

# Lower Thames Crossing

## 5.1 Consultation Report (1 of 6)

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# Lower Thames Crossing

## 5.1 Consultation Report

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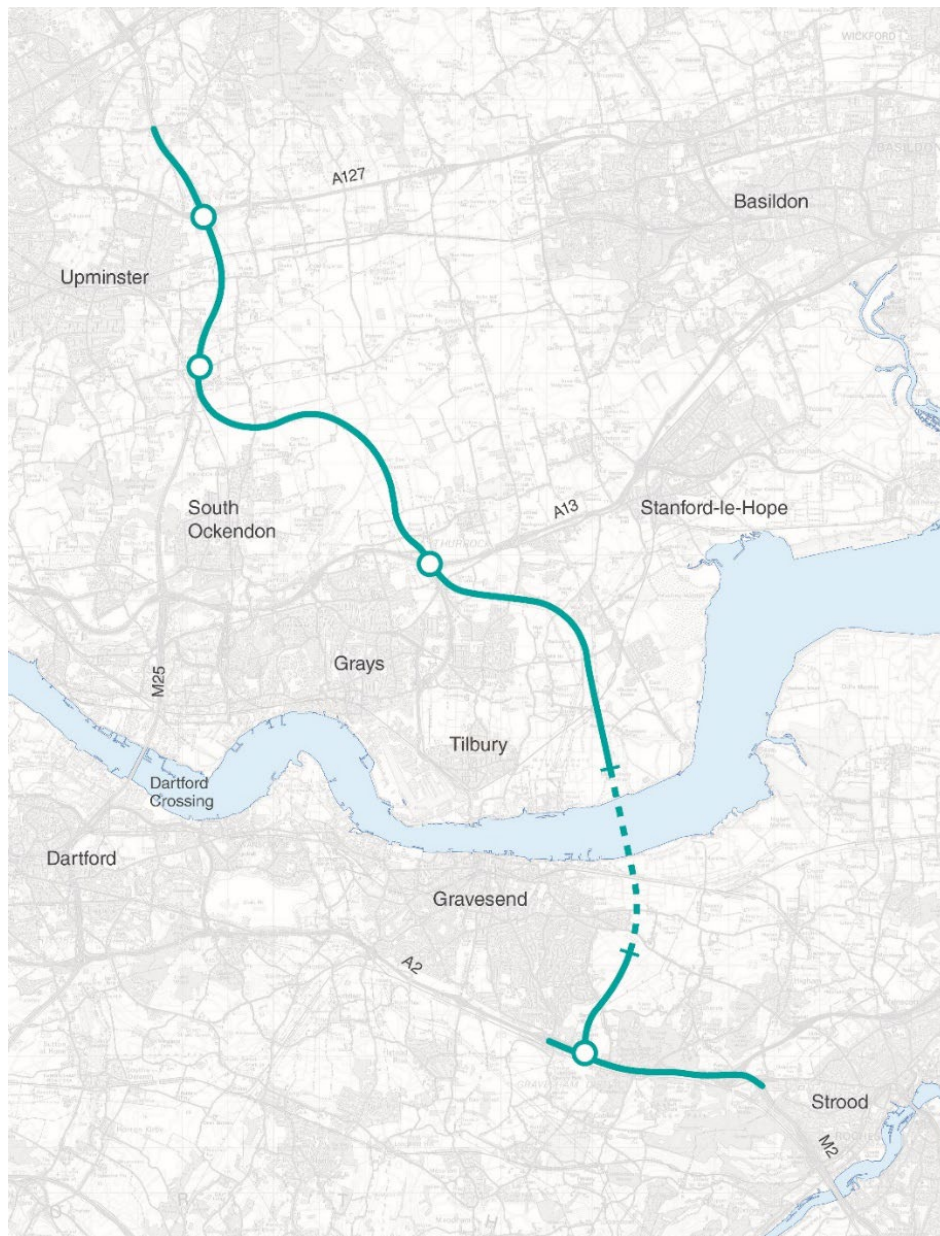
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# 1 Executive summary

## 1.1 Introduction and background

- 1.1.1 The A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project) would provide a connection between the A2 and M2 in Kent and the M25 south of junction 29, crossing under the River Thames through a tunnel. As described in the Government's Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020–2025 (Department for Transport (DfT), 2020a), the new crossing would relieve congestion at Dartford and almost double cross-river road capacity east of London.
- 1.1.2 This Consultation Report describes the approach to, and outcomes of, consultation undertaken on the Project since 2009, when the DfT commissioned a study into potential options for a new Thames crossing. The focus of this report is the Statutory Consultation, undertaken in 2018, as well as further rounds of non-statutory consultation comprising: Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation, both undertaken in 2020; the Community Impacts Consultation undertaken in 2021; and the Local Refinement Consultation undertaken in 2022.
- 1.1.3 The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) set out further information on the Applicant's extensive engagement with stakeholder groups throughout the pre-application period.
- 1.1.4 The Project is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, and therefore, requires consent by means of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The application must demonstrate that consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).

**Plate 1.1 Lower Thames Crossing route**



## 1.2 Progress towards Statutory Consultation

- 1.2.1 In 2009, the DfT began a study into the need for a new river crossing east of London. The study determined that there was a need for additional cross-river capacity and identified potential locations. Consultation and further investigation into these options continued, and in 2014, National Highways (the Applicant) became responsible for the development of the Project. In 2016, the Applicant carried out an extensive non-statutory consultation on a shortlist of route options. Over 47,000 responses were received, and the feedback enabled the Applicant to refine its plans and develop its recommendations.
- 1.2.2 In April 2017, the Secretary of State for Transport made the Preferred Route Announcement, which comprised a bored tunnel east of Gravesend and Tilbury (Location C); a new road north of the River Thames connecting to the M25

between junctions 29 and 30 (Route 3); and a new road south of the River Thames connecting to the A2 east of Gravesend (the Western Southern Link). More information on the development of the Project up to Statutory Consultation is provided in Chapter 3 of this report.

## 1.3 Project proposals presented for Statutory Consultation

- 1.3.1 The proposals presented for Statutory Consultation between 10 October and 20 December 2018 were developed from the preferred route announced in April 2017. The key components of the proposals presented for Statutory Consultation comprised the following:
- a. Approximately 23km of new roads, of which 4km would be in two bored tunnels beneath the River Thames
  - b. Improvements to the M25, A2 and A13, where the new road would connect to these roads
  - c. New structures and changes to existing structures (including bridges, buildings, tunnel entrances, viaducts and utilities such as electricity pylons) along the length of the new road
  - d. A free-flowing charging system, where drivers would not need to stop and would instead pay remotely

## 1.4 Arrangements for Statutory Consultation

- 1.4.1 The approach to carrying out Statutory Consultation with people living near the proposals was set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (a copy is provided in Appendix G of this report) as required by section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations. Before the final SoCC was published on 10 October 2018, the Applicant consulted host and neighbouring local authorities on a draft version of it and had regard to the comments received. The final SoCC was made available online, at public information events, deposit locations and information points, as described in Chapter 4 of this report. Statutory Consultation was undertaken in accordance with that SoCC.
- 1.4.2 The pre-application Statutory Consultation met the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations. It was carried out in line with the relevant guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate and Government. Appendix A of this report provides evidence of the various ways in which compliance was achieved.
- 1.4.3 The Applicant also carried out an extensive publicity campaign aimed at raising awareness of the Project and encouraging participation in the consultation process. This campaign included the delivery of a leaflet to every registered address within a 5km boundary of the proposed route, as well as an email sent to around 2.5 million addresses. As described in Chapter 4, as well as Appendix O, the Applicant actively sought to engage with businesses and community groups. The Applicant also arranged and carried out a series of events at community venues close to the proposed route and across the wider region. It

was possible at these events for visitors to speak with members of the Project Team and inspect the consultation materials.

- 1.4.4 A range of materials was produced for the consultation and made available online, at deposit locations, information points and public information events. It was also possible to request printed copies to be delivered by post. As set out in Chapter 4 and Appendix M of the report, these materials included a summary guide to the proposals, Your Guide to Consultation (a copy of which is provided in Appendix M of this report); a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (Highways England, 2018b) and Preliminary Environmental Information Summary (Highways England, 2018c); maps and detailed technical reports.

## 1.5 Statutory Consultation

- 1.5.1 Participants in the Statutory Consultation were invited to provide feedback in response to a series of questions on different aspects of the Project proposals, including the proposed route and its junctions, as well as its predicted environmental impacts and the proposed approach to charging users of the new crossing. It was also possible to answer a question on whether the Project was needed and to provide feedback on any other element of the proposals.
- 1.5.2 There were 28,493 responses to the Statutory Consultation, with 25,210 responses submitted using the online response form on the Project's consultation website. A total of 2,117 responses were submitted on behalf of a campaign organised by the Woodland Trust.
- 1.5.3 As described in Chapter 11 of this report, the Applicant has fulfilled the requirement to have regard to responses to the Statutory Consultation. This was achieved by ensuring that all comments raised in responses to the consultation were categorised using a series of issue-based codes. The series of tables set out in Section 11.4 make clear the Applicant's explanation of how it has considered each code and whether it has led to a change in the Project proposals.

## 1.6 Supplementary Consultation

- 1.6.1 In January 2020, the Applicant launched a further non-statutory Supplementary Consultation on updates to the Project proposals that had changed following Statutory Consultation, as a result of ongoing design work, engagement with stakeholders, and consideration of consultation feedback. Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant considered and applied all relevant guidance when planning and undertaking the consultation. It began on 29 January 2020 and was scheduled to end on 25 March but was extended until 2 April 2020, due to the emerging impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.6.2 The Supplementary Consultation sought feedback on a number of topics, including the following:
- a. A redesign of the proposed M2/A2/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction, providing more direct connectivity between Gravesend and the A2/M2
  - b. Realignment of the proposed route between Tilbury and the A13 to avoid the need for major overhead cable diversion works

- c. The removal of one lane southbound between the A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction and A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction to reduce the Project's impact

1.6.3 There were 6,576 responses to the Supplementary Consultation, of which 3,378 were submitted on behalf of a campaign organised by the Woodland Trust.

1.6.4 The responses were considered by the Applicant using the same methods as those used for the Statutory Consultation. Chapter 12 of this report sets out the issues contained in the responses and the ways in which the Applicant considered and acted on them.

## 1.7 Design Refinement Consultation

1.7.1 A further phase of non-statutory consultation on a set of design refinements was undertaken between 14 July and 12 August 2020. These design refinements included the following:

- a. Further revisions to the M2/A2/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction, including amended designs of green bridges and a new electricity switching station
- b. Changes affecting the North Portal in relation to the installation of utilities needed to power the tunnel boring machine
- c. A new area for the relocation of a travellers' site close to the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction, as well as modified utility and woodland planting proposals at the junction
- d. Sewer diversion works close to the A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction and revisions to the proposals affecting the Thames Chase Forest Centre
- e. A new footbridge over the A127, close to the M25 junction 29

1.7.2 There were 1,206 responses to the Design Refinement Consultation, and these were considered in the same way as responses to the Statutory and Supplementary Consultations. Chapter 13 of this report sets out the issues raised and the Applicant's consideration of them.

## 1.8 Community Impacts Consultation

1.8.1 As described in Chapter 8, in October 2020 the Applicant submitted but later withdrew an application for development consent to build the Project. Adequacy of Consultation Representations (AoCRs) submitted by some of the relevant local authorities in relation to the previous application contained a series of concerns about the pre-application consultation undertaken, whilst other AoCRs did not express concerns or objections. The Applicant carried out a detailed review of the AoCRs, as explained in further detail in Chapter 8 and Appendix V of this report.

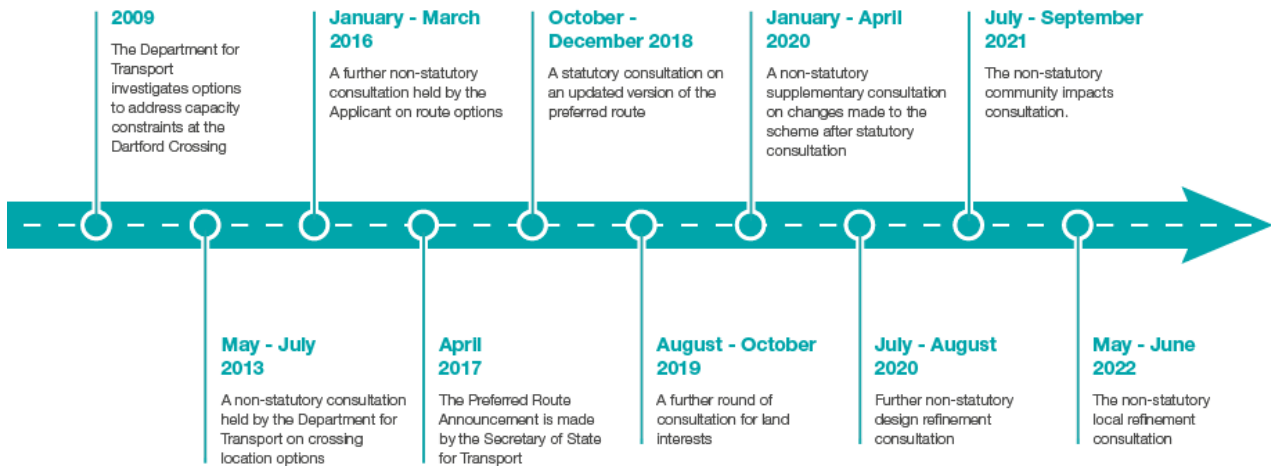
- 1.8.2 One important outcome of this review was the Applicant's decision to hold a further phase of non-statutory consultation in which the impacts of construction and operation, as well as planned mitigation, were presented at a local level to help affected communities better understand the Project's impacts. The Community Impacts Consultation took place between 14 July and 8 September 2021, focussing on the following:
- a. A detailed explanation of the impacts associated with the construction of the Project and the ways in which these impacts would be mitigated
  - b. An equivalent explanation of the impacts of the Project during operation and proposed mitigation
  - c. A series of proposed refinements to the design of the Project
  - d. A 'You Said, We Did' report, setting out explanations of how the Applicant had considered and acted on feedback from the Statutory Consultation in 2018 to the Design Refinement Consultation in 2020
- 1.8.3 There were 3,218 responses to the Community Impacts Consultation. Chapter 14 of this report sets out the issues raised and the Applicant's consideration of them.

## 1.9 Local Refinement Consultation

- 1.9.1 From 12 May to 20 June 2022, the Applicant carried out a final round of non-statutory pre-application consultation. That consultation set out updated proposals concerning the following:
- a. The redesign of Tilbury Fields
  - b. Increasing the amount of open space south of the River Thames by adding land to the east of Chalk Park
  - c. A new link road from the Orsett Cock junction to the A1089 southbound
  - d. A new bridge over the A127 for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
  - e. Modified access to the North Portal, providing safer operation of the tunnel facilities and better access for emergency services
  - f. Additional environmental compensation
- 1.9.2 There were 2,297 responses to the Local Refinement Consultation. Chapter 15 of this report sets out the issues raised and the Applicant's consideration of them.

