

LOWER THAMES CROSSING – APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT (PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE TR010032) PLANNING ACT 2008 NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO AN ACCEPTED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

An application for a development consent order (“the Application”) was submitted by National Highways to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on 31 October 2022 and was accepted for examination on 28 November 2022. The reference number applied to the Application is **TR010032**. An Examining Authority was appointed to conduct the examination of the Application on 2 December 2022.

Notice is hereby given that National Highways Limited of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ (“the Applicant”) is holding a public consultation (“the minor refinement consultation”) on a small number of proposed changes to the Application (“the Proposed Changes”), details of which are set out in this notice.

Summary of the Project

The Application is for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing (“the Project”), which is a proposed new road connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the River Thames. The Project’s main proposals include:

- Approximately 14.5 miles (23km) of new road, with a maximum speed limit of 70mph, connecting to the existing road network from the A2/M2 to the M25;
- Two new tunnels, one southbound and one northbound;
- Improvements to the M25, A2 and A13, where the Lower Thames Crossing connects to the road network;
- New structures and changes to existing ones (including bridges, buildings, tunnel entrances, viaducts, and utilities such as electricity pylons) along the length of the new road; and
- A free-flow charging system, where drivers do not need to stop but pay remotely, similar to that at the Dartford Crossing.

In addition, any necessary rights and powers will be sought to ensure delivery of the Project, including compulsory acquisition of land and interests/rights in land.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works constitute development for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required. An Environmental Statement containing information about the likely significant environmental effects of the Project was submitted as part of the Application.

Copies of the Application

The Application, including the Environmental Statement, together with the application form and its accompanying documents, drawings, plans and maps, is available for inspection free of charge on the section relating to the Application on the Planning Inspectorate’s website under the ‘Documents’ tab: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing/>. These documents will be available to view on that website for at least the duration of the Examination. The Examining Authority has published a draft Examination Timetable, which can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002083-Rule%206%20letter%20%282-part%20PM%29.pdf>

Details of the development consent process and how to participate are set out in the Planning Inspectorate’s ‘Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure project process for members of the public and others’, which is available to view free of charge at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>.

Summary of the Proposed Changes

The Proposed Changes have arisen as part of our ongoing engagement and discussions with stakeholders and would result in improvements to the Project overall through a reduction in environmental impacts and the amount of land needed to deliver the Project.

The Proposed Changes are minor in nature and do not result in a material change to the Project or the assessment conclusions reported in the Environmental Statement submitted with the DCO application.

The following table outlines the Proposed Changes to the DCO application:

Title	Proposed Change
Reduction of Nitrogen Deposition compensation area and Order Limits at Blue Bell Hill and Burham	Removal of the Burham nitrogen deposition compensation site and a reduction in the size of the Blue Bell Hill site can be achieved while still ensuring the ecological objectives of the nitrogen deposition compensation would be achieved.
Increase in limits of deviation for the northern tunnel entrance headwall	This is a minor change in how we would build part of the northern tunnel entrance. We are proposing an increase to the current limits of deviation in the location of the northern tunnel entrance headwall which would enable the contractor appointed to build the tunnels in a more efficient way and achieve a reduction in the amount of material required for construction. The location within which the cut and cover tunnel structure begins would not change.
Revised utility proposals at East Tilbury	A package of three changes that present an opportunity to reduce the amount of land required for construction and move works further away from residential areas.
	Relocation of the temporary Linford water pipeline and relocation of the Muckingford Road Utility Logistics Hub.
	Relocation of Low Street Lane Utility Logistics Hub to Coal Road east of Low Street Lane.
	A land use change west of Linford where we propose to amend the land use for some of the agricultural land in this area associated with the operation and maintenance of the diverted overhead power lines. The land use will change from temporary possession to temporary possession and the permanent acquisition of rights.

Full descriptions of each of the proposed changes, together with explanations of why they are proposed and an appraisal of the impacts of those changes, are provided in the Minor Refinement Consultation document. The Minor Refinement Consultation document and response form can be viewed on our website: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/minor-refinement-consultation-2023/>

Responding to this publicity

Any person can respond to the consultation. An online feedback form will be available from **00.01 on Wednesday 17 May 2023** on our website: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/minor-refinement-consultation-2023>.

The deadline for responding is 23:59 on Monday 19 June 2023.

Consultation materials on demand

For those unable to access the internet, a printed copy of the consultation document and response form, as well as a pre-paid return envelope, are available to order free of charge (one pack per household), using one of the following methods:

- By emailing National Highways via info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk
- By phoning National Highways on 0300 123 5000

You can also use these contact details if you are having difficulties understanding or accessing the consultation materials, or you have any questions about the consultation.

It is also possible to send a printed response form or letter to the following address: Consultation Response, LTC, Pilgrims Lane, Chafford Hundred, Grays, RM16 6RL.

Unless using a pre-paid envelope supplied by National Highways, respondents are required to pay appropriate delivery charges for responses sent to this address.

A response can also be sent to this dedicated email account: consultationresponses@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.

National Highways cannot guarantee that responses sent to any other address will be received.

National Highways’ consideration of valid responses will be described in a Change Submission request, which will include a Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Examining Authority and published in due course.

National Highways’ policy on managing personal data can be found at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/privacy-notice/>.