

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0237

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.21 Signed Statement of Common Ground - Verdant
Energy (Solar Farm) - Tracked Changes 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
<u>C</u>	<u>21 July 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 7</u>

Verdant Energy (Bramford Solar Farm)

~~Draft~~ 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 Verdant Energy regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and Bramford Solar Farm.

~~The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process.~~

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 Verdant Energy.

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	Confirmation NG earthing design will not impact Verdant's export cable. Completion of earthing assessment.	To be confirmed at detailed design, unlikely to be completed by deadline 7
7.2	Confirmation how NG will avoid impacting export cable. Assurance haul road construction and operation won't affect the cable	To be confirmed at detailed design, unlikely to be completed by deadline 7
7.3	Plans to move RG208 further south to remove oversail above battery storage area	By deadline 7

This final SoCG deals with five matters in total, of which all five matters are agreed.

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 ~~recent~~ targeted consultations.

5. Stakeholder Interests

Verdant Energy has ~~been in correspondence with~~ confirmed to National Grid ~~over~~ the potential interaction with the ~~Norwich to Tilbury proposals~~ Project. This has been identified as the ~~Land To The South Of~~ land to the south of Church Farm, Somersham Road. The proposal represents the: *Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas* ~~Granted~~. This proposal was granted planning consent from Mid Suffolk District Council via application DC/23/02118.

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

~~Planning Application – Installation~~ Additionally, planning application DC/23/04729 for the installation of underground cable. ~~Application~~ was submitted on ~~10th Oct~~ 10 October 2023 and was granted on ~~9th of~~ 9 January 2024 by Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council.

6. Engagement History

- 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 Date: ~~Non-Statutory consultation April-June 2022, Non-Statutory consultation June-Aug 2023, statutory consultation Apr-Jul 2024, 7th~~ 7 May 2025
- The ~~parties continue to engage~~ Applicant instigated engagement throughout the examination, through regular email correspondence in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground.

7. ~~6.~~ Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.17 <u>.1</u>	Permanent loss <u>Loss</u> of development footprint	No loss of development footprint will occur as the overhead line route avoids assets in this location.	7th-of <u>7</u> May 2025	
6.27 <u>.2</u>	Temporary Removal of Panels to Create Space for construction <u>Construction</u> Works	The Applicant confirms that its works will not require the temporary removal of solar panels. The only interaction with Verdant Energy's scheme relates to land required for Bramford Green's underground 33kV cable.	7th-of <u>7</u> May 2025	
6.37 <u>.3</u>	Temporary Construction Effects	The Applicant confirms that temporary haul road access within the Verdant Energy solar farm will not be required, subject to final design confirmation. The Applicant will implement the Dust Management Plan included in the DCO submission (EN020027). <u>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP5-139] including 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice Appendix D - Outline Dust Management Plan [REP4-166], the delivery of which is secured by requirement 4 of Schedule 3 to 3.1 Draft DCO [REP5-060], has been prepared to describe the measures to be implemented by the Applicant to prevent and, if not practicable, minimise potential effects on receptors of dust and emissions across the Project.</u>	7th-of <u>7</u> May 2025	<u>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP5-139]</u> <u>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice Appendix D - Outline Dust Management Plan [REP4-166]</u> <u>3.1 Draft DCO [REP5-060]</u>

7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
7.1 <u>7.4</u>	Modifications to Existing Equipment	The Applicant recognises Verdant Energy's concerns in relation to potential earthing implications of the Project on the stakeholder's solar development. Where additional earthing is required as a result of the project, the Applicant will work with stakeholders to ensure sites are protected. The Applicant is commissioning a report to screen the solar site for earthing impacts from the OHL. It won't be possible to finalise the assessment of earthing requirements until the detailed design is further progressed. Any earthing interaction and coupling studies will be compliant with BS EN 50522, ENA TS 41-24 and the relevant national and NG OHL design standards. The Applicant will adhere to the outcome of the study and mitigate any earthing impacts where practicable. <u>The Parties agree that there is no interaction between the Project and the Verdant Energy's infrastructure, and accordingly no modifications to existing equipment are necessary.</u>	National Grid must ensure their earthing does not impact Verdant Energy's export cable. <u>July 2026</u>	Ongoing Discussion	Main Site: DC/23/02118- planning- application- with- Babergh and Mid- Suffolk Council- on behalf of- Verdant Energy.- DC/21/00060- planning- application- with- Babergh Council- on behalf of- Verdant- Energy- Cable- Route
7.2 <u>7.5</u>	Operational Effects (excluding reduced-panel)	The Applicant confirms that operational <u>Parties agree that there is no</u> interaction between the Project and Verdant Energy's export cable will be limited. The Applicant will coordinate with Verdant to ensure its works do not affect the cable as design progresses <u>infrastructure, and accordingly no operational</u>	National Grid must ensure there is no impact from their haul road on Verdant Energy's	Ongoing Discussion	