## Plate 1.2 Timeline of consultation

### Timeline of consultation



## 1.10 Outcomes of the consultations

- 1.10.1 Consultation and engagement have been key to the development of the Project proposals. Since the preferred route for the Project was announced in 2017, five public consultations have been held and the Applicant has continued to engage with stakeholders to refine and improve the proposals.
- 1.10.2 Traverse, a specialist agency, was appointed to independently analyse the responses to all five consultations. Every response received was assigned a unique reference and transcribed into a database for analysis. Every issue raised was categorised so that the Applicant could analyse them, consider whether to make changes to the proposals, and report on this in the Consultation Report.
- 1.10.3 The feedback received, alongside continued engagement with stakeholders, ongoing design work and a greater understanding of technical constraints, was used to refine the design of the Project.
- 1.10.4 In order to provide consultees with more information on how consultation feedback had informed the development of the Project proposals, the Applicant published two documents, one as part of the Community Impacts Consultation in 2021 and another to coincide with the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation in 2022:
- You Said, We Did, which summarises the feedback received from the Statutory, Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations. It also provides maps depicting each of the changes made to the proposals in response to that feedback. This is available to view at:





- b. Response to Community Impacts Consultation, which summarises the feedback received from the Community Impacts Consultation. This is available to view at:



- 1.10.5 Information on how the Applicant considered responses to the Local Refinement Consultation (National Highways, 2022i), was also published in October 2022.
- 1.10.6 This report provides summaries of 81 areas of Project changes made in response to feedback from the five consultations: 27 from the Statutory Consultation, nine from the Supplementary Consultation, 20 from the Design Refinement Consultation, 21 from the Community Impacts Consultation and four from the Local Refinement Consultation.
- 1.10.7 Areas of change typically comprise numerous smaller-scale interrelated updates that, for the purposes of this report, have been grouped together as a single change. For example, ‘improved connectivity at the Gravesend East junction’, as in bullet point a) below, is presented as a single change but involves a series of localised interventions across a relatively large area of the Project.
- 1.10.8 Section 11.6 of this report provides a summary of the more significant changes made to the Project proposals following Statutory Consultation. It includes the following examples:
  - a. Improved connectivity at the Gravesend East junction
  - b. Relocation of the South Portal, 350m further south
  - c. Landscaping proposals at the tunnel portals using materials excavated in the tunnelling
  - d. Removal of the roadside service facility, maintenance depot and Tilbury junction
  - e. Removal of one lane southbound between the A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction and the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction
  - f. Changes to the structures over the Mardyke River, Golden Bridge Sewer and the Orsett Fen Sewer
  - g. Provision of additional green bridges and changes to the design of those previously included
  - h. Modified proposals for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

- 1.10.9 Section 12.5 of this report provides a summary of the changes made to the Project proposals following Supplementary Consultation. These included the following:
- a. Reducing the land required for utility works
  - b. Refinements to the design of utility diversions in some areas along the route
  - c. Updated paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
  - d. Relocating the Gammonfields Way travellers' site
  - e. A new footbridge over the A127 to link existing footpaths
- 1.10.10 Section 13.5 of this report provides a summary of the changes made to the Project proposals following Design Refinement Consultation. These included the following:
- a. A modification to the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction to add an extra lane
  - b. The use of low-noise road surfacing on all new trunk roads and slip roads
  - c. A new open space site called Tilbury Fields
  - d. A revised proposal for the gas pipeline diversions under the Project near Thong
  - e. Revised proposals for the overhead power line diversion near the Tilbury Loop railway line
- 1.10.11 Section 14.5 of this report provides a summary of the changes made to the Project proposals following Community Impacts Consultation. These included the following:
- a. Revisions to the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction
  - b. The redesign of Tilbury Fields
  - c. The addition of 8ha of open space next to Chalk Park
  - d. The creation of new wildlife-rich habitats to provide compensation for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition
  - e. A wider green bridge at Thong Lane over the A2/M2, increasing its width by 10m
- 1.10.12 Section 15.5 of this report provides a summary of the changes made to the Project proposals following Local Refinement Consultation. These included the following:
- a. A reduction in the Project's Order Limits
  - b. Amendments to plans affecting walkers, cyclists and horse riders

- c. Increased use of low-noise road surfacing

## 1.11 Conclusions

- 1.11.1 As demonstrated in this report, each phase of statutory and non-statutory pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant has met or exceeded all relevant requirements. Considerable resources were committed to ensuring that the proposals set out at each consultation were comprehensive, clear and accessible to the various consultee groups that were potentially interested in the Project. Engagement with stakeholder groups outside of formal consultation periods, as described in the Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2), has provided further and ongoing opportunities for those bodies to influence the development of the Project.
- 1.11.2 Chapters 11 to 15 describe the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to the responses submitted to each round of consultation, and its willingness to apply feedback to the ongoing development of the Project proposals. As set out earlier in this chapter and in Chapters 11 to 15, changes made to the Project were informed by the Applicant's consideration of consultation feedback. These changes included design modifications such as the relocation of the South Portal 350m further to the south and the removal of a proposed roadside service facility. They also included an extensive set of localised changes, including mitigation measures that would respond effectively to concerns raised by local residents as well as enhancements to facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Where changes suggested by consultees were not deemed practical or appropriate by the Applicant, explanations have been provided as to why this was considered to be the case.
- 1.11.3 In the interests of transparency and engaging innovatively with stakeholders and affected communities, the Applicant has published a new interactive tool – How You Have Shaped the Lower Thames Crossing – that allows users to explore maps, images and videos explaining how consultation and engagement has brought about changes to the Project proposals. The resource was made freely available online at [REDACTED] on 19 October 2022 and was widely publicised by the Applicant including a press release and social media posts.
- 1.11.4 Consultation has been thorough and effective at identifying key concerns with the Project proposals as well as opportunities for improvements. This Consultation Report and its appendices, including an extensive compliance checklist (Appendix A), provide comprehensive evidence of the Applicant's commitment to the pre-application consultation process.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Purpose of this document

- 2.1.1 National Highways (the Applicant) has submitted an application under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for an order to grant development consent for the A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project).
- 2.1.2 This document describes the consultation process carried out by the Applicant prior to submission of the application, and explains how the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements set out in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Planning Act 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations). As such, this report provides the following:
- a. An overview of the activities undertaken during the initial non-statutory consultation in 2016 (the initial non-statutory consultation), the formal Statutory Consultation in late 2018 (the Statutory Consultation), two subsequent phases of non-statutory consultation in 2020 (the Supplementary Consultation and the Design Refinement Consultation), two further phases of non-statutory consultation in 2021 and 2022 (the Community Impacts Consultation and the Local Refinement Consultation respectively), as well as any other engagement, including engagement with affected land interests, undertaken throughout the development of the Project
  - b. Details of the activities undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, relevant secondary legislation and policies, and guidance and advice published by Government and the Planning Inspectorate
  - c. A summary of the responses to the initial non-statutory consultation and a detailed presentation of the responses received in response to the Statutory Consultation and subsequent non-statutory consultations
  - d. Confirmation of the regard had to any responses to the Statutory Consultation and subsequent non-statutory consultations, including how development of the Project has been influenced by information contained in responses to those consultations
- 2.1.3 Copies of or links to consultation documents, notices and materials produced in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, as part of the Statutory Consultation undertaken in 2018, are included in a series of appendices to this report. Where relevant, copies of materials produced for the subsequent non-statutory consultations are also included in the appendices to this report.
- 2.1.4 Section 2.5 below provides a guide to the structure of this report.

- 2.1.5 This Consultation Report is part of a suite of documents which accompanies the application to grant development consent. A full description of all the Application Documents is provided in the Introduction to the Application (Application Document 1.3) which also accompanies the application.

## 2.2 The Applicant

- 2.2.1 National Highways (the Applicant) is the government-owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A-roads – known as the strategic road network. Formerly the Highways Agency and later Highways England, the Applicant became a government-owned company in April 2015.

## 2.3 The Project

### Context

- 2.3.1 For over 58 years the Dartford Crossing has provided the only significant road crossing of the River Thames to the east of London. It is a critical part of the country's road network, connecting communities and businesses and providing a vital link for the nearby major ports. However, traffic flows on the Dartford Crossing are consistently in excess of the design capacity of the road, which results in frequent congestion and poor journey time reliability, making it one of the least reliable sections of the strategic road network. The current operational challenges have significant negative impacts on users and non-users in terms of economic productivity and trade, social and user experience, and environmental impacts. For more information on the need case, refer to the Need for the Project (Application Document 7.1).

### Aims and objectives

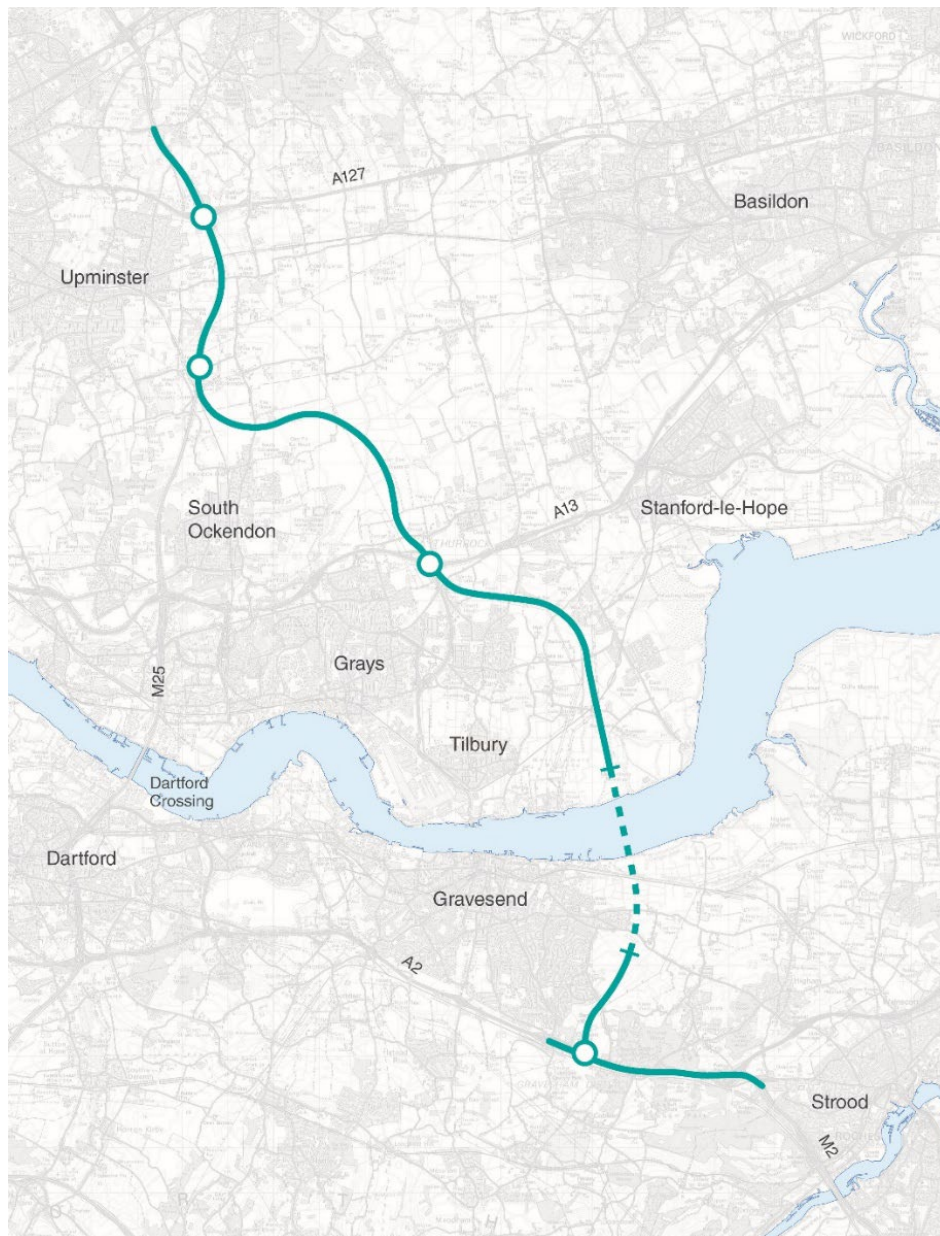
- 2.3.2 The Project would form a vital new part of the UK's transport infrastructure, transforming the regional and national road network. Building a reliable, modern new road that is fit for the future would help businesses to grow, and bring people and communities closer to jobs, education and leisure opportunities.
- 2.3.3 The Applicant has worked with the DfT to agree a set of objectives for the Project, including factors such as achieving value for money and improving the resilience of the Thames crossings and the major road network. The Scheme Objectives are set out in full in Chapter 3 of this report.

### Project route

- 2.3.4 The A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project) would provide a connection between the A2 and M2 in Kent and the M25 south of junction 29, crossing under the River Thames through a tunnel. The Project route is presented in Plate 2.1.
- 2.3.5 The A122 would be approximately 23km long, 4.25km of which would be in tunnel. On the south side of the River Thames, the Project route would link the tunnel to the A2 and M2. On the north side, it would link to the A13, M25 junction 29 and the M25 south of junction 29. The tunnel portals would be located to the east of the village of Chalk on the south of the River Thames and to the west of East Tilbury on the north side.

- 2.3.6 Junctions are proposed at the following locations:
- a. New junction with the A2 to the south-east of Gravesend
  - b. A modified junction with the A13/A1089 in Thurrock
  - c. New junction with the M25 between junctions 29 and 30
- 2.3.7 To align with National Policy Statement for National Networks (DfT, 2014) policy and to help the Project meet the Scheme Objectives, it is proposed that road user charges would be levied. Vehicles would be charged for using the new tunnel.
- 2.3.8 The Project route would be three lanes in both directions, except for:
- a. link roads
  - b. stretches of the carriageway through junctions
  - c. the southbound carriageway from the M25 to the junction with the A13/A1089, which would be two lanes
- 2.3.9 Technology would be provided for lane control and to apply variable speed limits. The Project road would have hard strips for most of its length, and emergency areas. Modified sections of the M25 and the A2 would have hard shoulders.
- 2.3.10 The Project road would be an all-purpose trunk road, with green signs, but would have additional vehicle restrictions imposed and managed through signage so that pedestrians, low-powered motorcycles, cyclists, horse riders and agricultural vehicles would be prohibited from using the road.
- 2.3.11 The Project would include adjustments to a number of side roads to accommodate the Project road and to connect it at the A13 and A2 junctions. There would also be adjustments to a number of Public Rights of Way, used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Construction of the Project would also require the diversion of a number of utilities, including gas pipelines, overhead and underground electricity cables, as well as water supplies and telecommunications assets.

**Plate 2.1 Lower Thames Crossing route**



- 2.3.12 The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 14(1)(h), and involves the ‘construction’ of a highway within the meaning of section 22(1)(a), of the Planning Act 2008. A DCO is therefore required to authorise the construction of the Project.
- 2.3.13 Construction of the Project would require changes to existing utilities infrastructure, including some that are deemed to be NSIPs in their own right under sections 16 and 20 of the Planning Act 2008. For more information on the Project's qualification as an NSIP, including the individual utilities NSIPs that it includes, can be found in the Explanatory Memorandum (Application Document 3.2).

## 2.4 Compliance with regulatory requirements

- 2.4.1 The statutory pre-application consultation for the Project undertaken in 2018 was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008,

APFP Regulations and EIA Regulations. The content and structure of this report also accords with those requirements.

2.4.2 The Applicant has also taken into consideration the following guidance:

- a. Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015) (the DCLG Guidance)
- b. Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation, Version 7 (Planning Inspectorate, 2017a)
- c. Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report, Version 3 (Planning Inspectorate, 2021)

2.4.3 Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the criteria used by the Planning Inspectorate to decide if an application is of a satisfactory standard to be accepted for examination.

2.4.4 A compliance checklist is included at Appendix A of this report, which confirms how the Statutory Consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008, the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations have been met. It also demonstrates that the consultation process had regard to relevant statutory guidance.

## 2.5 Structure of this report

2.5.1 This report sets out the pre-application consultation that has taken place in relation to the Project. It provides details of the activities undertaken during the initial non-statutory consultation, the Statutory Consultation and subsequent non-statutory consultations. It also describes the issues raised in responses to the consultations, and how the Applicant has had regard to these issues in preparing the DCO application. This report also describes instances of engagement with external stakeholders where this information is relevant to the delivery of pre-application consultation. A more extensive description of the Applicant's approach to engagement with stakeholder organisations is provided in the Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2).

2.5.2 The structure of this report is set out below.

### Chapter 1: Executive summary

2.5.3 Chapter 1 is a summary of the report as a whole.

### Chapter 2: Introduction

2.5.4 Chapter 2 (this chapter) provides a brief overview of the Project proposals and the different phases of statutory and non-statutory consultation that the Applicant has undertaken. It also explains the overall purpose of the Consultation Report and the different functions of each chapter.

### Chapter 3: Initial non-statutory consultation

2.5.5 Chapter 3 provides a summary of the initial non-statutory consultation that was undertaken by the Applicant in 2016, and the result of that consultation process.



## **Chapter 4: Statutory Consultation**

- 2.5.6 Chapter 4 provides a detailed account of the Statutory Consultation that the Applicant has delivered in relation to the Project and the ways in which it has fulfilled each of the relevant statutory requirements.

## **Chapter 5: Additional consultation for land interests**

- 2.5.7 Following the Statutory Consultation, and as part of the ongoing engagement process, the Applicant held a further stage of consultation for relevant land interests. Chapter 5 explains the purpose of this consultation and how it was carried out.

## **Chapter 6: Supplementary Consultation**

- 2.5.8 In 2020, the Applicant undertook a non-statutory consultation on elements of the Project proposals that were proposed to be changed as a result of the Statutory Consultation and other factors. Chapter 6 explains how this consultation was carried out.

## **Chapter 7: Design Refinement Consultation**

- 2.5.9 Later in 2020, the Applicant held a further round of non-statutory consultation on additional developments to the Project proposals. Chapter 7 explains the purpose of this consultation and how it was carried out.

## **Chapter 8: Community Impacts Consultation**

- 2.5.10 Following the withdrawal of the Applicant's first application for development consent, an additional round of non-statutory consultation was carried out. Chapter 8 describes that consultation.

## **Chapter 9: Local Refinement Consultation**

- 2.5.11 In 2022, the Applicant undertook a final round of pre-application non-statutory consultation. Chapter 9 describes that consultation.

## **Chapter 10: Consultation under the EIA Regulations**

- 2.5.12 Because the Project constitutes Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, the Applicant was required to deliver its consultation in compliance with the EIA Regulations. Chapter 10 explains how this duty was complied with, including details of the request for a Scoping Opinion and the preparation and publicity of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

## **Chapter 11: Response to Statutory Consultation**

- 2.5.13 Chapter 11 provides a quantitative summary of the responses to the Statutory Consultation, including answers provided to any closed questions which sought the respondent's 'level of agreement' with different elements of the proposals. Chapter 11 also provides a series of tables in which the qualitative feedback provided by respondents is grouped according to the themes they raise. These tables explain which consultee strands under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 were among the respondents making those comments, as well as an explanation of how the Applicant has considered them and whether they gave rise to any change to the proposals which form part of the DCO application.

