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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

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- Tracked Changes Version

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Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
C	7 July 2026	Deadline 6
<u>D</u>	<u>21 July 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 7</u>

Tarchon

~~Draft~~ 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 Tarchon regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and its interface with Tarchon assets.

The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any bespoke protective provisions included in the draft DCO for the protection of Tarchon, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid and Tarchon Energy Limited ('Tarchon').

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, 7.2 & 7.3	EACN Bay Design, Connection Point Location & All Party Coordination	Deadline 7
7.4 <u>7.1</u>	Protective Provision Requirements	Deadline 8

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

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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

Tarchon is a proposed [electricity](#) interconnector that will create a direct power link between Germany and Great Britain, connecting the two countries' energy markets and increasing the security and reliability of their electrical systems and energy demand. [Tarchon's](#) The Tarchon ~~project is in its pre-application stage. Its~~ converter station will connect to the Project's EACN substation, via underground cabling and [will be](#) consented via its own DCO application which is currently at the pre-application stage. Tarchon is a customer connection that is reliant on the Project's EACN being consented

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

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with Tarchon to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2024
 - Project introductions and outline engagement principles.
- 2025
 - Strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
- 2026
 - Detailed design engagement on EACN substation connection interface including bay design.
 - On-going engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
 - Agreement to seek a formal coordination and cooperation agreement.
 - Tarchon scoping report submitted 7th April 2026 and shared with Norwich to Tilbury team
 - Tarchon contacted NGET regarding the Norwich to Tilbury project on 8th April to inform about Scoping Report, updated Tarchon project website, and referred to Norwich to Tilbury team questions posed by the Examination Authority referring to Tarchon with a deadline of 10th April offering dialogue on these matters
 - Norwich To Tilbury informed Tarchon of its intentions to modify the connection agreement regarding scope of works and ownership boundaries; email shared 1st April
 - Tarchon has sought engagement with National Grid land team to enter into a non-intrusive survey licence for ecological surveys to be undertaken by Tarchon during the 2026 survey season in overlapping land parcels of mutual interest.

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Technical engagement continues with the Norwich To Tilbury team, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm and North Falls Offshore Wind ~~Fram teams~~Farmteams with regards to the EACN interface, access, and layout.

6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1	Formal Cooperation Agreement	Formal Cooperation Agreement – NG and Tarchon have agreed to prepare and sign a formal cooperation agreement outlining areas of cooperation on design and construction/interfaces	20 th April 2026	Document in preparation with NG legal teams for sharing with Tarchon
<u>6.2</u>	<u>EACN Connection Bay location & management of associated works</u>	<u>The Parties recognise the need to continue dialogue to ensure that the grid connection needs required to deliver the Tarchon project can be accommodated within the Applicants EACN substation. Dialogue will continue to ensure the Norwich to Tilbury scheme meets its responsibilities as set out in the Bilateral Connection Agreement to allow Tarchon to deliver their works as necessary and on time.</u> <u>At this time, details of specific bay location and management have not been finalised and will need to be reflected in an updated grid connection agreement for the Tarchon project.</u>	<u>10th July</u>	
<u>6.3</u>	<u>Organisation leading on Tarchon-related bay works</u>	<u>National Grid commit to cooperating in a positive manner to enable Tarchon to deliver works within the EACN without prejudice to the Applicants DCO and works associated with the connection and operation of infrastructure associated with the connection at the Norwich to Tilbury EACN substation. This is subject to further legal agreements being put in place governing the interaction. Where approvals are required of the Norwich to Tilbury scheme in relation to the Tarchon works at the EACN bay(s), these will not be unreasonably withheld.</u>	<u>15/07/26</u>	

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.4	Project Alignment	Both Tarchon and the Applicant have agreed the mechanism and responsibilities for all-party engagement in respect of the N-T EACN area and the connecting customers detailed within an all-party RACI matrix. A commitment to continued and consistent engagement is recognised as being needed between both parties to deliver this.	02/07/26	

