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Dedham Vale
National
Landscape
& Stour Valley

Tarchon Energy
Freepost: TARCHON ENERGY

By email only to:
info@tarchoninterconnector.com

10 Aug 2026

Dear Tarchon Energy

Tarchon Interconnector Non-Statutory Consultation 3 July to 13 August 2026

A note on nomenclature
The use of the term National Landscape relates to the brand of the legally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Partnership
The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership (the Partnership) acts as a champion for the nationally designated Dedham Vale and Stour Valley project area.

This representation is made on behalf of the Partnership. The Partnership is made up of around 20 organisations who are committed to the purpose of the National Landscape, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Information relating to the Partnership can be seen at:

https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/managing/about/partnership-members/

For the avoidance of any doubt, some individual members of the Partnership are public bodies or statutory authorities who have legal responsibilities to the National Landscape and may respond to the non-statutory consultation reflecting their full obligations, duties and priorities. Others are non-Government organisations and/or charities who may respond and reflect their priorities.

Policy Context in relation to the National Landscape
Relevant authorities, including statutory undertakers such as the Tarchon project proposer, are required to meet their obligations under section 245 of the Levelling Up

and Regeneration Act (2023) that strengthened the obligations outlined in section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). This places a requirement on relevant authorities, including the Tarchon project proposer to:

> *In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a devolved Welsh authority must have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty*

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85

Crucially the Partnership considers that develop in the setting of the National Landscape can affect the purpose of the National Landscape. This view is informed by paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework that states:

> *Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited,* ***while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.***

[Our emphasis]

The National Landscape Association have provided a briefing on the amended section 85 legislation, which can be viewed at:

https://national-landscapes.files.svdcdn.com/production/assets/images/Documents/Briefings/250509_NLA-s85-Briefing-Note-for-RAs_Final.pdf?dm=1747041360

The National Planning Policy Statements for NSIPs, particularly Section 10 of Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), specifically the following paragraphs:

5.10.7 National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes. Projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. For development proposals located within designated landscapes the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.

5.10.9 The Secretary of State has a duty of to have regard to the statutory purposes of National Parks and National Landscapes in Wales when making decisions about

development schemes within England which affect designated landscapes in Wales. Similar regard should also be had in relation to schemes in England which have impacts on National Parks and National Scenic Areas in Scotland.

5.10.20 The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character (including key characteristics) during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or a National Landscape the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.

Scope of response
This Partnership response seeks to address issues in a level of detail that all partners can support in its aspiration to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape.

This includes the impacts on the Dedham Vale National Landscape including from development in its setting and some limited comment on wider areas of landscape, wildlife and community interest. The Partnership recognises the significant community and political concern about the proposals, including those relating to areas outside of the National Landscape.

The Partnership will comment on proposals where they impact on:

- The nationally designated landscape.
- The setting of the National Landscape.
- Other topics that directly relate to the National Landscape.

Partnership Response
This response has been developed using knowledge and information about the proposals as understood by Partnership members, others with an interest in the area and information provide on the Tarchon website.

The Partnership is disappointed that they have not been actively engaged iby the Tarchon project team to improve understanding the proposals, despite several invitations to the Tarchon project team to present details of the project to the Partnership. This is despite concerns that a development of this size (Substation at 26m high) in the setting of the National Landscape (potentially within c1km of its boundary).

The Partnership considers that proposals should:

- Conform to national and local policy.
- Conform to the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Management Plan 2026-31 and any subsequent revisions as appropriate. See

https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/managing/management-plan/

- That the mitigation hierarchy should be a guiding principle of the project development. Proposals should seek to avoid, minimise, mitigate and finally compensate any negative impacts.

Where there is significant adverse impact (residual or temporary during construction) on the National Landscape the Partnership considers there should be compensation.

The Partnership recognises the import role that projects of this type may have in delivering security of energy supplies but considers that proposals should give appropriate weight to other considerations such as impacts on a nationally designated landscapes, wildlife and residents.

The Partnership make the following comments requests:

1. The Partnership is disappointed that the Tarchon project team have not engaged directly with Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership prior to and during this consultation, despite repeated requests.
   The Partnership requests that the Tarchon Project team make themselves available to present to the Partnership.

2. The National Landscape Partnership consider that the proposer of the scheme is a relevant authority (as a statutory undertaker) and as such is required to demonstrate how it has sought to 'seek to further the purpose' of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (including where the proposals are in the setting of the designated landscape) as required by section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).
   The Partnership requests that an assessment of the project's impact on the National Landscape (during construction and operation), including assessment of the project on the features of the designated area:

- **Landscape features (intactness of visual and ecological elements, the influence of incongruous features etc.)**
- **Scenic quality (a sense of place, appeal to the senses)**
- **Relative wildness (Sense of remoteness, relative lack of human influence)**
- **Relative tranquility (detractors such as noise, light and traffic)**

3. The Partnership considers that impacts on the Dedham Vale National Landscape should be kept to a minimum during construction and operation and where there are residual impacts that they should be compensated for.
   The Partnership consider that the scheme proposer should demonstrate its section 85 responsibility by showing how it has considered the detailed/micro siting of the proposed convertor station in its proposals eg by distance from the National Landscape boundary, the height of the structure, its lighting, its colour choices for the structure and landscaping. The National Landscape team have guidance on the use of colour in development and use of lighting in development, which the Partnership considers the developer should demonstrate it has considered in drawing up its proposals.

4. The project proposer should work closely with other energy projects using the proposed East Anglian Connection Node site to seek to minimise and negative impacts on the National Landscape.
   The Partnership considers that the scheme proposer should demonstrate how it has undertaken such coordination.

5. That the impacts on biodiversity are assessed.
   The Partnership considers that the scheme proposer go beyond the statutory requirement of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.

6. That impacts to residents and businesses are kept to a minimum.
   The Partnership considers that concerns raised by residents and businesses should be heard and where appropriate acted upon.

7. While the cable route is outside the National Landscape the Partnership notes that the preferred option for cable laying is Horizontal Directional Drilling.
   The Partnership considers that this method is likely to have least impact on the designated landscape but a study should be demonstrated to understand this fully.

8. Noting that the proposals may have an impact onthe National Landscape **the Partnership considers that there should be a study to assess the impacts of the proposals on the defined Natural Beauty of the National Landscape.**

Yours sincerely

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