

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0234

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.18 Signed Statement of Common Ground -
Innova Renewables (Parkgate 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>

Innova Renewables (~~Park Gate~~Parkgate Solar Farm~~Solar Park~~) ~~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 ~~has been reached, where agreement has not been reached,~~ and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Innova Renewables regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and ~~Park Gate Farm~~Parkgate Solar Park Farm, Land West of Park Road, Rivenhall.

~~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 Innova Renewables on behalf of Parkgate Solar Farm Limited.

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	Whether the final pylon locations and oversail clearances will avoid any permanent loss of solar development area within the consented Solar Park.	To be confirmed at detailed design, likely beyond deadline 7
7.2	Construction access requirements, including haul road arrangements, are still to be confirmed, leaving uncertainty whether temporary panel removal or delayed installation may be required.	To be confirmed at detailed design, likely beyond deadline 7
7.3	The extent, location and impacts of temporary construction work within the Solar Farm particularly	To be confirmed at detailed design, likely

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
	temporary haul roads and any resulting reinstatement needs are yet to be defined and confirmed.	beyond deadline 7
7.4	Whether the proximity of TB94 and associated clearance requirements will have any operational effects on the layout or performance of the Solar Farm.	To be confirmed at detailed design, likely beyond deadline 7

This final SoCG deals with 8 matters in total, of which 6 are agreed and 2 remain under discussion.

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

- Earthing implications and, if relevant, mitigation measures
- The interface between the Project haul road and Innova Renewables' internal access tracks and underground cable system
- Arrangements for access onto Church Road
- Temporary impacts from the Project to Innova Renewables Biodiversity Net Gain and landscaping areas
- The interface between the Project and the solar farm perimeter infrastructure (perimeter and security fencing and CCTV systems)
- The legal agreement to manage the interface between the two projects
- Compensation to Innova Renewables

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

Innova Renewables has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the ~~Park Gate Farm Solar Park~~, fully consented Parkgate Solar Farm project at the Land West of Park Road, Rivenhall. ~~The site represents a consented solar farm, with planning permissions secured via Ref: 21/03735/FUL from Braintree District Council for the: Installation of solar farm and associated development. The proposal was submitted on 30th of October 2025. Variation of Condition 15 (Skylark Mitigation Strategy) of approved application 21/03735/FUL approved at Appeal~~ Planning permission was secured on appeal on 15 December 2023 under Ref: APP/Z1510/W/23/3325681 ~~on 15/12/2023 for: Installation of solar farm and associated development. Variation would allow: Skylark mitigation measures for a 10-year period rather than for the lifetime of the Solar Farm. The application has been "Granted" on 25th of March 2026 by Braintree District Council.~~

~~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 Innova Renewables to demonstrate how their interests may be~~

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com



~~affected, how Innova Renewables or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce these effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.~~

6. **Discussions Held**

~~Teams Meeting Date: 11th September 2024, 23rd September 2025, 14th October 2025, 29th October 2025, 4th November 2025, 18th November 2025, 16th December 2025, 5th May 2026~~

- Teams Meeting Dates:

- 11 September 2024
- 23 September 2025
- 14 October 2025
- 29 October 2025
- 4 November 2025
- 18 November 2025
- 16 December 2025
- 5 May 2026
- 26 May 2026
- 16 June 2026
- 06 July 2026
- 07 July 2026

- The parties ~~continue~~continued to engage during 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
6.1	Operational Effects (Excluding Reduced Panel Numbers)	The potential opportunity to install additional solar panels through 33 kV cable re-routing is no longer applicable under the current design. Both parties recognise that the space created would be too limited and operationally impractical to support further PV installation.	16th December 2025	
6.2	Planning	No further action is required beyond standard engagement with UKPN, and that the previously discussed potential for additional panel area created through underground cable diversion is no longer relevant under the current design. Both parties acknowledge Innova's intention to construct the Solar Farm as consented and that any future amendments would be addressed between National Grid and the DNO.	16th December 2025	
6.3 <u>7.1</u>	Modification to Existing Equipment <u>Earthin</u> <u>g</u>	The Applicant recognises Park Gate <u>Parkgate</u> Solar Farm'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 <u>the Parties have agreed to work together collaboratively to mitigate and minimise impact</u> . The Applicant will work with stakeholders to ensure sites are protected <u>compensate for any costs/losses subject to the compensation code</u> .	5th <u>5</u> May 2026	
<u>7.2</u>	<u>Installation of panels beneath the overhead lines</u>	<u>The parties have agreed solar panels can be installed and operated beneath the overhead lines.</u>	<u>24 June 2026</u>	

