

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0247

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.31 Signed Statement of Common Ground - SRC
Group (Sheepcote Quarry) - 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) (Sheepcote Quarry) 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 Sheepcote Quarry, Braintree Road, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3LD.

This final signed version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 6.

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 and SRC Group will continue to engage following examination to ensure quarry access is maintained with suitable crossing arrangements established.	Engagement will continue through 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 Sheepcote Quarry, Braintree Road, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3LD.

SRC are currently progressing a planning application for a western extension to the existing quarry on land to the south of Sheepcotes Wood. This will involve inert landfill as part of its restoration using the existing access.

6. Engagement to date

The chronology of the Applicant's engagement with SRC Group regarding Sheepcote Quarry 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.

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7. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	SRC Group Position	Date agreed
7.1	Maintaining safe access to the public highway	The Applicant intends to use the existing Sheepcote Quarry access and form its construction haul road from this point. The Applicant acknowledges the need for a design that maintains safe and continuous access for quarry operations and for the Applicant's Project-related traffic, and for ensuring that the access road is kept to an appropriate standard suitable for operations. The Applicant acknowledges the extension on the existing quarry but does not anticipate any additional Project traffic, so through planning this can be managed and continued access will be granted. The Applicant welcomes SRC Group's agreement that shared use and access can be accommodated, and the parties will continue to engage through detailed design and prior to construction to ensure any potential impacts can be mitigated.	The importance of continued access to the stakeholder site and potential western extension has been emphasised. However subject to appropriate agreement it is agreed that shared use and access for National Grid has the potential to be accommodated without materially influencing SRC's business or prejudicing it. Further SRC would need to be satisfied that the Cumulative Environmental Effects of SRC's existing and future operations at Sheepcotes Quarry in conjunction with the DCO will be acceptable at this location.	July 2026

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8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	SRC Group Position	Status
8.1	Maintaining access during installation of utilities connections	The Applicant acknowledges that the proposed utilities connections to the Project compound will cross the Sheepcote quarry access. The Applicant will liaise with the quarry operator during detailed design to ensure quarry access is maintained.	The importance of continued access to the stakeholder site and potential extensions is emphasised. However subject to appropriate agreement it is likely that suitable crossing arrangements could be established. Plans for the bell-mouth have been provided to the applicant and are awaiting confirmation.	Discussion on access arrangements to continue during detailed design.

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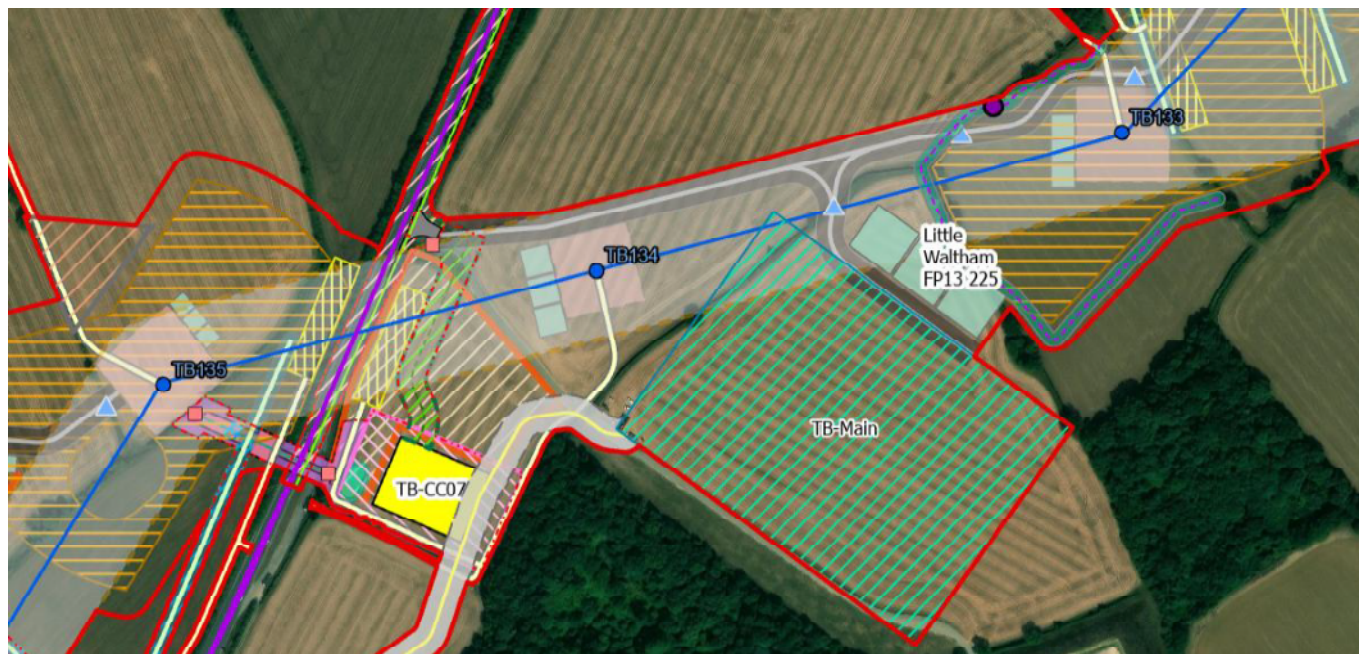
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The parties agree to:

- 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 Interaction between TB133 to TB135



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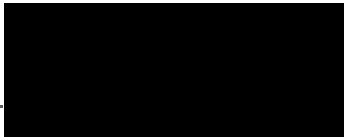


9. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: Simon Pepper



Position: Project Director

Date: 01/07/2026

For SRC Group

Name: Oliver Rees



Position: Managing Director

Date: 06/07/2026

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