7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
7.1	EACN Connection-Bay location & management of associated works	The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern and disagreement with the Norwich to Tilbury project, in relation to the EACN itself. These are summarised below: • Lack of certainty regarding EACN connection interfaces within the NtT Order Limits for the Tarchon bay/s—coordinates have been requested for the permanent EACN infrastructure and the coordinates of the designated bays themselves, however this is outstanding. Information provided defers to NESO delays/lack of confirmation on this matter. Tarchon notes that NGET, leading on the NtT project, has sought progression of this information with NESO, however NESO has failed to engage. Coordinates for	03/05/26—Detailed design siting of apparatus within the footprint of the EACN substation is ongoing, National Grid notes the respondents concerns around the provision of the coordinates for their connection interface and will endeavour to provide as soon as possible, As a separate entity and 3rd party to NESO/Tarchon arrangements National Grid is unable to comment on ongoing engagement between those two parties.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		the specific location of the EACN and the bay/s are key. Without these coordinates the project is extremely limited in being able to accurately consider crossings with associated planned infrastructure (North Falls offshore wind farm and/or Five Estuaries offshore wind farm), and the associated bend radius required for cables to enter the EACN. • 23/06/26 The meeting referenced by the Applicant (NtT) on their response dated 03/05/26 has occurred, however the concerns raised by Tarchon still remain with little clarity on an outcome at this time, hence the position on this point remains unresolved. • The EACN (NtT) substation layout that was communicated to the Tarchon project after DCO submission has since changed. However insufficient information on the new design/layout has been provided to date, making this difficult for Tarchon to confirm the point of entry to inform cable routing, site selection, access requirements etc, and informing the DCO process. To date, NtT/NGET have not confirmed when suitable details in relation to bay location within EACN will be available. Consequently, Tarchon (having been recent requested to undertake works within the NGET perimeter fence and delivering the bay) does not have the required level of clarity on where such works need to be undertaken and the extent/scale of these.	National Grid seeks to further understand Tarchon's concerns regarding EACN boundary lack of clarity and will reach out to Tarchon to hold a meeting to discuss further and address these concerns. National Grid will also separately further detail the Limits of Deviation proposed within the draft DCO so as to provide further certainty to the respondent. Any modifications to the existing Connection Agreement signed by NESO and Tarchon must take place between the two parties, National Grid will continue its efforts to facilitate this engagement but reiterates its position as a 3rd party to the Connection Agreement between both parties. 03/07/26 — Norwich to Tilbury is in ongoing detailed design and so works are subject to change within the constraints of the	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		The lack of clarity regarding the EACN boundary, within a limit of deviation, creates a high degree of uncertainty for both connection planning and potential adjustments to existing and proposed infrastructure (i.e. pylons), and potential amendments for consented and pending consent projects in relation to their respective order limits to connect to the EACN (e.g. North Falls Offshore Wind Farm & Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm). Tarchon and NGET cannot progress the design further until NESO responds formally to Tarchon and National Grid requests for clarity. Delays from NESO prevent designs from being progressed by National Grid, which in turn delay information and certainty for Tarchon. For Tarchon this also impacts onshore cable routing and potential onshore converter station location. Tarchon is seeking more clarity from the Applicant (NtT) on the layout and the works that will be undertaken to instigate a connection point for projects such as Tarchon. Current uncertainties are delaying routing studies and associated landowner engagements and commercial agreements with utilities and other projects in the area. The Tarchon project is seeking further information as to how and when the Applicant (NtT) will provide an updated program of works and coordinates for infrastructure to ensure connecting projects such as Tarchon can be delivered to provide certainty for generation projects connecting to	proposed draft DCO. Tarchon will be kept informed as works progress towards a final design. Tri-party discussions are ongoing between National Grid, NESO and Tarchon.	

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		the EACN. The Tarchon project has now seen, and participated in several triparty meeting to raise EACN issues with NtT and NESO. Whilst there has been commitment to continue discussions, these meetings have not yet reached the point of conclusion on a number of the relevant issues. In relation to the matters listed above under 7.1, the Tarchon project would therefore summarise that this matter is still under discussion.		
7.2	Organisation leading on Tarchon-related bay works	The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern and disagreement with the Norwich to Tilbury project, in relation to the proposed works within the EACN, and indeed the functionality and responsibilities related to bay works needed to connect Tarchon to the grid within the EACN itself. These are summarised below: Recent request has been made by the Applicant (NtT) for Tarchon to undertake the design, procurement and construction of the bay/s for the Tarchon project within the EACN. This is not as detailed in Tarchon's existing Connection Agreement (dated 2022), hence the notification of this in 01 April 2026 (email from NGET/NtT) creates a significant shift in assumed requirements for Tarchon in relation to what is being applied for by the Applicant (NtT). Under the current	03/05/26 – National Grid notes the Tarchon position in relation to the design, procurement and delivery of the Tarchon connection bay within the EACN. National Grid will continue engaging with Tarchon on the matter in a cooperative manner to seek a mutually agreeable resolution. This technical matter within the confines of the EACN substation operational area and subject to the Connection Agreement between National Grid and Tarchon, would typically sit outside of the scope of the	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		Connection Agreement, and as per previous projects engaged upon, the agreement implies that NGET will undertake works within the perimeter fence of the EACN. This new request, i.e. for the Tarchon project to undertake works inside the perimeter fence and to establish and operate the bays themselves, not captured in the connection agreement for the EACN interface, brings forward a range of concerns on the ability for Tarchon to design, procure and undertake works independently in the EACN. • If these bay works are to be delivered by Tarchon then there would likely be an overlap in order limits for the applied NtT DCO and the upcoming Tarchon DCO application. Conflicts arise in relation to permission, contractor responsibilities (CDM and principal contractor responsibilities / liabilities) etc. There is also uncertainty regarding any necessary outages that would need to occur at the EACN and how these would be coordinated safely should Tarchon be undertaking bay works. However, NGET has indicated that it would be a possibility for them to deliver the bays as an unlicensed work (where the Tarchon Project effectively would contract NGET to undertake such works inside the EACN), and in this circumstance and subject to conditions for this, the Tarchon project would be open to engaging in this dialogue further.	Norwich to Tilbury DCO examination by the Examining Authority. Any overlap in respective duties within the proposed operational area of the EACN substation would be further catered for within the Connection Agreement privately negotiated between both parties. 03/07/26 — Overlapping order limits and specific interactions between proposed DCO's (Tarchon, Norwich to Tilbury) and confirmed DCO's (North Falls, Five Estuaries) would in all cases be privately agreed between parties.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		• Tarchon's connection agreement (ConsAG App G) shows that Tarchon is to be provided a fully populated User bay (within EACN). It is not clear to Tarchon why this would need to change and it is our preference that it remains as is. • Tarchon notes that as per the original grid connection agreement (2022) the requirements related to the delivery of aspects to connect Tarchon to the grid within the perimeter fence of the EACN i.e. the inner cabling and execution and operation of the bay/s with associated works are the responsibility of NGET. However, more recent dialogue in April 2026 now changes the circumstances established within the grid connection agreement, hence since April 2026 Tarchon has needed to secure further information and alignment from NtT and NGET regarding clarity of expectations and how these would be secured — this has not been defined at this time. Therefore, it remains the concern of Tarchon that the application for and determination of the NtT project must include clarity on the requirements as to what NtT (under NGET) will and will not do in relation to what has been or has not been assessed and included as being sought for consent under the DCO and any associated CA powers, and therefore how this relates to the site selection, assessment and commercial agreements (i.e. the grid connection agreement) between Tarchon and		

