

Spotter's Guide to Pylons – L6 and L12

Issue 11



The most commonly seen pylons in the UK are the L2, L6 and L12 series. We have already covered the L2, identified easily by all the arms being the same width.

L6 and L12 have wider middle arms than those top and bottom. They were built for greater capacity than the L2 series. L6 was built in the 1960s, while L12 was its replacement, introduced in the 1980s.

The L12 is slimmer than the L6 and slightly shorter, standing at around 46m – whereas the L6 reaches 50m tall. Therefore the L6 looks a little more “chunky” than the L12.

However, the easiest way to distinguish between the L6 and L12 is by looking at the shape of the arms – the L12's are more upturned.

Another difference (although subtle) is that in the L12 series, the deviation pylons are D25 and D55 (25° and 55° respectively) whereas earlier designs use D30 and D60 (and they all use D90 of course).

In the photo above, L6 is on the left and L12 on the right.

Here are some more images for you to compare.

A range of L6 pylons on the left, and the slimmer L12s on the right.



Notes: