



Tendring District Council Closing Statement

North Falls Offshore Windfarm Project

Our Ref: TDC-CS

PINS Ref: EN010119

Date: 22/07/2025

Tendring District Council (TDC) remains committed to supporting the UK Government's net zero target by 2050, including the expansion of offshore wind and other forms of renewable energy. However, nearly a year since submitting our initial comments on the North Falls Development Consent Order (DCO) application, significant concerns persist.

The proposal continues to rely on an underground connection into the unconsented East Anglian Connection Node (EACN) substation east of Ardleigh—a critical part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) upgrade. The N2T project remains at pre-DCO submission stage and is already facing delays. TDC considers the North Falls Offshore Windfarm application premature and continues to raise concern about the wide-ranging implications for our communities and landscape from this inverted approach.

Cumulative Impacts and Lack of Integration

TDC remains deeply concerned about the cumulative impacts of this and other linked infrastructure proposals, which include:

- Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm;
- Tarchon Interconnector;
- EACN Substation; and
- Potential future renewable projects such as the proposed solar farm near Horsley Cross.

Despite repeated calls, there remains insufficient coordination between these schemes. The outcomes of the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) must be fully integrated into the planning approach, yet TDC remains unconvinced that this is occurring for the extensive reasons set out during previous consultation phases, the examination and recent deadlines. Entire communities—especially in Ardleigh, Little Bromley and surrounding areas—are experiencing confusion, distress, and disruption. The current fragmented strategy continues to fuel public concern and uncertainty.

Landscape and Agricultural Concerns

The location of the North Falls substation has been dictated by the N2T upgrade. While we acknowledge steps taken to improve landscape mitigation, unresolved issues remain:

- The site sits within active agricultural land—arable, open, flat, and rural.
- The cumulative visual and functional impact of these schemes will permanently harm the character of the landscape.
- Heritage assets and the viability of local farming will be adversely affected.
- Safety risks have been identified due to landscaping proposals around Ardleigh Road, potentially obstructing visibility splays for farmers entering or exiting fields. These concerns, raised previously, remain unaddressed and could be avoided through more effective collaboration with affected landowners.

Disproportionate Local Burden and Community Benefit

TDC reiterates that Tendring—especially the Ardleigh to Little Bromley corridor—is being asked to shoulder a disproportionate burden of adverse impacts.

These include:

- Construction and operation of haul routes;
- Intensified HGV and traffic movements;
- Noise, vibration, and disruption to residents and agricultural operations; and
- Long-term degradation of the rural environment.

Despite this, there is currently no legally binding commitment to a Community Benefit Contribution. TDC is prepared to work with the developer to agree voluntary long-term benefit measures for impacted communities. These measures should reflect genuine social value and help offset local harms.

Economic Inclusion and Tourism Impact

TDC urges the applicant to include clear, enforceable commitments in the final DCO for:

- Local education and skills training; and
- Employment opportunities that reflect the scale of the project and the transition to net zero.

Economic inclusion must be prioritised; otherwise, this project risks widening local inequality.

Moreover, disruption during the construction phase poses a threat to Tendring's vital tourism economy. Highway disruptions and coastal visual intrusions may adversely impact:

- Hotels and holiday parks;
- Local shops and cafés; and
- Seasonal and visitor-dependent livelihoods.

Outstanding Concerns

TDC remains unconvinced that the proposed noise complaints protocol will be effective for residents living close to the infrastructure—an issue that has been raised extensively throughout the examination period.

Summary

Tendring District Council calls for:

- Greater cross-project integration;
- Addressing outstanding safety, agricultural, and landscape concerns;
- Legally binding and enforceable measures for community benefit; and
- Protection of the local economy, including affected businesses and residential amenity.

We urge all stakeholders to adopt a more coordinated and community-conscious approach, to minimise long-term harm and ensure a more equitable outcome for our district.

Yours sincerely

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NSIP Officer – Tendring District Council