

Welcome

Welcome to our session providing an update on the Thurrock Data Centre.

Thurrock Data Centre is a planned new data centre campus located on land south of the M25/A13 junction (25/00573/OUT). The project would see part of a previously developed brownfield site brought back into long-term productive use to provide critical data centre capacity to the UK.

The application is currently under consideration by the local planning authority and statutory consultees. A decision is expected following completion of this process.

Indicative site image





Waltham Cross Data Centre

What is a data centre?

Data centres are buildings that store, process and manage digital information. Most people use data centres many times a day without realising it.

Everyday activities such as sending emails, making bank transactions, streaming content or searching online are all supported by data centres working behind the scenes.

There are already hundreds of data centres operating across the UK, and demand continues to grow as digital services become more important to households, businesses and public services.

Thurrock
Data
Centre



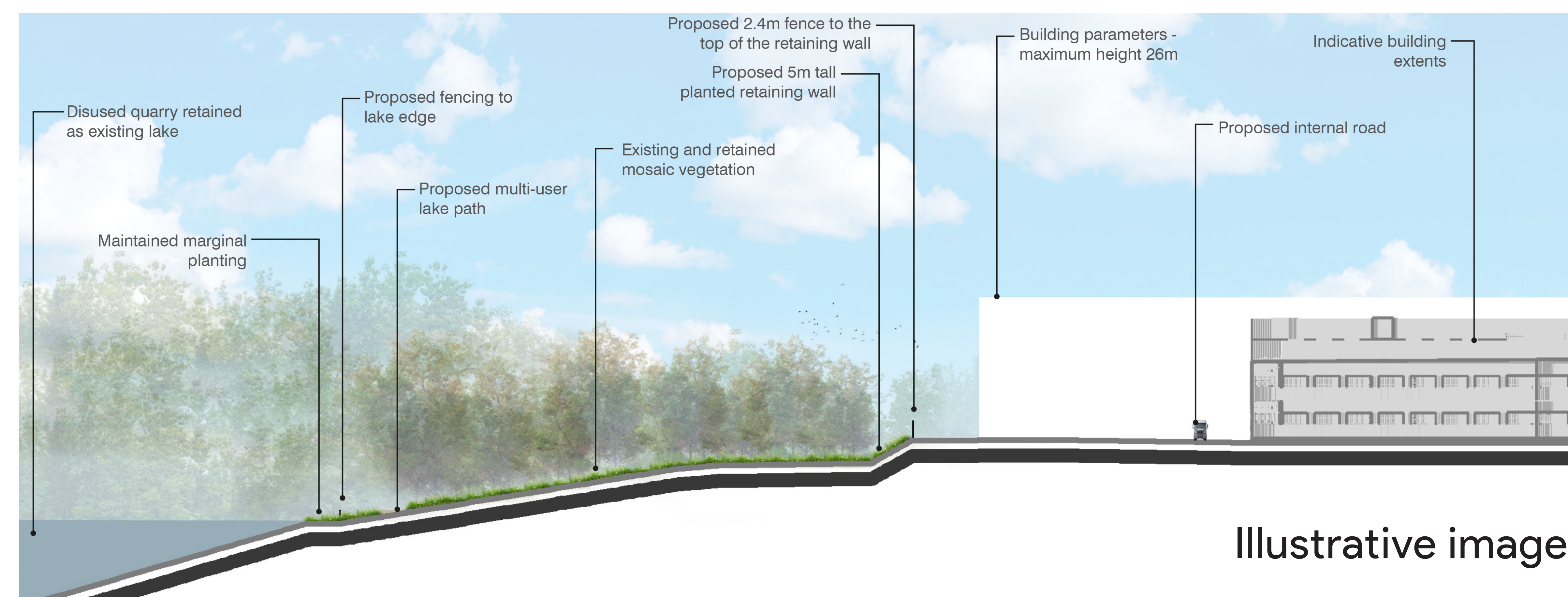
The site and its surroundings

Around half of the site would be developed as the proposed Thurrock Data Centre. This would include data centre buildings, as well as supporting infrastructure, landscaping and parking. The remainder would provide habitats for wildlife and recreation - opening up the site for public use. This includes retention of fishing at the lake as well as new walking routes and a mountain bike trail.

The location benefits from:

- strong transport links, including the A13 and M25
- proximity to London and the Thames Gateway
- an established commercial and infrastructure setting

The site has previously been considered for alternative large-scale development, including housing, and represents a significant opportunity to regenerate a brownfield site to deliver a nationally significant data centre campus, in line with the aspirations of the emerging Thurrock Local Plan.



Consultation and engagement

Feedback from the community and stakeholders has helped to shape the proposals for Thurrock Data Centre.

Pre-application consultation took place between September and November 2024 and included:

- Public drop-in events
- An online consultation platform
- Opportunities for written feedback

Consultation materials remain publicly available on the **thurrockdatacentre.co.uk** website, and all feedback received has been reported to the Council within a Statement of Community Involvement submitted as part of the planning application.

Following the conclusion of the public consultation, engagement has continued through attendance at Community Forums and events, as well as ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders.



Engagement following consultation

Following the conclusion of the public consultation, we have continued to engage through attendance at local community forums and events, as well as ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders.

This has included providing free internet safety training to more than 25 schools across Thurrock delivered in partnership with local schools and community organisations.

Alongside this, the project team has worked with local community and business partners, including Thurrock Youth Zone, Onside, Mission44, The Watson Institute and University of Essex to explore opportunities to deliver positive social impact.



Project benefits

Should the project be consented, Thurrock would form part of Google's strategic digital infrastructure in the UK, underpinning cloud services used by businesses, public services, schools and hospitals, and supporting innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence.

The project would deliver a range of economic and community benefits for Thurrock, including:

- During the three-year construction programme, the project is expected to support around 1,630 to 3,530 jobs per year on average across the Thurrock economy.
- During construction, the project is also expected to add around £118 million to £256 million a year to the Thurrock economy on average.
- Once operational, the data centre is expected to support around up to 330 direct long-term jobs on site, including roles in engineering, IT operations and facilities management.
- Taking wider supply chain and local spending effects into account, the operational development is expected to support around up to 1,280 jobs across the Thurrock economy overall.
- Once operational, the development is expected to add around £61 million to £132 million a year to the Thurrock economy.
- The project would also support local employment opportunities, including skills training and apprenticeships, as part of the local skills and employment commitments to be secured through the section 106 process.

Google will continue working with Thurrock Council and local partners to deliver a Community Investment Strategy, focused on skills, digital inclusion and positive local impact.

Next steps

What happens next?

The Council will continue assessing the planning application, taking account of the supporting environmental impact assessment, consultation responses and planning policy. If planning permission is granted, reserved matters and further detailed design stages would follow before any construction begins. The community will continue to be kept informed as the project progresses through the planning process.

You can keep up to date with our proposals for Thurrock Data Centre by:

Getting in touch with us by phoning:
0800 038 3486

Emailing:
information@thurrockdatacentre.co.uk

Writing (no stamp required) to:
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FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL

Visiting our project website:
www.thurrockdatacentre.co.uk