

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0223

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.7 Signed Statement of Common Ground -
Essex International Jamboree - Tracked Changes Version**

Final Issue B

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Submitted at</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>26 February 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 1</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>21 July 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 7</u>

Essex International Jamboree

~~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 the Essex international jamboree regarding ~~potential effects on the event in relation to~~specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Essex International Jamboree assets.

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

This final signed 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 and the operator of the Essex International Jamboree.

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.

<u>SoCG ID</u>	<u>Summary of matter under discussion</u>	<u>Deadline for resolution</u>
	<u>The Applicant has confirmed its willingness to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) organisers and Trustees and has offered to fund the EIJ’s legal representation to help progress discussions. Updated Heads of Terms were issued on 27 April 2026, with further meetings held on 15 May and 17 June to discuss the agreement and next steps. The EIJ is currently seeking approval from their Charity Trustees and obtaining legal advice on the draft HoTs, after which a further meeting will be arranged to</u>	

finalise the agreement.4. ~~3.~~ **Background**4.1 ~~3.1~~ **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 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. ~~4.~~ Stakeholder Interests

Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) is an event held every four years. It has been held in Essex since 1947. The event has been held on land owned by CJH Farming Limited at Boyton Hall Farm, Roxwell, Chelmsford CM1 4NL since 2012. An agreement is in place with the landowner for the event to run in 2024, 2028 and subsequently on a four yearly cycle. The event has a budget of £2.1 million funded entirely by the attending participants. In 2024 the event attracted over 5,000 young people, 1,200 supporting Scout and Guide Leaders and 1,350 event staff. Young people attend the event with supporting leaders and enjoy a wide range of activities throughout the week, all located on the site. The event is organised, managed and run by volunteers. There will be leaders, volunteer staff and young people from over 40 countries worldwide. EIJ is one of the largest events of its kind in the country. It is a green field camping experience for young people (Scouts and Guides) aged 10 to 17 years together with supporting adults. Considerable volunteer resources and charitable funds have been spent installing infrastructure to support the event at this site. This includes underground septic tanks, a water ring main, improvements to tracks and access etc. There is also storage of equipment conveniently located close by elsewhere on this holding. It is estimated that infrastructure in the region of £500k has been installed at this site. The EIJ site extends to approximately 125 acres and is directly affected by the proposed alignment of the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme. Towers TB157, TB158 & TB159 cross directly through the centre of the site utilised for this event.



The chronology of National Grid's engagement with the Essex international jamboree to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- Non-statutory consultation - April-June 2022 (graduated swathe)
- Non-statutory consultation June – August 2023 (draft alignment)

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- Statutory consultation April – July 2024
- Site meeting on the 31st July at the 2024 event (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Teams meeting on 6th September 2024 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Landowner consultation June – July 2025 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Teams meeting 25th November 2025 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid), Correspondence between National Grid and EIJ attached at appendix one confirming current position.
- Teams meeting 13th January 2026 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Phone call 25th March 2026 (Between EIJ Land Agent and Applicant Land Rights Project Manager)
- Teams Meeting 16th April (representatives from the EIJ, BCLP and National Grid)
- HoTs Draft issued 27th April
- Teams Meeting 15th May (representatives from the EIJ and BCLP)
- Teams Meeting 17th June (representatives from the EIJ, BCLP and National Grid)

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6. ~~5.~~ Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.46.1	Planning for the EIJ 2028 event	It has been agreed that although the construction programme for the project is not yet known, planning for the EIJ 2028 event must commence ASAP. National Grid has agreed funds with the EIJ so that they can commence planning on two grounds, 1) establish whether the 2028 event can continue at the site with the haul road in situ but not in use, and 2) find an alternative site to host the event.	04/09/24	
5.26.2	Alternative site to be found, either to hold the event permanently or just the 2028 event.	It has been agreed that although the 2028 event may be able to proceed on the existing site, and future events once the OHL is in situ, it is acknowledged that the OHL will change the outlook of the site and the nature of the event as green camping experience and hosting around 5000 young people. Taking this into account National Grid does not <u>disagree/agrees</u> with the EIJ position, <u>in</u> that an alternative site for the event must be found.	04/09/24	
5.36.3	Cost undertaking agreed between NG and EIJ	1. Prepare a feasibility report and options for a re-design of the existing site to accommodate the haul road and potential works, such that the 2028 event can take place. 2. Liaise with the existing landowner to prepare a feasibility report to provide an alternative site for the event at Boyton Hall. 3. Prepare a site specification, undertake a site search, and instigate Without Prejudice discussions with potential site owners to find an alternative site. 4. Recognising the specialist nature of the task to be undertaken by the EIJ	04/09/24	

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ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
		team an hourly rate+ expenses has been agreed.		

