

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Environmental Implications of Change – Thurrock 2

February 2025

nationalgrid

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1. Environmental Implications of Change – Thurrock 2

1.1 Introduction
















- 1.1.1 This Environmental Implications of Change document should be read alongside the associated Thurrock 2 targeted consultation leaflet.
- 1.1.2 Image 1 presents the Statutory Consultation design and the proposed change together with key environmental constraints using the key below.

Key







Proposed land use

-  Draft order limits
-  Statutory undertaker works

Proposed project design details

-  New lattice pylon
-  Gantry
-  Full line tension gantry
-  New overhead line
-  Lower height pylons
-  New underground cable swathe centreline
-  New underground cable construction swathe
-  Cable sealing end compound boundary
-  Substation boundary
-  New underground cable trenchless crossing
-  Permanent access route including visibility splays (substations and cable sealing end compound)
-  Existing DNO lattice pylon - to be dismantled
-  Existing DNO lattice pylon - to be modified
-  Existing DNO overhead line - to be dismantled
-  Existing DNO overhead line - to be modified

Temporary works

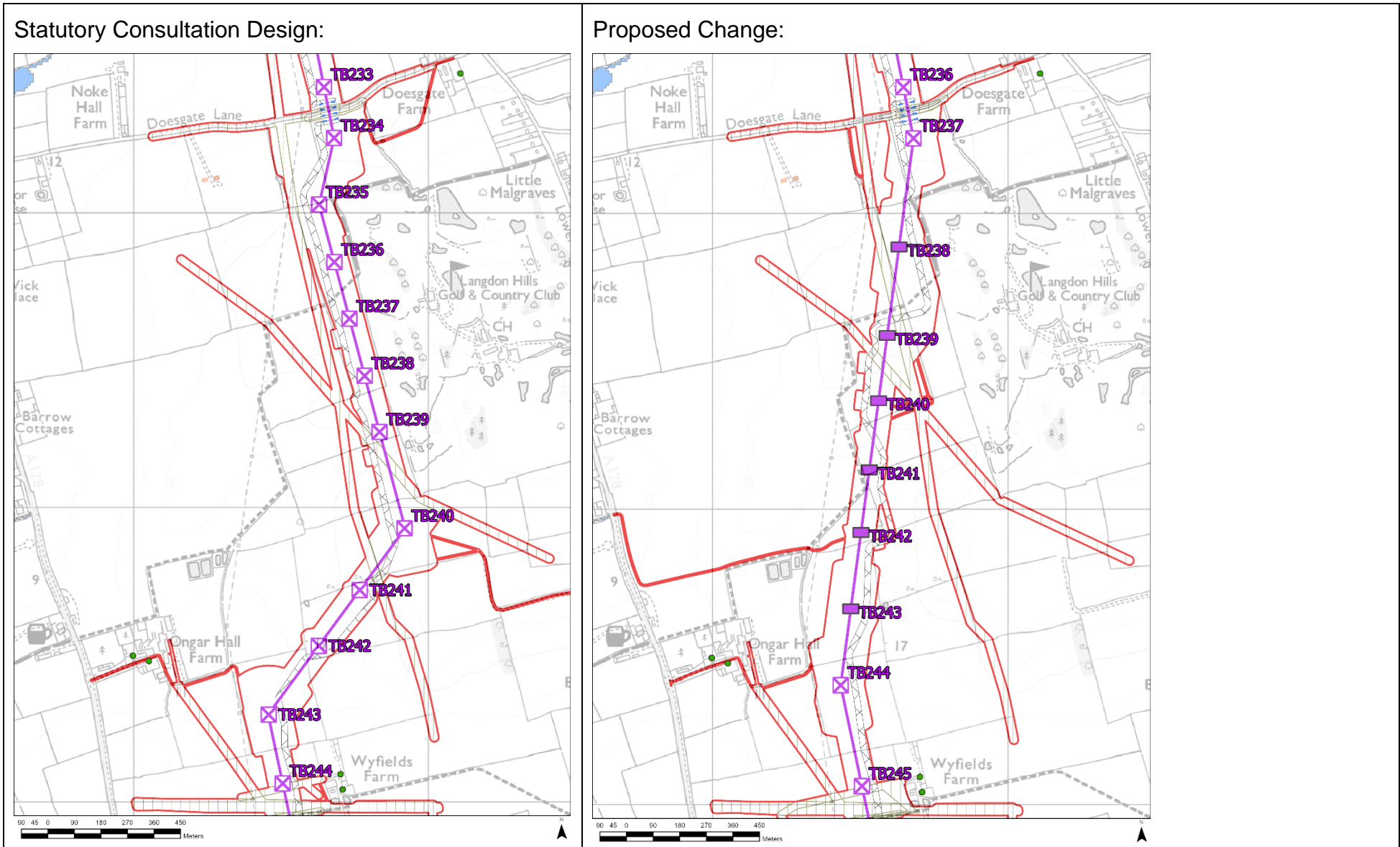
-  Site access, crossover points and visibility splays
-  Haul roads
-  Haul roads for underground cable, cable sealing end compounds and substation works
-  Crossing protection work area
-  Construction compound
-  Construction laydown area

