

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0231

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.15 Signed Statement of Common Ground -EDF
Renewables (Bloy's Grove Solar Farm) - Traced Changes Version

Final Issue C

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

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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>

EDF Renewables (Bloy's Grove 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 Ashgreen ~~Energyfarm~~ Energyfarm Limited (an EDF Power Solutions company) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Bloy's Grove 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 Ashgreen ~~Energy~~ Energyfarm Limited (an EDF Power Solutions company) ("EDF").

3. Summary of ~~matters under discussion~~ Matters

This final SoCG deals with 13 matters in total, of which 5 are agreed and 8 are 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
<u>7.18.1</u>	The Applicant's design avoids any permanent loss of EDF's development area, with only oversail expected and shadowing/buffer distances still to be assessed. Further details of construction techniques associated with OHL construction and stringing are to be provided. <u>Extent and implications of potential panel removal, working with EDF to</u>	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely, beyond deadline 7 <u>the end of the examination</u>

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
	<u>minimise impact to panels as far as reasonably practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the Applicant's mitigation, protection measures, and safe systems of work</u>	
7.28.2	The haul road will stay within the DCO boundary and may require temporary panel removal, for which EDF expects compensation if unavoidable. EDF's installation of PV panels in the location of the Project's haul road, according to their programme	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely, beyond deadline 7 <u>the end of the examination</u>
<u>8.3</u>	<u>The Applicant's methodology for stringing the overhead line</u>	<u>To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination</u>
<u>8.4</u>	<u>The quantum of any compensation due to temporary or permanent impacts of the Project</u>	<u>To be resolved in the detailed design or construction stage, beyond the end of the examination</u>
7.38.5	Earthing interactions <u>The extent of any overlap between the two sites may require changes, and the technical implications for EDF's earthing need clarification.</u> Project sustainable drainage system and the solar panels	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely, beyond deadline 7 <u>the end of the examination</u>
7.48.6	The haul road location may temporarily affect EDF's site and lead to compensation, with construction methodology and access requirements still to be defined. Clarity regarding panel installation around haul road <u>Whether earthing is required as a result of the Project, and any mitigation measures required by the Project</u>	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely, beyond deadline 7 <u>the end of the examination</u>
7.58.7	EDF needs shading and access impact information, and NG will provide data so <u>Detail around any operational impacts can be assessed and compensated if verified.</u> access requirements of the Applicant	To be confirmed at detailed design. Likely, beyond deadline 7 <u>the end of the examination</u>
7.68.8	EDF's site will be built before NG's works begin, and EDF requires NG's programme milestones to coordinate timelines. <u>The final pylon design, conductor type and position</u>	By deadline 7 <u>To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination</u>

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
	information to share with EDF	

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

EDF has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the ~~Norwich to Tilbury proposals~~ [Project](#). This has been identified as the Bloy's Grove Solar Farm, close to Brick Kiln Lane, Norwich. The proposal is understood as the: *Installation of a solar farm comprising: ground mounted solar panels, access tracks; inverter/transformers, substation; storage, spare parts and welfare cabins, underground cables and conduits, perimeter fence; CCTV equipment, temporary new site entrance and access track, temporary construction compounds, and associated infrastructure and planting scheme.* This scheme has been granted planning permission ([Ref South Norfolk District Council planning application reference: 2021/2495](#)) and is currently under construction.

~~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 EDF to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how EDF or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures. It is acknowledged that EDF requires further information from National Grid in order to be able to understand such impacts.~~

~~EDF request protective provisions or an agreement to document agreed mitigations and remedial measures.~~

6. Discussions Held

- Non-statutory consultation ~~April-June~~: [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: 24th February 2025, 12th January 2026, 26th January 2026, 28th April 2026~~
- [Teams Meeting Dates:](#)
 - [24 February 2025](#)
 - [12 January 2026](#)

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- 26 January 2026
- 28 April 2026
- 15 May 2026
- 5 June 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.