7. ~~Matters Currently Under Discussion~~

ID <u>7.3</u> Issue <u>Minimum (vertical) clearance underneath overhead lines</u>	National Grid Position Stakeholder Position The parties have concluded on the basis that the absolute maximum panel height cannot be more than 3.1m per Parkgate Solar Farm's planning consent that the Applicant's development is compliant with National Grid guidelines (Technical Guidance Note 287) regarding clearance to the overhead lines oversailing the Parkgate Solar Farm. The parties have recognised that the cleaning and maintenance operations need to be respectful of the related guidance.	Status <u>2 December 2025</u> Relevant documentation <u>Email and attachment to Innova from Ricky Yates at 09:03 on 02 December 2025</u>
7.17.4 <u>Permanent loss of development footprint</u> <u>Relocation of pylon TB94</u>	The Applicant has sought through its internal design process to minimise the footprint of infrastructure within the <u>fully consented Solar Park solar development</u>. The current <u>DCO application</u> design positions pylons and oversail to avoid reducing the area available for solar panels, and the adjustment of <u>has been adjusted by repositioning</u> TB93 within the Limits of Deviation enables thus enabling TB94 (and associated compound around TB94) to be moved outside the consented <u>Solar Park solar development</u> boundary (see annex: PV+OHL Layout, 29/6/2026) The Applicant does not currently anticipate any permanent reduction in PV <u>in the consented solar development</u> area and will continue to work with Innova Renewables as detailed design progresses.	Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed. <u>24 June 2026</u> 21/03735/FUL <u>planning application with Braintree District Council on behalf of Innova Renewables.</u> <u>NTZZ-AAJ-OH73-S EG006-SKT-CE-02 2001.dwg received from National Grid 23 April 2026</u>
7.27.5 <u>Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction</u>	Following the repositioning of TB94 further south and subject The parties will collaborate to confirming haul road arrangements <u>minimise disruption and will ensure that any impacts on operational equipment, including dust or physical damage to Parkgate Solar Farm, are remedied or addressed at the Applicant's cost provided this is in accordance with the</u>	Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed. <u>24 June 2026</u>

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

works<u>Minimising / compensating impact on operations</u>	<u>compensation code.</u> Furthermore the Applicant does not currently expect that temporary removal or delayed installation of solar panels will be required to facilitate<u>using standard mitigation measures and construction practices to minimise dust</u>. The Applicant will confirm construction access requirements once detailed design is complete and will continue<u>willing to engage with Insova Renewables Parkgate Solar Farm regarding any demonstrable impacts arising from construction activities</u>	
7.3<u>7.6 Temporary Construction Effects</u><u>Heads of Terms leading to a legal agreement</u>	The requirement for temporary haul roads or construction access within<u>parties agree that this SoCG sets out the Solar Farm will</u><u>broad matters to be confirmed through detailed design.</u> The Applicant will plan temporary works to minimise disruption and will ensure that any impacts on operational equipment, including dust or physical damage, are addressed through reinstatement or compensation as appropriate<u>included in the Heads of Terms ("HoTs") for a formal legal agreement between the parties. A first draft of the HoTs has been circulated between the parties. The parties have agreed to meet weekly (subject to both parties availability, reasonable adviser cost management and progress between meetings) and to use best endeavours to progress HoTs. Both parties commit to the aim of complete the agreement within a reasonable timeframe. The legal agreement will secure the commitments and agreements required to manage interfaces.</u>	Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed.<u>14 July 2026</u>