Environmental constraints

Listed Buildings

-  Grade I
-  Grade II
-  Grade II*
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Areas
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  County / Local Wildlife Sites
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Countryside and Rights of Way Open Access Land
-  National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty)
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Flood Zone 3

Image 1: Proposed Change



1.2 Environmental Implications of Change

- 1.2.1 We have reviewed the proposed change set out in the consultation information leaflet and its likely environmental implications against the preliminary assessment reported in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) published as part of our summer 2024 statutory consultation. We have undertaken this review against each of the technical topics covered by the PEIR, with respect to this location within the Project, including: agriculture and soils; air quality; ecology and biodiversity; contaminated land, geology and hydrogeology; health and wellbeing; historic environment; hydrology, land drainage and flood risk; landscape and visual; noise and vibration; socio-economics, recreation and tourism; and traffic and transport. We have applied the same methodologies and principles set out in the PEIR based on the information available and recognising that the Project is the subject of ongoing consultation and environmental surveys.
- 1.2.2 For information on the environmental implications of a change following our review, National Grid has produced an ‘Environmental Implications of Change document’ (EIC), like this one, with location reference to the specific area where the proposed change is located.
- 1.2.3 The table below outlines the environmental implications of a change which is proposed as a result of feedback received during statutory consultation in 2024. The information provided here is proportionate and appropriate information on the environmental implications when looked at both in local context and in the context of the project as a whole.

Environmental Topic	Comments / observations / identified environmental implications of the proposed change when compared to the preliminary assessment presented in the PEIR
Agriculture and Soils	Indicative mapping shows similar ‘Provisional Agricultural Land Classification’ grading and soil types as identified for the design presented at statutory consultation. There would be no change to the type or significance of agriculture and soil effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation
Air Quality	There would be no change to the type or significance of air quality effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation
Ecology and Biodiversity	The proposed change would move the alignment within what appears to be more diverse grassland habitat to the east of Ongar Hall Farm when compared to the design presented at statutory consultation. Nevertheless, there would be no change to the type or significance of ecology and biodiversity effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology	There would be no change to the type or significance of contaminated land, geology and hydrogeology effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.

Environmental Topic	Comments / observations / identified environmental implications of the proposed change when compared to the preliminary assessment presented in the PEIR
Health and Wellbeing	The proposed change would result in more separation from the golf course, although the alignment does come slightly closer to isolated properties. Overall, there would be no change to the type of significance of health and wellbeing effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Historic Environment	The proposed change (including change to low height pylons) would locate the alignment closer to the scheduled monument Bulphan World War II bombing decoy, Doesgate Farm and two grade II listed buildings at Ongar Hall than the design presented at statutory consultation. The design presented at statutory consultation was located within the settings of these assets but beyond the existing 132 kV overhead line. The proposed change, although closer, would still be beyond the existing 132 kV overhead line and would follow its alignment therefore reducing the area of the landscape altered by overhead line infrastructure and not significantly changing the impact through change to setting from that reported in the PEIR. Overall, there would be no change to the type or significance of historic environment effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk	There would be no change to the type or significance of hydrology, land drainage and flood risk effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Landscape and Visual	<p>The proposed change (including change to low height pylons) would move part of the alignment slightly to the west to follow a more direct route and would have a reduction in the number of pylons compared to the design presented at statutory consultation.</p> <p>The proposed change in alignment follows the lower slopes of a localised hill which rises to the east, towards the centre of the Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club. Whilst the proposed change would locate the alignment closer to residential receptors in the settlement at Bulphan, and at Ongar Hall Farm, it would retain some degree of separation. The proposed change would move the alignment further from recreational receptors at the golf club.</p> <p>In terms of landscape, effects on landscape character are likely to be similar. This is because the design presented at statutory consultation and the proposed change would both introduce pylons into roughly the same part of the Sticking Hill Rolling Farmland / Wooded Hills landscape character area.</p> <p>Refer to visualisations in Annex A.</p> <p>Overall, there would be no change to the type or significance of landscape and visual effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.</p>

Environmental Topic	Comments / observations / identified environmental implications of the proposed change when compared to the preliminary assessment presented in the PEIR
Noise and Vibration	There would be no change to the type or significance of noise and vibration effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The proposed change would reduce the impact on the operations of Thurrock Airfield when compared to the design presented at statutory consultation. There would be no change to the type or significance of socio-economic, recreation and tourism effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Traffic and Transport	There would be no change to the type or significance of traffic and transport effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.

1.3 Conclusion

- 1.3.1 The proposed change would not materially change the conclusions that were reported within the PEIR (National Grid, 2024) which was published for statutory consultation. The PEIR can be viewed [here](#).
- 1.3.2 If the proposed change is taken forwards, the baseline information (and environmental surveys) and assessment associated with this change would be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES).

Annex A - Visualisation

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