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7. ~~6.~~ **Matters Agreed**

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
6.1				

~~7.~~ **Matters Currently Under Discussion**

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>		
7.1	Potential Permanent Loss of Development Footprintpermane nt loss of development footprint through pylon positioning	The Applicant's internal design process of the Overhead Line route has avoided location of assets that would result in loss of development with oversail only and At this site there are no pylons pylons proposed to be located within the area of development. The Applicant will continue to work with EDF renewables as the detailed design develops to understand any potential shading implications. As a result, no permanent loss of development footprint is requiredperceived	Ongoing Discussions-July 2026		

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>		
		or necessary <u>However, EDF has invited The Applicant to recognise the stakeholders concerns in relation Applicant to potential shading implications of the Project on the solar development.</u> <u>provide At this time, and until the detailed design is developed, the Applicant is not in a position binding protection or agreement to be able to confirm the full extent of any potential impact secure this. No such agreement has yet been provided. The Applicant will commit to agreeing to issued draft Heads of Terms for a shading study with the stakeholder proposed legal agreement for EDF to review on 22 June 2026</u> <u>As part of the commitment, the Applicant will share detailed design information and confirm tower/CHL heights and locations with the stakeholder as soon as reasonably practicable. The Applicant will then work with the stakeholder to agree a methodology and undertake a 'shading study' to understand any potential impacts on the development.</u>			

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>		
		The Applicant will commit to adhering to the outcome of the study. EDF Renewables understand that no permanent loss of footprint will arise from NG asset placement design. Information required: How much buffer is required from the pylon to EDF infrastructure? Shadowing effects of OHL and tower(s) -- NG lands team & EDF to provide assessment based upon Renewable parameters for assessment have been provided by the Applicant. Overshadowing will have effects on electricity generation. As the Eloy's Grove project has a Power Purchase Agreement in place, there is a concern that a reduction in generation will have contractual implications. Whilst discussion are ongoing, EDF requires to see urgent progress on the Applicant's actions so that effects of its project can be properly understood during the examination period.			
<u>7.2</u>	<u>Timescales</u>	<u>EDF's renewable energy development is</u>	<u>July 2026</u>		

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>		
		<u>expected to be fully constructed before the Applicant begins its construction works.</u> <u>The Applicant expects construction of the Project adjacent to the solar farm to start around 2027.</u>			
<u>7.3</u>	<u>Continued engagement and collaboration to minimise impacts</u>	<u>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.</u> <u>EDF has invited the Applicant to provide a binding protection or agreement to secure this. No such agreement has yet been provided. The Applicant issued draft Heads of Terms for a proposed legal agreement for EDF to review on 22 June 2026.</u>	<u>July 2026</u>		
<u>7.4</u>	<u>Construction Working Group</u>	<u>Both parties agree that ongoing coordination during the construction phase will be required. A construction-phase coordination mechanism, such as a</u>	<u>July 2026</u>		

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>		
		<u>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. EDF has invited the Applicant to provide a binding protection or agreement to secure this. No such agreement has yet been provided. The Applicant issued draft Heads of Terms for a proposed legal agreement for EDF to review on 22 June 2026.</u>			
<u>7.5</u>	<u>Heads of Terms leading to a legal agreement</u>	<u>The parties will be negotiating Heads of Terms as the basis of a legal agreement. The legal agreement will secure the commitments and arrangements both parties are agreeing to manage interfaces.</u>	<u>July 2026</u>		

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8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>EDF Position</u>
7.28.1	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works <u>General approach</u>	National Grid will continue to work with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand any implications on potential panel removal or replacement. NG will work with EDF to minimise the impact to panels as far as reasonably practicable. 05/05/26 – The Applicant acknowledges the Stakeholder’s position regarding the operational status of the solar site, including its grid connection and contractual obligations, and the potential impacts associated with removal or modification of PV infrastructure. <u>The Applicant will continue to work with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand any implications of potential panel removal, working with EDF to minimise the impact to panels as far as reasonably practicable.</u> The Applicant will seek, through detailed design and construction planning, to avoid or minimise interaction with existing solar infrastructure, including routing the overhead line and associated haul road to	Ongoing Discussions – It is EDF’s preference that the requirement for panel removal is avoided. Its solar site will be operational and grid connected and also subject to other contractual power supply commitments (PPA) by the time that the Applicant wish to implement the haul road and SuDS and any other works. Even temporary removal of panel will cause significant disruption and may create broader liabilities that run beyond the disturbance/temporary loss of generation capacity. The impact of removing sufficient PV