## **Chapter 12: Response to Supplementary Consultation**

- 2.5.14 Chapter 12 follows the same approach as in Chapter 11 by setting out responses received to the Supplementary Consultation carried out in 2020 and how the Applicant had regard to those responses in preparing the DCO application.

## **Chapter 13: Response to Design Refinement Consultation**

- 2.5.15 Chapter 13 follows the same approach as in Chapters 11 and 12 by setting out responses received to the Design Refinement Consultation carried out later in 2020 and how the Applicant had regard to those responses in preparing the DCO application.

## **Chapter 14: Response to Community Impacts Consultation**

- 2.5.16 Chapter 14 sets out responses to the Community Impacts Consultation and how the Applicant had regard to them in preparing the DCO application.

## **Chapter 15: Response to Local Refinement Consultation**

- 2.5.17 Chapter 15 sets out responses to the Local Refinement Consultation and how the Applicant had regard to them in preparing the DCO application.

## **Chapter 16: Conclusion**

- 2.5.18 Chapter 16 summarises the conclusions reached by the Applicant as a result of the pre-application consultation process.

## **Chapter 17: Glossary**

- 2.5.19 Chapter 17 provides a glossary of terms used throughout this report.

## **Chapter 18: References**

- 2.5.20 Chapter 18 sets out the references used in this report.

## **Appendices**

- 2.5.21 A number of appendices are attached to this Consultation Report. They provide evidence of the ways in which the consultation was delivered in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements. They also provide background material in relation to the earlier phases of non-statutory consultation and in relation to the additional non-statutory consultations which were held between 2020 and 2022.
- 2.5.22 A list of the appendices and their contents is provided in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1 Appendices to the consultation report**

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Appendix A – Compliance Checklist	A breakdown of how the Applicant has complied with all relevant legislation and policy guidance in delivering the Statutory Consultation.
Appendix B – Copies of non-statutory consultation material	The core documents produced for the non-statutory consultation undertaken in 2016 on proposals for the Project.
Appendix C – The EIA Regulations 2017: Regulation 8(1) letter to the Planning Inspectorate and acknowledgement	A copy of each letter
Appendix D – Copy of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) provided to local authorities	A copy of the draft SoCC
Appendix E – Letter to local authorities launching consultation on the SoCC	A copy of the letter
Appendix F – Response from local authorities on the draft SoCC and an explanation of how the Applicant had regard to those responses	A copy of each response provided by local authorities. A table that lists each point made in those responses alongside the Applicant's consideration of it.
Appendix G – Published SoCC and compliance checklist	A copy of the SoCC as it appeared at deposit locations and on the consultation website. A table that lists each activity included in the SoCC alongside a statement explaining how that activity was fulfilled during the Statutory Consultation.
Appendix H – List of prescribed consultees, including statutory undertakers and local authorities identified and consulted	A table that lists the prescribed bodies identified and consulted (under section 42(1)(a)-(aa) of the Planning Act 2008) by the Applicant. A table that lists the local authorities identified and consulted (under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and on a discretionary basis) by the Applicant.
Appendix I – List of all respondents to Statutory Consultation	A list of all respondents, divided according to the relevant consultee strand. The names of individual respondents are replaced with an anonymous reference number.
Appendix J – List of persons with an interest in land consulted under section 42 and records of undeliverable section 42(1)(d) mail	A list of all the land interests identified by the Applicant through the application of its Land Referencing methodology and consulted about the Project.
Appendix K – section 42 Letters and enclosures	Copies of the different types of section 42 letters (and their enclosures) that were issued by the Applicant to the relevant consultees prior to the launch of the Statutory Consultation and subsequent phases of consultation.
Appendix L – section 46 letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate and their letter of acknowledgement	Copies of each letter.

Appendix	Contents
Appendix M – section 47 Statutory Consultation material	Copies of the main consultation material produced for the Statutory Consultation and descriptions of each document.
Appendix N – section 47 and section 48 newspaper notices	A table listing the titles and publication dates of newspapers in which the section 47 and section 48 notices appeared. Copies of the notices as they appeared in each of the listed newspapers.
Appendix O – List of any additional consultees	A series of tables in which additional consultation recipients are listed.
Appendix P – Meeting log	Not used.
Appendix Q – Supplementary Consultation materials	Copies of the core documents produced for Supplementary Consultation.
Appendix R – Design Refinement Consultation materials	Copies of the core documents produced for Design Refinement Consultation.
Appendix S – Community Impacts Consultation materials	Copies of the core documents produced for the Community Impacts Consultation.
Appendix T – Local Refinement Consultation materials	Copies of the core documents produced for Local Refinement Consultation.
Appendix U – Traverse's summary reports of consultation responses	A copy of the reports produced by an independent agency that analysed responses to the Statutory Consultation, and a summer update document produced by the Applicant.
Appendix V – Adequacy of Consultation Representations background information	An explanation of the points raised in Adequacy of Consultation Representations submitted in response to the Applicant's withdrawn DCO Application, and the Applicant's responses to those points.

## 2.6 Summary of consultation activities

2.6.1 Table 2.2 sets out the key consultation activities and milestones throughout the pre-application consultation phase of the Project.

**Table 2.2 Summary of consultation activities**

Where described in the report	Activity	Start date	End date
Chapter 3	Non-statutory consultation on location options	21 May 2013	16 July 2013
	Non-statutory consultation on route options	26 January 2016	24 March 2016
	Preferred Route Announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport	12 April 2017	n/a

Where described in the report	Activity	Start date	End date	
Chapter 4	Informal consultation with host authorities on draft SoCC (relevant documents in Appendices D, E and F)	December 2017	July 2018	
	Consultation (statutory) with host authorities on draft SoCC (relevant documents in Appendices D, E and F)	1 August 2018	2 September 2018	
	SoCC published on website (relevant documents in Appendix G)	10 October 2018	n/a	
	Section 47 notices published: (relevant documents in Appendix N)	The Times	10 October 2018	n/a
		Essex Chronicle	4 October 2018	n/a
		Kent Messenger	4 October 2018	n/a
		Thurrock Gazette	4 October 2018	n/a
		Yellow Advertiser	12 October 2018	n/a
		Fishing News	11 October 2018	n/a
	Section 48 notices published: (relevant documents in Appendix N)	The Times	10 October 2018	n/a
		Essex Chronicle	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	n/a
		Kent Messenger	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	n/a
		Thurrock Gazette	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	n/a
		Yellow Advertiser	12 October 2018 and 19 October 2018	n/a
		London Gazette	10 October 2018	n/a
		Lloyd's List	10 October 2018	n/a
Fishing News		11 October 2018	n/a	
Letters issued to prescribed persons, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), relevant local authorities (including the Greater London Authority) and persons with an interest in land under section 42 of Planning Act 2008 and (where relevant) Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations notifying of consultation.	Letters to consultees notified under s42(1)(a)-(c), sent on 4 October 2018 Letters to consultees notified under s42(1)(d), sent on 9 October 2018	n/a		

Where described in the report	Activity	Start date	End date	
	Section 46 notification issued to Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate	9 October 2018	n/a	
	Start of Statutory Consultation	10 October 2018	n/a	
	Public information events	16 October 2018	7 December 2018	
	Close of Statutory Consultation	n/a	20 December 2018	
Chapter 5	Start of further phase of s42(1)(d) consultation	17 August 2019	n/a	
	Close of further phase of s42(1)(d) consultation	n/a	25 October 2019	
Chapter 6	Start of non-statutory Supplementary Consultation	27 January 2020	n/a	
	Public information events	27 February 2020	11 March 2020	
	Non-statutory public notices published for Supplementary Consultation: (relevant documents in Appendix Q)	Essex Chronicle	6 February and 13 February 2020	n/a
		Kent Messenger	6 February and 13 February 2020	n/a
		Romford Recorder	7 February and 14 February 2020	n/a
		Thurrock Gazette	6 February and 13 February 2020	n/a
		The Times	6 February 2020	n/a
		London Gazette	6 February 2020	n/a
		Lloyd's List	6 February 2020	n/a
	Fishing News	6 February 2020	n/a	
Original deadline for the receipt of responses to the non-statutory Supplementary Consultation	n/a	25 March 2020		
Extended deadline for the receipt of responses to the non-statutory Supplementary Consultation due to the COVID-19 pandemic	n/a	2 April 2020		
Chapter 7	Start of non-statutory Design Refinement Consultation	14 July 2020	n/a	
	Non-statutory public notices published for Design Refinement Consultation:	Essex Chronicle	9 July 2020 and 16 July 2020	n/a
		Kent Messenger	9 July 2020 and 16 July 2020	n/a

Where described in the report	Activity	Start date	End date	
	(relevant documents in Appendix R)	Thurrock Gazette	9 July 2020 and 16 July 2020	n/a
		Romford Recorder	10 July 2020 and 16 July 2020	n/a
		Lloyd's List	14 July 2020	n/a
		London Gazette	14 July 2020	n/a
		The Times	14 July 2020	n/a
		Fishing News	9 July 2020	n/a
	Close of non-statutory Design Refinement Consultation		n/a	12 August 2020
Chapter 8	Start of non-statutory Community Impacts Consultation		14 July 2021	n/a
	Public information events		22 July 2021	1 September 2021
	Non-statutory public notices published for Community Impacts Consultation: (relevant documents in Appendix S)	Bromley News Shopper	7 July 2021	14 July 2021
		Essex Chronicle	8 July 2021	15 July 2021
		Fishing News	8 July 2021	15 July 2021
		Kent Messenger	8 July 2021	15 July 2021
		Lloyd's List	14 July 2021	n/a
		London Gazette	14 July 2021	n/a
		Romford Recorder	9 July 2021	16 July 2021
		The Times	14 July 2021	n/a
Thurrock Gazette	8 July 2021	15 July 2021		
Close of non-statutory Community Impacts Consultation		n/a	8 September 2021	
Chapter 9	Start of non-statutory Local Refinement Consultation		12 May 2022	20 June 2022
	Public information events		20 May 2022	13 June 2022
	Non-statutory public notices published for Local Refinement Consultation: (relevant documents in Appendix T)	Bromley News Shopper	11 May 2022	18 May 2022
		Essex Chronicle	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
		Fishing News	12 May 2022	n/a
		Kent Messenger	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
		Lloyd's List	18 May 2022	n/a
London Gazette	12 May 2022	19 May 2022		

Where described in the report	Activity	Start date	End date
	Romford & Brentwood Recorder	13 May 2022	20 May 2022
	The Times	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
	Thurrock Gazette	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
	Close of non-statutory Local Refinement Consultation	n/a	20 June 2022

- 2.6.2 The DCO Application includes other documents that refer to pre-application consultation, to the Consultation Report, or to the Applicant's ongoing engagement with stakeholder groups, including statutory consultees as well as community groups. These documents include the following:
- a. The Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1), which sets out the Applicant's evidence that its use of statutory powers to compulsorily acquire land rights over land, and to possess and use land temporarily, would be justified, proportionate and in the public interest.
  - b. The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.1), which sets out a summary of the Applicant's record of engagement with stakeholder organisations throughout the pre-application process.
  - c. The Statement of Commonality (Application Document 5.3), which identifies where there are common issues being discussed between different Interested Parties (Stakeholders).
  - d. The Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4), the purpose of which are to provide a record of matters that are agreed, not agreed, and under discussion between the Applicant and the Interested Parties (Stakeholders). This Application Document includes the following:
    - i. The approach and methodology to the production of the Statements of Common Ground and a record of which Interested Parties Statements of Common Ground have been sought with
    - ii. Statements of Common Ground for the individual Interested Parties (Stakeholders)
  - e. The Interrelationships with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Major Development Schemes (Application Document 7.17) describes how the Applicant has worked with third-party project promoters to design out and control project interfaces, where necessary, to avoid prejudicing the successful delivery of other projects.



## 3 Initial non-statutory consultation

### 3.1 Structure of this chapter

3.1.1 This chapter provides a summary of the non-statutory consultation held by the Applicant on emerging plans for the Project in 2016. It includes a description of the events leading up to this consultation, including a summary of the history behind the Project, and the process through which a longlist and then a shortlist of options for the Project were considered. It also includes a description of the decisions made by the Applicant following this consultation and through close consideration of the responses received.

### 3.2 The Applicant's approach to engagement and consultation

3.2.1 The Applicant has extensive experience of planning and delivering pre-application consultations on highway schemes in England. This knowledge and insight were applied to the consultation and engagement on the Project proposals, while being sensitive to the unique characteristics and requirements of the area and communities in which the Project would be situated.

3.2.2 From the outset, the Applicant's approach to consultation and engagement on the Project has been based on the following principles:

- a. Early and ongoing engagement to inform and influence Project development
- b. Seeking feedback at each development stage in an iterative process, and ensuring that comments received were taken into consideration
- c. Building long-term relationships with stakeholders throughout the development stages of the Project to better understand their views
- d. Where possible and practicable, ensuring concerns were addressed
- e. Ensuring appropriate statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations and guidance

### 3.3 The Department for Transport's consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing

3.3.1 In 2009, the Department for Transport (DfT) commissioned Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd to carry out a study into potential options for a new Thames crossing east of London, the Dartford River Crossing Study into Capacity Requirement (DfT, 2009). The study had the following objectives, which are presented here in the same terms as they were agreed in 2009.

- a. *'To advise the DfT about the future requirement for crossing capacity across the lower Thames over 30 years to 2037. This should include an initial evaluation of what role other transport modes (e.g. light / heavy rail, bus)*

*might play in any plans for new capacity, leading to agreed options for evaluation. The study should look at demand and the consequential impacts (environmental and economic) of meeting that demand with new infrastructure.*

- b. *To investigate what may be done to improve traffic flow through the existing Dartford Crossing in the short to medium term, known as 'making better use' of the Crossing. This work should take into account existing Highways Agency<sup>1</sup> plans for the Crossing and the motorway network in the immediate vicinity.*
- c. *To make best use of available traffic models to help understand the nature of current demand at the Crossing, the likely evolution of that demand and the impact that various options might have.'*

3.3.2 The study identified and considered six potential options for a road crossing, as described below, and assessed their relative performance against a 'business as usual' scenario. This scenario relied on forecasts of the traffic conditions at the Dartford Crossing by 2031, assuming no changes to its operation and layout. The study also considered the option of a rail crossing of the River Thames.

3.3.3 The five road crossing corridor options considered in the DfT study were as follows:

- a. Option A – Additional capacity at the existing Dartford Crossing
- b. Option B – Swanscombe Peninsula link A2 to the A1089
- c. Option C – East of Gravesend and link to the M20
- d. Option D – M2 link to Canvey Island
- e. Option E – Isle of Grain link to east of Southend

3.3.4 The study concluded that there was a need for additional cross-river capacity to alleviate capacity constraints at the Dartford Crossing, and it recommended that some of the options it investigated should be considered further. These included options A, B and C, as well as two options to 'make better use' of the existing Dartford Crossing.

3.3.5 Options D and E were found to be located too far to the east and modelling showed that they failed to provide the necessary relief to the congested Dartford

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<sup>1</sup> The Highways Agency was renamed Highways England in 2015 and subsequently renamed National Highways in 2021.

Crossing, as they did not support the key traffic movements across the River Thames. For more detail refer to Chapter 4 of the Planning Statement (Application Document 7.2) and Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.1).

