

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) - 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

Innova Renewables (Parkgate Solar Farm) 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, 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 Parkgate Solar Farm, Land West of Park Road, Rivenhall.

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 Innova Renewables on behalf of Parkgate Solar Farm Limited.

3. Summary of Matters

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 fully consented Parkgate Solar Farm project at the Land West of Park Road, Rivenhall. Planning permission was secured on appeal on 15 December 2023 under Ref: APP/Z1510/W/23/3325681.

6. Discussions Held

- 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 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	Earthing	The Applicant recognises Parkgate 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 the Parties have agreed to work together collaboratively to mitigate and minimise impact. The Applicant will compensate for any costs/losses subject to the compensation code.	5 May 2026	
7.2	Installation of panels beneath the overhead lines	The parties have agreed solar panels can be installed and operated beneath the overhead lines.	24 June 2026	
7.3	Minimum (vertical) clearance underneath overhead lines	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.	2 December 2025	Email and attachment to Innova from Ricky Yates at 09:03 on 02 December 2025
7.4	Relocation of pylon TB94	The Applicant has sought through its design process to minimise the footprint of infrastructure within the fully consented solar development. The DCO application design has been adjusted by repositioning TB93 within the Limits of Deviation thus enabling TB94 (and associated compound around TB94) to be moved outside the consented solar development boundary (see annex: PV+OHL Layout, 29/6/2026).	24 June 2026	NTZZ-AAJ-OH73-SEG006-SKT-CE-022001.dwg received from National Grid 23 April 2026

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
		The Applicant does not currently anticipate any permanent reduction in PV in the consented solar development area.		
7.5	Minimising / compensating impact on operations	The parties will collaborate to 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 compensation code. Furthermore, the Applicant will be using standard mitigation measures and construction practices to minimise dust. The Applicant is willing to engage with Parkgate Solar Farm regarding any demonstrable impacts arising from construction activities.	24 June 2026	
7.6	Heads of Terms leading to a legal agreement	The parties agree that this SoCG sets out the broad matters to be 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.	14 July 2026	

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

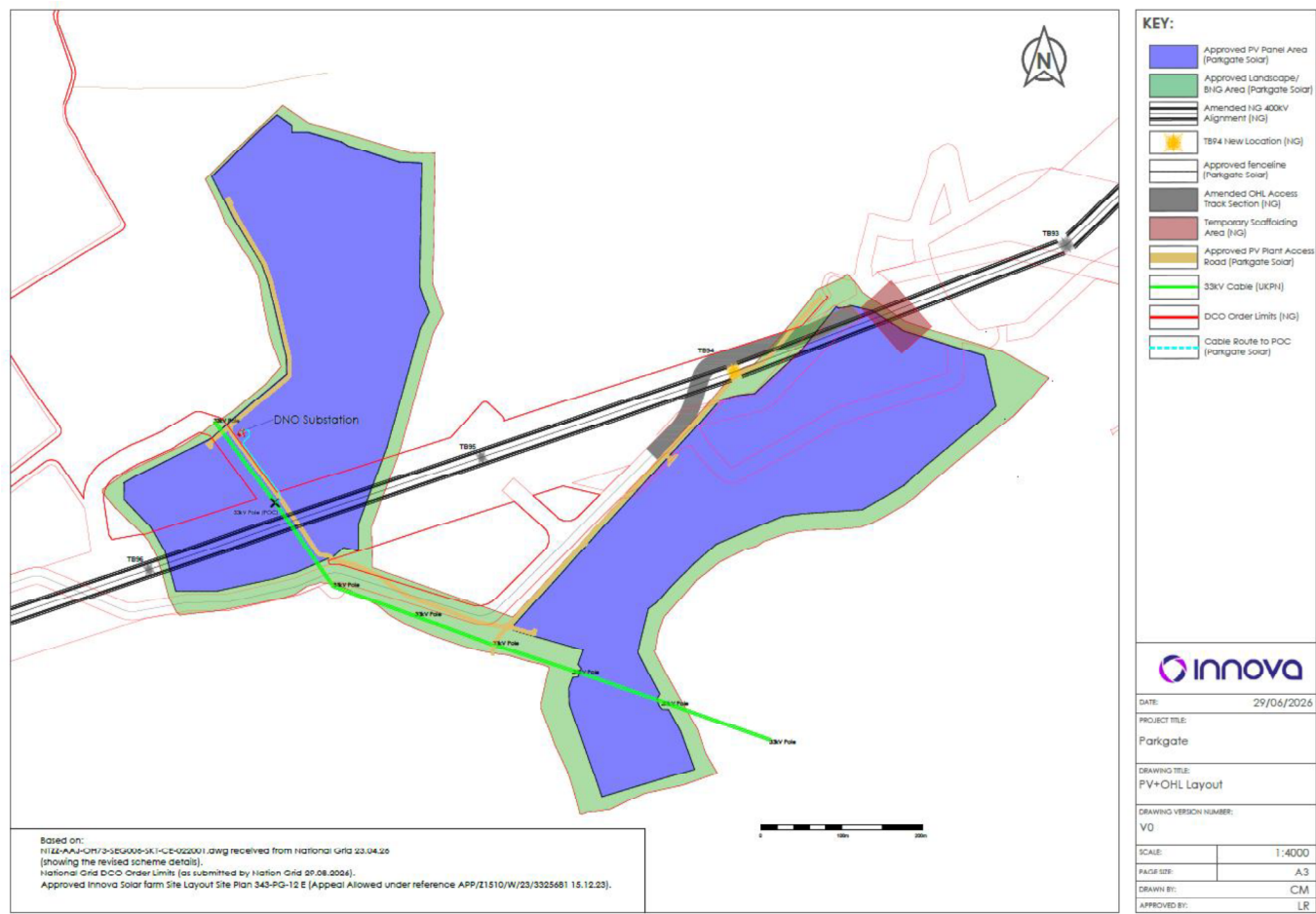
ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Innova Renewables Position	Status	Relevant documentation
8.1	Continued engagement and collaboration to minimise impacts	The Applicant acknowledge the interfaces between the projects, including: access onto Church Road, temporary impacts to Biodiversity Net Gain and landscaping for construction activities, the Applicant's haul road and Innova Renewables' internal access tracks, the solar farm perimeter infrastructure (fencing and CCTV), and the interaction between the Applicant's haul road and Innova Renewables' underground cable system. The Applicant 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.	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.	Ongoing	n/a
8.2	Binding legal agreement	The Applicant recognises the importance of a legal agreement for both parties and will collaborate to reach an agreement with Park Gate Solar Farm.	A binding legal agreement is required and both parties are working towards this as a matter of priority for both developments to accommodate one another.	Ongoing	n/a

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Figure 1 Revised interface between Parkgate Solar Farm and the Project Alignment



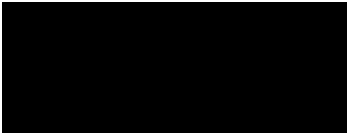
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9. Signatures

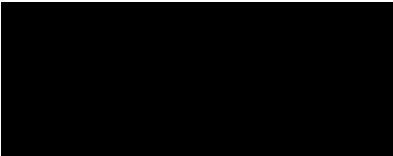
This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon by the undersigned parties:

For National Grid 

Name: 

Position: Project Director

Date: 15/07/2026

For Innova Renewables 

Name: 

Position: Planning Director

Date: 15/07/2026

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