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ID		Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
		reduce the need for panel removal where reasonably practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the Applicant will continue to engage with the StakeholderEDF to develop appropriate mitigation, protection measures, and safe systems of work, taking into account the energised status of the site. The Applicant also recognises the potential for wider operational and commercial implications (including loss of generation and associated liabilities) and will address these through appropriate agreements, including consideration of compensation where applicable.		tables to facilitate the proposed haul road would not be limited to only the tables removed, the modules will be connected in strings to the inverters that will then connect to the sites 33kV network. Any alterations to the PV modules connected to an inverter is likely to result in restringing of modules and inverters in order to maintain the required parameters. In instances where the haul road intensifies the PV tables, cables would have to be routed and protected under the road, or the part of the field would need to remain depowered. It is therefore preferred that the Applicant route the OHL/haul road so that no solar panels are

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National Grid Position		EDF Position
<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	
7.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	required to be removed. If not, compensation for loss of revenue/other losses and liabilities will be required and detailed collaboration and safe working arrangements, having regard to the likely energised status of the project. Clarify impact to EDF site. Are NGET suggesting we may need to install additional earthing? Bloy Solar EDF site will have it's own independent earth grid. The Applicant to clarify the position and any necessary mitigation and additional works required within EDF's site. This must be considered on a worst case basis now, rather than awaiting further detailed design, in order that the parties can fully Ongoing Discussions
	The Applicant recognises the stakeholder'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 interfacing sites for earthing impacts from the proposed OHL. Previously, the Applicant completed an earthing screening study on existing interfacing sites. The study demonstrated the Project will have no earthing impact on solar farms near the Project alignment. The earthing study will be complete once	

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>EDF Position</u>
		the detailed design is finalised. 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 earthing study.-	understand the-implications. These matters should be-addressed in an-agreement between the-parties.
<u>7.48.2</u>	Temporary-Construction-Effects <u>Haul Road</u>	The Applicant has confirmed that the temporary construction haul road will remain in the position shown in the current Order Limits. If this results in temporary disruption to EDF infrastructure, EDF may be entitled to compensation for losses arising from The<u>the</u> Applicant's construction activities. With this confirmation, the Applicant would like to understand EDF's installation of PV panels in this location according to their programme. 05/05/26 The Applicant will continue to-refine the SuDS design through the detailed-design stage, seeking to minimise-interaction with operational solar-infrastructure where reasonably practicable.-The Applicant will engage with the-Stakeholder to better understand constraints-and ensure that any overlaps are avoided or-appropriately mitigated.	Confirmation of haul road requirement outstanding -- possibility of compensation (as set out above) will be required. Detailed methodology required for initial-stringing to include dimensions of CDM-areas at each tower---Temporary haul-road from South. There is a need for a clearer-understanding of the extend of SuDs-required within Bloy's Grove site. There-appears to be several areas of overlap with-panel areas currently. EDF are considering making the temporary access route into Bloy's Grove solar farm permanent (Planning currently states temporary) -- Northern access route to site -- Church Road (Section 73) -- Design indications unknown currently. Ongoing Discussions.

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>EDF Position</u>
<u>8.3</u>	<u>Detailed design information and construction methodologies – stringing</u>	<u>The Applicant will confirm information through its delivery partner and / or UKPN (as relevant) when that information becomes available in the detailed design process. In particular, the Applicant is considering the optimal approach to stringing the line.</u>	<u>Detailed methodology required for initial stringing, to include dimensions of CDM areas at each tower – Temporary haul road from South</u>
<u>8.4</u>	<u>Compensation</u>	<u>Where temporary or permanent impacts give rise to losses, these will be addressed through appropriate compensation mechanisms (in accordance with the compensation code), with costs/ losses discussed and agreed with EDF as necessary.</u> <u>Where additional operational costs/losses are identified and agreed to arise as a direct consequence of the Project, the Applicant is willing to engage with EDF to agree an appropriate approach to addressing such costs/losses (in accordance with the compensation code).</u>	<u>EDF has identified that temporary construction activities will give rise to consequential losses and an increased maintenance burden associated with solar PV modules</u> <u>EDF has indicated that consideration should be given to the potential for additional operation costs/losses associated with solar PV modules as a result of Proposed Development.</u>
<u>8.5</u>	<u>Project sustainable drainage system (SuDS)</u>	<u>The Applicant will continue to refine the SuDS design through the detailed design stage, seeking to minimise interaction with operational solar infrastructure where reasonably practicable. The Applicant will engage with EDF to better understand constraints and ensure that any overlaps are</u>	<u>There is a need for a clearer understanding of the extend of SuDs required within Bloy's Grove site. There appears to be several areas of overlap with panel areas currently.</u>

