

## TDC April 2026 – Report

### **National Grid - Infrastructure Update**

With the Planning Inspectorate having issued its first round of questions to National Grid which runs to over 70 pages and includes numerous references to the East Anglian Connection Node, and taking into account scheduled April hearings, I felt it would be a useful point to share TDC's core, strategic, and ExA-relevant arguments that they will continue pushing, and other key matters, for next phase of examination.

#### 1. TDC's considered strongest and strategic arguments

##### A. Predetermination of the EACN location (Ardleigh / Little Bromley)

TDC maintains that the EACN site selection was predetermined, not evidence-led.

What we will keep pushing:

- No like-for-like comparison provided between the chosen Ardleigh/Little Bromley site and a more coherent strategic road-side alternative.
- Applicant has not provided comparative constraint mapping, costings, linearity analysis, agricultural impact quantification, or pylon-angle/arc justification.
- The chosen location forces:
  - a large, avoidable arc of 50m pylons around Ardleigh, contrary to Holford/Horlock principles.
  - permanent industrialisation of the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
  - deep and irreversible impacts on the district's only concentration of BMV farmland.

Bottom line: Until NGET supplies like-for-like evidence, the ExA cannot conclude that the selected EACN location is the least-harmful or justified option.

##### B. Failure to properly assess the Offshore Option 1 alternative

TDC *has* again fully reviewed the SOBR 2024, Appendix B, the August 2025 update, and the ES alternatives case.

Key TDC examination message:

- The appraisal of Offshore 1 is high-level, especially relative to the scale and permanence of onshore harm in Tendring.
- SOBR identifies constraints (longer offshore cable, Tilbury landfall pressure, ecological issues) – but these are not tested proportionately to the massive

environmental, landscape, agricultural and amenity impacts the onshore scheme creates.

- The Hiorns Report demonstrates uncertainty in generation background and that reinforcement could be deferred by up to *five years*—meaning further offshore feasibility and cost testing should have been undertaken.
- Offshore 1 may significantly reduce onshore community and landscape impacts; dismissing it without deeper assessment falls short of EN-1/EN-5's proportional evidence requirements.

What we will say to the ExA:

NGET must provide updated sensitivity testing, need-case clarity with NESO, and full offshore feasibility evidence before Offshore 1 can legitimately be ruled out.

C. Impact on the National Landscape (Dedham Vale) and its setting, including local landscape harm (very significant and cumulative)

One of the most powerful Tendring arguments.

- The project creates a permanent industrial skyline south of the NL with substantial deterioration of its setting, tranquillity, and rural character.
- The arc-shaped alignment increases visual intrusion, contrary to Holford/Horlock principles and contrary to NPS expectations for designated landscapes.

TDC message: the current design unacceptably harms a nationally designated landscape, and this has not been robustly justified (and all could have been avoided had proper planning been followed – ie we are saying better sites closer to strategic roads never considered because of connection offers being made in 2020/2021).

D. Severe and disproportionate impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land

- The EACN and new corridors are located in the single largest block of Grade 1 and 2 soils in the entire district.
- Fragmentation, compaction, and permanent sterilisation of farmland cannot be mitigated or reversed.
- Reasonable alternatives exist that avoid BMV land, but the applicant has not justified why these were dismissed.

TDC position: Avoidance—not mitigation—is required; the current BMV impacts are unnecessary and unacceptable.

## 2. Key matters TDC will continue to press in Examination

### 1. Mandatory comparative assessment

TDC will insist the ExA require NGET to produce a *like-for-like* comparison of:

- Ardleigh/Little Bromley EACN vs A12-side EACN
- Linear pylon alignment vs current arc
- BMV take & soil impacts
- Corridor length, angle towers, haul roads, construction logistics
- Quantified landscape & residential amenity impacts.

### 2. Need case transparency

- ExA should require NGET & NESO to set out the realistic connection timelines for NF, FE, Tarchon.
- If 2030 reinforcement is not essential, there is time to re-evaluate offshore/HVDC solutions.