7. ~~6.~~ Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Essex International Jabaree Jamboree position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.47.1	Construction timing <u>Heads of Terms / Legal Agreement</u>	The <u>Essex International Jamboree is seeking a legal agreement because informal assurances are not sufficient for the level of financial, organisational and safeguarding risk they face as a result of the Project.</u> The proposed schedule for construction straddles the 2028 event. The order limits and associated works will sever a significant area of the EIJ site. It is considered that construction of such a significant infrastructure project is incompatible with the event. As currently scheduled, this will prevent the 2028 event from taking place and may also impact the 2032 Jamboree if the project is delayed. The Jamboree is run by volunteers and overseen by Charity trustees who are legally required to act prudently and protect charitable funds.	<u>The Applicant has provided assurances to the event organisers and the Trustees, confirming their willingness to draft and enter into a legally binding agreement. This commitment is intended to satisfy the requirements and give the necessary guarantees to both parties involved.</u> At present it is agreed that if the construction works are carried out in this section at the same time as the planned 2028 event it will render the site unusable. Further engagement is needed as the Project programme progresses to determine the phasing of the works and how the event can be accommodated. It has been further confirmed by the Applicant that they are prepared to cover the expenses associated with the EIJ appointing legal representatives to act on their behalf. This demonstrates the Applicant's readiness to advance towards formalising a legal agreement. Draft HoTs were issued 27th April 26. Further meetings have taken place on the 15th May and 17th June to discuss the HoTs	

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ID	Issue	Essex International Jabaree Jamboree position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<u>There are concerns that trustees cannot continue planning on the basis of goodwill or statements of intent alone, particularly where costs may be abortive if a site becomes unavailable.</u>	<u>and next steps. The AP is now seeking approval from the charity Trustees and have passed the HoTs to their legal advisor for comment. Once comments have been received back a further meeting will be arranged to progress the agreement. In the interim the Applicant has confirmed willingness to cover certain costs ahead of an agreement being signed to allow the event organisers to continue with event planning.</u>	
6-2	Pylon locations-	The location of the pylons themselves will directly affect and reduce the available area for the event. The cable over sail will reduce the camping, sleeping, cooking and activity areas.	National Grid has looked at the micro-sitting of pylons TB157, TB158 & TB159 along the current alignment, and whether there is an opportunity to route the OHL around the site taking a Southeasterly alignment. At this point both options have been discounted as both are felt to not address the potential impacts on the EJJ site.	
6-3	Interaction with event equipment and site layout	The pylons and cabling are likely to interfere with the operation of equipment used at the event including electrical ring main and lighting, as well as temporary structures including an entertainment stage, climbing tower, lighting towers, marquees, Wi-Fi and other communications equipment. It is also considered that the noise from the pylons	Further assessment will be required to determine if the OHL will interfere with temporary and permanent equipment and infrastructure on the site. Once the OHL is in place safety clearances will need to be adhered to.	

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ID	Issue	Essex International Jabaree Jamboree position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.4	Safety of event being held in close proximity to overhead line	will be unacceptable to the attendees. National Grid have failed to satisfy the Essex Scout and Guide Trustees, as to the safety of proceeding with this event near the proposed pylons and cabling, including providing assurance with regard any potential health concerns.	National Grid is satisfied that large events such as the EJJ can coexist safely with OHL, and there are examples of this happening across the country. National Grid does acknowledge that if the Project takes place and the proposed OHL is constructed, there will then be safety restrictions on the site that are currently not an issue.	

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8. ~~7.~~ **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 [Whirledge and Nott \(on behalf of Essex International Jamboree\)](#)
Name: 
Position: Director
Date: 16/07/2026

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Modified filename: 8.3.7 Signed Statement of Common Ground - Essex International Jamboree Revision B.docx	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	42
Delete	23
Move From	0
<u>Move To</u>	0
<u>Table Insert</u>	2
Table Delete	9
<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:	77