

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) - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue D

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

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Revision History

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

Sewells Reservoir Construction Group Limited (SRC Group) (Sheepcote Quarry)

~~Draft~~ Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to ~~outline the areas of~~confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement ~~and any remaining points of discussion~~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. ~~The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process.~~

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

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG ~~is agreed between~~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
7.18.1	Detailed construction and operational information, including timings and accumulative environmental assessment <u>The Applicant and SRC Group will continue to engage following examination to ensure quarry access is maintained with suitable crossing arrangements established.</u>	Likely beyond deadline 7 <u>Engagement will continue through detailed design</u>
7.2	Detailed construction information and a cumulative environmental assessment to assess whether access can be safely maintained during utility installation works	Likely beyond 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 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 ~~recent~~ targeted consultations.

5. Stakeholder Interests

SRC Group has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the ~~Norwich to Tilbury proposals~~ Project. This has been identified as Sheepcote Quarry, Braintree Road, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3LD.

~~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 SRC Group to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how SRC Group or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.~~

~~Discussions Held~~

~~Meeting Dates: 22nd November 2023, 10th December 2024, 15th September 2025, 5th May 2026~~

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 ~~continue~~ 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. ~~6.~~ Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed <u>SRC Group Position</u>	Relevant documentation <u>Date agreed</u>
6.1				

7. ~~Matters Currently Under Discussion~~

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
7.1	Maintaining Safe Access <u>safe</u> access to the Public Highway <u>public highway</u>	The Applicant intends to use the existing Sheepcote Quarry access and form its <u>construction</u> haul road from this point. The Applicant acknowledges the need for a design that maintains safe and continuous access for quarry operations and DCO related<u>for the Applicant's Project-related</u> traffic, and for ensuring that the access road is kept to an appropriate standard <u>suitable for operations</u>. The Applicant acknowledges the extension on the existing quarry but does not anticipate any additional <u>Project</u> traffic, so through planning this can be managed and continued access will be granted.	The importance of continued access to the stakeholder site is<u>and potential western extension has been</u> 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. 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	The Applicant to provide detailed information in respect of the construction and built scenarios, including timings of works and events. NG to also provide a Cumulative Environmental Assessment to deal with existing and proposed SRC operations in conjunction with the

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
		<u>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.</u>	landfill as part of its restoration using the existing access. The importance of continued access to the stakeholder site and potential western extension has been emphasised.	DCO. Thereafter, SRC Group is willing to consider the information provided and revert to the Applicant. Thereafter, subject to suitability and applicability of the information provided SRC Group will consider, terms and form of agreement to be developed, in the first instance, by the Applicant. <u>July 2026</u>

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	SRC Group Position	Status
<u>7-28.1</u>	Maintaining Access <u>access</u> during installation of utilities	The Applicant acknowledges that the proposed utilities connections to the Nerwich-Tilbury <u>Tilbury</u> Project compound will cross the Sheepcote quarry access.	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.	The Applicant to provide detailed information in respect of the construction and

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>SRC Group Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
	connections	The Applicant will liaise with the quarry operator during detailed design to ensure quarry access is maintained. The Applicant confirms receipt of the bell-mouth plans, which have been forwarded to the contractor. Feedback on their suitability is currently awaited.	Plans for the bell-mouth have been provided to the applicant and are awaiting confirmation.	built scenarios, including timings of works and events. NG to also provide a Cumulative Environmental Assessment to deal with existing and proposed SRC operations in conjunction with the DCO. Thereafter, SRC Group is willing to consider the information provided and revert to the Applicant. Thereafter, subject to suitability and applicability of the information provided SRC Group will consider, terms and form of agreement to be developed, in the first instance, by the

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>SRC Group Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
				Applicant- <u>Discussion on</u> <u>access</u> <u>arrangements to</u> <u>continue during</u> <u>detailed design.</u>