### 3. Proper examination of cumulative impacts in the ALBA

- The ALBA will host N2T, NF, FE and potentially Tarchon.
- TDC will argue strongly for:
  - A binding inter-project coordination framework,
  - A single district-wide CTMP,
  - Shared corridors/compounds,
  - Real cumulative health, traffic, agricultural and visual assessments.

### 4. Landscape and Heritage Harm

- Permanent harm to the Dedham Vale National Landscape setting.
- Significant residual harm to multiple listed buildings and heritage landscapes around Ardleigh.
- LoD flexibility increases risk of post-consent harm.

### 5. Health, wellbeing and community impacts

- Bentley Road and the EACN environs face multi-year severe disturbance.
- Extremely low rural noise baselines mean impacts are higher than ES claims.
- Additional enforceable Tendring-specific constraints are required.

6. All the above aside, Mitigation insufficient for every topic matter – for details see [TDCs Examination version Statemetn of Common Ground here](#)

### 3. TDC's clear asks to the ExA

1. Require full like-for-like EACN alternative evidence before forming any view.
2. Require NESO/NGET to provide updated need-case sensitivity testing (including Hiorns conclusions).
3. Seek further offshore feasibility/constraint evidence consistent with EN-1/EN-5.
4. Ask the applicant to justify landscape, BMV and heritage harm with a transparent policy compliance statement.
5. Require a binding multi-project coordination framework for all NSIPs converging in Tendring.
6. Secure enforceable Tendring-specific controls on noise, traffic, construction hours and cumulative management.

Also, please note National Grid's change application - Document: 9.6 Proposed Change Application 2: Overview Report Change Request 2 (Little Bromley) (CA2) – Mar 2026

[https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020027-002197-9.6%20Proposed%20Change%20Application%20%20Overview%20Report%20-%20Change%20Request%20%20\(Little%20Bromley\)%20\(CA\).pdf](https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020027-002197-9.6%20Proposed%20Change%20Application%20%20Overview%20Report%20-%20Change%20Request%20%20(Little%20Bromley)%20(CA).pdf)

### **North Falls Offshore Wind Farm – Project Update**

A project update has been published.

The Secretary of State has decided to reset the statutory deadline for this application to 14 May 2026.

A statement confirming the new deadline for the decision has been made to Parliament, in accordance with section 107(7) of the Planning Act 2008:

[EN010119-001780-Written Ministerial Statement 26 March 2026](#)

[PDF Document · 127 KB](#)

## County council elections formally declared in Tendring

Voters across Tendring will head to the polls on Thursday, 7 May, to elect new Essex County Council members.

The elections for all county council divisions in Tendring were formally declared with the publication of the Notice of Election on Friday, 27 March.

Prospective candidates for the seats have until 4pm on Thursday, 9 April, to submit their nominations for inclusion on the ballot papers which can then start to be printed. We need over 120,000 ballot papers across all of the eight separate elections.

To have your say in the elections, residents must be [registered to vote](#), with the deadline set for Monday, 20 April. People are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Residents wishing to vote by post are encouraged to apply early. The deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm on Tuesday, 21 April.



### ***Polling will take place on Thursday, 7 May.***

Ian Davidson, Deputy Returning Officer, said: *“Elections are a fundamental part of our democracy, giving people the chance to influence what happens in their community. But people can only have that say if they are registered, and then take the time to cast their vote.*

*“I urge everyone to check their registration and ensure they have valid photo ID if attending a polling station. If you don’t have an accepted form of photo ID, we can help you apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate which can then be used.*

*“These elections are also an opportunity for residents to stand as candidates themselves, and I would encourage anyone considering it to read the guidance on our website, as there are important rules every campaign must follow.*

*“We want every eligible resident to be able to vote independently and with confidence, so if you have additional needs or face any barriers, please contact us so we can support you.”*

The boundaries of Tendring’s eight divisions have changed since voters last went to the polls in 2021, with new boundaries drawn up by the independent Local Government Boundary Commission. It includes the creation of a new Clacton West & St Osyth division, replacing the former Clacton West division. Full details of the new boundaries can be found [here](#).

