

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0351

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.90 Final Statement of Common Ground - Voltwise
Power (Brook Farm Energy) - Tracked Changes Version**

Final Issue B

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Submitted at</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>12 May 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 4</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>21 July 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 7</u>

Voltwise Power (Brook Farm Energy)

~~Draft~~ Final 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 Voltwise Power regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and Brook Farm Energy, land North of Hill Farm, Burstall, East of Bramford Substation. ~~The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process~~ and Bramford BESS project.

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

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG ~~is agreed between~~has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) and Voltwise Power.

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
7.1	Underground cable route must stay inside the DCO, Voltwise wants it along the edge of the land boundary	By deadline 7
7.2	Narrow the haul road to avoid impacting Battery Storage project	Likely beyond deadline 7

This final SoCG deals with 2 matters in total, of which 1 is agreed (underground cable rerouting) and 1 remains NOT agreed (Haul Road at Bramford BESS).

Discussions between the Applicant and Voltwise Power necessarily will continue during detailed design, and for some matters into construction, including on the following matter:

- Current Haul road location directly encroaches on our fenceline.

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.

~~Full Planning Application – Construction and operation of a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System, and related infrastructure with associated access, landscaping and drainage. Applied for on 4th Oct 2021 and was approved on 7th July 2022. Approved by Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council.~~

5. Stakeholder Interests

Voltwise Power has been in correspondence with ~~National Grid~~the Applicant over the potential ~~interaction with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been~~interactions with the Project. One site identified ~~as~~is Brook Farm Energy ~~at~~, located on land North of Hill Farm, Burstall, East of Bramford Substation. The site is an existing ~~battery storage farm~~Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development, and ~~was~~granted ~~since~~planning permission on 16 ~~Nov~~November 2017.

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

Separately, planning application DC/21/05468 relates to a different Battery Energy Storage System site at Land to the Bramford BESS, South of Bullen Lane, Bramford, Suffolk IP8 4JD. The application for the construction and operation of a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), together with associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and drainage works, was submitted on 4 October 2021 and was granted planning permission by Mid Suffolk District Council on 7 July 2022.

6. Engagement ~~history~~to date

The chronology of the Applicant's engagement with Voltwise Power 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
- Teams Meeting ~~Dates: 14th~~ 14 January 2026
- Ongoing ~~attempts have~~engagement has been ~~made to engage~~ongoing with the other party through regular email correspondence and telephone conversations in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground but still no resolution has been found.

7. ~~6.~~ Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				
7.1	UKPN interaction – undergrounding of OHL <u>overhead line</u>	The Applicant confirms that UKPN will remove the existing overhead line and replace it with an underground cable<u>cabling scheme of works</u> within the defined DCO red line boundary<u>Order Limits</u> north of Brook Farm Battery Storage. The Applicant acknowledges Voltwise's<u>Voltwise Power's</u> request to consider an alternative route along the outside of the land boundary and confirms that this cannot be accommodated due to the requirement to remain within the red line limits authorised by the DCO<u>Order Limits</u>. 29/04/26 – As these works would fall outside the scope of the Development Consent Order (DCO), we are unable to provide further comment. This matter would need to be raised directly with UK Power Networks (UKPN). Voltwise has queried a potential change in the UKPN underground cable route in favour of a route that follows the outside of the land boundary as opposed to the DCO boundary. 29/04/26 – Current proposed OHL that to be placed underground to roughly in the line with the red box is due to be placed underground. Voltwise request to place the cable underground to be extended in to the blue box. (see Figure 2 below)	Ongoing Discussion <u>July 2026</u>	

