

Appendix 2

Tendring Policy and Guidance Context

Appendix 2. Tendring Landscape Character Assessment 2026: Policy and Guidance Context

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond - Section 1 - North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan - Adopted January 2021

Policy SP 2 Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)

This identifies how contributions will be secured from development towards mitigation measures in accordance with the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2018-2038 (RAMS).

Policy SP 7 Place Shaping Principles

This policy identifies how all new development must meet high standards of urban and architectural design. "Development frameworks, masterplans, design codes, and other design guidance documents will be prepared in consultation with stakeholders where they are needed to support this objective" with all new development needing to reflect a set of place shaping principles, where applicable. These include:

- Respond positively to local character and context to preserve and enhance the quality of existing places and their environs.
- Protect and enhance assets of historical or natural value.
- Incorporate biodiversity creation and enhancement measures.
- Provide an integrated and connected network of biodiverse public open space and green and blue infrastructure, thereby helping to alleviate recreational pressure on designated sites.
- Include measures to promote environmental sustainability including ... the use of open space to provide flora and fauna rich sustainable drainage solutions.

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond - Section 2 - Adopted January 2022

This includes key objectives including:

Objective 7 – To conserve and enhance Tendring District's historic environment, including: heritage; respecting historic buildings and their settings; heritage assets; landscapes; links and views.

Objective 8 – To provide a network of interconnected multi-functional natural green and blue spaces which secures a net gain in biodiversity and geodiversity; promotes healthy lifestyles; and enhances the quality of the natural and built environment.

Related policies include:

Policy SPL3 Sustainable Design, Part A Design:

“All new development... should make a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment and protect or enhance local character.” The policy lists a series of criteria that must be met including:

- maintaining or enhancing local character and distinctiveness,
- the development to relate well to its site and surroundings,
- respecting or enhancing local landscape character and other important features
- maintaining or enhancing landscape and ecological site features
- Boundary treatments to reflect local character and surroundings

Policy HP3 Green Infrastructure

This policy identifies how Green Infrastructure should be protected, managed and enhanced.

Policy PPL2 Coastal Protection Belt

This policy states:

“Within the Coastal Protection Belt ...the Council will:

- a) Protect the open character of the undeveloped coastline...
- b) Development...design should respond appropriately to the landscape and historic character of its context...”

Policy PPL3 the rural landscape

This states: “The Council will...refuse planning permission for any proposed development which would cause overriding harm to its character or appearance, including to:

- a) Estuaries, rivers and undeveloped coast
- b) Skylines and prominent views...
- c) Traditional buildings and settlement settings
- d) Native hedgerows, trees and woodlands
- e) Protected lanes, other rural lanes, bridleways and footpaths; and

- f) Designated and non-designated heritage assets and historic landscapes including registered parks and Gardens”

Development proposals affecting protected landscapes, must pay particular regard to the conservation and enhancement of the special character and appearance of The Dedham Vale and the Suffolk coast and Heaths AONBs, and their settings.

That should now read the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths AONB as the boundary was extended to the south of the Stour in 2023.

Policy PPL4 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

This says “Sites designated for their international, European and national importance to nature conservation... will be protected from development...” and, “...schemes should consider...the preservation, restoration or recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations...” Also, Sites designated for their local importance to nature conservation... will be protected from development likely to have an adverse impact on such sites and features”

Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (May 2020)

Tendring District Council formally adopted the Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 13 November 2020. The RAMS provides a mechanism for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to comply with their responsibilities to protect habitats and species in accordance with the UK Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the ‘Habitats Regulations’).

Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD), Regulation 19 version, 2023

This document sets out the detail of a new Garden Community proposed for land crossing the Tendring and Colchester border. It has been prepared by Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council, in partnership with Essex County Council (‘the Councils’), following consultation on a first draft of the Plan which took place between March – April 2022. The Regulation 19 draft was subject to an Examination in public. Following hearing sessions in May 2024, the Inspector has now recommended modifications to the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD). A six-week consultation on the modifications took place in September and October 2024.

Neighbourhood plans - Adopted

- The Alresford Neighbourhood Plan was made in October 2021 and sets out the vision for development until 2033.
- The Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan was made in October 2024 and sets out the vision for development until 2033.
- The Elmstead Neighbourhood Plan was made in October 2024 and sets out the vision for development until 2033.

Tendring District Council Open Space Report July 2023

The Open Space Study recognises the role of open space provision as a resource across Tendring. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. They are also an integral part of the district's character, particularly the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology and historic parks and gardens.

