

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) - Clean Version**

Final Issue B

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
B	21 July 2026	Deadline 7

Voltwise Power (Brook Farm Energy) Final 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 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 and Bramford BESS project.

This final 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 Voltwise Power.

3. Summary of Matters

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.

5. Stakeholder Interests

Voltwise Power has been in correspondence with the Applicant over the potential interactions with the Project. One site identified is Brook Farm Energy, located on land North of Hill Farm, Burstall, East of Bramford Substation. The site is an existing Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development, and was granted planning permission on 16 November 2017.

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 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: 14 January 2026
- Ongoing engagement has been 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. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
7.1	UKPN interaction – undergrounding of overhead line	The Applicant confirms that UKPN will remove the existing overhead line and replace it with an underground cabling scheme of works within the defined DCO Order Limits north of Brook Farm Battery Storage. The Applicant acknowledges Voltwise Power's 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 Order Limits.	July 2026

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

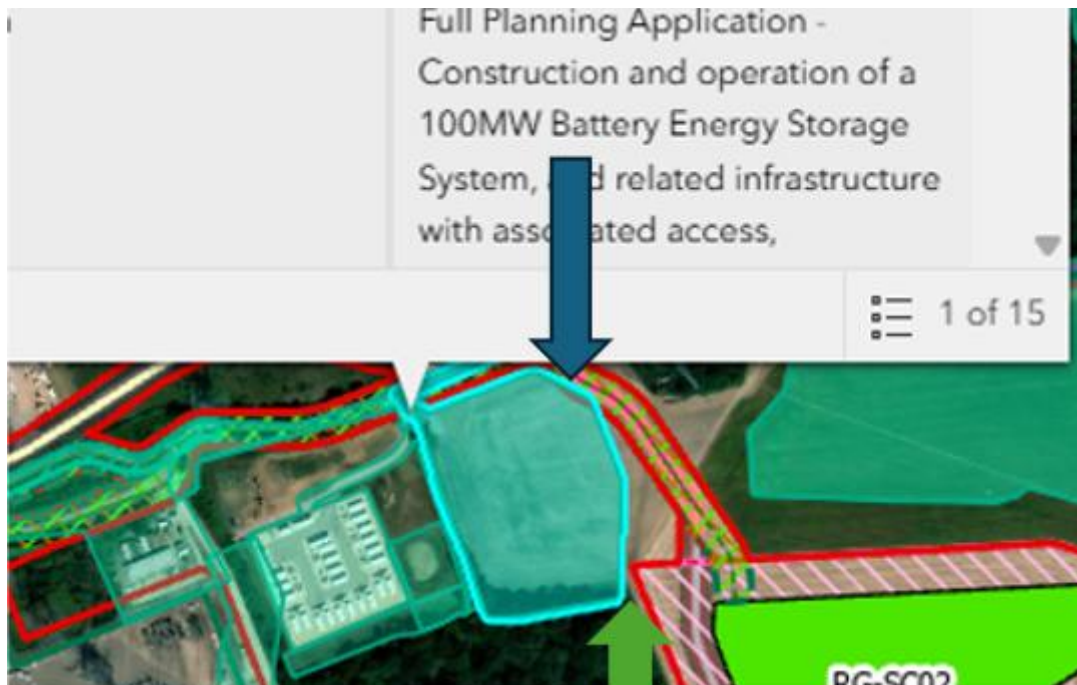
ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Voltwise Power Position
8.1	Temporary Construction Effects	The area indicated by the blue arrow represents a temporary haul road required during construction at the Bramford BESS site. The Applicant confirms that the width of the proposed construction haul road in this area can be refined and reduced at detailed design stage to avoid affecting the construction of the consented Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) permitted under planning reference DC/21/05468. Further engagement with Voltwise Power will take place during detailed design to look to reduce the width of the haul road where possible. Area RG-SC02 is a temporary compound, and the pink hatched area is a buffer around the compound.	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. 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? What is this pink hatched area and RG-SC02 (Green arrow) Voltwise have requested for assurances that this haul road will not impact their project and no assurances have been given. See Figure 2.

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. 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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