

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) - Clean 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
C	21 July 2026	Deadline 7

EDF Renewables (Bloy's Grove Solar Farm) 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 Ashgreen 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.

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 (the Applicant) and Ashgreen Energyfarm Limited (an EDF Power Solutions company) ("EDF").

3. Summary of 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
8.1	Extent and implications of potential panel removal, working with EDF to 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	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination
8.2	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, beyond the end of the examination
8.3	The Applicant's methodology for stringing the overhead line	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
8.4	The quantum of any compensation due to temporary or permanent impacts of the Project	To be resolved in the detailed design or construction stage, beyond the end of the examination
8.5	The extent of any overlap between the Project sustainable drainage system and the solar panels	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination
8.6	Whether earthing is required as a result of the Project, and any mitigation measures required by the Project	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination
8.7	Detail around any operational access requirements of the Applicant	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination
8.8	The final pylon design, conductor type and position information to share with EDF	To be confirmed at detailed design, beyond the end of the examination

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 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 (South Norfolk District Council planning application reference: 2021/2495) and is currently under construction.

6. Discussions Held

- Non-statutory consultation: 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 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 continued to engage during the examination through regular email correspondence in relation to the matters described in this Statement of Common Ground.

7. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
7.1	Potential permanent loss of development footprint through pylon positioning	At this site there are no pylons proposed to be located within the area of development. As a result, no permanent loss of development footprint is perceived or necessary. However, 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.	July 2026
7.2	Timescales	EDF's renewable energy development is expected to be fully constructed before the Applicant begins its construction works. The Applicant expects construction of the Project adjacent to the solar farm to start around 2027.	July 2026
7.3	Continued engagement and collaboration to minimise impacts	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. 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.	July 2026
7.4	Construction Working Group	Both parties agree that ongoing coordination during the construction phase will be required. A construction-phase coordination mechanism, such as a 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	July 2026

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
		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.	
7.5	Heads of Terms leading to a legal agreement	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.	July 2026

8. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
8.1	General approach	The Applicant acknowledges 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. 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. The Applicant will seek, through detailed design and construction planning, to avoid or minimise interaction with existing solar infrastructure. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the Applicant will continue to engage	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 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 intersects the PV tables,

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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
		with EDF 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.	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 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.
8.2	Haul Road	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 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.	Confirmation of haul road requirement outstanding - possibility of compensation (as set out above) will be required. EDF are considering making the temporary access route into Bloys Grove solar farm permanent (Planning currently states temporary) - Northern access route to site - Church Road (Section 73) - Design implications unknown currently.
8.3	Detailed design information and construction methodologies - stringing	The Applicant will confirm information through its delivery partner and 1 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.	Detailed methodology required for initial stringing, to include dimensions of CDM areas at each tower- Temporary haul road from South

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
8.4	Compensation	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. 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).	EDF has identified that temporary construction activities will give rise to consequential losses and an increased maintenance burden associated with solar PV modules 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.
8.5	Project sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	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 avoided or appropriately mitigated.	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.
8.6	Earthing	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	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.

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
		Applicant will work EDF to ensure the site is protected. 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.	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. These matters should be addressed in an agreement between the parties
8.7	Operational effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	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 agreement between the parties.	Can NGET advise what access requirements will be needed during operational phase to towers and whether this will impact the EDF site? 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.
8.8	Shading	The Applicant recognises EDF's concerns in relation to potential shading implications of the Project on the stakeholder's solar development. The final pylon design, conductor type and position information is expected to be available	The Applicant should assess shading effects on a worst case basis utilising its Rockdale parameters. This needs to be understood in advance as it may reduce the renewable energy benefits of the project and is not just a compensation matter.

