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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.29 Final Statement of Common Ground - National Gas
Transmission - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue B

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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>

National Gas Transmission ~~Stakeholder~~ ~~Agreement~~ ~~Norwich to Tilbury~~ Final Statement of Common Ground

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to ~~reflect the current understanding of 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 National Gas Transmission Plc (National Gas) regarding specific issues arising during construction, and/or operation, ~~maintenance and decommissioning of from the interface between~~ the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project ~~(the Project)~~ and ~~its interface with~~ National Gas assets. ~~The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any bespoke protective provisions included in the draft DCO for the protection of National Gas as a statutory undertaker, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.~~

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 and National Gas Transmission Plc.

3. Background

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 ~~will submit~~has submitted an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority (consisting of ~~one or more~~five examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, ~~would~~will make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn ~~would~~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.

4. Stakeholder ~~Role~~Interests

National Gas operates and maintains critical gas transmission infrastructure across the UK. As a statutory undertaker, National Gas has a duty to ensure the safety, reliability and operational integrity of its infrastructure, which is essential to the UK's energy supply and energy security. National Gas has legitimate interests, assets and apparatus that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of National Gas underground pipeline assets.

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

National Grid and National Gas have identified approximately 109 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and National Gas Assets. These interactions and National Gas's associated requests for mitigation are categorised below by the nature of the interaction. Any site-specific interaction requests are to be defined further to the below crossing categorisations through continued detailed design and engagement.

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with National Gas Transmission Plc to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2023
 - Introductory meeting to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
- 2024
 - Engagement on anticipated impacts on existing National Gas Transmission Plc assets and Protective Provisions
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Updates to crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Discussion encompassing all project interaction following alignment revisions.
 - Further discussion on AC Interference impacts to National Gas Transmission Plc assets.
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
 - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground.
- 2026
 - Further Protective Provisions negotiations
 - Further discussion on AC Interference methodology and potential impacts to National Gas Transmission Plc assets.
 - National Grid Detailed Design partner introduction and initiation of detailed design engagement.

5. Matters Agreed

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Agreement reached</u>	<u>Date agreed</u>	<u>Relevant documentation Date agreed</u>
5.1	Trackway Locations As set Interactions	Works within the vicinity of National Gas assets are proposed to be subject to a privately agreed Retained Crossing Apparatus consent clause as per the agreed Protective Provisions and submitted as part of the Development Consent Order at Deadline 6. Such asset interactions include: • <u>Bellmouth junctions</u> • <u>Trackway</u> • <u>Haul road crossings</u> • <u>Stringing positions</u> • <u>Crossing protections</u> • <u>Construction Laydown Areas</u> • <u>Overhead line crossings</u> • <u>Pylon working areas</u> • National Grid are to avoid driving directly overtop the underground asset in a linear fashion. Crossing points are acceptable subject to compliance with safe working guidelines. <u>DNO Works</u>	02/06/25	07/06/26