- 3.3.6 The full study, including detailed examination of the need for additional cross-river capacity and each of the options for providing it, can be downloaded from the National Archives' website:  
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100513123749/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/capacityrequirements/dartfordrivercrossing/>.
- 3.3.7 In its 2011 National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, 2011) the Government expressed its commitment to a new crossing of the Lower Thames, explaining that it had begun analysis of three options ahead of a consultation planned for 2013.
- 3.3.8 In 2012, the DfT commissioned AECOM to carry out a detailed review of the three location options recommended by Parsons Brinckerhoff's 2009 study. The findings of this report were described in Review of Lower Thames Crossing Options: Final Review Report (DfT, 2013a).
- 3.3.9 In summarising their findings, AECOM advised that each of the three options, which included a variation on Option C ('C variant'), which provided an additional link to the M20 for long-distance traffic, would deliver economic benefits arising from traffic congestion relief. It also advised that each option had its own potential advantages and disadvantages, and, advised that public consultation would help to '*identify the relative importance attached by consultees to those relative merits.*'
- 3.3.10 Each of these three options, including the C variant, was presented for a consultation which ran from 21 May to 16 July 2013 and the proposals were published in Options for a New Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Document (DfT, 2013b).
- 3.3.11 The Applicant assisted DfT in preparing material for consultation and in the delivery of the consultation. It was not until May 2014 that DfT handed over the delivery of the Project as a whole to the Applicant.
- 3.3.12 The consultation provided a set of questions on specific elements of the proposals. These are set out in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 List of questions from the DfT 2013 consultation**

Q1. Do you agree that there is a strong case to increase road-based river crossing capacity in the Lower Thames area?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Disagree</li> <li>• Neither agree nor disagree</li> </ul> <p>Please explain your reasons.</p>
Q2. Which of the following location options for a new crossing do you prefer?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option A: at the site of the existing A282 Dartford-Thurrock crossing</li> <li>• Option B: connecting the A2 with the A1089</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option C: connecting the M2 with the A13 and the M25 between junctions 29 and 30</li> <li>• Option C variant: connecting the M2 with the A13 and the M25 between junctions 29 and 30, and additionally widening the A229 between the M2 and the M20</li> <li>• Other (If other, please provide details).</li> </ul>
<p>Q3. Please indicate how important the following factors were in influencing your preference for the location of a new crossing, in answer to Q2. Please mark whether they were very important, important or not important.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecast contributions to the national economy</li> <li>• Forecast reductions in congestion at the existing Dartford-Thurrock crossing and forecast improvements to the resilience of the surrounding road network</li> <li>• Forecast reductions in greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Smaller forecast adverse impacts on environmentally sensitive areas and larger forecast improvements in quality of life relative to other location options</li> <li>• Smaller forecast adverse impacts on planned development relative to other location options</li> <li>• The distribution of forecast impacts on people within a range of different income groups</li> <li>• Lower estimated costs relative to other location options</li> <li>• Forecast value for money</li> <li>• Other (If other, please provide details).</li> </ul>
<p>Q4a. Is your preference for the location of a new crossing, in answer to Q2, conditional on whether a bridge, bored tunnel or immersed tunnel is provided?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<p>Q4b. If yes, please indicate which type of crossing you would prefer:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge</li> <li>• Immersed tunnel</li> <li>• Bored tunnel</li> </ul>
<p>Q5. Do you wish to add any further comments?</p>

- 3.3.13 The consultation included a series of seven information events at community locations in Kent, Thurrock and Essex. In addition to these events, DfT or the Applicant's staff attended briefing sessions and meetings for stakeholder organisations such as the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and the Essex Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives.
- 3.3.14 Officials from the DfT also accepted meeting requests from the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage (which in 2015 became Historic England).
- 3.3.15 The consultation generated a total of 5,776 responses, of which 1,432 were identified as being part of one of six separate campaign responses. In response to Question 1, 30% of respondents indicated that they agreed that *'there is a strong case to increase road-based river crossing capacity in the Lower Thames area'*. Twenty-nine percent disagreed with that statement, and the remainder either did not answer the question or selected *'neither agree nor disagree'*.

3.3.16 Table 3.2 provides a breakdown of responses to Question 2 in the DfT consultation:

**Table 3.2 Answers to Q2 in the DfT 2013 consultation**

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option C variant	Other	Not entered
Total %	20%	5%	6%	11%	26%	32%

- 3.3.17 Options for a New Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Response Summary (DfT, 2013c) summarises the answers provided to subsequent questions, in which respondents were asked to contextualise their answers to questions one and two.
- 3.3.18 In the conclusion to the Options for a New Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Response Summary (DfT, 2013c), it was confirmed that – following a review of the consultation responses and of the outlined route corridor options – Option B would be discarded and that only Options A, C, and C variant would continue to be considered. Option B was discarded on the basis that it had limited support among respondents to the consultation, including stakeholders such as Dartford Borough Council and members of the Thames Gateway North Kent Partnership. Option B was also considered to be problematic due to its potential to negatively affect planned developments at the Swanscombe Peninsula, and was forecast to alleviate congestion at the Dartford Crossing to a lesser extent than Option A.
- 3.3.19 Option A was considered viable for further development and assessment on the basis that it would be the cheapest of the shortlisted options and would reduce congestion at the Dartford Crossing to a greater extent than Options B and C (including the C variant). The Options for a New Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Response Summary (DfT, 2013c) noted, however, that Option A would not provide additional connectivity to the strategic road network and therefore offered relatively limited potential for economic growth.
- 3.3.20 Option C was considered viable for further consideration on the basis that it would alleviate congestion at the Dartford Crossing to a similar extent as Option B, but with reduced congestion impacts for the A2 and A13. It was also considered to have greater potential to generate economic growth than Options A and B, owing to the greater connectivity that it would provide. The report noted that Option C would impact Green Belt land and environmentally sensitive areas, including internationally designated sites.
- 3.3.21 The C variant option was considered to have the largest economic benefits of the shortlisted options, but would generate similar impacts to Option C and would involve the widening of the A229 between the M2 and M20.

## 3.4 The Applicant is commissioned by Government to appraise the options

- 3.4.1 Following the conclusion of the DfT's consultation, the Applicant was instructed to carry out a detailed option identification and route selection process for the two shortlisted corridor options (i.e. Options A and C, including C variant).

3.4.2 The DfT and the Applicant agreed the requirements for this work and developed a set of Scheme Objectives, which are set out in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3 The Scheme Objectives**

Scheme Objectives	
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support sustainable local development and regional economic growth in the medium to long term</li> <li>• To be affordable to government and users</li> <li>• To achieve value for money</li> </ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To relieve the congested Dartford Crossing and approach roads and improve their performance by providing free-flowing north-south capacity</li> <li>• To improve resilience of the Thames crossings and the major road network</li> <li>• To improve safety</li> </ul>
Community and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise adverse impacts on health and environment</li> </ul>

3.4.3 The approach taken to the Applicant's location options appraisal was to carry out an initial test of the viability of a 'pre-longlist' set of potential route options within the two proposed corridors. Those that were considered to be technically viable were progressed and the others were discounted. This allowed the remaining longlist to be further assessed, leading to a shortlist of route options that was the subject of a more detailed assessment which looked at factors such as construction, cost and social impacts.

3.4.4 Throughout the options appraisal process, the Applicant sought to inform and involve a range of stakeholder organisations. A Stakeholder Advisory Panel comprising local authorities (including the South East Local Economic Partnership, the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership and the Thames Gateway South East Essex Partnership) met with the Applicant at key stages to discuss work on the ongoing assessments.

3.4.5 Statutory bodies, such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, were also involved in this process. A number of bilateral meetings were held at which bodies were able to voice their concerns and priorities in respect of the different route options. Similarly, representatives of local industrial companies and utilities providers were given opportunities to engage with the Applicant on the different route options.

3.4.6 This process of developing, assessing and shortlisting route options culminated in the Pre-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2016a), which formed part of the suite of materials that was published for the non-statutory consultation. Those materials are described below under the heading 'How the Applicant consulted' (paragraph 3.5.16).

3.4.7 The Applicant's appraisal of options for a new crossing resulted in the identification of a preferred route option. This option, as described in Volume 7 of the Pre-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2016a), comprised 'Route C' north of the River Thames, a bored tunnel river crossing, and the Eastern Southern Link (ESL) south of the River Thames.

More information on the preferred route and other elements of the consultation proposals is provided below.

## 3.5 Initial non-statutory consultation

### Introduction

- 3.5.1 The Applicant undertook a non-statutory consultation on route options for the Project between 26 January and 24 March 2016. The purpose of the consultation was to enable all potentially interested parties, communities and organisations to influence the proposals at this early stage in the development of the Project.
- 3.5.2 Due consideration was given to the need to deliver the consultation in ways that would meet the needs of the affected communities, including hard to reach groups. Although non-statutory, the consultation also sought to involve the organisations that would in due course be consulted on a statutory basis.

### What the Applicant consulted on

- 3.5.3 The consultation sought views on the Applicant's proposal for a new road connecting the A2/M2 in Kent with a tunnel crossing east of Gravesend and Tilbury (known as Option C in the 2013 consultation), before joining the M25 between junctions 29 and 30.
- 3.5.4 The consultation material explained the process that had been followed to arrive at the two corridor options (referred to as Locations A and C in the non-statutory consultation material), the ways in which different route options within those corridors had been considered and how they had each performed against different criteria.
- 3.5.5 Route 1 at Location A involved a bridge or bored tunnel adjacent to the existing Dartford Crossing. It would require widening or other improvements to junctions 1a and 2 of the A282 as well as the widening of the road to five lanes between junctions 1a and 1b. North of the River Thames, it would require improvements to junctions 30 and 31 and free-flow links to/from the A13. The proposed route at Location A was known as 'Route 1'.
- 3.5.6 Location C options involved a bridge or tunnelled crossing of the River Thames between an area to the east of Gravesend in Kent and west of East Tilbury in Thurrock. There were two potential route options south of the Thames: the Western Southern Link (WSL) connecting the new road to the A2 to the east of Gravesend and the ESL connecting to junction 1 of the M2.
- 3.5.7 As described in the Consultation Booklet, Lower Thames Crossing Route Consultation 2016 (Highways England, 2016b) and in Volume 3 of the Pre-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2016a), it was concluded that the option known as C variant (involving the widening of the A229 between the M2 and M20) would have high environmental impacts and high costs that could not be justified against the relatively low benefits that the option would generate. C variant was not included in the shortlisted options presented at consultation, but the Applicant committed to giving further consideration to the link as part of its ongoing regional route planning.

3.5.8 North of the River Thames, Option C included three separate route options, each with different connections to the strategic road network. These were known as Routes 2, 3 and 4. Plate 3.1 and Plate 3.2, which are taken from the consultation booklet, provide high-level information on each of these, as well as Route 1. They also indicate the respective routes of the ESL and WSL.

Plate 3.1 Routes 1 to 4





**Plate 3.2 Key features of Routes 1 to 4**

<b>Route 1</b>	Location A: A bridge or bored tunnel adjacent to the existing Dartford Crossing	
<b>Route 2</b>	Location C: A bridge, bored tunnel or immersed tunnel	South of the river – using either a Western Southern Link from the A2 or an Eastern Southern Link from the M2.
		North of the river – from the crossing following a westerly line via the existing A1089 to the M25 between junctions 29 and 30.
<b>Route 3</b>		South of the river – using either a Western Southern Link from the A2 or an Eastern Southern Link from the M2.
		North of the river – from the crossing following a middle-line to the M25 between junctions 29 and 30.
<b>Route 4</b>		South of the river – using either a Western Southern Link from the A2 or an Eastern Southern Link from the M2.
		North of the river – from the crossing following an easterly line via the existing A127 to the M25 at junction 29.

3.5.9 Having assessed these options, the Applicant concluded that Location C performed better against the identified criteria than Location A. Of the three route options proposed north of the river at Location C, Route 3 was the proposed option, though all three options would relieve congestion at the Dartford Crossing, offer wider economic benefits, provide network resilience, and improve connectivity and journey times. Of the two route options proposed south of the river at Location C, the ESL was the preferred option, on the basis that it would provide the most direct route and the greatest improvement to journey times. It was acknowledged in the Consultation Booklet that the ESL had significant implications for the local community, and that the WSL was a viable option.

3.5.10 The consultation booklet also explained the process through which the Applicant had concluded that a twin-bored tunnel crossing of the river would be preferential to either a bridge or an immersed tunnel solution.

- 3.5.11 A copy of the response form produced for the consultation is provided in Appendix B of this report. It asked questions in relation to the following topics:
- a. The crossing location
  - b. Routes north of the river
  - c. Routes south of the river
  - d. The proposed scheme
  - e. Additional junctions
- 3.5.12 In each instance, respondents were invited to select a preference from a set of options and then to provide comments to explain that selection. In addition, there was a question on the response form about the quality of the consultation process and a space for respondents to leave comments on any other issue related to the plans for a Lower Thames Crossing.
- 3.5.13 The consultation booklet explained that the feedback provided would be analysed and incorporated into The Applicant's final route recommendation to the DfT.

### **When the Applicant consulted**

- 3.5.14 The initial non-statutory consultation took place over an eight-week period between 26 January and 24 March 2016.

### **How the Applicant consulted**

- 3.5.15 The Applicant sought to deliver the consultation in ways that were accessible to all of the communities that were potentially affected by the different route options being considered. The consultation was also aimed at stakeholder organisations, including statutory bodies as well as community and industry groups. Elected officials, including Members of Parliament and Local Councillors were also identified among the target audience of the consultation.
- 3.5.16 In order to bring the consultation to the attention of as many of the target audience as possible, the Applicant delivered an extensive publicity campaign.
- 3.5.17 This included the delivery of a leaflet to around 250,000 households and businesses within 2km of Locations A, C and C variant. The 2km corridor was considered to be proportionate to the predicted impacts – both positive and negative – of the proposals and the anticipated level of interest among local communities. The leaflet contained basic information about the consultation proposals as well as instructions on how to access more information. A copy of, and a link to, the leaflet is provided in Appendix B of this report.
- 3.5.18 The Applicant also wrote to the owners or occupiers of property and land potentially affected by the proposals. The database used for this purpose had been compiled based on the level of detail available at that time on the impacts of the proposals. It included around 380 separate individuals or organisations. The database has been continuously developed by the Applicant and used to consult all known land interests on a statutory basis, as described in Chapter 4 of this report.

- 3.5.19 Letters were sent to a number of organisations, businesses and membership bodies, including local authorities, chambers of commerce and other stakeholder bodies. The letter encouraged these bodies to take part in the consultation and, where possible, to bring it to the attention of their members.
- 3.5.20 An email was sent to approximately 900,000 Dart Charge account holders and to 11,500 other registered contacts. The purpose of the email was to provide high level information about the consultation process, along with links to further information.
- 3.5.21 Notices of the consultation were placed in local, regional and national newspapers to coincide with the launch of the consultation. The advertisements included details of the consultation events which are set out in Table 3.5. A further description of the approach taken to advertising the consultation is provided in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4 Summary of advertising**

<b>Press</b>	<b>Poster sites</b>	<b>Digital</b>
<p>Local and regional newspapers in impacted and neighbouring areas, using a mixture of free and paid weeklies.</p> <p>Advertising in a total of 12 titles during the weeks commencing 25 January and 15 February 2016.</p> <p>For the regional newspapers, which are weekly papers, there was advertising for one day on two subsequent weeks. The national newspapers had advertising for one day only in the week commencing 15 February 2016. Different regional newspapers were used for the first and second round of advertising.</p> <p>Included: Gravesend and Dartford Messenger; and Essex Chronicle.</p>	<p>Bus stop and roadside posters used from 15 to 18 February 2016 at 18 sites each in Dartford and Gravesham, and 37 sites in Thurrock; and from 29 February until 13 March 2016 using 11 sites in Dartford, nine sites in Gravesham, and 24 sites in Thurrock.</p>	<p>During consultation, advertising on Facebook targeted users in Thurrock, Dartford, Gravesend, Brentwood, Havering, Basildon, Medway, Maidstone and Bexley between 09 February 2016 and 23 March 2016.</p>
<p>A one-off advertisement in two national daily publications (Daily Express, Daily Telegraph) on 29 January 2016.</p>	<p>During consultation, digital posters were placed in 10 petrol station forecourts: four in Dartford, four in Gravesend and two in Grays.</p>	<p>Banner advertising through Google targeted search words relating to the Project in Thurrock, Dartford, Gravesend, Brentwood, Havering, Basildon, Medway, Maidstone and Bexley between 11 February 2016 and 23 March 2016.</p>

- 3.5.22 It was considered appropriate to provide a series of opportunities for face-to-face engagement between National Highways staff and anyone who wished to ask questions, consider the consultation material and provide feedback.
- 3.5.23 A series of public information events were held at community venues across the area potentially affected by the proposals. At each event, it was possible to speak with representatives of different technical disciplines working on the Project and to refer to display material or copies of consultation documents.
- 3.5.24 The venues, dates and opening times of the public information events are provided in Table 3.5 below. A total of 12,875 people attended these events.