Applications for proxy votes — available to those who will be away on polling day or have accessibility needs — must be submitted by 5pm on Tuesday, 28 April.

Poll cards will begin being issued shortly to all registered voters. While a poll card is not required to vote, residents are encouraged to check the details carefully, particularly as some polling stations may have changed due to the new boundaries.

Nomination papers and applications to vote by post or proxy are available at [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/elections](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/elections).

Polling will take place on Thursday, 7 May, between 7am and 10pm.

To register to vote, visit [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote) or contact the Election Registration Team at [elections@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@tendringdc.gov.uk) or 01255 686575.

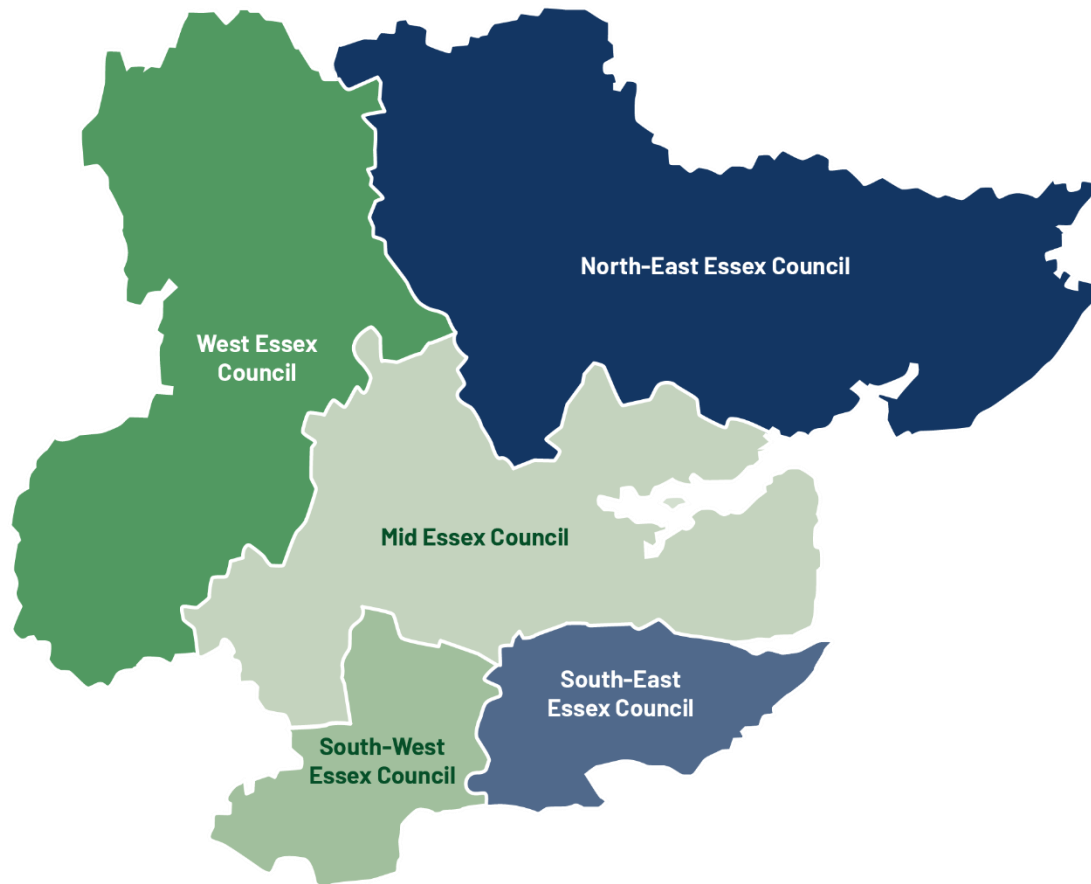
<i>Division Name</i>	<i>Parishes (or Parish Wards) or District Wards (or parts of Wards) contained within it</i>
<i>Brightlingsea</i>	<i>Parishes of Alresford, Brightlingsea, Elmstead, Great Bentley and Thorrington.</i>
<i>Clacton North</i>	<i>Wards of Burrsville, Cann Hall, St Johns and the northern part of Bluehouse Ward</i>
<i>Clacton South</i>	<i>Wards of Eastcliff, Pier, St Bartholomew's and St Paul's and eastern parts of Coppins and St James Wards</i>
<i>Clacton West &amp; St Osyth</i>	<i>Wards of West Clacton &amp; Jaywick Sands and of St Osyth, the western parts of Coppins and St James Wards and the southern part of Bluehouse Ward.</i>
<i>Frinton &amp; Walton</i>	<i>The whole Parish of Frinton and Walton <u>excluding</u> Kirby Cross Parish Ward.</i>
<i>Harwich</i>	<i>The whole Parish of Harwich and Parkeston Ward from Ramsey and Parkeston Parish</i>
<i>Tendring Rural East</i>	<i>The Parishes of Beaumont-cum-Moze, Great Oakley, Little Bentley, Little Clacton, Little Oakley, Tendring, Thorpe-le-Soken, Weeley and Wix, the Parish Ward of Kirby Cross (in Frinton &amp; Walton Parish) and the Parish Ward of Hewitt Road (in Ramsey and Parkeston Parish),</i>
<i>Tendring Rural West</i>	<i>The Parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Frating, Great Bromley, Lawford, Little Bromley, Manningtree, Mistley, Ramsey and Parkeston (Ramsey only) and Wrabness.</i>

