

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0362

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.92 Signed Statement of Common Ground -
Arqiva Limited

Final Issue A

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Arqiva Limited

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 Arqiva Limited regarding communications network interfaces in relation to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project.

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 and Arqiva Limited.

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
	Impacts of proposed pylon network on Radio Broadcast Links and Super High Frequency (SHF) Links operated by Arqiva Limited.	Engagement to 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 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 and one statutory consultation to inform its proposals, with further targeted consultations.

5. Stakeholder Interests

Arqiva Limited are a critical national infrastructure operator, managing the digital terrestrial television (DTT) network and broadcast radio network. Amongst other things, this is achieved through the point to point transmission of digital and radio broadcast signals. Following a technical assessment undertaken by Arqiva Limited, seven potential individual interfaces between the Norwich to Tilbury Project and Arqiva Limited assets have been identified:

Pylon	Arqiva Link Assessment
RG48	- Pylon located 30m from Tacolneston to Mendlesham link path - Talconeston: X – 613050, Y – 295721 - Mendlesham: X – 612280, Y - 264150
RG132	- Pylon located almost directly underneath the path of link Mendlesham to Thetford - Mendlesham: X – 612280, Y – 264150 - Thetford: X – 586540, Y - 284050
JC33	- Pylon located almost directly underneath the path of link Sudbury to Warren Heath - Sudbury: X – 593138, Y – 237650 - Warren Heath: X – 619635, Y - 242544
TB61	- Pylon located 40m north of link path between Braintree Grid and Manningtree - Braintree Grid: X – 577465, Y – 221782 - Manningtree: X – 312296, Y - 229546
TB62	- Pylon located 30m south of link path between Braintree Grid and Manningtree - Braintree Grid: X – 577465, Y – 221782 - Manningtree: X – 312296, Y - 229546
TB66	- Pylon located 15m east of link path between Great Braxted and Sudbury - Great Braxted: X – 591318, Y – 237650 - Sudbury: X – 587017, Y - 214949
RG196	- Approx 36m from Sudbury to Somersham – RBL - Sudbury: X – 587078, Y – 237650 - Somersham: X – 608600, Y - 249230

6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1	Pylon RG48	There is no impact on Arqiva Limited' network in respect of RG48.	12.06.2026	N/A
6.2	Pylon TB62	There is no impact on Arqiva Limited' network in respect of TB62.	12.06.2026	N/A

7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Arqiva Limited position	National Grid position	Relevant documentation
7.1	Interface Identification and Categorisation	Arqiva's technical assessment shows that pylons RG132, JC33, TB59-61, TB66 and RG196 as currently proposed will have an adverse impact on the functionality of the existing network because the locations of the pylons are either within, or very close to, existing super high frequency (SHF) and microwave link paths	National Grid is looking into design solutions within the limits of deviation which may mitigate any interface or impact. National Grid will work with Arqiva to understand what mitigation measures may be appropriate, should detailed design not be possible. Discussions will continue following examination and into the detailed design phase of project development.	

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ID	Issue	Arqiva Limited position	National Grid position	Relevant documentation
7.2	Engagement	Arqiva notes a delay in response from the Applicant to outstanding queries but remain amenable to working with National Grid with a view to overcoming the concerns regarding potential impact of Norwich to Tilbury's pylons.	National Grid acknowledges Arqiva Limited's request for engagement, and is committed to ongoing dialogue to understand potential impacts and proposed mitigations	

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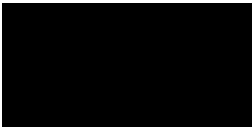
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8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name:  

Position: Project Director

Date: 15/07/2026

For Arqiva Limited

Name: 

Position: PRINCIPAL MICROWAVE ENG.

Date: 15 JULY 2026

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