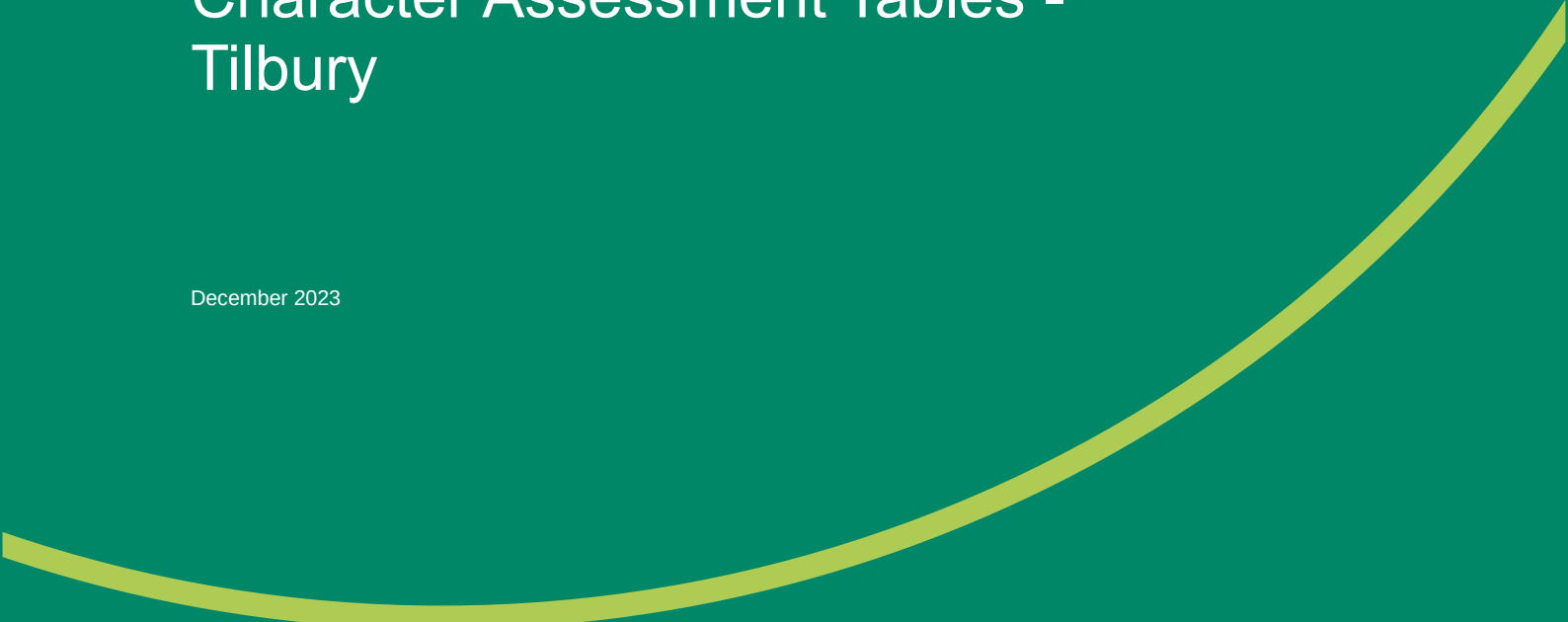


National Grid Cable Tunnel Replacement Project

Environmental Statement Volume VI

Appendix 8.1 Landscape Character Assessment Tables - Tilbury

December 2023



Quality information

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1 Landscape Character Assessment Tables - Tilbury

- 1.1.1 This Appendix provides details of the assessment of effects on landscape character within the study area during construction and at operation. The following tables should be read in conjunction with Figure 8.5: Local Landscape Character Areas – Tilbury and Figure 8.8 which contains baseline photography from a range of locations throughout the study area which aids an understanding of the baseline landscape.

Table 1: Tilbury Marshes: Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) – baseline and assessment of effects

