

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0242

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.26 Signed Statement of Common Ground -
Cadent Gas - 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

Cadent Gas

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 Cadent Gas Limited (Cadent) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Cadent assets.

This final signed 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 Cadent Gas Limited.

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 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

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

National Grid and Cadent have identified approximately 175 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and Cadent Assets. These interactions and Cadent'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 Cadent 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 to existing Cadent assets
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference study methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Cabling interactions focused meeting
 - Updates to the crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Discussion following issuance of Norwich to Tilbury Scoping Document encompassing all project interactions.
 - Further discussion on studies outcome of AC Interference impacts to Cadent assets.
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
 - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground.
- 2026
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions.
 - Further development of the draft Statement of Common Ground.

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5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1	Asset Interactions	All proposed Norwich to Tilbury interactions with existing Cadent Gas assets are subject to a Retained Apparatus Protection Clause as denoted within the agreed Protective Provisions submitted as part of the Draft Development Consent Order Schedule 16 Part 8 at Deadline 5. National Grid and Cadent Gas throughout the examination window have assessed and derisked the various site specific crossings including: • Bellmouth Junctions • Trackway • Haul Road • Stringing Position • Crossing Protection • Construction Laydown Areas • Overhead Line Areas • 400kV Underground Cable • Permanent Access • Pylon Working Area • Outfall Working Area • UKPN Works	7 th July 2026	3.1 Draft DCO Revision F Tracked Changes Version
5.2	Protective Provisions	Protective Provisions have been agreed between both parties and submitted within the Draft Development Consent Order Schedule 16 Part 8 at Deadline 5.	7 th July 2026	3.1 Draft DCO Revision F Tracked Changes Version

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid response	Relevant documentation
6.1	Alternating Current (AC) Interference	17/02/26 - Further engagement required to detail Cadents position towards AC Interference interactions with Cadent assets.	Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with Cadent in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing. A revised AC interference study has now been issued to Cadent for review and comment. National Grid are also progressing an outline mitigation design report to submit to Cadent detailing the extent of AC interference mitigations.	

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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 Cadent Gas Limited

Name:  

Position: Senior Integrity Engineer

Date: 16/07/2026

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