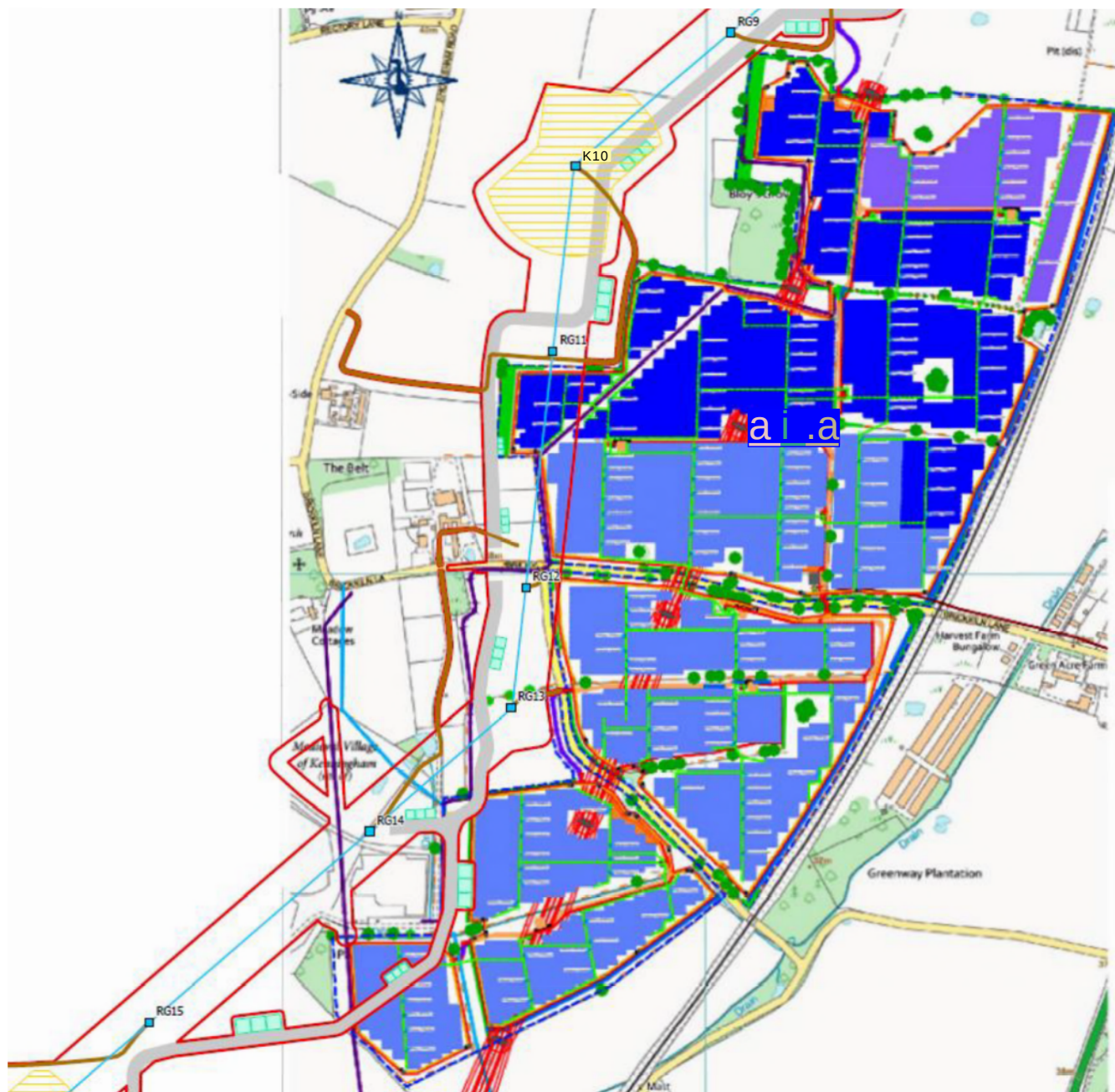
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ID	Issue	National Grid Position	EDF Position
		in 2027. Once this information is available the Applicant can share this information with EDF. Provisional information can be also shared ahead of this time, but this will be subject to change as the design is finalised. 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.	

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



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9. Signatures

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

For National Grid

DocuSigned by:

Name: _____

Position: Project Director _____

Date: 17/07/2026 _____

For Ashgreen Energyfarm Limited

Signed by:

Name: _____

Position' Head of Origination and Planning - Solar, Storage and Private Wire

Date: 17/072026 _____

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