

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Rory Cridland and the Thurrock Flexible Generation
Plant Team

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By Email Only

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9th June 2021

PLANNING ACT 2008 : THURROCK POWER, PROPOSED THURROCK FLEXIBLE GENERATION PLANT**Historic England Deadline 5 Response (ExQ2)**

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 5 14th June 2021.

Question 2.3.2 The ExA notes HE's position as stated at ISH2 (Cultural Heritage) [EV-015 (at approx. 36.30)] was that the effect of the Proposed Development on the setting of Bowaters Farm battery, St James Church and Earthworks near church was "less than significant". However, in its Deadline 4 response HE indicates that it considers the effect on the setting of these heritage assets would be significant. Please clarify HE's position on the significance of effect of the Proposed Development on the setting of these heritage assets.

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify our advice and having consider the question set out above we would like to make the following observations.

Historic England Response:

In terms of planning policy, we believe the proposed development overall would result in harm that would be less than substantial in nature but of a relatively high degree.

We believe the development would adversely affect the significance of the scheduled monument known as 'Earthworks near church, West Tilbury' and also the Grade II*

Listed Church of St James through development within their landscape setting. In our view, both the magnitude of impact and the significance of effect in both cases is moderate to high.

Both designated heritage assets are located in prominent topographic locations, on the edge of the Chadwell Escarpment, with wide views across Tilbury Marshes. As stated in our Deadline 4 response, in our opinion, the proposed development would significantly erode part of the setting, and compromise the appreciation, of both these designated heritage assets.

In terms of the scheduled monument known as Bowaters Farm Battery, there are no visualisations to support assessment – and, therefore, it is difficult to be certain about the impact. In our view, however, the harm would be of a relatively high degree, also at the upper end of less than substantial, and the significance of the effect of the scheme would probably be moderate to high – although it is difficult to be confident.

This is because the significance of this monument again draws much from its setting. Bowaters Farm Battery is located in a prominent location, with panoramic views to the west and southwest across Tilbury Marshes towards Zone A and the site of the proposed powerstation.

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

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