

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0259

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.43 Signed Statement of Common Ground - British
Pipeline Agency - Clean Version**

Final Issue D

August 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

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

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
B	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
C	21 July 2026	Deadline 7
D	4 August 2026	Deadline 8

British Pipeline Agency 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 British Pipeline Agency Limited ("BPA") as agents for United Kingdom Oil Pipelines Limited ("UKOP") (together "BPA/UKOP") regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and its interface with UKOP assets.

This final version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 8.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid and BPA/UKOP.

3. Background

3.1 Description of the Project/Development

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 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

BPA/UKOP operate the Thames to Buncefield multifuel pipeline, which is a high-pressure mixed fuel line together with all apparatus and equipment ancillary thereto ("the Pipeline") being part of the nationally critical fuel infrastructure network supplying (inter alia) the London airports.

The Pipeline is a key part of the Country's fuel supply system and as such is crucial to National fuel security and must be adequately safeguarded from harm at all times. The Pipeline must continue to operate on a 24/7 basis and at all times remain safe, operational and accessible so that all statutory, regulatory, operational and maintenance requirements can be carried out without interference (both in the short and long term) and any additional land rights needed to ensure that these objectives can be met (due to conflict with the Project) must be granted to UKOP, its agents and successors.

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 interactions and for any remedial measures reasonably to ensure that all necessary safety standards can be met (including but not limited to British Safety Standard BS EN ISO 18086 [2]) are agreed. On this basis National Grid is working with BPA/UKOP to investigate the potential risks of damage to the Pipeline and how BPA/UKOP or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures. To that end the parties have agreed an outline mitigation design ("the Outline Mitigation Design") to be adopted dated 20/11/2025 with reference ERM TN61_22-0101_011 issue 6 and are looking to agree a framework to consent to the detailed

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

design of the Outline Mitigation Design as part of the protective provisions or agreement to be agreed between the parties.

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with BPA/UKOP to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is set out (up to 1 July 2025) at pages 27-53 of the bundle of documents enclosed with BPA/UKOP's relevant representation (RR-0413).

Since 1 July 2025 the broad summary of interactions can be summarised as follows:

- 2025
 - Further discussion on AC Interference impacts to LIKOP assets and mitigation measures including alignment revisions.
 - Legal Agreement Negotiations.
 - Engagement on proposed Norwich to Tilbury: Bulphan Change Application.
- 2026
 - Further legal agreement negotiations.
 - Further change application engagement and submission.

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed
5.1	Matters set out in RR-0413, AS-086, PDA-011, REP1-237, REP1-238 and REP3-121 including but not limited to the risks of damage to the Pipeline, the adequacy of the Order to allow UKOP and its successors to deliver and retain the necessary Mitigation, the requirement for protective provisions and indemnities for damage caused.	An Asset Protection Agreement has been formally agreed by both parties addressing the BPA/UKOP concern over damage to the Pipeline,	21/07/26
5.2	The parties are working towards agreeing protective provisions by way of a side agreement, but this has not yet been finalised. If the side agreement is not completed by Deadline 6 then protective provisions will be submitted for insertion on the face of the Order which the parties hope will be agreed, failing that each party will submit their own version of the closest agreed protective provisions at Deadline 6.	An Asset Protection Agreement has been formally agreed by both parties negating the need for protective provisions within the Order. As a result BPA/UKOP have since withdrawn objection to the scheme.	21/07/26

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

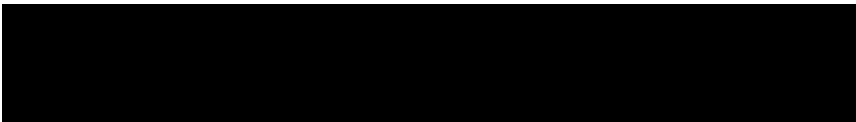
T: +44 (0)20 7004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com



6. Signatures

This SoCG is agreed upon by the undersigned parties:

For National Grid

Name 

Position: Project Director _____

Date - 4th August 2026 _____

For UKOP

Name: 

Position: Head of sales _____

Date - 4th August 2026 _____

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com