

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0244

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.28 Signed Statement of Common Ground - SRC
Group (Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86) - Clean Version**

Final Issue D

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
C	10 June 2026	Deadline 5
D	7 July 2026	Deadline 6

Sewells Reservoir Construction Group Limited (SRC Group) (Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86)

Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached and where agreement has not been reached between National Grid and Sewells Reservoir Construction Group Limited (SRC Group) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86.

This final signed version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 7.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) and SRC Group.

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
8.1	The Applicant has proposed an alternative scenario to cover a potential change to the planning status of sites in respect of the Minerals Local Plan that seeks to reduce effects to the extent possible.	Engagement to continue during detailed design
8.2	The Applicant acknowledges SRC Group's concerns in relation to the potential minerals site. As such, the Applicant has identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two sites.	Engagement to continue during detailed design
8.3	SRC Group note that permanent operational access could lead to sterilisation of mineral reserves, resultant tipping void and a reduction on recycling volumes. The	Engagement to continue prior to construction

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
	Applicant notes that the DCO includes a defined route for operational access however the parties can agree access arrangements that better respond to the status of a site by voluntary agreement. The parties will continue to engage to agree such access arrangements.	commencement on access arrangements
8.4	The Applicant will continue to engage with SRC Group to understand temporary construction arrangements and the interface with the Martells Site, specifically relating to the current alignment to the north of Frating Road.	Engagement to continue during detailed design

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 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. Stakeholder Interests

SRC Group has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Project. This has been identified as the Martell Minerals Site A85 & A86.

6. Engagement to Date

The chronology of the Applicant's engagement with SRC Group regarding Martells Mineral Site to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- Non-statutory consultation: April - June 2022 (graduated swathe)
- Non-statutory consultation: June – August 2023 (draft alignment)
- Statutory consultation: April – July 2024
- Landowner consultation: June – July 2025
- Meeting Dates:
 - 22 November 2023
 - 10 December 2024
 - 15 September 2025
 - 5 May 2026
- The parties continued to engage during the examination through regular email correspondence in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground.

7. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
7.1				

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid response	SRC Group position	Status	Relevant documentation
8.1	Route Scenarios	The Applicant has proposed an alternative scenario to cover a potential change to the planning status of sites in respect of the Minerals Local Plan. The alternative scenario provides an alignment that seeks to reduce effects to the extent possible. A summary of the alternative scenario has been included in 5.15 Design Development Report [APP-122] and as design scenario 3 in Table 4.4 of 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description [APP-130] submitted with the DCO application.	SRC does not understand this statement as it is unclear, ambiguous and unspecific. SRC has no knowledge of the two Scenario options. Given the full extent of the works, it is likely that the western extension at Frating Road is commercially unviable. With respect to the eastern extension, approximately 50% of the mineral reserve and void may be permanently sterilised bringing into question the commercial viability of this site as well.	Ongoing Discussion	5.15 Design Development Report [APP-122] Table 4.4 of 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description [APP-130] 8.11 Approach to Scenarios [REP5-212]

ID	Issue	National Grid response	SRC Group position	Status	Relevant documentation
		The Applicant welcomes ongoing discussions with SRC Group to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design. The Applicant notes the concern that, without mitigation, the Project could affect the commercial viability of both the western and eastern extensions at Frating Road due to potential sterilisation of mineral and void space. In response, the Applicant has put forward a number of potential routing options for the UKPN diversion, with the objective of reducing impacts on the mineral resource and maintaining the viability of the site. These options are currently under consideration with relevant stakeholders, i.e. SRC Group. Subject to the selection and agreement of a preferred option, the Applicant considers that the impacts on the western extension can be appropriately mitigated such that its commercial viability would be maintained. The Applicant will			