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>Innova Renewables Position</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
7.4.8.1	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers) <u>Continue d engagement and collaboration to minimise impacts</u>	Based on the current design, the Applicant does not expect any loss of operational PV area. The position of TB94 will be confirmed at detailed design to ensure that required operational clearances do not adversely affect solar panel layout. The Applicant will continue to review this with Innova Renewables as designs are confirmed. 05/06/26 – The Applicant <u>acknowledges the remaining interfaces between the projects</u>, including: access onto Church Road, temporary impacts to <u>BNG Biodiversity Net Gain</u> and landscaping for construction activities, the interface between TB94, the Applicant's haul road and Innova's Innova Renewables' internal access tracks, the solar farm perimeter infrastructure (fencing and CCTV), and the interaction between the Applicant's haul road and <u>Innova's Innova Renewables'</u> underground cable system. The Applicant will continue to engage with Innova to coordinate these interfaces,	Tower TB094 was raised in the meeting as to whether this was far enough away that a 15m clearance around the pylons won't impact the solar panels. Interfaces between the projects were discussed in the meeting 5th May 2026 based on the Applicant's proposed scheme revisions which significantly reduces the impact on the solar panel area. The remaining aspects of the solar farm impacted by the DCO (based on the plans provided by the Applicant in May 2026) are: the access onto Church Road, the temporary removal of BNG and landscaping areas (for access, haul roads and scaffolding), the interface between TB94 and the Applicant's haul road and Innova's internal access tracks, the solar	Ongoing-	<u>n/a</u>

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>Innova Renewables Position</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
		minimise impacts where reasonably practicable, and ensure appropriate mitigation, protection measures, and reinstatement are secured through detailed design and construction.	farm fence line and perimeter CCTV, the Applicant's haul road and Innova's underground cable system. <u>To be addressed fully in the CMIP (Construction Interface Management Plan) that the Applicant is required to provide in advance of works commencing in the vicinity of the Parkgate Solar Farm development under the binding legal agreement between the parties. Further, any works (during construction or operations and maintenance) by the Applicant which result in Parkgate Solar Farm being inadvertently in breach of its planning consent or insurances are to be immediately remedied, rectified, or fully compensated for loss.</u>		
6.5 <u>8.2</u>	Installation of panels beneath the overhead lines and minimum clearance area	The Applicant welcomes agreement in principle to the installation and operation of solar panels beneath the overhead lines. The Applicant acknowledges that further discussion is required in respect of the minimum operational clearance zone and will	The principle of installing and operating solar panels beneath the overhead lines has been agreed, with further agreement to follow on the minimum operational clearance zone <u>A binding legal</u>	Ongoing- discussion- with key- points yet- to be- confirmed	<u>n/a</u>