Tilbury Marshes LLCA			
Baseline description	This LLCA covers the majority of the study area. The landform within the LLCA is low-lying and is generally no higher than 20m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) within the area of the marshes. Landcover is predominantly drained alluvial marshland, arable farmland, and areas of rough grazing land. The field pattern is predicated on the regular network of field drains and ditches. Individual landscape elements are limited to low hedgerows and occasional trees and the overall structure of the landscape is predicated on the current and historical industrial context and areas of degraded land within the LLCA. There are very limited recreational opportunities due to the lack of access across the marshes however there is a promoted route along the coastline. The proximity of the River Thames does mean that the LLCA does offer functional value for water management. The horizontal landform creates large open skies that are heavily influenced by the industrial context of the River Thames. Infrastructure elements including tall cranes around Tilbury Docks and OHLs that converge around the Tilbury substation are prominent. Other infrastructure is equally notable including the Tilbury container park, the aggregates works, and the sewage treatment works. These elements, along with the proximity of the residential areas at Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary, strongly influence the landscape character meaning that the landscape offers very limited perceptual scenic or tranquillity value. This industrial influence does along with the cultural heritage of Tilbury Fort contribute to the wider associations and distinctiveness of the cultural and maritime legacy of the area.		
Sensitivity	Description of change	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
Value: Low Susceptibility: Low The landscape is strongly influenced by the adjacent industrial and residential elements making this LLCA tolerant to development of this type particularly at the edge of the LLCA.	Construction The construction of the Proposed Development and associated construction activity and plant would occur entirely within this LLCA resulting in both direct and indirect change. Direct impacts during construction would include some ground vegetation clearance although this would be highly localised and limited in geographical extent. The presence of construction activity including storage of materials, site facilities, piling equipment, cranes and the three stacks would lead to some direct land loss. This would be localised, temporary and reversible and minimised through the prioritisation of the use of existing brownfield areas. The proximity of the Proposed Development to the existing site, and the industrial backdrop of the River Thames and Tilbury Docks would lessen the contrast of the construction activity and represent a small alteration to the character. Indirect effects from the movement and presence of plant would result in a negligible alteration to the character.	Small	Minor adverse

Tilbury Marshes LLCA			
Sensitivity: Low	Operation Year 1 (winter) At operation, the Proposed Development would locally extend the influence of the electrical infrastructure related development into a localised part of the landscape. The location and proximity to other infrastructure would result in a negligible adverse direct affect and the overall scale, pattern and key characteristics of the landscape would be unaffected. The removal of two OHLs would have a locally beneficial effect on the perceptual character of the LLCA but this would be negligible in the context of the existing network of OHLs and other detracting industrial elements. This would also have a negligible beneficial effect on the setting of Tilbury Fort.	Negligible	Negligible adverse
	Operation Year 15 (summer) Proposed mitigation planting, including areas of scrub and enriched grassland would restore the direct effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape. The design would facilitate, connect, and strengthen green links to the marshes. This in combination with the indirect benefits stated at operation year 1 would provide a beneficial effect albeit negligible.	Negligible	Negligible beneficial

Table 2: Tilbury and Docks Urban Area; Chadwell Escarpment Urban Fringe Area; and West Tilbury Urban Fringe Area: Local Landscape character assessment – baseline and assessment of effects

Tilbury and Docks Urban Area ; Chadwell Escarpment Urban Fringe Area; and West Tilbury Urban Fringe Area			
Baseline description	The Tilbury and Docks Urban Area is located at the north western extent of the study area. The flat landform would limit perceptual effects to the edge of the character area. The cultural heritage of this LLCA is in part defined by the industrial and commercial character of the River Thames and therefore the aesthetic and perceptual aspects are likely to be robust to the type of change proposed. The Chadwell Escarpment Urban Fringe Area form a narrow transitional area between the Tilbury Marshes LLCA and the West Tilbury Urban Fringe Area to the northern extent of the study area. It is noted that whilst this LLCA has key characteristics due to the steeply incline in landform, <i>“the boundaries of landscape character areas are rarely precise and generally represent zones of transition”</i>¹ therefore it also shares some of the key characteristics of the Tilbury Marshes LLCA, in particular the backdrop of the River Thames. These characteristics make it capable to accommodate the Proposed Development based upon its distance and size from an aesthetic and perceptual perspective. The West Tilbury Urban Fringe Area to the northeast of the study area has characteristically large open fields and lack of vegetative cover that exacerbate longer views toward the River Thames. As with the other LLCAs at the boundary of the study area, this existing context frames the distant perceptual and aesthetic aspects of the LLCA. These characteristics make it capable to accommodate the Proposed Development based upon its distance and size.		
Sensitivity	Description of change	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
Value: Low Susceptibility: Low This is an urban townscape that is set against an industrial and commercial background. Changing infrastructure along the skyline is constant making the landscape more able to accommodate the type of change proposed. Sensitivity: Low	Construction There would be no loss or change to landscape elements within these LLCAs as the Proposed Development is not located within these LLCAs. There would be a small but localised change to the setting and perceptual aspects of the landscape character through the introduction of taller elements such as cranes, although these are part of the key characteristics of these areas and would therefore be barely perceptual as a change in character.	Negligible	Neutral
	Operation Year 1 (winter) At operation, the removal of the two OHLs that would be a positive change but unlikely to significantly change or alter the perceptual and aesthetic characteristics due to distance and the existing baseline.	Negligible	Negligible beneficial
	Operation Year 15 (summer) As operation Year 1	Negligible	Negligible beneficial

¹ Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment [Online]. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf
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