**Table 3.5 Venues for public events for the initial non-statutory consultation**

Location	Date	Time
Orsett Hall, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3HS	Wednesday 3 February	11:00 – 19:00
Cascade Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LG	Thursday 4 February	11:00 – 19:00
Riverside Community Hall, Riverside Centre, Dickens Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2JY	Friday 5 February	11:00 – 19:00
Shorne Village Hall, 16 The Street, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3EA	Saturday 6 February	10:30 – 16:30
The Culver Centre, Daiglen Drive, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 5RR	Monday 8 February	11:00 – 19:00
Thurrock Council for Voluntary Services, The Beehive Resource Centre, West Street, Grays, Essex, RM17 6XP	Thursday 11 February	11:00 – 19:00
Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU	Friday 12 February	11:00 – 19:00
	Saturday 13 February	10:30 – 16:30
Upminster Junior School, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3BS	Monday 15 February	11:00 – 19:00
East Tilbury Primary School, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB	Tuesday 16 February	11:00 – 19:00
East and West Horndon Village Hall, Thorndon Avenue, West Horndon, Brentwood, CM13 3TP	Wednesday 17 February	11:00 – 19:00
Lansdowne Primary Academy, Lansdowne Road, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 7QB	Thursday 18 February	11:00 – 19:00
Bluewater Shopping Centre Bluewater Parkway, Greenhithe, Kent, DA9 9ST	Friday 19 February	11:00 – 19:00
	Saturday 20 February	10:30 – 16:30
Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Place, Hurst Road, Bexley, DA5 3LH	Monday 22 February	11:00 – 19:00

Location	Date	Time
Eastgate Events Venue, Eastgate, 141 Springhead Parkway, Northfleet, Gravesend, DA11 8AD	Tuesday 23 February	11:00 – 19:00
Temple Hill Community Centre, Temple Hill Square, Dartford, DA1 5HY	Friday 26 February	11:00 – 19:00
Orchard Shopping Centre, High St, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DN	Saturday 27 February	10:30 – 16:30
The Towngate Theatre, St. Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL	Tuesday 1 March	11:00 – 19:00
Thurrock Council for Voluntary Services, The Beehive Resource Centre, West Street, Grays, Essex, RM17 6XP	Thursday 3 March	11:00 – 19:00
Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock Way, Grays, Essex, RM20 2ZP	Friday 4 March	11:00 – 19:00
	Saturday 5 March	10:30 – 16:30
Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ	Monday 7 March	11:00 – 19:00
The Corn Exchange, Northgate, Rochester, Medway, ME1 1LS	Tuesday 8 March	11:00 – 19:00

3.5.25 In addition to the public information events, members of the Project team attended and took part in over 20 public forums during the consultation period to explain the proposals and answer questions. A list of these forums is provided in Table 3.6.

**Table 3.6 Presentations made to other forums**

Category	Organisation/title
Local authorities	Leader of Gravesham Borough Council Leader of London Borough of Havering Kent County Council Thurrock Council, Scrutiny Committee Southend-on-Sea City Council Castle Point Council
Statutory (and other) environmental bodies	Natural England Historic England Environment Agency Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Members of Parliament	Stephen Metcalfe, MP for South Basildon & East Thurrock Adam Holloway, MP for Gravesham Angela Watkinson, MP for Hornchurch and Upminster Jackie Doyle-Price, MP for Thurrock (at a public information event)

Category	Organisation/title
Other forums and debates	Essex Chamber of Commerce Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Thames Gateway Kent Partnership South East Local Enterprise Partnership Gravesham Neighbourhood Forum Bluewater Forum Tilbury Terminal Public Meeting (Thurrock Council) BBC Radio Kent debate Shorne Village Hall meeting

3.5.26 A National Highways telephone service was advertised in consultation materials for anyone who needed help accessing information on the consultation. The service was in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

3.5.27 The Applicant also set up a number of deposit locations at community libraries. At each of these deposit locations, it was possible to view consultation documents and maps, or to collect a questionnaire. The details of these deposit locations are presented in Table 3.7 below.

**Table 3.7 Details of deposit locations for the initial non-statutory consultation**

Venue	Address
<b>North of the river</b>	
Aveley Library	Purfleet Road, Aveley, RM15 4DJ
Belhus Library	South Ockendon Centre, Derry Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX
Blackshots Library	Blackshots Library, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU
Brentwood Library	New Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4BP
Chadwell Library	Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, RM16 4JP
Corringham Library	St John's Way, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 7LJ
East Tilbury Library	Princess Avenue, East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8ST
Grays Library	Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays, RM17 5DX
Laindon Library	5-7 New Century Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex, SS15 6AG
Stanford-le-Hope Library	High Street, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0HG
Upminster Library	26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB
<b>South of the river</b>	
Bexley Village Community Library	Bourne Road, Bexley, Greater London, DA5 1LU
Central Library Bexleyheath	2 Townley Road, Bexleyheath, DA6 7HL
Coldharbour Library	Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 8AE
Crayford Library	176 Townhall Square, Crayford, Kent DA1 4FN

Venue	Address
Cuxton Library	Bush Road, Cuxton, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1EY
Dartford Library	Central Park, Market Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1EU
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1BE
Greenhithe Library	London Road, Greenhithe, Kent, DA9 9EJ
Higham Library	Villa Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7BS
Hive House Library	Hive House, 10 - 11 The Hive, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9DE
King's Farm Library	Sun Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5HR
Longfield Library	49 Main Road, Longfield, Kent, DA3 7QT
Marling Cross Library	266 MacKenzie Way, Gravesend, DA12 5TY
Meopham Library	Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0AH
Riverview Park Library	The Alma, Leander Drive, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4NG
Strood Library	133 High St, Rochester, ME2 4TJ
Swanley Library	London Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7AE

## The consultation material

- 3.5.28 When preparing to deliver the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant developed a strategy for engaging effectively with the stakeholders and communities it had identified as its target audience. In developing this strategy, the Applicant researched and considered the presence of hard to reach communities and, more generally, to the different requirements and preferences of stakeholders.
- 3.5.29 The Applicant produced a range of consultation materials, including non-technical summaries, detailed technical studies, short factsheets and map books. This was intended to ensure that all audiences were catered for, including those who would prefer short summaries focusing on specific elements of the proposals, and those who wished to gain a detailed overview of the proposals as a whole.
- 3.5.30 The material produced for the consultation included the following core documents:
- a. A consultation booklet setting out the proposals
  - b. A range of maps
  - c. Themed factsheets covering biodiversity, water, air quality, noise and vibration, land and property, minimising construction impacts, and traffic modelling
  - d. A summary business case

- e. The Pre-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2016a) that provided details of the appraisal of all the route options, including engineering, safety, operational, traffic, economic, social, and environmental appraisals
- f. A consultation questionnaire

3.5.31 Appendix B of this report contains a full list of each document published for the non-statutory consultation, including a brief description and a weblink to each document. Copies of the consultation booklet, the response form and the publicity leaflet are also provided in Appendix B.

3.5.32 All of the consultation materials were published on a website that was live throughout the consultation period. It included an online version (Highways England, 2016c) of the consultation questionnaire, meaning visitors could consider the material the Applicant had produced and then provide their feedback.

### Summary of feedback received

3.5.33 For the purposes of generating feedback on key issues for consideration, the Applicant produced a consultation questionnaire that was available in hard copy and as an online questionnaire on the consultation website. A copy and a link to the questionnaire are provided in Appendix B of this report.

3.5.34 The questionnaire included questions asking consultees to record their preference for any of the three proposed route options north of the river; the two route options south of the river; the proposed scheme as a whole (including the proposal for a bored tunnel road crossing of the river); the issue of whether additional junctions should be included in the proposals; and the quality of the consultation exercise. There was also an opportunity for people to provide 'any other comments' so that respondents were not limited in the range of issues they could raise.

3.5.35 The consultation questionnaire also asked for respondents to provide information about themselves, including demographic information and information about the organisation, if any, that they represented.

3.5.36 It was possible to respond to the consultation by using any of the dedicated response channels established for that purpose. These consisted of a freepost address, an email address and the online response form hosted on the consultation website.

3.5.37 Responses were received directly by Ipsos MORI, the specialist data analysis agency that was commissioned by the Applicant to produce an independent and neutral report of their analysis.

3.5.38 The total number of valid responses received and analysed by Ipsos MORI was 47,034. Table 3.8 indicates the different response types that were represented within that figure.



**Table 3.8 Response types for the non-statutory consultation**

Response channel	Count
Online response form	29,516
Paper response form	3,734
Letters and emails	13,258
Petitions	3
Responses from stakeholder organisations	523
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,034</b>

- 3.5.39 A total of 13,284 of the responses were identified as being associated with an organised campaign, meaning they contained one of several identically worded statements about the consultation proposals. Ipsos MORI identified fourteen separate campaigns, the largest of which was organised by The Woodland Trust with 5,625 responses.
- 3.5.40 All campaign responses received by Ipsos MORI were treated as individual responses and analysed according to the same principles and methods as all other responses received.
- 3.5.41 The output of Ipsos MORI's analysis was a summary report, Lower Thames Crossing Consultation: Analysis of Findings Report (Ipsos MORI, 2017a), in which the feedback provided in response to the consultation was presented. This report informed the Applicant's process of deciding the outcomes of the consultation, leading to the Preferred Route Announcement described below.
- 3.5.42 Ipsos MORI's report was structured around each of the questions about the consultation proposals included in the questionnaire. For each question, Ipsos Mori presented a summary of answers and feedback provided, first, by stakeholder organisations and, second, by members of the public. The analysis was presented in this way to draw out the different opinions and priorities of those two sets of consultee groups.
- 3.5.43 Answers to closed questions (in which consultees were asked to select one out of several options to indicate their level of agreement or preference for a particular proposal) indicated that there was considerable support for some aspects of the consultation proposals, but that others were less popular.
- 3.5.44 For example, in response to Question 5a (*'On balance, do you agree or disagree with our proposal for the location of a crossing, at Location C?'*), 19,729 members of the public either strongly agreed or tended to agree compared with 11,998 who strongly disagreed or tended to disagree.
- 3.5.45 In response to Question 10 (*'Having evaluated the options, our proposed scheme is a new bored tunnel road crossing at Location C, following Route 3 north of the river and the Eastern Southern Link south of the river. On balance, do you agree or disagree with our proposed scheme?'*), however, 13,898 members of the public either agreed or strongly agreed, and 16,545 either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

- 3.5.46 Ipsos MORI's summary of the feedback provided in response to each open question also indicated that there was a wide range of positive, negative and neutral opinions on each element of the proposals.
- 3.5.47 Appendix M of this report provides a link to the Ipsos MORI analysis report on the Project's consultation website.
- 3.5.48 In March 2017, Ipsos MORI produced an addendum to its summary report - Lower Thames Crossing Consultation: Summary Report – Addendum (Ipsos MORI, 2017b). This presented its analysis of 14 responses that were submitted after the deadline of the non-statutory consultation. In the introduction to that addendum, Ipsos MORI stated that '*None of the late transmitted responses raised any new issues beyond those already identified in the responses submitted before the close of [the non-statutory] consultation.*'

### Preferred Route Announcement

- 3.5.49 On 12 April 2017 the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed the preferred route for the Lower Thames Crossing. This was as follows:
- g. A bored tunnel crossing under the River Thames east of Gravesend and Tilbury (Location C)
  - h. A new road north of the river which will join the M25 between junctions 29 and 30 (Route 3)
  - i. A new road south of the river which will join the A2 east of Gravesend (the WSL)
- 3.5.50 To inform the announcement made by the Secretary of State and to explain to the wider public the details of the preferred route, the Applicant prepared a Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a). It was made up of seven volumes and appendices, with the first six volumes covering the history of the Lower Thames Crossing proposals, including the ways in which different alternatives had been assessed and rejected or developed over time.
- 3.5.51 Volume 3 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) was titled 'Identification of Routes and Public Consultation'. Sections 1 to 4 of Volume 3 summarised the process leading up to the initial non-statutory consultation, including the selection of shortlisted route options and their assessment, as well as pre-consultation stakeholder engagement.
- 3.5.52 Section 5 described the delivery of the initial non-statutory consultation, including the engagement activities that had been delivered to generate interest and awareness of the proposals as well as the process that the Applicant had followed to ensure that feedback was conscientiously considered in the post-consultation phase.
- 3.5.53 It explained that the Applicant had paid close attention to the analysis undertaken by Ipsos MORI, including consideration of the codeframe that Ipsos MORI had devised to categorise issues raised in responses. As explained in Section 5, the Applicant had also reviewed detailed responses such as those submitted by local authorities and statutory bodies.

- 3.5.54 Section 5 of Volume 3 provided an overview of issues raised by consultees on the following themes:
- a. Location and crossing type
  - b. The route north of the river
  - c. The route south of the river
  - d. Additional junctions
  - e. Other comments on the scheme
  - f. Feedback on the consultation
- 3.5.55 In each instance, the report set out brief summaries of the key themes raised in response to each topic, including explanations of the position taken by core stakeholder bodies. Where applicable, it set out the answers to closed questions (i.e. those asking consultees to choose an option from a list that corresponded to their views for or against different proposals) by using graphs and charts.
- 3.5.56 Section 6 of Volume 3 set out the issues raised by consultees in greater detail. It consisted of a series of sub-sections, covering the following topics:
- a. Consultation process
  - b. Need and consistency with national policy
  - c. The traffic problem at the existing Dartford Crossing
  - d. Traffic modelling
  - e. Scheme Objectives
  - f. Environmental impacts
  - g. Construction impacts
  - h. Other options
  - i. Options to mitigate impacts of the Project
  - j. Other modal solutions
  - k. Junction strategy
  - l. Provision for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
  - m. Wider network impacts
  - n. Economic benefits and costs
  - o. Land and property

- p. Futureproofing
- q. Integrated asset delivery
- r. Equality, diversity and inclusion
- s. Legacy opportunities
- t. Future programme

3.5.57 Each section provided a table in which, in the left-hand column, issues raised by consultees were described, and in the right-hand column, the Applicant provided its response. An example from Volume 3 is provided in Table 3.9 to demonstrate this approach.

**Table 3.9 Example from Volume 3 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report of Highways England’s consideration of issues**

Consultation theme	Highways England’s response
<p>Some respondents raised the issue that the proposed scheme would not provide sufficient relief at Dartford.</p>	<p>The proposed scheme at Location C would provide a high quality, safe transport solution with a 70mph road providing improved journey times for traffic using the new crossing and also providing significant traffic relief to the existing Dartford Crossing, with heavy goods vehicle movements predicted to reduce by 29% in 2025.</p> <p>The proposed scheme would provide significant improvements in journey times. In 2025, journey speeds between M25 J3 and M25 J28 across the existing Dartford Crossing would increase from 43mph to 51mph with a three-minute time saving, whilst journey speeds between M2 J4 and M25 J28 would increase from 47mph to 56mph with an eight-minute time saving.</p> <p>The proposed scheme would substantially improve the resilience of the strategic road network east of London. Importantly, it would provide a high standard diversionary route when incidents occur on the existing A282 Dartford Crossing and would also ensure that the strategic road network in the vicinity of the crossings operates at lower traffic volumes in relation to capacity, compared to the situation without the Scheme.</p>

3.5.58 The information provided in the ‘Highways England’s response’ column sought to explain in clear terms whether the issue in question had led to a change in the design or other plans for the Project and, where applicable, to explain whether and how the issue would be further considered in the development of the Project, for example as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Highways England, 2018b). Where appropriate, it also directed readers to other documents produced by the Applicant, for example in other volumes of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a), where an issue was considered and explained in greater detail.

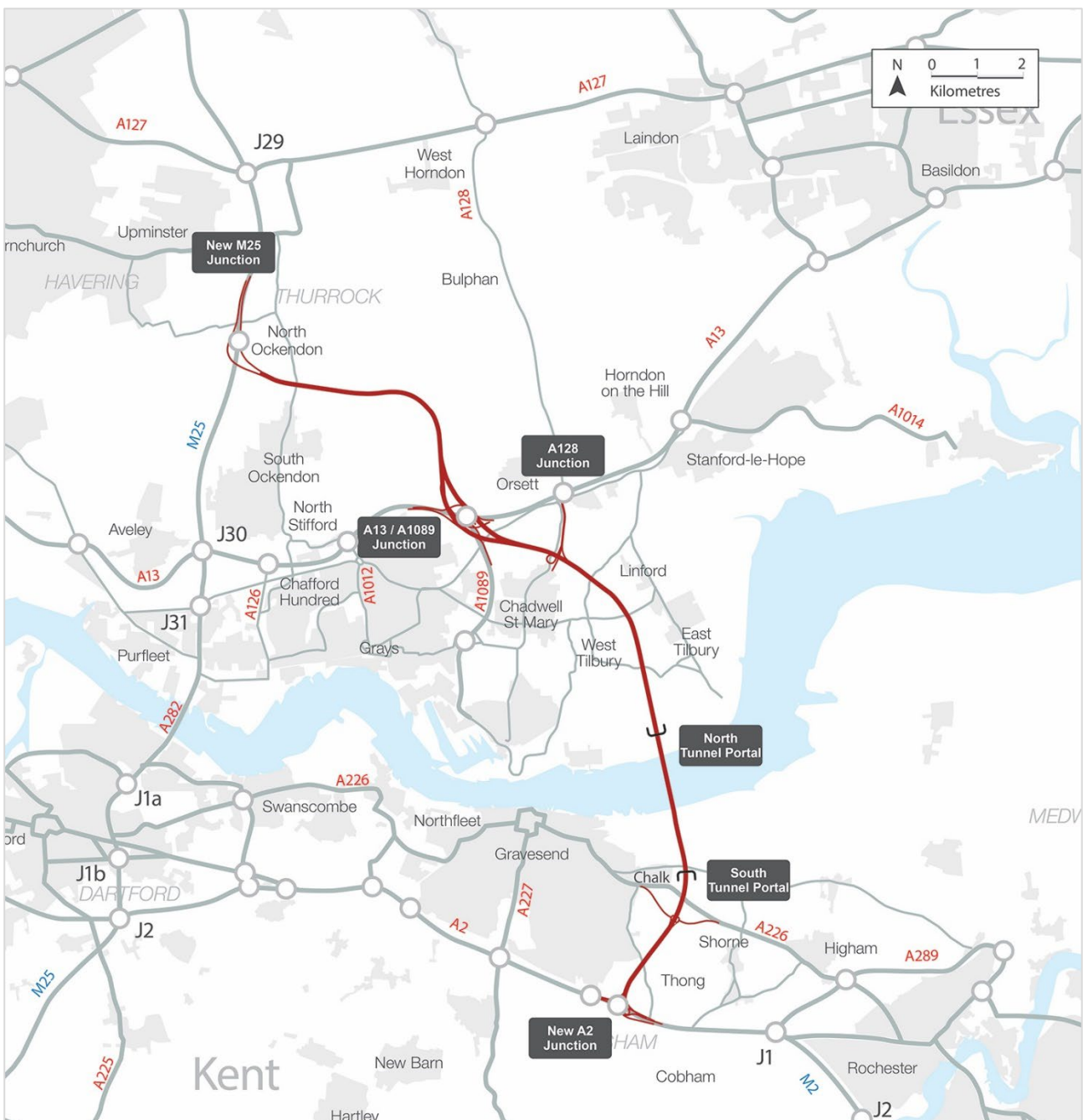
3.5.59 Volume 3 confirmed that the consultation responses had been taken into account in making a recommendation to the Government about the choice for a

preferred route to be taken forward into the next stage of its development. It also explained that many of the comments would be used to inform detailed design refinements as the Project was developed in more detail for the next stages.