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>Voltwise Power Position</u>
7.28.1	Temporary Construction Effects	<u>The area indicated by the blue arrow represents a temporary haul road required during construction at the Bramford BESS site.</u> The Applicant confirms that the width of the proposed construction haul road in this area can be <u>refined and reduced at detailed design stage</u> to avoid affecting the construction of the consented Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) permitted under planning reference DC/21/05468. 29/04/26 – The area indicated by the blue arrow represents a temporary haul road required during construction. This will be refined and reduced at detailed design stage to ensure it avoids any encroachment into the planning application boundary, thereby preventing unnecessary impact. Further engagement with Voltwise Power will take place during detailed design to look to reduce the width of the haul road where possible. A water and electrical utility corridor is also located within this area. Both utilities will be installed below ground, and once construction is complete, the land will be fully reinstated,	The intended construction haul road east of Bramford Substation and the building of the new Battery Energy Storage System under planning app ref DC/21/05468 which has been granted and the impact between the road and the site. 29/04/26 – The cable route across the north - (blue arrow) this is difficult to understand where exact the cable route will go, how will it be installed and what will be the final footprint when it is placed? Ongoing Discussion What is this pink hatched area and RG-SC02 (Green arrow) <u>Voltwise have requested for assurances that this haul road will not impact their project and no assurances have been given. See figure 2</u>

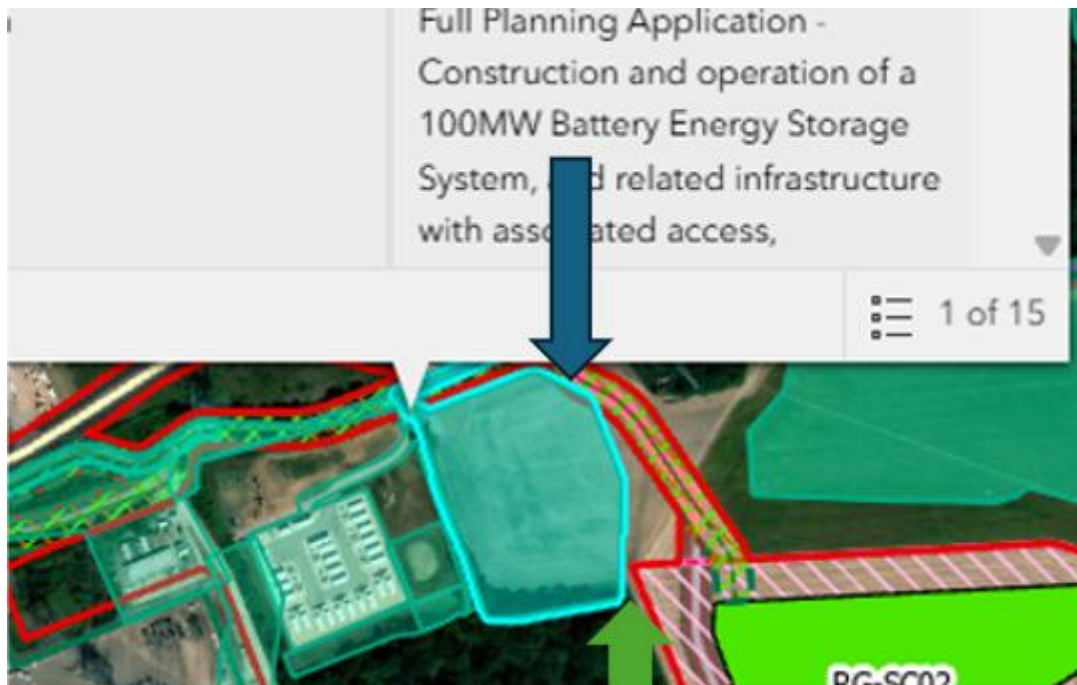
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>Voltwise Power Position</u>
		resulting in no significant permanent surface footprint. <u>Area</u> RG-SC02 refers to the proposed substation <u>is a temporary</u> compound. The, and the pink hatched area denotes the required <u>is a</u> buffer zone around the substation, which is necessary for safety, operational access, and maintenance requirements. This buffer does not represent permanent hardstanding across its full extent and will be managed to minimise visual and physical impact where possible <u>compound</u>.	
7.3	Area in Yellow box (Figure 1)	29/04/26 – The yellow box identifies an area that includes elements associated with other planning applications. The green sections on the plan represent areas submitted by other applicants. Within this same area, the red section denotes a proposed UKPN (UK Power Networks) diversion.	29/04/26 – Can you share more detail on what is proposed in the Yellow box and this would appear to encroach on our site.

Figure 1 Three Images of the Battery Storage area on the west side of RG206





Figure 2 Location of proposed Battery Storage System highlighted



9. ~~8.~~ Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Voltwise Power

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	59
Delete	50
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	2
Table Delete	7
<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:	118