

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0239

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.23 Final Statement of Common Ground - Pace Nano
Energy (Grange Farm Solar) - Clean Version

Final Issue C

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
C	21 July 2026	Deadline 7

PACE Nano Energy Limited (Grange Solar Farm) 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 PACE Nano Energy Limited regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and the Grange Solar Farm development.

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 Pace Nano Energy Limited (PACE Nano).

3. Summary of matters

This final SoCG deals with 6 matters in total, of which 4 are agreed and 2 are under discussion.

The matters under discussion are to be covered in the legal agreement currently being negotiated between the Applicant and PACE Nano.

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

PACE Nano has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Project. This has been identified as Grange Solar Farm, Old Bury Road, Suffolk. PACE Nano's legal interests are in land over which PACE Nano secured planning permission on 9 November 2023 under reference DC/22/02667 for: Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure and security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works (Grange Solar Farm). The planning permission has been implemented, is in construction and has an anticipated operational date of December 2026.

6. Discussions Held

- 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:
 - 15 May 2025
 - 13 June 2025
 - 27 June 2025
 - 2 July 2025
 - 15 July 2025
- Following signed Heads of Terms, negotiations for a Commercial Agreement are well progressed. The parties continued to engage during the examination through regular email correspondence in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground.

7. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
7.1	Heads of Terms	Key issues and obligations between the parties are agreed in signed Heads of Terms.	February 2026	Heads of Terms
7.2	Continued engagement and collaboration to minimise impacts	The parties acknowledge the interfaces between their projects. The parties will continue to engage to coordinate these interfaces, minimise impacts where reasonably practicable, and ensure appropriate mitigation, protection measures, and reinstatement are secured through detailed design and construction.	July 2026	
7.3	Legal agreement	To address the areas of interface identified by PACE Nano, the parties are negotiating a legally binding agreement. This agreement will secure the commitments and arrangements both parties are agreeing to manage interfaces, and will enable design modifications that mitigate the impacts on the Grange Solar Farm, facilitating the withdrawal of PACE Nano from the examination.	July 2026	
7.4	Construction Working Group	Both parties agree that ongoing coordination during the construction phase will be required. A construction-phase coordination mechanism, such as a working group, will be established to facilitate communication and to manage interactions between the Project and the solar PV facility, including matters such as access, outages, and maintenance activities. The Applicant will provide a named point of contact for the construction contractor. The scope and operation of this coordination mechanism will be agreed between the parties ahead of construction.	July 2026	

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	PACE Nano Position	Status	Relevant documentation
8.1	Alternative access rights to towers PKF35 and PKF36	The Applicant has amended aspects of its proposals to reduce interactions with PACE Nano's intended 132kV connection works. The Applicant recognises that the Project may still interface with PACE Nano's connection point and confirms that it will secure the necessary powers to undertake modifications required by the 132kV asset owner while maintaining PACE Nano's connection. The Applicant is actively discussing design modifications with PACE Nano and is prepared to formalise agreed commitments within a legally binding agreement.	PACE Nano's interest is in ensuring its connection is maintained. PACE Nano is willing to use reasonable endeavours to facilitate the grant of suitable alternative access rights to towers PKF35 and PKF36 (as identified on the relevant plan) to NGET and/or UKPN, to NGET's reasonable satisfaction.	Ongoing Discussion	Commercial Agreement under negotiation
8.2	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	The Applicant requires a permanent right of access to the modified 132kV connection for inspection and maintenance. The Applicant confirms its willingness, subject to landowner consent, to relocate the access route to utilise an existing gate	PACE Nano has a preference for site security and safety reasons for access not to be routed through its solar panel area. However, as noted above, PACE Nano is willing to use	Ongoing Discussion	Commercial Agreement under negotiation

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	PACE Nano Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		and an agreed route within the adjoining field. The Applicant will formalise this access arrangement within a legally binding agreement. The acting agent has confirmed the access is off Priory Road.	reasonable endeavours to facilitate the grant of suitable alternative access rights to towers PKF35 and PKF36 (as identified on the relevant plan) to NGET and/or UKPN, to NGET's reasonable satisfaction.		

Figure 1 Planned Solar Farm site (East of RG91 & RG92)

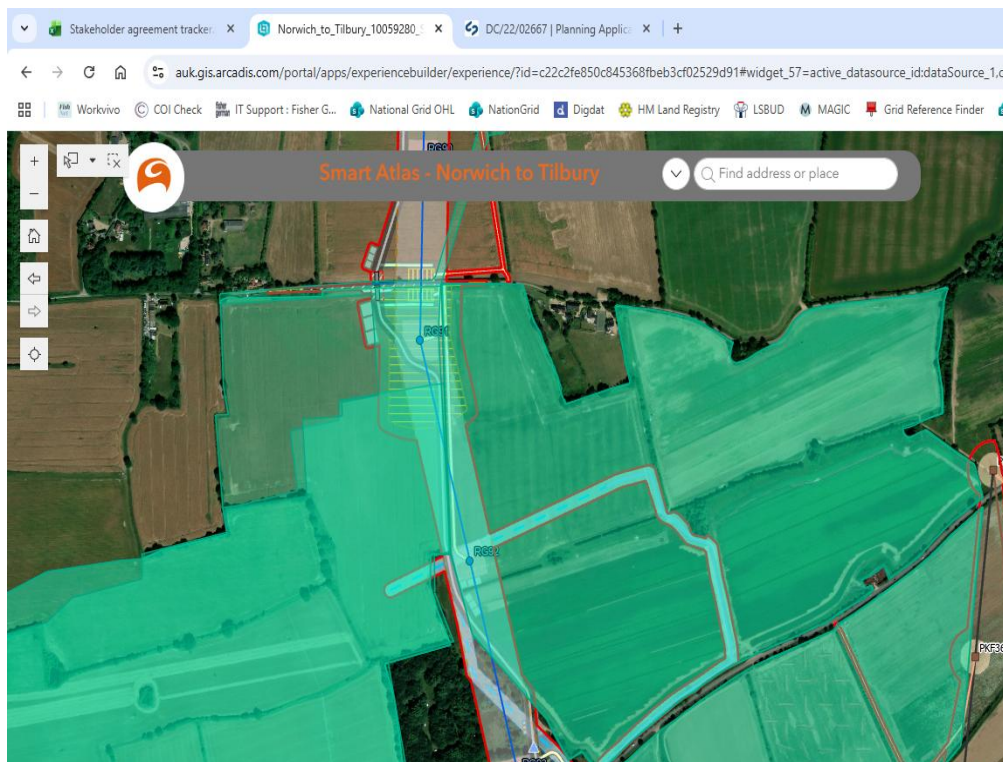


Figure 2 Confirmed Alternative Route



9. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For PACE Nano

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com