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
	numbers	effects are expected.	export cable.- Typical agricultural cable- profile provided, noting the tops of the cable ducts- will be below 1,000mm July 2026		

Figure 41 Project Alignment in the vicinity of Verdant [Energy](#) Solar Site

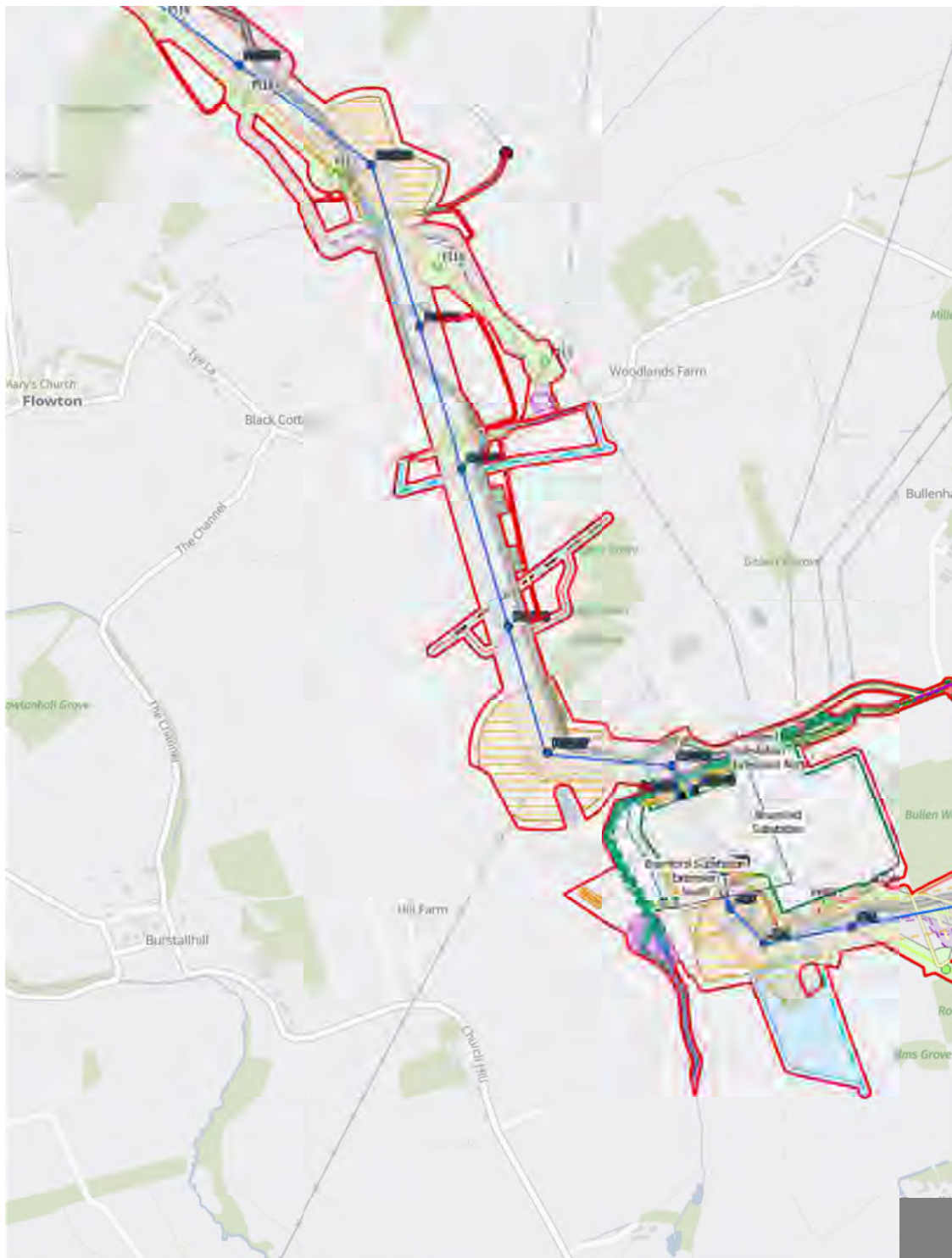


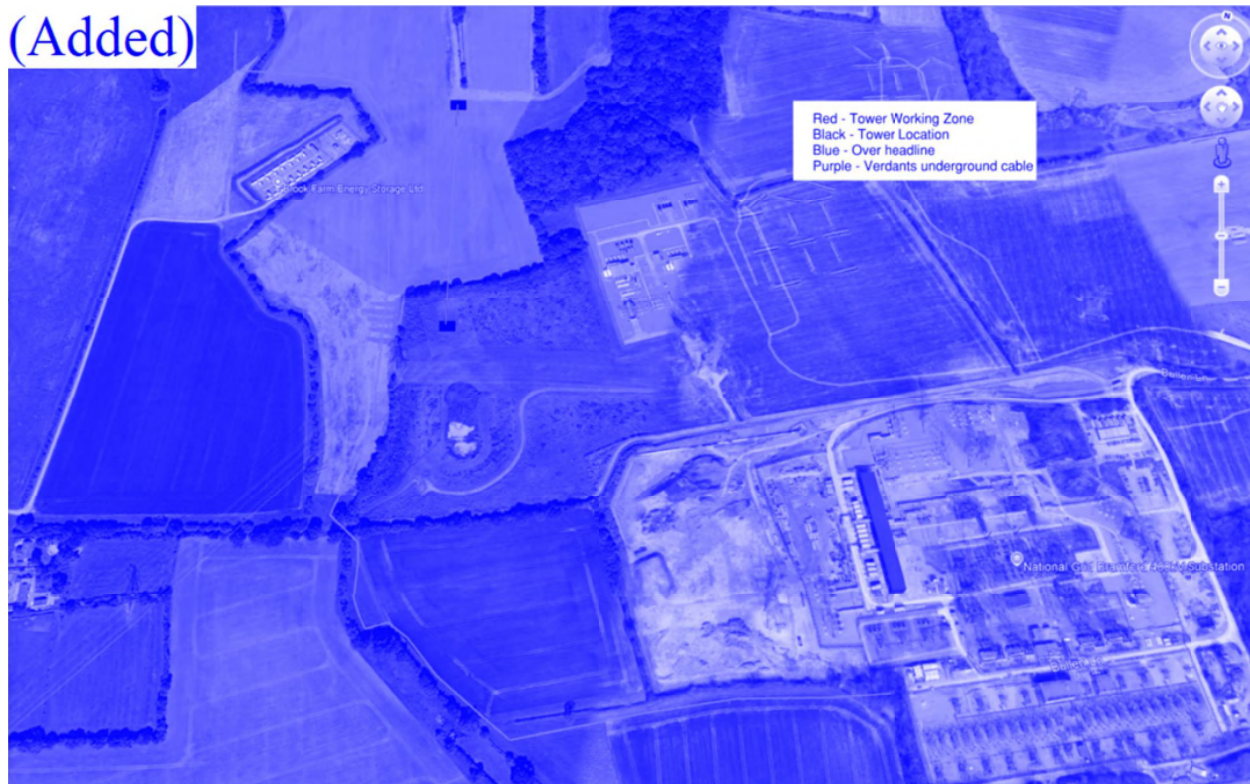


Figure 3 Verdant Energy updated cable route

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8. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

A black rectangular box redacting the signature and name of the National Grid representative.

Position: Project Director

Date: 08/07/2006

For Verdant Energy

Name: _____

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A large black rectangular box redacting the signature and name of the Verdant Energy representative.

Position: Investment Director

Date: 06/07/26

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Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	56
Delete	51
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	1
Table Delete	4
<u>Table moves to</u>	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	2
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	114