ID	Issue	National Grid response	SRC Group position	Status	Relevant documentation
		continue to engage with SRC Group to agree a suitable solution and will provide further detail as this is progressed through detailed design.			
8.2	Permanent sterilisation of minerals under electrical infrastructure pillar of support	The Applicant acknowledges SRC Group's concerns in relation to the potential minerals site. As such, the Applicant has identified a design scenario that provides flexibility to respond to ongoing discussions and detailed designs between the two sites. A summary of the scenario has been included in 5.15 Design Development Report [APP-122] and as design scenario 3 in Table 4.4 of 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description [APP-130] submitted with the DCO application. The Applicant welcomes ongoing discussions with SRC Group to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design. The Applicant has sought to position the pylons as far north as practicable of the Project's Order Limits to minimise impacts within SRC	SRC has not been provided with any specific information so can only comment in general terms. Sterilisation has the potential to extend also into the route of the overhead lines, in addition to the pillars of support for the pylons. Mineral sterilisation will lead to void sterilisation and consequent impacts on recycling volumes. These impacts cannot be assessed without consideration of the information requested above. SRC does not agree that NG has sole discretion in this matter but is able to agree that any financial claims will be dealt with on a claim by claim basis. This request has only been put to SRC on 03/02/26. Whilst the majority of the proposed towers avoid the mineral to the north of Frating Road. There is one tower currently proposed within the footprint of this area	Ongoing Discussion	5.15 Design Development Report [APP-122] Table 4.4 of 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description [APP-130] 8.11 Approach to Scenarios [REP5-212]

ID	Issue	National Grid response	SRC Group position	Status	Relevant documentation
		Group's site. This alternative scenario is reflected in Table 2.3 of 8.11 Approach to Scenarios [REP5-212] submitted at deadline 5. The Applicant has also requested an extraction depth drawing to better understand the potential interaction between the proposed towers and the quarry. The Applicant acknowledges the potential for impacts on the mineral resource to the north of Frating Road under the current alignment. This issue is addressed in the preceding sections, including through the consideration of alternative routing and mitigation measures aimed at minimising sterilisation.	but the main constraint is the large underground cable swathe that covers a large area within this mineral bearing land as well as the required temporary / permanent access routes. As such, the current alignment of the proposal will sterilise a large portion of the mineral to the north of Frating Road, unless SRC can work this mineral as part of the DCO. Since this comment we have had a meeting and been shown that TB5 & TB6 are now south of Little Bromley Road.		
8.3	Permanent Operational Access	The Applicant requires access at all times to installed equipment, to allow for future maintenance. The Development Consent Order includes a defined route for such access, however the parties can agree access arrangements that better respond to the status of a site	No further details have been provided at this stage but it is agreed that National Grid will require an access for maintenance at all times. However specific information as referred to above has not been provided so SRC is not in a position whereby it can comment on this in a meaningful way. A permanent	Ongoing Discussion	

ID	Issue	National Grid response	SRC Group position	Status	Relevant documentation
		by voluntary agreement, as an alternative. The Applicant would like to continue to work with SRC Group to agree such arrangements.	operational access could lead to sterilisation of mineral reserves, resultant tipping void and a reduction on recycling volumes. The need for Permanent Operational Access may be at odds with NG's statements in respect of Oversail.		
8.4	Temporary construction effects	The Applicant will continue to engage with SRC Group to understand temporary construction arrangements and the interface with the Martells Site. The Applicant will work with SRC Group as further information is provided and detailed design progresses. The Applicant acknowledges the potential for impacts on the mineral resource to the north of Frating Road under the current alignment.	This is acknowledged, however, the information requested by SRC since 15/09/25 has not been provided SRC is not in a position whereby it can comment on this in a meaningful way. The potential temporary construction effects cannot be understated as it could lead to the closure of the quarry, its extension, the recycling, the industrial units and will prevent the construction and use of the proposed asphalt plant. Timing of Temporary Construction may have a bearing in respect to mineral, void and recycling sterilisation. As above, the current alignment of the DCO will potentially sterilise the majority of the minerals and subsequent void to the north of Frating Road, having reviewed the DCO limits and proposed infrastructure in this area. As per comments above.	Ongoing Discussion	

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The parties agree to:

- Commit to engage constructively with other parties in respect of detailed engineering design to facilitate beneficial outcomes for all developments in so far as it relates to overlapping interests
- Commit to update the other parties where material change to their project occurs or is imminently expected.

Figure 1 Interface between the Project alignment and the Martells Minerals site.



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9. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Position: Project Director

Date: 01/07/2026

For SRC Group

Position: Managing Director

Date: 06/07/2026

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