Name:  

Position: Diversions Works Manager

Date: 01.05.26

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