

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0278

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.62 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Tarchon  
- Tracked Changes Version**

**Final Issue B**

**May 2026**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027**

**nationalgrid**

## Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Submitted at</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>26 February 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 1</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>12 May 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 4</u>

# Tarchon

## 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 Tarchon regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with Tarchon 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 Tarchon, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

### 2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is drafted between National Grid and Tarchon Energy Limited ('Tarchon').

### 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.

<u>SoCG ID</u>	<u>Summary of matter under discussion</u>	<u>Deadline for resolution</u>
<u>7.1, 7.2 &amp; 7.3</u>	<u>EACN Bay design and connection point location</u>	<u>30<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u>

### 4. ~~3.~~ Background

#### 4.1 ~~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 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 targeted consultations.

## 5. ~~4.~~ Stakeholder Interests

Tarchon is a proposed interconnector that will create a direct power link between Germany and Great Britain, connecting the two countries' energy markets and increasing the security and reliability of their electrical systems and energy demand. The Tarchon project is in its pre-application stage. Its converter station will connect to the Project's EACN substation,

via underground cabling and consented via [it'sits](#) own DCO application [which is currently at the pre-application stage](#). Tarchon ~~Energy~~ is a customer connection that is reliant on the Project's EACN being consented

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 ~~TARCHON~~ [Tarchon](#) to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Tarchon or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

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

- 2024
  - Project introductions and outline engagement principles.
- 2025
  - Strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
- 2026
  - Detailed design engagement on EACN substation connection interface including bay design.
  - On-going strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
  - Agreement to seek a formal coordination and cooperation agreement.
  - [Tarchon scoping report submitted 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and shared with Norwich to Tilbury team](#)
  - [Tarchon contacted NGET regarding the Norwich to Tilbury project on 8<sup>th</sup> April to inform about Scoping Report, updated Tarchon project website, and referred to Norwich to Tilbury team questions posed by the Examination Authority referring to Tarchon with a deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> April offering dialogue on these matters](#)
  - [Tarchon has sought engagement with National Grid land team to enter into a non-intrusive survey licence for ecological surveys to be undertaken by Tarchon during the 2026 survey season in overlapping land parcels of mutual interest.](#)

[Technical engagement with NtT team, Five Estuaries and North Falls teams with regards to EACN layout.](#)

## 6. ~~5.~~ Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
<del>5.16.</del> <u>1</u>		<u>Formal Cooperation Agreement – NG and Tarchon have agreed to prepare and sign a formal cooperation agreement outlining areas of cooperation on design and construction/interfaces</u>	<u>20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</u>	<u>Document in preparation with NG legal teams for sharing with Tarchon</u>

## 7. ~~6.~~ Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
<del>6.1</del>	<del>Connection-Interface</del>	<del>17/02/26 – EACN connection interface – on-going dialogue with National Grid team on the connection interface point and bay design</del>	<del>17/02/26 – National Grids engagement with Tarchon in regards to the EACN connection-Interface and bay design is ongoing in a cooperative manner.</del>	

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid position (including date)</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
<u>7.1</u>	<u>EACN Connection Bay location &amp; management of</u>	<u>The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern and disagreement with the Norwich to Tilbury project, in relation to the EACN itself.</u>	<u>03/05/26 - Detailed design siting of apparatus within the footprint of the EACN substation is ongoing, National Grid notes</u>	

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid position (including date)</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
	<u>associated works</u>	<p>These are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Lack of certainty regarding EACN connection interfaces within the NtT Order Limits for the Tarchon bay/s - coordinates have been requested for the permanent EACN infrastructure and the coordinates of the designated bays themselves, however this is outstanding. Information provided defers to NESO delays/lack of confirmation on this matter. Tarchon notes that NGET, leading on the NtT project, has sought progression of this information with NESO, however NESO has failed to engage. Coordinates for the specific location of the EACN and the bay/s are key. Without these coordinates the project is extremely limited in being able to accurately consider crossings with associated planned infrastructure (North Falls offshore wind farm and/or Five Estuaries offshore wind farm), and the associated bend radius required for cables to enter the EACN.</u></li> <li><u>The lack of clarity regarding the EACN boundary, within a limit of deviation, creates a high degree of uncertainty for both connection planning and potential adjustments to existing and proposed infrastructure (i.e. pylons), and</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>the respondents concerns around the provision of the coordinates for their connection interface and will endeavour to provide as soon as possible,</u></p> <p><u>As a separate entity and 3<sup>rd</sup> party to NESO/Tarchon arrangements National Grid is unable to comment on ongoing engagement between those two parties.</u></p> <p><u>National Grid seeks to further understand Tarchons concerns regarding EACN boundary lack of clarity and will reach out to Tarchon to hold a meeting to discuss further and address those concerns. National Grid will also separately further detail the Limits of Deviation proposed within the draft DCO so as to provide further certainty to the respondent.</u></p> <p><u>Any modifications to the existing Connection Agreement signed by NESO and Tarchon must take place between the two parties, National Grid will continue it's efforts to facilitate this engagement but reiterates its position as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to the Connection Agreement between both parties,</u></p>	