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>EDF Position</u>
		<u>avoided or appropriately mitigated.</u>	
<u>8.6</u>	<u>Earthing</u>	<u>The Applicant recognises EDF's concerns in relation to the potential earthing implications of the Project on the Bloy's Grove solar development. Where additional earthing is required as a result of the Project, the Applicant will work EDF to ensure the site is protected.</u> <u>The Applicant's specialist consultants are completing an earthing screening study to share with EDF. In the event there is an impact, the Applicant will carry out additional studies, to determine the best protection approach with EDF and pay compensation if it is due under either the Compensation Code or relevant statutory provisions in relation to upgrade of the earthing system.</u>	<u>Clarify impact to EDF site. Are NGET suggesting we may need to install additional earthing? Bloy Solar EDF site will have it's own independent earth grid. The Applicant to clarify the position and any necessary mitigation and additional works required within EDF's site.</u> <u>This must be considered on a worst case basis now, rather than awaiting further detailed design, in order that the parties can fully understand the implications.</u> <u>These matters should be addressed in an agreement between the parties</u>
<u>8.7</u>	<u>Operational effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)</u>	<u>Operational access to towers will be infrequent and typically limited to light vehicles and small maintenance plant. Any requirement for larger vehicles or plant will be exceptional and subject to prior agreement. The Applicant confirms that access arrangements will be coordinated with EDF to avoid operational impacts on the EDF site, noting that detailed provisions are expected to be secured through an</u>	<u>Can NGET advise what access requirements will be needed during operational phase to towers and whether this will impact the EDF site?</u> <u>NGET to confirm what type / size of vehicles / machinery will be required access? EDF considers that this level of coordination is likely to be a matter that requires an agreement between the parties.</u>