Tendring District Local Wildlife Site Review 2008

This report has been produced by Essex Ecology Services Ltd. (EECOS), on behalf of Tendring District Council. It is the result of a review of existing and potential new Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) intended to contribute to the Local Plan evidence base. A previous survey report, produced in 1991, identified the most important wildlife habitats present within the district as "Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation" (SINC).

The report identifies that some LoWS have been amended from those identified in the report in 1991 for the following reasons:

- Some sites have been de-selected on account of their decreased nature conservation value or failure to meet the revised selection criteria.
- A few new, modified or previously overlooked sites have been identified and added to the register, mainly involving alterations to the boundaries of existing sites
- SSSIs have been removed from the system in line with national guidance.
- Some sites have been amalgamated where they lie next to each other or are otherwise sufficiently connected.

Tendring Heritage Strategy (2019)

Tendring's Heritage Strategy aims to promote the protection and celebration of the area's rich history, predominantly contained within its historic environment, and guide

its evolution to enhance the positive contribution it makes to the lives of those people living in and visiting the District. It includes a baseline section explores the historic development of Tendring, and identifies existing heritage assets, sites and resources. It covers the physical heritage of Tendring in the form of the historic environment, and includes archaeology, buildings, settlements, landscapes, archives and artefacts.

Tendring District Protected Lanes Assessment (2015)

This assessment uses the new Protected Lanes criteria developed by Essex County Council for Chelmsford Borough Council in 2009. The policy to preserve Essex historic lanes has been in operation for over a quarter of a century and is summarized in a document prepared by Essex County Council (ECC, 1998). Historic lanes are an important feature in our landscape. The assessment states:

“They continue to have an articulating role, providing insights into past communities and their activities ...; contain the archaeological potential to yield evidence about these past human activities and to provide insights into the development of a landscape and the relationship of features within it ...; have considerable ecological value as habitats for plants and animals ...; and allow people to enrich their daily lives by accessing cherished historic landmarks and landscapes, encouraging recreation within the countryside, thereby promoting well-being”

Hartley Gardens Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment & Green Infrastructure Framework 2020

This landscape sensitivity and character assessment of the Hartley Gardens site was undertaken to provide evidence in support of Policy SAMU 2 Hartley Gardens on how any development layout of the site should respond to landscape character and sensitivity and that landscape constraints can effectively be overcome to allow well designed development. The local plan was subject to examination in 2021.

Essex & South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2010)

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high-level policy document in which the organisations that manage the shoreline set their long-term plan. The SMP aims to identify the best ways to manage flood and erosion risk to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment. It also identifies opportunities where shoreline management can work with others to make improvements. The sections affecting the Colne Estuary National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Hamford Water National Nature Reserve (NNR) are of particular interest.

Dedham Vale National Landscape

Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Project Area Management Plan 2021-2026

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Project Area Partnership produce a Management Plan every five years on behalf of the Local Authorities that operate across the Protected Landscape. The 2021-2026 Management Plan was launched in December 2021 and will guide decision making in the nationally important landscape. The Plan has been developed in consultation with environmental, commercial, agricultural, and community interests.

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

The AONB Team/Partnership has commissioned a number of reports to ensure that the primary purpose of designation, the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty, is properly considered in the planning process.

Dedham Vale: Guidance for Planning in the National Landscape:

The AONB Team/Partnership has commissioned a number of reports to ensure that the primary purpose of designation, the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty, is properly considered in the planning process. These include The Selection and Use of Colour in the Landscape and Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the AONB.

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/managing/planning/guidance-for-planning-in-the-aonb/>

Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape

2023-2028 Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan:

The 2023-2028 Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan guides decision making in the nationally important landscape. The new plan reflects the extension of the nationally designated landscape into Essex in 2020. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) requires local authorities to review Management Plans for AONBs every five years. This plan meets that requirement and forms the policy for the designated landscape.

Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths; Guidance for Planning in the National Landscape:

The AONB Team/Partnership has commissioned a number of reports to ensure that the primary purpose of designation, the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty, is properly considered in the planning process. These include The Selection and Use of Colour in the Landscape and Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the Coast and Heaths AONB.

<https://coastandheaths-nl.org.uk/managing/planning/guidance-for-planning-in-the-aonb/>

Southeast Inshore Marine Plan, Marine Management Organisation, June 2021

The Southeast Marine Plan is one of four marine plans covering all of English waters. It covers an area of around 3,900 square kilometres of inshore waters between Felixstowe in Suffolk and west of Dover in Kent. It is busy with many important activities competing for a small amount of space, for example internationally significant shipping activity and shipping lanes in close proximity to offshore wind installations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-south-east-marine-plan-documents>