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid position (including date)</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
		<p><u>potential amendments for consented and pending consent projects in relation to their order limits to connect to the EACN (North Falls &amp; Five Estuaries). Tarchon and NGET cannot progress the design further until NESO responds formally to Tarchon and National Grid requests for clarity. Delays from NESO prevent designs from being progressed by National Grid, which in turn delay information and certainty for Tarchon. For Tarchon this also impacts onshore cable routing and potential onshore convertor station location. Tarchon is seeking more clarity from the applicant (NtT) on the layout and the works that will be undertaken to instigate a connection point for projects such as Tarchon, Five Estuaries and North Falls. Current uncertainties are delaying routing studies and associated landowner engagements and commercial agreements with utilities and other projects in the area. How and when will NtT provide an updated program of works and coordinates for infrastructure to ensure connecting projects such as Tarchon, North Falls &amp; Five Estuaries be delivered to provide certainty for generation projects connecting to the EACN.</u></p>		

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid position (including date)</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tarchon have not yet seen a successful triparty meeting to raise EACN issues with NtT and NESO. This delay in NESO Grid connection process is preventing Tarchon to apply for further design modification and consideration of bay configuration at the EACN.</li> </ul>		
<u>7.2</u>	<u>Organisation leading on Tarchon-related bay works</u>	<p>Recent request has been made by National Grid (NtT) for Tarchon to undertake the design, procurement and construction of the bay/s for the Tarchon project within the EACN. This is not a typical route that similar projects have progressed and brings forward a range of concerns on the ability for Tarchon to design, procure and undertake works independently in the EACN.</p> <p>If these bay works are to be delivered by Tarchon then there would likely be an overlap in order limits for the applied NtT DCO and the upcoming Tarchon DCO application. Conflicts arise in relation to permission, contractor responsibilities (CDM and principal contractor responsibilities/liabilities), health and safety etc. There is also uncertainty regarding any necessary outages that would need to occur at the EACN and how these would be coordinated</p>	<p>National Grid notes the Tarchon position in relation to the design, procurement and delivery of the Tarchon connection bay within the EACN, National Grid will continue engaging with Tarchon on the matter in a cooperative manner to seek a mutually agreeable resolution. This technical matter within the confines of the EACN substation operational area and subject to the Connection Agreement between National Grid and Tarchon, would typically sit outside of the scope of the Norwich to Tilbury DCO examination by the Examining Authority.</p> <p>Any overlap in respective duties within the proposed operational area of the EACN substation would be further catered for within the Connection Agreement privately negotiated between both parties.</p>	

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid position (including date)</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
		<u>safely should Tarchon be undertaking bay works. Tarchon's connection agreement shows that it is NGET's responsibility to populate the bay (within EACN). It is not clear to Tarchon why this would need to change and it is our preference that it remains as-is.</u>		
<u>7.3</u>	<u>Project alignment</u>	<u>NtT have stated that they would instigate regular meetings with the permitting teams between Tarchon, alongside North Falls offshore wind farm and Five Estuaries offshore wind farm. These are still outstanding and the Tarchon project is finding it difficult to request additional updates and exchange information without these in place and with overdue responses outstanding.</u>	<u>03/05/26 – National Grid agree to instigate meetings as described by the respondent. National Grid have since engaged with other affected 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, who's engagement is critical in this workstream, to further define the holistic requirements for such calls and a collective working group invite will be forthcoming shortly to address the respondents concerns raised here.</u>	

## 8. ~~7.~~ Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Tarchon

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

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

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

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Delete	11
Move From	0
Move To	0
Table Insert	3
Table Delete	1
Table moves to	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	0
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
<b>Total Changes:</b>	<b>42</b>