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		NGET. In relation to the matters listed above under 7.2, the Tarchon project would therefore summarise that this matter is still under discussion.		
7.3	Project alignment	The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern with the Norwich to Tilbury project, in relation to the level of dialogue that has been undertaken, and information shared to date. These are summarised below: • NtT have stated that they would instigate regular meetings with the permitting teams between Tarchon, alongside North Falls offshore wind farm and Five Estuaries offshore wind farm. These are still outstanding and the Tarchon project is finding it difficult to request additional updates and exchange information without these in place and with overdue responses outstanding. • To date we have seen more activity on meetings with the other entities, it is important to retain this momentum so we can progress further with project specifics and understandings/alignment to deliver a coordinated approach for the promoters, and also for the local community and interested parties. In relation to the matters listed above under 7.3, the Tarchon project would therefore summarise that this	03/05/26 — National Grid agree to instigate meetings as described by the respondent. National Grid have since engaged with other affected 3rd parties, who's engagement is critical in this workstream, to further define the holistic requirements for such calls and a collective working group invite will be forthcoming shortly to address the respondents concerns raised here. 03/07/26 — Further meetings have taken place and National Grid have coordinated a framework for ongoing engagement between all connecting customers at the EACN. National Grid will continue to facilitate all party engagement	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		matter is still under discussion.	but notes ultimately it is the responsibility of individual parties to engage with each other as required to inform their own works.	
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position</u>	<u>National Grid position</u>	
<u>7.4.7</u> <u>.1</u>	Protected Provisions	The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern and disagreement with the Norwich to Tilbury project, and the ability to protect the rights of the <u>Tarchon</u> project for future development and delivery. These are summarised below: Due to aspects mentioned above (namely items 7.1 and 7.2 described above) the Tarchon Interconnector Project is seeking to ensure that based on the limited level of detail at this time, it is necessary to agree a series of Protected Provisions (PPs) that we are proposing to include <u>to be included</u> in the Norwich to Tilbury draft development consent order, in a similar manner as undertaken by the Five Estuaries and North Falls projects, to provide reassurance to be able to deliver the Tarchon Project <u>project</u> effectively. The Tarchon project has submitted a draft of these PPs to NtT and the teams are <u>actively</u> negotiating these, at the same time, the initial draft is being submitted directly to the Examining Authority aware of this.	03/07/26 <u>15/07/26</u> – National Grid <u>Grid</u> is engaging with Tarchon to agree a set of Protective Provisions and hoping to conclude within the examination window to allow for an agreed set of Protective Protections. <u>Protection appended to the draft DCO</u>	

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		These proposed PPs are aligned with the protective provisions given to North Falls and Five Estuaries, with some necessary modifications, given the level of maturity of the Tarchon project and the uncertainty around which bay(s) the HVAC cable will connect to. In relation to the matters listed above under 7.4.7.1, the Tarchon project would therefore summarise that this matter is still under discussion.		

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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: 17/07/2026 _____

For Tarchon 

Name:  _____

Position: Tarchon Development Director _____

Date: 16 July 2026 _____

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Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	16
Delete	13
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	5
Table Delete	8
<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:	42