

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0278

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

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- Clean Version

Final Issue D

July 2026

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nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
C	7 July 2026	Deadline 6
D	21 July 2026	Deadline 7

Tarchon

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 Tarchon regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and its interface with Tarchon 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 Tarchon, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid and Tarchon Energy Limited ('Tarchon').

3. 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
7.1	Protective Provision Requirements	Deadline 8

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

Tarchon is a proposed electricity interconnector that will create a direct power link between Germany and Great Britain, connecting the two countries' energy markets and increasing the security and reliability of their electrical systems and energy demand. Tarchon's converter station will connect to the Project's EACN substation, via underground cabling and will be consented via its own DCO application which is currently at the pre-application stage. Tarchon is a customer connection that is reliant on the Project's EACN being consented

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

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

- 2024
 - Project introductions and outline engagement principles.
- 2025
 - Strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
- 2026
 - Detailed design engagement on EACN substation connection interface including bay design.
 - On-going engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
 - Agreement to seek a formal coordination and cooperation agreement.
 - Tarchon scoping report submitted 7th April 2026 and shared with Norwich to Tilbury team
 - Tarchon contacted NGET regarding the Norwich to Tilbury project on 8th April to inform about Scoping Report, updated Tarchon project website, and referred to Norwich to Tilbury team questions posed by the Examination Authority referring to Tarchon with a deadline of 10th April offering dialogue on these matters
 - Norwich To Tilbury informed Tarchon of its intentions to modify the connection agreement regarding scope of works and ownership boundaries; email shared 1st April
 - Tarchon has sought engagement with National Grid land team to enter into a non-intrusive survey licence for ecological surveys to be undertaken by Tarchon during the 2026 survey season in overlapping land parcels of mutual interest.

Technical engagement continues with the Norwich To Tilbury team, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm teams with regards to the EACN interface, access, and layout.

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6. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
6.1	Formal Cooperation Agreement	Formal Cooperation Agreement - NG and Tarchon have agreed to prepare and sign a formal cooperation agreement outlining areas of cooperation on design and construction/interfaces	20 th April 2026
6.2	EACN Connection Bay location & management of associated works	The Parties recognise the need to continue dialogue to ensure that the grid connection needs required to deliver the Tarchon project can be accommodated within the Applicants EACN substation. Dialogue will continue to ensure the Norwich to Tilbury scheme meets its responsibilities as set out in the Bilateral Connection Agreement to allow Tarchon to deliver their works as necessary and on time. At this time, details of specific bay location and management have not been finalised and will need to be reflected in an updated grid connection agreement for the Tarchon project.	10 th July
6.3	Organisation leading on Tarchon-related bay works	National Grid commit to cooperating in a positive manner to enable Tarchon to deliver works within the EACN without prejudice to the Applicants DCO and works associated with the connection and operation of infrastructure associated with the connection at the Norwich to Tilbury EACN substation. This is subject to further legal agreements being put in place governing the interaction. Where approvals are required of the Norwich to Tilbury scheme in relation to the Tarchon works at the EACN bay(s), these will not be unreasonably withheld.	15/07/26
6.4	Project Alignment	Both Tarchon and the Applicant have agreed the mechanism and responsibilities for all-party engagement in respect of the N-T EACN area and the connecting customers detailed within an all-party RACI matrix. A commitment to continued and consistent engagement is recognised as being needed between both parties to deliver this.	02/07/26

7. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position	National Grid position
7.1	Protected Provisions	The Tarchon project has some outstanding areas of concern and disagreement with the Norwich to Tilbury project, and the ability to protect the rights of the Tarchon project for future development and delivery. These are summarised below: • Due to aspects mentioned above (namely items 7.1 and 7.2 described above) the Tarchon Interconnector Project is seeking to ensure that based on the limited level of detail at this time, it is necessary to agree a series of Protected Provisions (PPs) to be included in the Norwich to Tilbury draft development consent order, in a similar manner as undertaken by the Five Estuaries and North Falls projects, to provide reassurance to be able to deliver the Tarchon project effectively. The Tarchon project has submitted a draft of these PPs to NtT and the teams are actively negotiating these. • These proposed PPs are aligned with the protective provisions given to North Falls and Five Estuaries, with some necessary modifications, given the level of maturity of the Tarchon project and the uncertainty around which bay(s) the HVAC cable will connect to. In relation to the matters listed above under 7.1, the Tarchon project would therefore summarise that this matter is still under discussion.	15/07/26 - National Grid is engaging with Tarchon to agree a set of Protective Provisions and hoping to conclude within the examination window to allow for an agreed set of Protective Protection appended to the draft DCO

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8. 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 Tarchon

Name: _____

Position: Tarchon Development Director _____

Date: 16 July 2026 _____

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