

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0088

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

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

Final Issue B

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(g)

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	21 July 2026	Deadline 7

National Gas Transmission

Final 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 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 from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and National Gas assets.

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 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 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.

4. Stakeholder 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

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
5.1	Asset 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: • Bellmouth junctions • Trackway • Haul road crossings • Stringing positions • Crossing protections • Construction Laydown Areas • Overhead line crossings • Pylon working areas • DNO Works	07/06/26

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Gas Transmission (including date)	National Grid position (including date)
6.1	Alternating Current (AC) Interference		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.

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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