



EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Rory Cridland and the Thurrock Flexible Generation
Plant Team

Our ref: PL00490033

Your ref: EN010092

By Email Only

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Telephone [REDACTED]

28th June 2021

**PLANNING ACT 2008 : THURROCK POWER, PROPOSED THURROCK FLEXIBLE
GENERATION PLANT**

Historic England Deadline 5A Response

Dear Mr Cridland

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE), known as Historic England, are the government's advisor on the historic environment and we provide independent advice on heritage matters. We have a duty to conserve as well as promote public understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment.

Confirmation of Historic England Comments at Deadline 5A 2nd July 2021.

Historic England does not wish to contribute to the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing or Open Floor Hearing.

We note the changes to the application and we would like to make the following observations in terms of the proposed abnormal indivisible loads (AILs) access. The proposed alternative access is to allow approximately 60 vehicles in total to deliver heavy items of plant.

We note that the application includes the proposed removal of part of the historic common known as Tilbury Fort Common and the construction of a new section of access road, with a new junction to Fort Road, c.250m of new 7.5m wide carriageway on the west side of, and parallel to, Fort Road (Western Section). This is required for a small number of vehicle movements carrying abnormal loads relating to construction of the powerstation.

The Addendum concludes that there would be no significant effect on the historic environment (Alternative AIL Access Environmental Statement Addendum, April 2021,

section 3.4, 4.4.7-8). In order to offset the loss of the common land, the application includes replacement land to north of the railway line by Common Land Exchange.

Tilbury Fort Common is a non-designated heritage asset to the north, and within the setting, of the scheduled monument known as 'Tilbury Fort' (List Entry Number : 1021092). The common is one of five historically interlinked historic commons on West Tilbury Marshes, along with Walton Common, Fort Road Common, Hallhill Common and Parsonage Common. Tilbury Fort Common is also part of the context for, and within the setting of, the scheduled monument.

Historic England has concerns about the assessment of significance and also the assessment of effect. We believe insufficient information has been provided in the ES Addendum for the effect of the proposed development to be assessed and for the balance to be weighed proportionally by the Examining Authority.

We also require clarification about the need for, and justification of, this proposed access – and it is unclear from the ES Addendum why the proposed new barge berthing pocket and causeway cannot be used for the delivery of abnormal indivisible loads to the site, in order to avoid further impact on the historic environment.

In our opinion, the Examining Authority should consider whether the applicant has taken all possible steps to establish the significance of the area affected by the AILs access (Western Section), and to minimise the harm the development would cause to the significance of the historic environment.

We have no comments on the Eastern Section of the alternative AIL access application.

If there are any further material changes to the proposals, or you would like further clarification in relation to our advice, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jess Tipper MCifA FSA

Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Essex and Hertfordshire)

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