

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0060

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.28 Final Statement of Common Ground -
Exolum International UK Ltd - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue D

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	29 August 2025	DCO Application
B	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
C	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
<u>D</u>	<u>21 July 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 7</u>

Exolum International Limited

~~Draft~~ Final 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 agreement and any remaining points of discussion between~~ prepared to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached and where agreement has not been reached National Grid and Exolum regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Exolum-
~~assets.~~

~~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 and Exolum International Limited.

2.1 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.

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
6.1	Mitigation and protection requirements to be implemented to Exolum assets	Deadline 7
6.2 <u>6.1</u>	Ongoing protective provisions negotiations for the benefit of Exolum to be included in the DCO once agreed	Deadline 7 <u>Engagement continues with the aim to agree PPs by the close of examination</u>
6.3 <u>6.2</u>	Impacts to Exolum assets stemming from Alternating Current Interference	Deadline 7 <u>Engagement will continue following the close of examination</u>

3. Background

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~~[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

Exolum has legitimate interests that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of Exolum underground 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 Exolum to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Exolum or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

National Grid and Exolum have identified approximately 25 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and Exolum Assets. These interactions and Exolums 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 Exolum International Limited to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2024
 - Introductory meeting to detail the Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Discussion on updated crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Further discussion encompassing all project interactions following revision to the project alignment.
 - Further discussion on studies outcome of AC Interference impacts to Exolum International Limited assets.
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
 - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground and review of physical project interactions along with requested mitigation and control measures.
- 2026
 - Detailed Design Partner introductions and detailed design engagement.
 - Further AC Interference engagement with Exolum 3rd party reviewers.

- Ongoing Protective Provisions negotiations.
- Engagement on approval of draft Statements of Common Ground for Deadline submissions ~~including Deadline 4 update.~~

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1				

~~6. Matters Currently Under Discussion~~

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.15.1	Asset Interactions	<u>Exolum and National Grids detailed design partners have had substantial engagement on detailing and derisking proposed asset interactions between Norwich to Tilbury proposed delivery works and Exolum assets.</u> <u>All proposed Norwich to Tilbury interactions with existing Exolum assets are subject to a privately agreed Retained Apparatus Protection Clause denoted within Schedule 16 Part 11 of the preferred Protective Provisions submitted as part of the Development Consent Order at Deadline 6. National Grid and Exolum throughout the examination window have assessed and derisked the various site-specific crossings including:</u> <u>Haul Road</u> <u>Stringing Position</u>	26/04/26— Exolum and National Grids detailed design partners have had substantial engagement on detailing and derisking proposed asset interactions between Norwich to Tilbury proposed delivery	<u>3.1 Draft DCO Final Issue F [REP6-030]</u>

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		Crossing Protection Construction Laydown Areas Overhead Line Areas The attached is working draft is agreed based on this not being the signed or final version of the SOCG Permanent Access	works and Exolum assets. Such engagement is ongoing through examination and the agreed outcomes will be appended to the final signed SoCG. Further processes governing crossing consents are detailed in the draft Protective Provisions currently under negotiation. 15/07/26	

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

<u>ID</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Stakeholder position (including date)</u>	<u>National Grid response (including date)</u>
6.2 <u>6.1</u>	Protective Provisions	The attached is working draft is agreed based on this not being the signed or final version of the SOCG <u>15/07/26 – Ongoing Protective Provisions workstream is as set out by the Applicant in their response.</u>	24/04/26 - National Grid and Exolum have made substantial progress on agreeing a set of bespoke Protective Provisions for the benefit of Exolum. National Grid reiterate the intention to include an agreed set within the draft DCO at the earliest opportunity to do so. <u>02/07/26 - Protective Provisions are under negotiations between both parties and intended to be submitted at Deadline 7 or 8 if/when fully agreed. A National Grid preferred set of Protective Provisions including items agreed to date will has been submitted at D6.</u> <u>Upon submission of the fully agreed Protective Provisions at Deadline 7 or 8 this issue becomes resolved and would be moved to <i>Section 5 Matters Agreed</i></u>
6.3 <u>6.2</u>	Alternating Current (AC) Interference	The attached is working draft is agreed based on this not being the signed or final version of the SOCG <u>15/07/26 – Exolum expectation of the ongoing AC Interference workstream is as set out by the Applicants response.</u>	26/04/26 - AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling report provided to Exolum for review and comment. Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with Exolum in advance of undertaking the studies. National Grid are preparing an Outline Mitigation report however further internal works to model assumptions and parameters are being undertaken to confirm works done to date. An update will be provided to the AC Interference Study if required. <u>02/07/26 - National Grid is further engaging with Exolum to review and verify the methodology employed within the Interference Reports.</u>

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Exolum International Limited

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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<u>Table Insert</u>	2
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Table moves from	0
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Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	64