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Date: 21 January 2026
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By Email only

Dear Mr. John Wheadon,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

I refer to your letter dated 18 December 2025 (the letter) in which the Secretary of State (SoS) invites all Interested Parties to comment on responses received to the previously issued request for further information (dated 26 November 2025) regarding the above Development Consent Order (DCO) application. In response, Essex County Council (ECC) in conjunction with Tendring District Council (TDC) [jointly referred as “the Councils”] would like to provide the following comments.

7.13 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Tracked) (Rev 6)

- a) Section 1.2.7, para. 48 – No objection to the insertion of text regarding pre-construction surveys, risk assessments and methods statements prior to HDD.
- b) Section 1.9.1.1.2 Dust Management – the added wordings are welcomed to improve the technical clarity. The local authority would expect more details on complaint response times and exceedance protocols specially during construction to be provided in the detailed stage when discharging the relevant requirement on Code of Construction Practice.
- c) Section 1.11.1.3 Noise Monitoring and Appendix A – the added wordings are welcomed to improve the technical clarity. However, stronger commitments on the following are expected:

- Monitoring frequency and duration - whether monitoring will be continuous, periodic, daily spot checks etc; minimum monitoring requirements for high-impact activities; duration of each measurement session.
 - Reporting arrangement – when will the data be shared with the local authority, the format of reporting and the communication protocol for exceedances.
 - Complaint response time – The local planning authority would expect clear commitments on investigation timeframe, reporting timeframe and implementation of mitigation where required.
 - While the Appendix defines threshold values, it is important for governance purpose to explain:
 - what happens when thresholds are exceeded;
 - who decides the mitigation;
 - what escalation steps exist;
 - whether work must stop during exceedances.
- d) Sections 2.2.1, 2.3.1 and 2.7.2 – ECC supports the amendments including sharing data from pre-construction surveys and monitoring to Local Environmental Records Centre(s) and relevant recording schemes.
- e) Section 3.12 – no comments on the proposed change in relation to maintenance of landscape planting during decommissioning works.

7.14 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Rev 7) [LEMS]

Since the close of examination in late July 2025, the DCO application of the Norwich to Tilbury proposal (N2T) had been accepted for examination and the examination is now currently scheduled to commence shortly on 11 February 2026.

According to the submitted 2.3 Works Plans – Section C (Final Issue A) of the N2T DCO application (extracts below as **Figure 1**), the Councils note that the proposed Ardleigh Road widening works of the N2T project would require a strip of land with a depth of roughly 15m to 25m on the northern side of Ardleigh Road within the North Falls proposed order limits (highlighted yellow in **Figure 1** below). Such road widening works would directly interfere with the proposed joint structural visual and landscaping planting along the northern side of the road as well as the proposed landscape and ecological enhancement area of the North Falls and Five Estuaries projects.

The Councils therefore continue to raise serious concerns on the integration between these 3 projects and the achievability of the claimed mitigation and/or enhancement as stated in the Environmental Statement. It is unclear how the proposed works of the 3 projects would align to each other and the potential implications on the layout of the onshore substations, Biodiversity Net Gain calculations as well as their respective landscape mitigation.

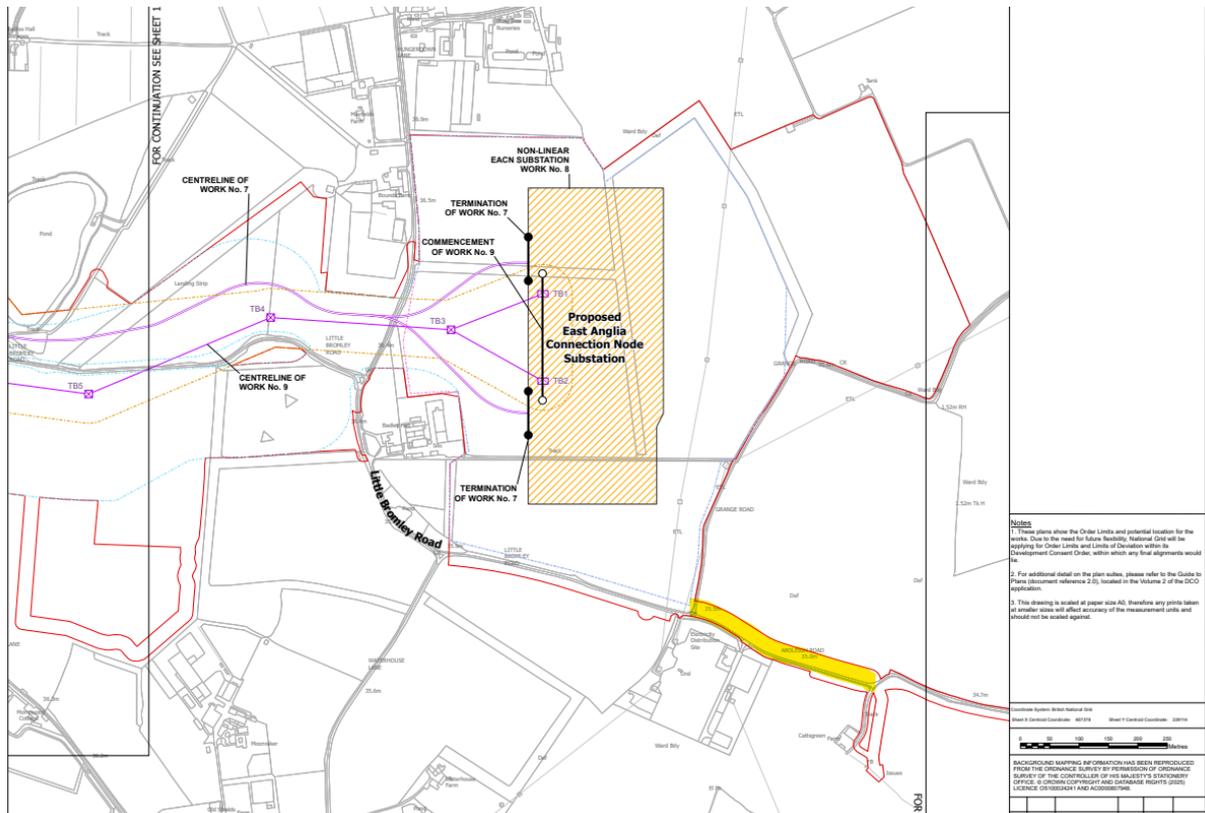


Figure 1. Extract of Works Plans - Section C of N2T (Drawing Reference: AENC-LSTC-ENG-DWG-0003 – Issue A) and the affected area highlighted in yellow

9.89 Applicant’s Response to ExA’s Request for information (Rule 17) – National Landscapes (Clean)(Rev2)

The Councils acknowledge that the project does not significantly impact on special qualities of the National Landscape within Essex. However, significant visual impacts have been identified in the Environmental Statement on the special qualities of the National Landscape within Suffolk. The applicant’s offered fund size of £50,000 is unlikely to adequately compensate for these impacts, particularly as visual quality contributes to a sense of wildness and tranquillity within the National Landscape.

11.6 Without Prejudice In-Principle Farmland Bird Compensation Plan

The Councils note the Applicant’s submission of the In-Principle Farmland Bird Compensation Plan for Corn Bunting, as requested by the SoS.

Other Submissions:

The Councils have no comments on the following submissions:

- 7.2.3.1 Outline Red Throated Diver Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Clean)(Rev 3);
- 7.2.4.1 Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Clean)(Rev 3); and
- 7.2.5.1 Annex 5A Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Clean)(Rev 3).

Yours sincerely,



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