6. **Matters ~~currently under discussion~~ Currently Under Discussion**

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
Overhead Line Crossing	30/06/25 — no issues expected with overhead line crossings other than the electromagnetic interference	11/07/25 — Electromagnetic Interference impacts are addressed separately in a stand-alone issue.	
Protective Provisions	23/08/2024 — National Grid and National Gas agree that bespoke protective provisions for the protection of National Gas as a gas undertaker will be included in the draft DCO. These provisions will govern the interface between the Project and assets owned by National Gas and are intended to provide legal protection for National Gas, in addition to the technical solutions and mitigation measures agreed between the parties. National Gas provided its draft protective provisions to National Grid on 23/08/24. It is anticipated that the parties will agree a mutually acceptable form of protective provisions. National Gas reserves the right to enter into a side agreement in respect of the Project if required.	11/07/25 — National Grid legal representatives and National Gas legal representatives are currently engaging to agree a draft Protective Provision. The final terms of the Protective Provision are subject to further engagement on-site specific interactions between National Gas assets and National Grids Norwich to Tilbury Project.	Protective Provisions in the draft DCO.
Bellmouth Junctions	02/06/25 — National Grid are to provide RAMS and detailed design drawings for approval prior to works commencement with depth of cover assessed.	23/06/25 — Requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
Haul Road Crossing	02/06/25 – National Gas request a third party specialist assess and approve the loading imparted on National Gas assets at haul road crossing points to determine protections necessary.	23/06/25 – Requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
Stringing Position	02/06/25 – During installation of Earth Protection Zone (EPZ), the projects first priority will be to avoid siting the EPZ on top of existing National Gas assets. Gas mains will be marked out and fenced off. If National Grid need to site the EPZ atop National Gas underground assets, the National Gas asset will be protected. This is subject to the result of the assessment mentioned below. National Grid are to take the below steps for National Gas assets contained within the stringing position area: 1) Demarcate and fence off the pipeline easement (typically 80ft). 2) Conduct a surface load assessment where required. 3) EPZ – a study is required to confirm no induced currents into the pipeline.	23/06/25 – National Grid agree to demarcating and fencing off the pipeline where it is within the stringing position area. National Grid commit to avoiding siting equipment above National Gas assets where reasonably able to do so. Where National Grid are unable to due to local then we would seek to agree additional measures such as load assessments, asset protections slabs etc as deemed necessary. EPZ requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
Crossing Protection	02/06/25 – Where possible National Grid should demarcate and fence off pipeline easement.	23/06/25 – Where feasible National Grid would commit to a bridge spanning overtop of	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
	Scaffolding design should be to bridge over the pipeline rather than placing screw anchors or kentledge blocks within the pipeline easement. Acceptable to place screw anchors or kentledge blocks if located over 6m away from the pipeline. Subject to site specific assessment.	National Gas Transmission Plc assets, the opportunity to do so requires a site by site review. If deemed not feasible then it would require the installation of screw anchors and/or kentledge blocks within 6m of the pipeline. National Grid would seek to agree additional precautions in this scenario. National Grid contractors would also follow HSG47 guidance and provide RAMS if installing screw anchors.	
Pylon Working Area	02/06/25 – No lifting operations are to occur within the pipeline easement without a lifting assessment having been approved by National Gas. Pipelines within the pylon working area are to be demarcated and fenced off. If piling, there are vibration limits which apply if piling occurs within 15m of the pipeline. For piling outside of 15m this is generally of lesser concern however National Gas will still need to review and approve the details of the piling rig utilised to confirm acceptance.	23/06/25 – National Grid commit to demarcating and fencing off the pipeline within the pylon working area. Requirements for piling approvals and lifting restrictions are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
Construction Laydown Area	02/06/25 – National Gas requests National Grid demarcate and fence off National Gas assets within construction lay down areas. Where crossing points are required these are to be treated the same as haul crossing points with loading assessments required.	23/06/25 – National Grid agree to demarcate and fence off National Gas assets within construction lay down areas. In relation to loading assessments a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
UKPN Overhead Tower Dismantling	02/06/25 – It is preferred that towers within 100m of National Gas assets are dismantled as opposed to felled. If steel lattice towers are felled within 100m of a National Gas pipeline then an assessment and approval of resultant vibration will be required prior to doing so. Conductors are to be lowered to the ground as opposed to dropped atop National Gas pipelines.	23/06/25 – A National Grid/UKPN position will be provided upon further assessment.	
UKPN Cable Crossing	02/06/25 – Where a cable crossing occurs National Gas will require: 1) A deed of consent – to be considered further 2) 600mm separations or 1000mm for cable ratings above 132kV. 3) Pre and post energisation surveys. 4) An electrical impact assessment – inductions study. 5) RAMS to be provided for review and approval 6) Supervision on site while works occur	23/06/25 – National Grid/UKPN commit to providing RAMS and notice ahead of works for National Gas supervision attendance where deemed reasonably required instances of which are to be further defined. A National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment of the below National Gas requirements: 1) A deed of consent 2) Separation distance requirement 3) Pre and post energisation surveys 4) An electrical impact assessment – inductions study	
Alternating Current (AC) Interference		23/06/25 – AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling	

Issue		Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
			report provided to National Gas Transmission Plc for review and comment. Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with National Gas Transmission Plc in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.	
ID	Issue	National Gas Transmission (including date)		National Grid position (including date)
6.1	<u>Alternating Current (AC) Interference</u>			<u>05/05/26 - AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling report provided to National Gas Transmission Plc for review and comment along with an AC Interference Mitigation Report. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.</u>

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For National Gas Transmission Plc

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	46
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<u>Move To</u>	0
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<u>Table moves to</u>	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	0
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	79