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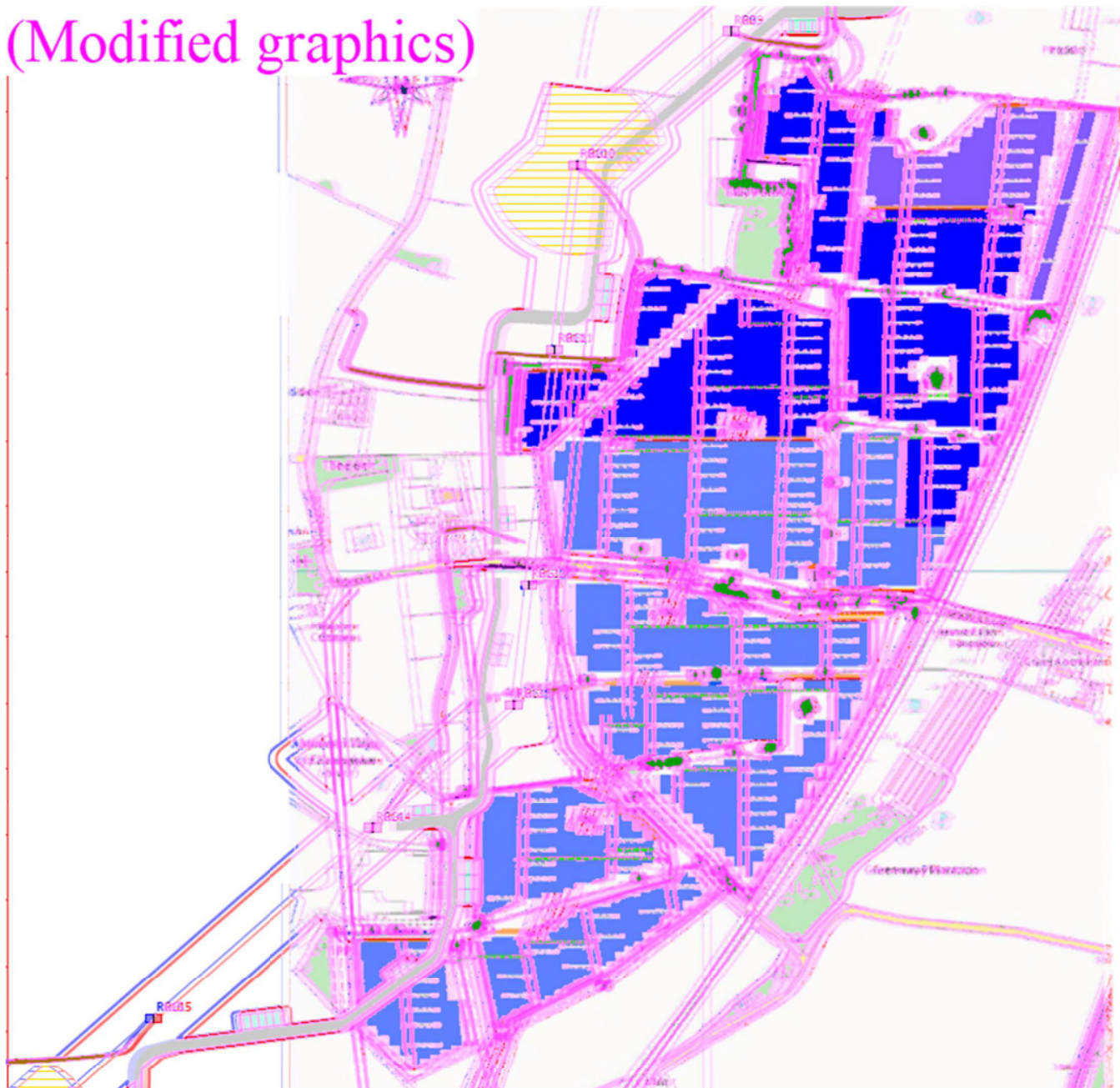
ID		Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
7.58.8		Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers) Shading	The Applicant recognises Bloy Solar's EDF's concerns in relation to potential shading implications of the Project on the stakeholder's stakeholder's solar development. The final pylon design, conductor type and position information is expected to be confirmed once the detailed design is finalised available in 2027. Once this information is available the Applicant can share this information with EDF. Provisional information can be <u>also</u> shared ahead of this time <u>but this will be subject to change as the design is finalised.</u> The Applicant will seek to undertake a shading study with the stakeholder to identify the extent of any potential shading impact and agree any potential mitigation. Shading could be a compensation matter according to the Compensation Code or any statutory provisions. Such matters would be assessed on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with Planning Act 2008 and the statutory Compensation Code and are not matters to be determined through the Examination of the DCO.	The Applicant should assess shading effects on a worst case basis utilising its Rockdale parameters. This needs to be <u>understood</u> <u>understood</u> in advance as it may reduce the renewable energy benefit of the project and is not just a compensation matter. Can NGCT advise what access requirements will be needed during operational phase to lowers and whether this will impact the EDF site? NGCT to confirm what type / size of vehicles / machinery will be required access? EDF considers that this level of coordination is likely to be a matter that requires an agreement between the parties. Ongoing Discussions

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>National Grid Position</u>	<u>EDF Position</u>
7.6	Timescales	EDF's renewable energy development is expected to be fully constructed before the Applicant begins its construction works. Consequently, the Applicant's activities will occur within a completed and operational built environment.	EDF Renewables have approval of S73 Planning Application for a Minor Material Amendment to confirm solar design layout on the 4 th June 2025. This will give more certainty around built design and site interaction NGET to provide key programme milestones.

Figure 1 Location of Bloy's Solar Farm in relation to the Project alignment

(Modified graphics)



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9. ~~8.~~ Signatures

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

For National Grid

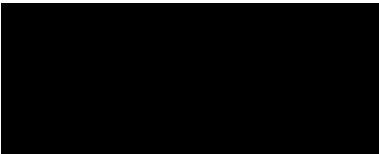
Name:  

Position: Project Director

Date: 17/07/2026

~~For EDF Renewables~~

For Ashgreen Energyfarm Limited

Name:  

Position: Head of Origination and Planning – Solar, Storage and Private Wire

Date: 17/07/2026

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Modified filename: 8.3.15 Signed Statement of Common Ground - EDF Renewables (Bloys Grove Solar Farm) Revision C Clean Version.docx	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	93
Delete	101
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	14
Table Delete	8
<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:	217