

Response to Tarchon Non-Statutory Consultation (3 July – 13 August 2026)

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Little Bromley Location

We wish to register our strong objection to the proposals presented in Tarchon's non-statutory consultation, particularly the proposed location in and around Little Bromley.

While we recognise the importance of energy infrastructure development and the transition to a low-carbon economy, the current proposals do not demonstrate that Little Bromley is a suitable or justified location. Significant issues remain unresolved and require further detailed assessment.

1. Lack of Defined Site Location and Resulting Uncertainty

A key concern is the absence of a clearly defined site boundary or detailed layout. Residents are being asked to comment without sufficient information to understand the true scale and impact of the proposal, including:

- the precise land take (temporary and permanent);
- the location of buildings, compounds and access routes;
- the routing of trenches and underground infrastructure;
- the extent of construction activity;
- the long-term operational footprint.

Without this detail, it is not possible to properly assess impacts on homes, businesses, farmland or the local environment. This undermines the effectiveness and fairness of the consultation process, which should be regarded as incomplete until full plans are provided.

2. Concerns Regarding Trenching Works

The proposed trenching raises significant concerns regarding disruption to agricultural land, drainage systems and local infrastructure. The maps on display at the consultation events were incomplete as the boundaries around houses were not shown correctly.

Key information is currently lacking and it is difficult to fully comment until full information is provided. This includes:

- trench dimensions and construction methodology;
- spoil handling and construction compounds;
- impacts on soil structure and agricultural productivity;
- restoration and reinstatement proposals;
- effects on drainage and flood risk;

- duration and phasing of works.

Little Bromley comprises productive farmland supported by a sensitive drainage network. Extensive trenching risks long-term damage to soil quality, farm viability and local hydrology. The consultation does not adequately demonstrate that these impacts can be avoided or effectively mitigated.

3. Cumulative Impacts with Other Energy Infrastructure

A major concern is the cumulative impact of this proposal alongside other existing and proposed energy infrastructure in north-east Essex.

Local communities are already under threat due to proposed multiple large-scale energy and transmission projects. While individual schemes may be assessed in isolation, their combined effect is significant and must be properly considered.

We would expect further information on the following as soon as possible to enable us to provide further feedback:

- landscape and visual effects;
- construction traffic and transport pressure;
- environmental impacts;
- effects on agricultural operations;
- loss of rural tranquillity;
- strain on local roads and infrastructure;
- fire and terrorism risk and emergency response.

A proper planning assessment must consider the combined burden of all projects in the area. Without this, the true impact on Little Bromley cannot be properly understood.

4. Environmental and Landscape Impacts

Little Bromley is a rural area valued for its landscape character, biodiversity and historic setting.

The proposals risk significant harm, including:

- erosion of rural landscape character;
- visual intrusion in open countryside;
- disturbance to habitats and wildlife;
- impacts on protected and priority species;

- loss or fragmentation of hedgerows and trees;
- construction noise, dust and lighting impacts;
- longer-term industrialisation of the landscape.

The consultation does not provide sufficient evidence that these impacts have been fully assessed or that mitigation would be effective.

5. Impacts on the Local Community

Construction activity, including trenching and heavy goods vehicle movements, would have unavoidable impacts on residents, including:

- increased traffic and congestion;
- road safety risks;
- noise and dust;
- reduced access and disruption to movement;
- prolonged construction disturbance.

The consultation does not adequately explain how these impacts would be minimised or managed.

6. Consideration of Alternative Locations

There is insufficient evidence that alternative locations have been properly considered or assessed.

Tarchon should clearly demonstrate why alternative sites were discounted.

Without this information, it is not possible to conclude that Little Bromley is the most appropriate location.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, amongst others, we object to the current proposals.

We understand the consultation is still in a premature stage, but due to a lack of essential detail, particularly regarding site definition, trenching impacts, cumulative effects, and environmental harm we feel we are not in a position to comment fully.

We therefore request that Tarchon:

- provide detailed and clearly defined site plans;
- undertake a full cumulative impact assessment of all relevant infrastructure projects;

- fully assess and publish alternative site comparisons;
- demonstrate how environmental, agricultural and community impacts will be avoided or mitigated;
- ensure meaningful engagement with local residents throughout the process.

Little Bromley Parish Coouncil