3.5.60 Volume 7 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) summarised the appraisal of the routes that had taken place after consultation and described the preferred route that the Applicant had recommended.

3.5.61 Plate 3.3 illustrates the preferred route as published in that report.

**Plate 3.3 The preferred route**



- 3.5.62 The Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) was published on the consultation website, under the 'Related' heading at the bottom of the webpage: [REDACTED]. A link is also provided in Appendix B of this report.
- 3.5.63 The Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) was published at the same time as the 'Response to Consultation' document described in paragraph 3.5.68.
- 3.5.64 As described in the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a), a detailed examination of the shortlisted routes and options enabled the Applicant to make its recommendation to the DfT. Each of the different options was examined in terms of its performance against the transport, economic, and environment and community criteria that make up the Scheme Objectives. As described earlier in this section, a detailed review of consultation responses also informed the Applicant's assessment of the route options, and this information was conveyed to the Secretary of State to inform its decision.
- 3.5.65 Section 4.1.1 of Volume 1 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) explained that the strategic considerations that had led to the selection of the 'Recommended Preferred Route' were as follows:
- a. Of the two locations considered, only a new crossing at Location C satisfies the transport objectives, particularly in regard to resilience. Options at Location A did not meet the strategic objectives of the scheme.
  - b. A new crossing at Location C opens up new opportunities for development and would strongly support the regional economic growth objectives.
  - c. A bored tunnel provides the best opportunity to mitigate adverse impacts on the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar and Special Protection Area sites, which are international and European designations.
  - d. Route 3 provides the most direct route with the lowest environmental and community impacts north of the river.
  - e. The WSL is the recommended route south of the river. This would achieve the transport and economic objectives and provide a high-quality solution, whilst having a materially lower impact than the ESL on the environment and local communities.
- 3.5.66 The Applicant explained that its pre-consultation recommendation had been for the ESL and therefore the selection of the WSL as a component of the preferred route represented a change in its recommendation. The Applicant also explained that further technical investigations and environmental assessments in relation to the preferred route would be necessary, as would further consultation and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

3.5.67 The Applicant published a Lower Thames Crossing Response to Consultation document (Highways England, 2017b), as part of the Preferred Route Announcement. It presented the findings and outcomes of the consultation in a shorter format than the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report, enabling readers to gain an overview of the key recommendations made by the Applicant and the ways in which consultation responses had informed them. The Lower Thames Crossing Response to Consultation document (Highways England, 2017b) sets out the Applicant's consideration of consultation responses under the following headings:

- a. Alternative locations
- b. Economy, homes and business
- c. Transport and traffic
- d. Air quality
- e. Noise
- f. Ecology
- g. Green belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- h. Landscape / townscape, visual and heritage impacts
- i. Community impacts
- j. Land and property
- k. Construction impacts
- l. Local traffic, junctions and the wider road network
- m. Futureproofing
- n. Alternative solutions

3.5.68 The Lower Thames Crossing Response to Consultation (Highways England, 2017b) was published on the Project's consultation website.

## **3.6 Development of the preferred route towards Statutory Consultation**

3.6.1 Section 7.4 of Volume 7 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report (Highways England, 2017a) set out the next steps to be taken by the Applicant in response to the Preferred Route Announcement. It specified that further detailed consideration would be undertaken regarding the following:

- a. Whether a dual-3 lane solution should be provided for all or part of the route
- b. Whether new local junctions should be provided with the A226 south of the river and at Tilbury north of the river

- c. Whether tunnelling should continue further south of the river to mitigate the impacts of the Project
- d. Development of the junction arrangements with the A2, A13 and M25 to reduce their impacts on the community and the environment
- e. Alternative alignments for the route where it passes through the landfill site north of South Ockendon
- f. Further assessment of the impacts of the preferred route on the wider road network, as part of National Highways' ongoing route strategy planning

3.6.2 It was also specified in Volume 7 that further environmental surveys and traffic modelling work would be undertaken.

3.6.3 The Approach to Design, Construction and Operation (Highways England, 2018a) that was published at Statutory Consultation explained that, in addition to the issues described in paragraph 3.6.1 above, the Applicant had given consideration to other aspects of the proposals, many of which had not previously been considered on the basis that they were not differentiators in route selection decisions previously made. The changes being considered included the following:

- a. The road type to be used (all-purpose trunk road, expressway, or motorway)
- b. Whether any of the strategic roads directly connecting with the Project (A2, A13 and M25) require additional lane provision
- c. Whether part or all of the Project should be either a high or heavy load route
- d. Whether a roadside service facility should be provided and if so, in which location
- e. The location of any maintenance facilities and accesses
- f. The position of the North Portal
- g. Changes to the vertical route and depth of the tunnel
- h. Development of junction designs, not only to reduce impacts on the community and the environment but also to accommodate predicted flows from the updated traffic model
- i. Lowering of the level of the route north of the river following receipt of more detailed information from the Environment Agency about flood zones
- j. Refinement of the route to reduce the impact on utilities, particularly overhead powerlines, following more detailed liaison with utility companies



- 3.6.4 Chapter 11 of the Approach to Design, Construction and Operation (Highways England, 2018a) set out the assessment criteria that were used by the Applicant in considering potential changes to the preferred route. Chapters 12 to 15 describe these assessments and their outcomes:
- a. Chapter 12 addresses Project-wide developments, including the road standard, the number of lanes, high and heavy load routes, and the roadside service facility.
  - b. Chapter 13 addresses developments to the south of the River Thames, including the M2/A2 corridor, the M2/A2/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction and the A226 junction.
  - c. Chapter 14 covers developments to the river crossing, including the South Portal and other tunnel design changes.
  - d. Chapter 15 covers developments north of the River Thames, including vertical alignment affecting flood zones, Tilbury junction and link road, horizontal alignment affecting electricity pylons between Tilbury and the A13, the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction, the Mardyke crossing, the horizontal alignment affecting the Ockendon landfill site, the A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction, and the M25 corridor and M25 junction 29.
- 3.6.5 The approach taken in Chapters 12 to 15 was to outline the position on each issue at the time of the Preferred Route Announcement, explain the alternatives considered since that time, and set out the position taken by the Applicant for the Statutory Consultation.
- 3.6.6 This phase of the Project required close cooperation with stakeholder organisations and community groups. The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) provide further information on the Applicant's engagement with stakeholder bodies.
- 3.6.7 Chapter 10 of this report includes a summary of Project engagement with statutory environmental bodies, including the period between the Preferred Route Announcement and Statutory Consultation.

## 3.7 EIA scoping

- 3.7.1 In October 2017, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State for Transport under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) that an Environmental Statement would be prepared and submitted alongside the application for development consent. A copy of the letter of notification dated 31 October 2017, sent to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State, is provided in Appendix C of this report.
- 3.7.2 A request for a Scoping Opinion was also submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31 October 2017, under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations, with the Applicant's letter of notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of

the EIA Regulations (see Appendix C of this report). This request was accompanied by an EIA Scoping Report (Highways England, 2017c) for the Project, which comprised the information required by Regulations 8(3) and 10(3) of the EIA Regulations. The Planning Inspectorate (2017b) issued its Scoping Opinion on 13 December 2017.

- 3.7.3 The Scoping Opinion constitutes the Secretary of State’s written opinion as to the information that would need to be included as part of the Environmental Statement for submission with the DCO application. The Scoping Opinion informed the structure and content of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (Highways England, 2018b) that was consulted upon during Statutory Consultation, as described in Chapter 4.
- 3.7.4 The Scoping Opinion has also informed the structure and content of the Environmental Statement, which builds on the findings of the PEIR. The Environmental Statement is included in the DCO application (Application Documents 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3).
- 3.7.5 For a full summary of the Applicant’s notification and its request for a Scoping Opinion, refer to Section 10.4 of this report.

## 4 Statutory consultation

### 4.1 Preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

#### Introduction

- 4.1.1 As required by section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how it planned to consult people living near the Project about the proposed application for development consent.
- 4.1.2 In accordance with section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant consulted with local authorities on the content of the SoCC. This included those authorities defined by section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and a number of additional authorities who did not strictly fall within that definition. The Applicant had regard to authorities' responses to the consultation on the draft SoCC in preparing the final version of the SoCC for publication. Appendix F of this report sets out the responses received from local authorities to the draft SoCC and how the Applicant had regard to them. Appendix G includes a copy of the final SoCC and a checklist demonstrating the Applicant's compliance with its terms.
- 4.1.3 Once prepared, the Applicant complied with section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 by:
- a. Making the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that was reasonably convenient for people living near the Project
  - b. Publishing a notice in newspapers circulating near the Project, which provided details of where and when the SoCC could be inspected
- 4.1.4 The Applicant then carried out the statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC, as required by section 47(7) of the Planning Act 2008. Further details of how the Applicant complied with sections 47(6) and (7) of the Planning Act 2008 are set out in Section 4.5 of this chapter and in Appendix A of this report.

#### Developing the draft SoCC

- 4.1.5 Before formally consulting on the draft SoCC under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant carried out a programme of engagement with host local authorities, as defined by section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008, seeking their views on an early version of the draft SoCC. By engaging at an early stage with host authorities, the Applicant gave those authorities an opportunity to shape the scope of the Statutory Consultation. A copy of the preliminary draft of the SoCC is provided in Appendix D, Plate D.2, along with a copy of the draft that was the subject of formal consultation with the relevant local authorities under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Appendix D, Plate D.4).
- 4.1.6 The informal draft SoCC engagement programme started in December 2017 and involved Project staff meeting with the host local authorities. The list of host authorities and early engagement activity undertaken with them is set out in Table 4.1.

4.1.7 As well as holding face-to-face meetings, the host local authorities were encouraged to provide written feedback on the early version of the draft SoCC.

**Table 4.1 Informal engagement with host authorities on an early version of the draft SoCC prior to formal consultation on the draft SoCC under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008**

Host authority under section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008	Date	Engagement activity
Brentwood Borough Council	February 2018	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent the early version of draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	April 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of the draft SoCC to the Applicant.
Dartford Borough Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC..
	February 2018	The Applicant sent the early version of draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	February 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
	May 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of the draft SoCC to the Applicant.
Essex County Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	March 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to introduce and discuss the early version of the draft SoCC.
	March 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of draft SoCC to The Applicant.
	June 2018	Third meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
Gravesham Borough Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	March 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.

Host authority under section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008	Date	Engagement activity
	March 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of draft SoCC to The Applicant.
	July 2018	Third meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
Kent County Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	March 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
	May 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of draft SoCC to the Applicant.
London Borough of Havering	January 2018	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	March 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
	April 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of the draft SoCC to the Applicant.
Medway Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	April 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss the early version of the draft SoCC.
	May 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of the draft SoCC to the Applicant.
Thurrock Council	December 2017	Project staff met with the local authority to introduce and discuss contents of the early version of the draft SoCC.
	February 2018	The Applicant sent early version of the draft SoCC to the local authority for comment.
	March 2018	Second meeting between Project staff and the local authority to discuss early version of the draft SoCC.
	April 2018	Local authority sent written feedback on early version of the draft SoCC to the Applicant.

4.1.8 As described in Table 4.1, an early draft of the SoCC was shared with host local authorities in February 2018. Each authority returned comments on this draft, which were considered and applied where appropriate to the version of the SoCC that was later the focus of a formal consultation. Table 4.2 provides a summary of each authority's comments and an indication of whether changes addressing that comment were made to the next draft of the SoCC.

**Table 4.2 Feedback from host authorities to early draft SoCC**

Local authority	Comment	Change to draft SoCC
Medway Council	Add Medway to the consultation zone map	Yes
	Reconsider location of deposit point - i.e. should it be Gun Wharf instead of Chatham library?	Yes
	Consider different information points to Cuxton and Strood	No – other options were considered but Cuxton and Strood were selected given their relative proximity to the proposed route. Other deposit locations and information points were situated within Medway.
	Include Corn Exchange	Yes
	Hold full member briefing that all councillors are aware of the proposed actions and schedule	Yes
	Remove Kent on Sunday from the media distribution list	Yes
	Use Thursday edition of Medway Messenger instead of Monday	No – the Medway Messenger is a local edition of the Kent Messenger, which is distributed across the county and was therefore chosen for the publication of public notices. The Kent Messenger is published on Wednesdays, which is when the Project's public notices appeared in that newspaper.
Gravesham Borough Council	The SoCC should make provision for additional consultation (probably on a smaller scale) as much of the survey evidence will not be available in time to go into the PEIR on the current known timetable and given the lack of consultation on the detail of the scheme previously.	Yes

Local authority	Comment	Change to draft SoCC
	It's important to distinguish between those who are directly affected by the proposal and those from further afield. The ones directly affected will have very detailed comments about the proposals and will need the information that enables them to respond. The latter will be less interested in the detail and be more concerned with the overall impacts across the wider transport network and in particular, the journeys they expect to make. The approach to the two groups will need to be different since the matters of greatest interest are likely to be very different.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	It is important that information is shared with local authorities well in advance of the consultation so that issues can be understood and guidance can be given on the most appropriate way of handling them. This is, of course, part of the necessary interaction with the local authorities.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	Important that the consultation is seen as robust and the headlines accurately reflect what the information base is saying, not the aspirations of the promoter.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	Important to take to account the perceptions of impact as well as actual impact. Evidence may suggest something is not a major issue, but if perceived as such, that needs to be addressed.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	Respondents will expect the Project to address in some way its wider implications even if they fall outside the narrow scope of the Project. Depending on what the issues are, National Highways will need to show how it proposes to tackle them even if they are outside the scope of the DCO application.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	Twelve-week period rather than 10 given the major nature of the Project and the need for respondents to have to read and understand a considerable amount of material which will no doubt come forward and to make meaningful comments.	No – The Applicant considered 10 weeks to be an appropriate duration, as described in paragraph 4.2.12.
	Expects the consultation material to be fit for purpose and sufficiently detailed at each stage of consultation. The PEIR in particular should be accompanied by the interim technical reports that clearly establish that any statements being made at that stage are supported by robust and objective evidence.	Yes
	Need to see transport report based on the new Project traffic model. The claim that the Project will improve network resilience needs to be tested and agreed with stakeholders in advance.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.