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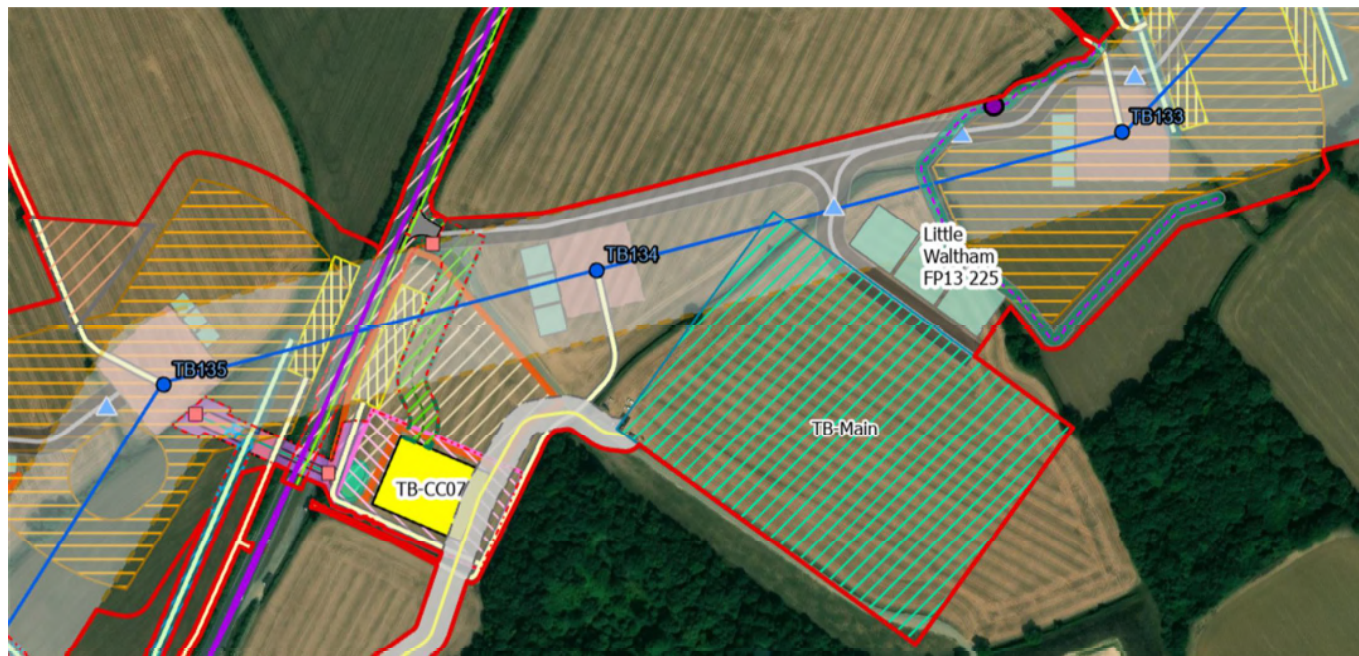
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The parties agree to:

- 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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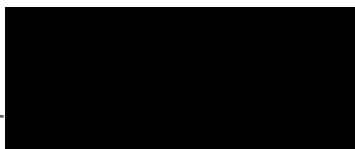
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9. ~~8.~~ Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: Simon Pepper

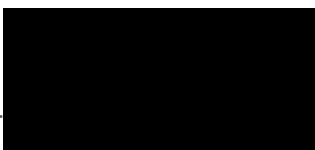


Position: Project Director

Date: 01/07/2026

For SRC Group

Name: Oliver Rees



Position: Managing Director

Date: 06/07/2026

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Summary report: Litera Compare for Word 11.16.0.74 Document comparison done on 7/1/2026 11:54:59 AM	
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Modified filename: 8.3.31 Draft Statement of Common Ground - SRC Group (Sheepcote Quarry) Revision D Clean Version.docx	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	56
Delete	40
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	2
Table Delete	3
<u>Table moves to</u>	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	0
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	101