

Little Bromley Parish Council response to the Tarchon Non-Statutory Consultation

Little Bromley Parish Council (**LBPC**) strongly objects to the Tarchon proposals. Whilst the Tarchon Non-Statutory Consultation Information Booklet (**Information Booklet**) states that Tarchon is "*...in the early stages of planning the Tarchon project*", we are doubtful how much scope there is for real community engagement. We understand that Tarchon has already signed contracts for connection at the East Anglia Connection Node (**EACN**) site and therefore LBPC is concerned that this is not a true consultation with the ability for affected communities to have any meaningful dialogue or influence.

LBPC specific concerns include:

- **Cumulative impact** - connected National Grid (**NG**), Five Estuaries (**FE**) and North Falls (**NF**) projects not being taken into account.
- **Unsuitable site selection for Converter Station and landfall site** - neither the Converter Station site area nor the landfall site are brownfield. The 5km search area around the EACN consists of prime agricultural land, rural villages and one of the UK's most recently designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now known as "National Landscapes"). It also includes Little Bromley; a small parish with just over 100 homes. The village has a long and proud history and is detailed in the Domesday Book.
- **Fires, Terrorism, Accident etc** - we understand from Tarchon representatives that the reason for not using the same landfall site and cable-corridor as the FE and NF projects across Tendring is the cumulative risk of terrorism/sabotage. However, all projects converge at the EACN at Little Bromley which would seem to result in an even larger potential target, with our village becoming the potential victim of any ensuing explosion, fire or other related catastrophe. The Tendring Peninsula is the sunniest and driest place in the UK and with tinder-dry crops and stubble fields for many months of the year, fire is always a hazard. Crop and stubble fires spread extremely quickly with "wildfires" becoming increasingly common in the UK - so any proposals must consider these issues and the impact/increased risk that construction and siting of electricity infrastructure will pose for local communities.
- **Environmental impact** – ancient hedges and mature trees will be sacrificed to the project. We are concerned that planting schemes will never truly replace what is lost.
- **Groundwater disturbance and contamination** - a number of properties in Little Bromley rely on well water as their sole water source. Any groundwater contamination or impact on the level of groundwater is therefore a concern.

- **Listed buildings and lack of foundations** - some properties in Little Bromley and elsewhere in Tendring lack proper foundations and will therefore be susceptible to damage from HGV and large indivisible load (BigRig) movements.
- **Loss of prime agricultural land** – the huge 10 hectare site for the Converter Station alone in the vicinity of Little Bromley where cumulative land-take from NG, FE and NF is already resulting in some farms becoming unviable. Trenching, haul roads, construction compounds and other infrastructure will add to the land requirement from these combined projects.
- **Noise** - we understand from Tarchon representatives that the Converter Station will emit noise of around 2dB above "base" and that "base" is not necessarily the base noise at the proposed Converter Station location. Little Bromley is a very quiet village with sounds being largely attributable to the abundant wildlife and therefore residents are very concerned that the peace and tranquillity of our village will be harmed forever.
- **Health/radiation concerns** – the residents of Little Bromley are extremely concerned about the health risks caused by exposure to electromagnetic radiation, particularly given the cumulative effects of the electromagnetic fields (EMF) generated by all the proposed sites together. The UK government, states on its website *“There are a number of studies showing a possible link between exposure to magnetic fields in the home (and/or living close to high voltage power lines) and a small excess of childhood leukaemia.”* As far as we are aware, both Tarchon and NG appear to have entirely ignored this issue and have not carried out any studies whatsoever, such as benchmark testing to determine the ambient levels of EMF in the village at present to compare and contrast with any future levels should their proposals come to fruition.
- **Insufficient community benefits** - whilst the Information Booklet mentions "community benefits" LBPC are of the view that no amount of compensation will ever make up for the losses suffered and harms caused to our parish and the wider Tendring Peninsula should the Tarchon project proceed.
- **Tendring Peninsula being sacrificed for German power need** - LBPC are concerned that Germany stands to benefit more from the Tarchon project than the UK. The Information Booklet states that the Tarchon project *"is in the interest of Great Britain's consumers"*...but we have seen no meaningful evidence of this and we are not convinced that if all costs of the Tarchon project are taken into account (including without limitation the environmental impact of emissions from vehicles involved in the construction, the cumulative losses to our finite land resource, the impact on agriculture and food production and the cost of

defending a project that doesn't have community support) that this statement is true.

- **Protected landfall site** - the area currently designated by Tarchon for its landfall site includes areas where there are seal colonies and significant bird life. Hamford Water is designated as a SSSI and Special Area of Conservation - being one of only two known locations in the UK where the Fisher's Estuarine Moth is found.
- **Dust and disruption** – we are concerned that significant dust pollution and disruption will result from the infrastructure works. Once more detail about the site selection is disclosed, we will be in a better position to assess the impact on residents, businesses and visitors to the area.
- **EMI (Electro-Magnetic Interference)** – concerns have been raised about the potential for EMI to interfere with equipment and machinery (including sophisticated farm machinery) and therefore we will be looking to Tarchon to demonstrate how any impact will be mitigated.

We are concerned that the response deadline for this Non-Statutory Consultation is 10am when other consultations we have seen from NG, FE and NF have closed at 11.59pm. Tarchon's deadline will catch people out and likely result in a much-reduced response rate. We suggest that for future consultations Tarchon do not seek to set a deadline part-way through a day (i.e. the cut-off should be midnight).

Tarchon - please become part of the solution, not the problem. Rather than simply accepting NESO's short-sighted and ill-thought-out connection offer at the EACN and the Government target to meet an already unlikely 2030 net-zero deadline, Tarchon could instead look to be the driving force behind a solution that we and future generations can be proud of. Tarchon should, like the rest of us, be questioning the selection of the EACN connection point given its unsuitability and be looking for better alternatives.

Little Bromley Parish Council

6 April 2025