Local authority	Comment	Change to draft SoCC
	The SoCC needs to provide clarity on what will be available at each stage of the consultation (if it is multi-staged) and the level of detail that will be provided.	Yes
	Importance of agreeing the scope of the consultation and the form it will take via the SoCC given this will determine whether or not it is deemed adequate allowing the DCO submission to proceed to examination.	Yes
Thurrock Council	We seek clarity and understanding of precisely how the Applicant has taken previous comments on board.	Yes
	Reference Thurrock separately together with Essex and Kent, in referencing the connecting of 'Essex and Kent'.	Yes
	The Applicant must continue to fully engage and negotiate with Thurrock and Gravesham – who account for 90% of the Project – to ensure concerns are fully understood and addressed. The Applicant's experience in statutory consultation needs to be highlighted.	Yes
	Engagement had been late, ad hoc and lacking demonstrable feedback as how tangibly the Project has responded to local views.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	The timelines and expectations for when statutory consultation can be undertaken need to be adjusted to when it is practically possible to do so.	Yes
	There appears to be variance with the consultation zone at Appendix 1. It is crucial that those who have most impact from the Project have a greater recognition and active participation in influencing design and mitigation.	Yes
	Highlight Purfleet and West Thurrock in the consultation zone as they will be affected.	Yes
	It is crucial that comments from near neighbours are not subsumed into generic aggregations. For each of the following there should be no aggregations and full transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Havering</li> <li>• Basildon</li> <li>• Brentwood</li> <li>• Castle Point</li> </ul>	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	Deep concern that the Applicant dismissed over ten thousand respondents who commented through Interest Groups. We assume that in now seeking such views National Highways will take a different approach to consultation.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC



Local authority	Comment	Change to draft SoCC
	Best practice suggests a 12-week long consultation, not 10.	No – The Applicant considered 10 weeks to be an appropriate duration, as described in paragraph 4.2.12.
	Recommend Easy Read to be part of the consultation materials.	No change to SoCC, though an Easy Read version of the Guide to Consultation was produced.
	The views of authorities that are directly affected should be given priority.	No change to SoCC, though responses from host authorities have been appropriately considered.
	Concerns regarding using aged data in traffic modelling.	Comment taken on board but no change in SoCC.
	How will the Applicant respond to ongoing desire for proactive local engagement on design and mitigation?	Yes
	Need for greater specificity within the Project objectives and essential that they understand the weighting to be given to each of the objectives.	No – the Scheme Objectives were not refined or weighted after their mutual agreement between the Department for Transport and National Highways.
Dartford Borough Council	Bluewater is a particularly good consultation location.	Yes
	Lack of significant locations proposed in proximity to the Dartford Crossing and it is important for those using this Crossing or affected by it to also have a say.	Yes
	Location in Dartford Town Centre would be helpful.	Yes
	Need to engage with Parish Councils in Dartford as well as other districts and residents in their areas, as they are likely to be affected by the operation of the new crossing.	Yes

4.1.9 In addition to the comments summarised in Table 4.2, some authorities provided line-by-line feedback on the wording and content of the draft SoCC. All such comments were reviewed and where appropriate applied to the next draft of the document.

### Consulting with local authorities on the draft SoCC

4.1.10 After carrying out an early programme of engagement and, where appropriate, incorporating feedback into the draft SoCC, the Applicant was in a position to consult formally on the draft SoCC in accordance with section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

4.1.11 Given the scale of the Project, and its potential to affect individuals and stakeholders across a wide area, the draft SoCC was subject to extensive

consultation. In addition to consulting the host authorities (i.e. 'B' and 'C' authorities for the purposes of section 43 of the Planning Act 2008), additional district authorities within the counties of Kent and Essex were consulted. The list of authorities consulted on the draft SoCC can be found in Appendix F of this report. This list is more extensive than that which is strictly required under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, but reflected the Applicant's desire for an open and inclusive consultation process.

- 4.1.12 The draft SoCC consultation took place from 1 August to 2 September 2018. A cover letter and the draft SoCC were posted to the relevant local authorities on 1 August 2018. They were also emailed to local authorities on 1 August 2018, meaning they were received by authorities on the day of launch. The deadline for receipt of responses was therefore in excess of the minimum 28-day period set out in section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008. The cover letter sent to local authorities is reproduced in Appendix E and the draft SoCC in Appendix D. Together they comprised the consultation documents for the purposes of section 47(4) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 4.1.13 The feedback received during the draft SoCC consultation was considered by The Applicant in accordance with section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008, and changes were made to the draft SoCC accordingly. Appendix F presents the feedback received in letters and emails from the 16 local authorities that responded to the consultation. Appendix F also sets out how the Applicant complied with the duty in section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008, by summarising the feedback received and explaining what changes were made to the final version of the SoCC as a result. A copy of the final version of the SoCC is also provided in Appendix G.

### **Publishing the SoCC**

- 4.1.14 The final version of the SoCC was publicised at the start of the Statutory Consultation period on 10 October 2018 in accordance with section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008. First, under section 47(6)(za) of the Planning Act 2008, the SoCC was made available for public inspection in a way that was reasonably convenient for people living near the Project. The Applicant discharged this duty by including copies of the SoCC among the material provided at a series of deposit locations at community venues in proximity to the land potentially affected by the Project. More information on these deposit locations, including their venues and a list of the materials available for inspection at them, can be found in Section 4.5.
- 4.1.15 The SoCC was also published on the Project's consultation website ( [REDACTED] ) along with all other consultation material. It was also available in hard copy at all of the public information events (PIEs) that were held throughout the consultation period. More information on the PIEs is provided in Section 4.5.
- 4.1.16 In accordance with section 47(6)(a) of the Planning Act 2008, a section 47 notice was also placed in local newspapers circulating near the land potentially affected by the Project. The notice was also placed in one national newspaper and an appropriate fishing trade journal. The notice included a list of the deposit locations and PIEs where the SoCC could be inspected. A list of the newspapers in which the section 47 notice was published is provided in Table

4.3. A copy of the section 47 notice as it appeared in those newspapers is provided in Appendix N.

**Table 4.3 The publication of the S47 notice in newspapers**

Names	Publication date
<b>National Newspaper</b>	
The Times	10 October 2018
<b>Local newspapers</b>	
Essex Chronicle	4 October 2018
Kent Messenger	4 October 2018
Thurrock Gazette	4 October 2018
Yellow Advertiser	12 October 2018
<b>Trade journals</b>	
Fishing News	11 October 2018

### Carrying out Statutory Consultation in accordance with the SoCC

- 4.1.17 The Statutory Consultation undertaken by the Applicant included all of the activities outlined in the SoCC. Appendix G of this report includes a checklist of these activities and an explanation of how they were fulfilled.
- 4.1.18 In some instances, the Applicant went beyond the activities that were described in the SoCC. For example, a series of regional awareness events were held in community venues across the wider South East region. These events were planned and delivered to address the wider regional significance of the Project but did not require the Applicant to scale back or rearrange any of the activities provided for in the SoCC.
- 4.1.19 More information on the consultation with local communities, including details of the regional awareness events, is provided in Section 4.5 of this chapter.

## 4.2 Overview of the Statutory Consultation

### Introduction

- 4.2.1 The Project is an NSIP which means that it requires consent through the DCO process set out in the Planning Act 2008. Pre-application consultation is a statutory requirement of that process, and the remainder of this chapter explains how the Applicant delivered a statutory consultation that complies with the Planning Act 2008, as well as the APFP Regulations, EIA Regulations and relevant statutory guidance.

### Purpose of the consultation

- 4.2.2 The main purpose of the consultation was to provide all interested parties, including statutory consultees, local communities and organisations, an opportunity to understand the proposals for the Project and provide feedback on them. It also sought feedback on the preliminary environmental information

related to the Project proposals, as set out in the PEIR (Highways England, 2018b). More information on this element of the Statutory Consultation is provided in Chapter 10 of this report.

### Who the Applicant consulted

- 4.2.3 In accordance with the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant consulted with the following groups and individuals:
- a. section 42 – prescribed consultees (these being the bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations), the MMO, relevant local authorities, the General London Authority and those who own, occupy or have a legal interest in land that would be affected by the Project, or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim if the DCO were implemented. The ‘consultation bodies’, as defined by the EIA Regulations, were also issued with a copy of the section 48 notice, in compliance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. Further information on how this duty was discharged is presented in Chapter 10.
  - b. section 47 – local community consultees, including the people living near the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups.
- 4.2.4 An explanation of how these consultees were identified is provided in Section 4.3 of this chapter and the appendices cited.
- 4.2.5 In addition, the Applicant publicised:
- a. The SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
  - b. The proposed application, in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations

### What the Applicant consulted on

- 4.2.6 As described in Section 3.6, in the period after the Preferred Route Announcement in April 2017, the Applicant further developed the Project proposals in preparation for statutory pre-application consultation. As part of this process, a PEIR was prepared, based on assessments of the Project's likely significant environmental effects. Development of the proposals as a whole was described in a consultation document, Your Guide to Consultation (the Guide) (Highways England, 2018d) which is described in Section 4.5 of this chapter, alongside a wide range of other material produced for the consultation (which is also described in that section). Together, these comprised the documents presented at Statutory Consultation, in respect of which the Applicant sought feedback from consultees.
- 4.2.7 A consultation response form was also produced, based on the contents of the Guide, the PEIR and other consultation documents. It sought answers to a series of questions on different elements of the Project. Typically, each question asking for feedback on a proposal was accompanied by a closed question in


which it was possible to choose from a series of options (such as 'support' or 'oppose') to indicate the respondent's level of agreement with that proposal.

- 4.2.8 The first two sections of the response form were focused on whether the Project was needed, whether consultees supported the selection of the preferred route, and the changes that had been made since the Preferred Route Announcement.
- 4.2.9 The next section of the response form sought feedback on different sections of the route and its junctions, as presented in the Guide. Covering the sections of the route, the response form provided sub-sections for the area south of the River Thames, the river crossing, and the area north of the River Thames. There were also questions for each of the proposed junctions. Dividing the route up in this way was considered appropriate, so that consultees could focus on the section of the route of greatest relevance to them. The next section dealt with proposals affecting Public Rights of Way, the Project's assessment of environmental impacts (and the proposed mitigations), the land required to build and operate the Project, the proposed roadside service facility, the forecast traffic impacts of the Project, plans to charge users of the new crossing, and the proposed changes to utilities infrastructure.
- 4.2.10 The final section of the response form sought feedback on the delivery of the consultation, including the material that had been produced and the events held in community venues. There was also an opportunity to provide comments on any other element of the proposals not covered by the preceding questions.
- 4.2.11 A copy of the response form is provided in Appendix M of this report.

### **When the Applicant consulted**

- 4.2.12 The Statutory Consultation period ran from 10 October 2018 to 20 December 2018, a period of 71 days, substantially in excess of the statutory minimum 28-day period in section 45(2) of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. The duration of the consultation was considered appropriate to the breadth and complexity of the material produced for this consultation, the engagement activities that had been planned to support it and the anticipated level of public interest.

### **Feedback mechanisms**

- 4.2.13 It was possible throughout the Statutory Consultation period to provide a response by using any of three dedicated response channels. These channels were advertised on the consultation response form and other consultation documents, as well as the section 47 and section 48 notices published in local and national newspapers.
- 4.2.14 The three response channels were as follows:
- a. Online – by filling in an online version of the consultation response form hosted on the Project's consultation website:  

  - b. Post – by sending a completed response form or letter to FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION

- c. Email – by sending comments to [ltc.consultation@traverse.ltd](mailto:ltc.consultation@traverse.ltd)

## 4.3 Section 42 letters

### Introduction

- 4.3.1 Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 specifies who an applicant must consult about a proposed application. Those are:
  - a. section 42(1)(a) – such persons as may be prescribed by Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations
  - b. section 42(1)(aa) – the MMO, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in section 42(2) of the Planning Act 2008
  - c. section 42(1)(b) – each local authority that meets the criteria set out in section 43 of the Planning Act 2008
  - d. section 42(1)(c) – the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London
  - e. section 42(1)(d) – each person who is within one or more of the categories of land interest set out in section 44 of the Planning Act 2008
- 4.3.2 A full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(aa), section 42(1)(b) and section 42(1)(c) is included in Appendix H. Section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(aa) and section 42(1)(c) consultees are listed in Table H.1 and, for section 42(1)(a) statutory undertakers only, in Table H.2. Section 42(1)(b) local authorities are listed in Table H.3. The list of prescribed consultees for the purposes of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 is set out in the format of Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.
- 4.3.3 All consultees that were identified in accordance with section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 and are included in the Book of Reference are set out in Appendix J.
- 4.3.4 A further explanation of how consultees within each category were identified, and how they were consulted for the purposes of this application, is set out below.

### Identification of section 42(1)(a) (prescribed bodies) and section 42(1)(aa) consultees

- 4.3.5 The section 42(1)(a) prescribed bodies for the Project were identified by reference to Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations. The list of bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a) is set out in Appendix H.
- 4.3.6 The Applicant also consulted those bodies that were formally consulted by the Secretary of State on the Scoping Report (Highways England, 2017c) under Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations. These are the bodies set out in Tables A1 and A2 of Appendix 1 to the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2017b) and follow the order of Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations. In addition, the Applicant consulted the non-prescribed consultation bodies set out in Table A4 of Appendix 1 to the Scoping Opinion. In this case, the only non-prescribed

body identified by the Planning Inspectorate was the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Furthermore, the Applicant consulted the local authorities listed in Table A3 of Appendix 1 to the Scoping Opinion. Further details of consultation with local authorities under section 42 are set out later in this chapter.

- 4.3.7 The MMO was identified as a consultee under section 42(1)(aa) on the basis that the Project would affect or would be likely to affect the waters in or adjacent to the seaward limits of the territorial sea for the purposes of section 42(2)(a) of the Planning Act 2008. The MMO was also consulted under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 because the MMO is a prescribed body in respect of applications likely to affect the marine area in England and Wales, for the purposes of Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations (in addition, the MMO was listed in Table A1 of the Scoping Opinion). A copy of the letter sent to the MMO under section 42 is set out in Appendix K.
- 4.3.8 As part of the Applicant's ongoing analysis and to ensure ongoing compliance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, beyond the Statutory Consultation and also covering further consultations undertaken on a non-statutory basis, it was identified that Thurrock Power Limited and London & Continental Railways Limited are or may be relevant statutory undertakers for the purposes of section 42(1)(a) and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations. These bodies were not listed in the Planning Inspectorate's (2017b) Scoping Opinion. The Applicant therefore consulted Thurrock Power Limited and London & Continental Railways Limited under section 42(1)(a) on 13 July 2020, prior to the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, as set out in Table H.2 of Appendix H to this report. These letters also enclosed a copy of the section 48 notice published at Statutory Consultation, noting the requirements of the EIA Regulations. A copy of this letter is provided in Appendix K of this report.
- 4.3.9 In addition, in the period following the close of the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant identified that Southern Water Services Limited (Southern Water) is a relevant statutory undertaker for the purposes of the Project, under section 42(1)(a). Given the late stage at which this was confirmed, there was insufficient time to consult Southern Water under section 42(1)(a). However, Southern Water were consulted under section 42, as a person with an interest in land, at Statutory Consultation by letter dated 9 October 2018 and were also consulted on a non-statutory basis at Supplementary Consultation and the Design Refinement Consultation. Southern Water has therefore been consulted under section 42. Furthermore, the Applicant wrote to Southern Water on 7 October 2020 to confirm its status, as a relevant statutory undertaker for the purposes of section 42(1)(a), and to enclose a copy of the section 48 notice published at Statutory Consultation. Although this letter does not constitute a section 42 notification, for completeness a copy is provided in Appendix K of this report.
- 4.3.10 At the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation held in 2021, which is described further in Chapter 8, 14 additional organisations were identified as section 42 prescribed bodies and formally consulted as part of that consultation. Those organisations included some that were identified by the Planning Inspectorate and others identified by the Applicant as part of ongoing diligent inquiry into the land affected by the Project proposals.

- 4.3.11 The 14 additional consultees were as follows:
- a. Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
  - b. Last Mile Gas Limited
  - c. Leep Gas Networks Limited
  - d. Leep Utilities Holding Limited
  - e. Murphy Gas Networks Limited
  - f. Squire Energy Limited
  - g. Indigo Power Limited
  - h. Last Mile Electricity Limited
  - i. Murphy Power Distribution Limited
  - j. Eastern Power Networks Plc/London Power Networks Plc./South Eastern Power Networks Plc
  - k. Eclipse Power Network Ltd
  - l. Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
  - m. Optimal Power Networks Limited
  - n. Vattenfall Networks Limited

4.3.12 As described in Chapter 9, the proposals set out as part of the Local Refinement Consultation in 2022 included areas set aside for environmental compensation in areas that had not previously been included in the Order Limits of the Project. As a result of this, two new parish councils – Aylesford Parish Council and Boxley Parish Council – were identified as section 42(1)(a) prescribed bodies and duly consulted at the start of that consultation. In addition, and as part of ongoing diligent inquiry into the land affected by the Project proposals, two further utilities companies – South East Water Limited and Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited – were identified and notified of the consultation and of their status as relevant statutory undertakers.

### **Identification of section 42(1)(b) and 42(1)(c) – local authority consultees**

4.3.13 Relevant local authorities were identified by reference to section 43 of the Planning Act 2008. The proposed site of the Project would affect land within 10 administrative areas, comprising county councils, unitary authorities and district councils. These are categorised as the ‘B’ and ‘C’ host authorities for the purposes of section 43. The 10 authorities include two – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council – that became ‘B’ authorities (having previously been ‘A’ neighbouring authorities) only in 2022 when environmental mitigation areas were proposed by the Applicant in those areas.



- 4.3.14 There are a further 20 local authorities – comprising county councils, unitary authorities and district councils – that share an administrative border with the 10 host authorities. These are categorised as ‘A’ and ‘D’ neighbouring authorities for the purposes of section 43. They include two authorities – Ashford Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – that became ‘A’ authorities in 2022, as a result of the new environmental mitigation areas that were proposed in land within neighbouring authorities.
- 4.3.15 Each district council or unitary authority within the counties of Kent and Essex that were invited to take part in the consultation on the draft SoCC under section 47(2) were also treated as section 42(1)(b) consultees, even though they did not formally qualify as local authority consultees for the purposes of section 43. This reflected the Applicant’s desire to undertake an open and inclusive consultation process, which went beyond basic compliance with the minimum statutory requirements.
- 4.3.16 The Greater London Authority was consulted under section 42(1)(c) of the Planning Act 2008, since the proposed application relates to land within Greater London.
- 4.3.17 All relevant local authorities are included in Table 4.4, along with a description of the relevant category for the purposes of section 43(2) of the Planning Act 2008. The list of local authorities in Table 4.4 includes all of those consulted by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations, as set out in Table A3 of the Scoping Opinion.