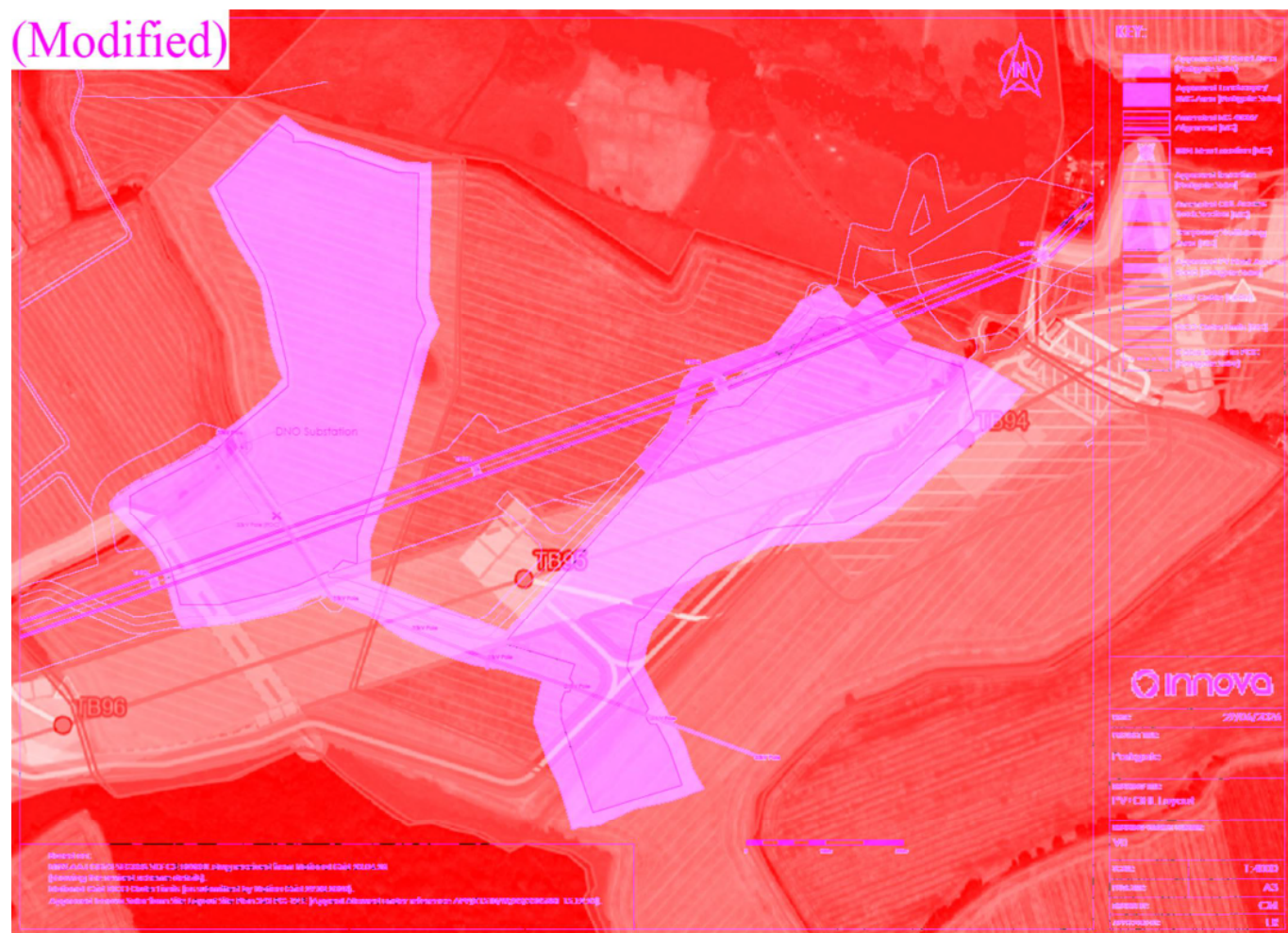
1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com



<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>Innova Renewables Position</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Relevant documentation</u>
	(vertical) <u>Binding legal agreement</u>	continue to engage with the relevant parties to agree an appropriate clearance that ensures safety, compliance with relevant standards, and the operational integrity of both assets <u>recognises the importance of a legal agreement for both parties and will collaborate to reach an agreement with Park Gate Solar Farm.</u>	<u>agreement is required and both parties are working towards this as a matter of priority for both developments to accommodate one another.</u>		

Figure 1 ~~Interface~~Revised interface between ~~Park Gate~~Parkgate Solar Farm and the Project Alignment



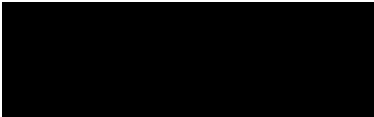
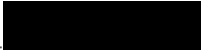
1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com



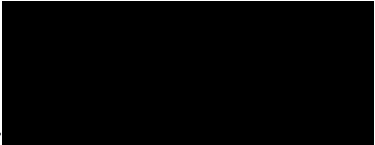
9. ~~8.~~ **Signatures**

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

For National Grid 
Name:  _____

Position: Project Director _____

Date: 15/07/2026 _____

For Innova Renewables 
Name:  _____

Position: Planning Director _____

Date: 15/07/2026 _____

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

Summary report: Litera Compare for Word 11.16.0.74 Document comparison done on 7/14/2026 4:30:09 PM	
Style name: Default Style	
Intelligent Table Comparison: Active	
Original filename: 8.3.18 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Innova Renewables (Park Gate Farm Solar Park) Revision B Clean Version.docx	
Modified filename: 8.3.18 Signed Statement of Common Ground - Innova Renewables (Park Gate Farm Solar Park) Revision C Clean Version.docx	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	121
Delete	79
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	3
Table Delete	3
<u>Table moves to</u>	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	1
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	207