***The boundaries of Tendring's eight divisions have changed since voters last went to the polls in 2021, with new boundaries drawn up by the independent Local Government Boundary Commission.***

**Media advisory:** Media are reminded that we now enter a 'pre-election period' where the Communications Team cannot facilitate interviews with councillors or provide comment from them. Members of the media wishing to attend the Essex County Council election count (for the Tendring divisions only) should email the Communications Team by midday on 16 April to register their interest. Only members of the media who have accredited in advance will be permitted to attend a count.

### **Government confirms five new councils for Greater Essex**

The government has announced its decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Greater Essex, confirming the county will move to five new unitary councils, subject to parliamentary approval.



The creation of five unitary councils - West Essex Council, North East Essex Council, Mid Essex Council, South West Essex Council and South East Essex Council - means that from April 2028, these unitary authorities will replace the current 15 councils across Greater Essex, who will have responsibility for delivering all services in one area including waste collections, planning, adult social care, highways, children's services and more.

LGR aims to simplify council structures by creating new, more streamlined local councils that work better, making it easier for residents to access and navigate services.

Government has also confirmed their commitment to repayment in-principle of £200m of Thurrock Council debt.

Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council and Chair of the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives group, made up of all 15 councils, said: "We welcome the government's decision to create five new unitary councils for Greater Essex.

"There were strong options for how local government reorganisation could be shaped across the county, and now a decision has been made our focus is firmly on working together to deliver it. Councils across Greater Essex have worked closely to prepare for this next phase, and that collaboration will continue.

“Local Government Reorganisation gives us the opportunity to save money, simplify how people access services and strengthen local communities, delivering better outcomes for residents and businesses.

“We will now work collectively to develop a clear and robust plan until spring 2028. The people of Essex deserve the best possible councils, and we are committed to delivering a future that makes Essex an even better place to live and work.”

Cllr David King, Leader of Colchester City Council and Vice-Chair of the Essex Leaders and Chief Executive’s Group, said: “It is important to be clear that nothing will change until the new unitary authorities go live in April 2028. Until then, local councils will continue to deliver vital services and support residents, particularly those who need us most.

“We have one of the largest and most complex local government systems in the country, so a safe, smooth and well managed transition is essential. We are committed to minimising disruption and ensuring that, on day one of the new councils, residents experience no difference in the services they receive.

“We will communicate openly and clearly as plans develop, keeping people informed at every stage as we move towards the new authorities.”

Elections for the new shadow unitary authorities in Greater Essex are scheduled for May 2027, with new authorities expected to become operational in April 2028.

The latest updates and information about local government reorganisation in Greater Essex is available on the council’s joint [LGR Hub](#).

### **Tendring District Council – Consultations ending this month**

There are none.

Consultations can be found following this link: [Consultations](#)