**Table 4.4 Local authorities within section 43**

Authority	Provision	Category for s43(2)	Description
Ashford Borough Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Medway Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a ‘unitary council’ for the purposes of s43(3).
Basildon Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Thurrock Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a ‘unitary council’ for the purposes of s43(3).
Braintree District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Brentwood Borough Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Cambridgeshire County Council	s43(2A)	D	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a ‘county council’ for the purposes of s43(3).
Canterbury City Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Castle Point Borough Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Thurrock Council

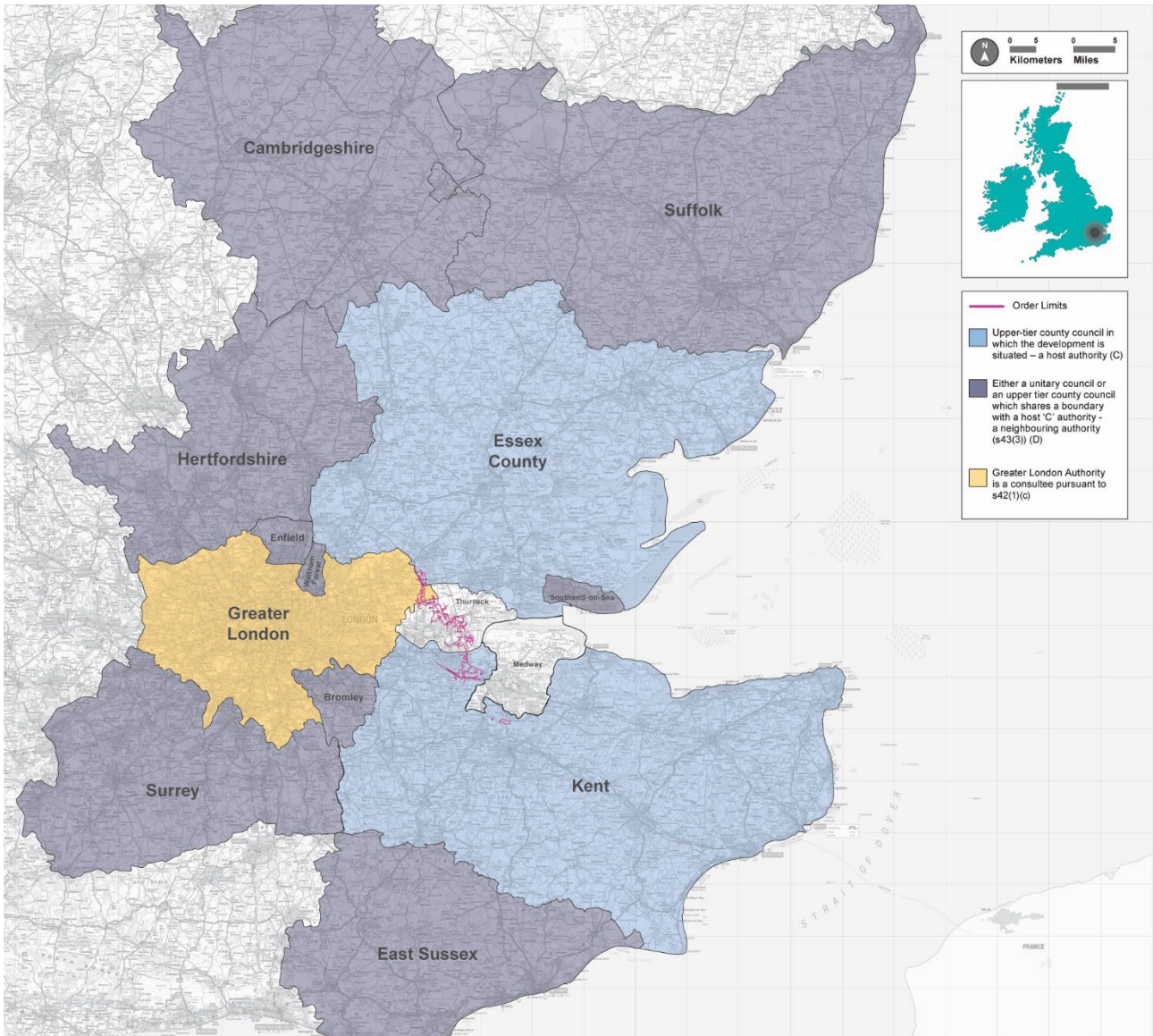
Authority	Provision	Category for s43(2)	Description
			– a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'unitary council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Chelmsford City Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Brentwood Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Colchester Borough Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Dartford Borough Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Dover District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
East Sussex County Council	s43(2A)	D	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Kent County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Epping Forest District Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Brentwood Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Essex County Council	s43(1)	C	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Gravesham Borough Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Greater London Authority	s42(1)(c)	/	Land to which the proposed application relates is within Greater London.
Harlow Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Hertfordshire County Council	s43(2A)	D	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Kent County Council	s43(1)	C	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.

Authority	Provision	Category for s43(2)	Description
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of the London Borough of Havering – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'London borough council' for the purposes of s43(3).
London Borough of Bexley	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Dartford Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).
London Borough of Bromley	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Dartford Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).
London Borough of Enfield	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
London Borough of Havering	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
London Borough of Redbridge	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of the London Borough of Havering – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'London borough council' for the purposes of s43(3).
London Borough of Waltham Forest	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Maidstone Borough Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Maldon District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Medway Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Rochford District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Sevenoaks District Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Gravesham Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).

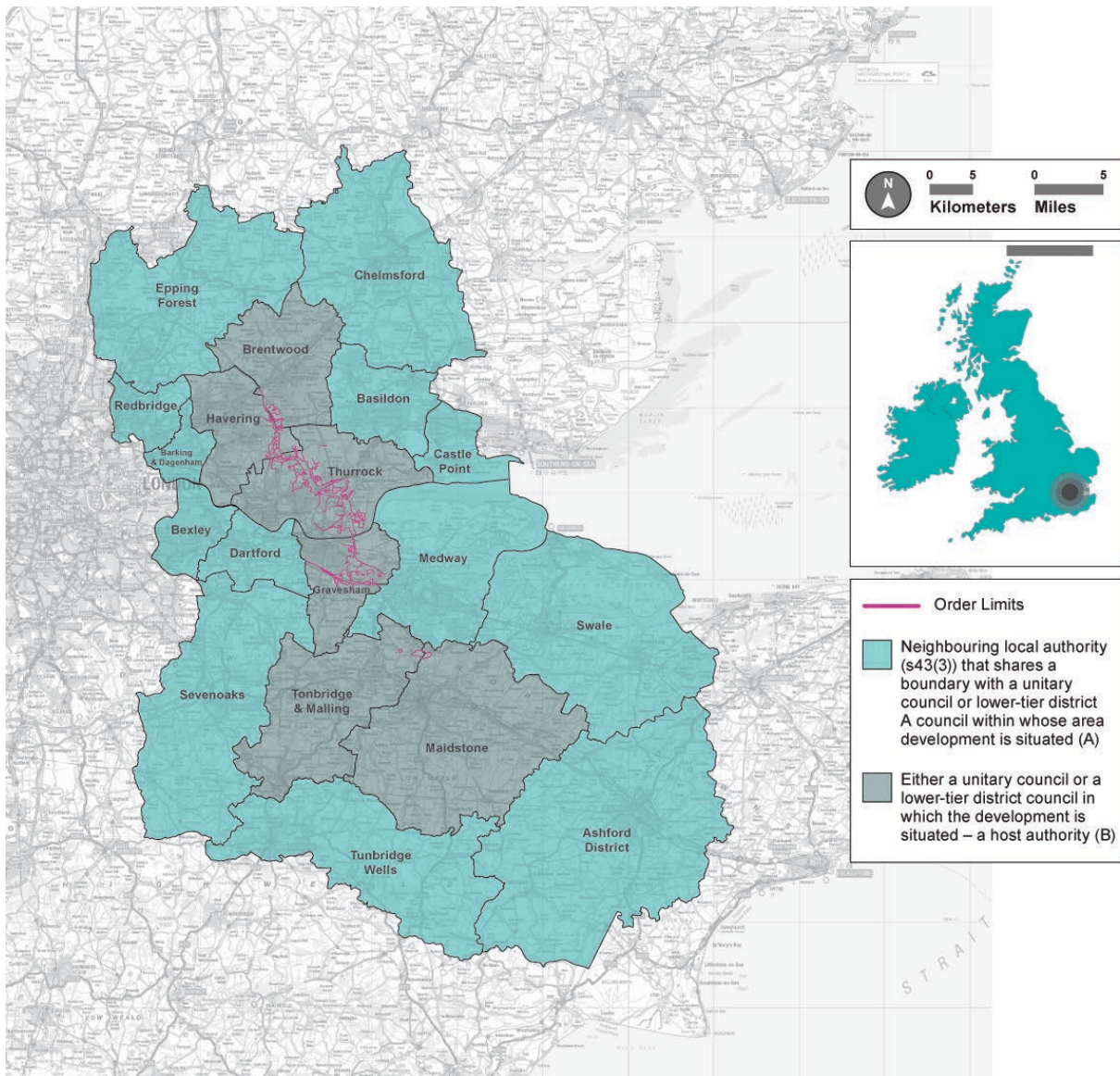
Authority	Provision	Category for s43(2)	Description
Southend-on-Sea City Council	s43(2A)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Suffolk County Council	s43(2A)	D	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Essex County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Surrey County Council	s43(2A)	D	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Kent County Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'county council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Swale Borough Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Medway Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'unitary council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Tendring District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Thanet District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.
Thurrock Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	s43(1)	B	Land to which the proposed application relates is within the authority's area.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	s43(2)	A	Part of the boundary of the authority's area is also part of the boundary of Maidstone Borough Council – a local authority within s43(1) that is a 'district council' for the purposes of s43(3).
Uttlesford District Council	/	/	Consulted on the basis that they were consulted on the draft SoCC.

4.3.18 Plate 4.1 and Plate 4.2 show the boundaries of the relevant local authorities for the Project.

### Plate 4.1 Host county authorities and adjacent county authorities



### Plate 4.2 Host district councils, unitary authorities and London borough councils, and equivalent authorities



#### Identification of section 42(1)(d) – people with an interest in land

- 4.3.19 Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant must consult each person who is within one or more of the three categories set out in section 44.
- 4.3.20 Category 1 includes any person who has been identified as an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land (section 44(1)).
- 4.3.21 Category 2 includes any person who has an interest in the land, has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land (section 44(2)).
- 4.3.22 Category 3 includes any person who the applicant believes may be entitled to make a relevant claim as a result of the implementation of a development consent order, as a result of the order having been implemented, or as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented (section 44(4)).

- 4.3.23 In preparing the DCO application, the Applicant has carried out a process of 'diligent inquiry' in order to identify all persons who fall within the categories set out in section 44 of the Planning Act 2008, as it applies to the Project. Such persons are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) and have been consulted about the DCO application in accordance with section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 4.3.24 Land referencing has been undertaken throughout the pre-application period, including the period between Statutory Consultation and the submission of the DCO application, to ensure that any changes in ownership or new interests have been identified and the relevant persons consulted.
- 4.3.25 More information on the different categories of land interest identified, and on the process of diligent inquiry undertaken, is set out below, which draws upon the Project's Land Referencing Methodology, provided in Annex C of the Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1). A summary of the Applicant's approach to land referencing and to diligent inquiry is set out below.

### Land referencing limits

- 4.3.26 The Project's land referencing limits are determined by statutory requirements, primarily the Planning Act 2008 and APFP Regulations. As such, the area of land referenced by the Project falls into one of two main types:
- a. Land and property within the Order Limits, made up of the following classes of proposed land use:
    - i. Land for which permanent acquisition is required, e.g. areas where the new road will be constructed and operated
    - ii. Land for which temporary possession and permanent rights are required, e.g. land required by statutory undertakers for utility diversions
    - iii. Land for which subsoil acquisition and permanent rights are required, e.g. the area beneath the River Thames where the new tunnel is proposed to be located
    - iv. Land for which subsoil acquisition and permanent rights, together with temporary possession of land at the surface, are required, e.g. areas where monitoring and other works need to be conducted on the surface of the land to assist in construction of sections of the tunnel beneath the surface of the land
    - v. Land for which temporary possession is required, e.g. land required for the siting of a works compound during the construction of the Project, but not needed on a permanent basis
  - b. Land and property outside of the Order Limits, but for which the owners and other interested parties qualify as Category 3 persons, as defined by the Planning Act 2008, and may therefore be entitled to make a 'relevant claim'.

### Category 3 – Part 1 Claim

- 4.3.27 Under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, compensation can be claimed by those with certain interests in land and property which has been depreciated in value by more than £50 by physical factors (noise, smell, vibration, fumes, smoke, and artificial lighting, and the discharge on to property of any solid or liquid substance) caused by public works.
- 4.3.28 The Applicant has worked with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to develop an approach used to identify those properties, outside of the Order Limits, which might reasonably meet the above criteria once the road is operational. The factors which are considered in this assessment are set out in Section 3.2 of Annex C: Land Referencing Methodology, of the Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1).

### Category 3 – section 10 Claim

- 4.3.29 Under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, compensation can be claimed by an individual where their land has been taken for, or injuriously affected by, the execution of Project works.
- 4.3.30 The Applicant has worked with the VOA to develop an approach used to identify properties which could reasonably give rise to a section 10 claim.
- 4.3.31 All land and property that runs adjacent to the Order Limits was examined for the possibility that the value of said land or interest may be devalued by physical interference with some legal right, due to the construction of the Project.
- 4.3.32 Land subject to a potential section 10 claim (as well as a claim under section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008) was referenced accordingly, and the owners of qualifying land or interest were included in part 2 of the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).

### Diligent inquiry process

- 4.3.33 The Planning Act 2008 requires that the Applicant, through diligent inquiry, identifies persons with an interest in land that may be affected by the proposals. The process of diligent inquiry falls into two main categories:
- a. Non-contact referencing, which consists primarily of desk-based research, including interrogating and analysing HM Land Registry documentation and conducting internet-based research
  - b. Contact referencing, which includes requesting and processing information through Land Interest Questionnaires; the use of site notices requesting information; holding meetings, email and phone conversations; and conducting site visits
- 4.3.34 Annex C: Land Referencing Methodology, of the Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1) provides a detailed account of how contact and non-contact referencing was undertaken by the Applicant.



- 4.3.35 The combined objective of these two related strands of work was to identify (in order to then consult on the Project proposals) all of the following interested parties:
- a. Any owners and/or occupiers (whether freehold or leasehold)
  - b. Any owners with land subject to a tenancy/lease
  - c. Any owners of any separate subsoil or mineral rights
  - d. Any reputed owner of unregistered land
  - e. Any leasehold owners subject to an underlease(s)
  - f. Any commercial leases
  - g. Any property with a tenancy under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986
  - h. Any Farm Business Tenancies
  - i. Any licences including rights for grazing of animals
  - j. Any fishing or shooting rights
  - k. Any verbal tenancies
  - l. All mortgagees and other charge holders
  - m. Any existing options over land or property
  - n. All restrictions and notices that are registered against the land
  - o. All easements, wayleaves and other private rights benefiting or burdening the land

### **Consulting section 42 consultees**

- 4.3.36 Section 42 consultees were identified for the purposes of the Statutory Consultation held in 2018, as described in paragraphs 4.3.5 to 4.3.18 of this chapter.
- 4.3.37 Each section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultee was sent a letter by first class post on 4 October 2018. Persons with a section 42(1)(d) land interest were sent an equivalent letter on 9 October 2018. The Statutory Consultation began on 10 October 2018 and the deadline for responding was 23:59 on 20 December 2018. This deadline was therefore substantially in excess of the minimum 28 day period required by section 45(2) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 4.3.38 All section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultees were issued a copy of the same letter. Separate letters were sent to all section 42(1)(d) consultees, containing information about the individual land interests potentially affected by the Project.
- 4.3.39 The letter sent to section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultees provided an overview of the Project, stated that it was EIA development and explained how to respond to the consultation. It included a copy of the section 48 notice published for the

launch of the consultation, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. It also provided a link to the Project website where copies of consultation material, including the PEIR, could be accessed. The section 48 notice provided the dates and locations of information events related to the Project as well as the deposit locations where copies of consultation material could be found.

- 4.3.40 The letter to section 42(1)(d) consultees explained that the Applicant was formally consulting on the proposed application in accordance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. It also provided information on the Project, details of where more information could be found and how a response could be submitted. Copies of the letters sent to section 42(1)(a)-(d) consultees at the launch of Statutory Consultation are included in Appendix K.

### Undeliverable mail

- 4.3.41 There were instances where Royal Mail were not able to deliver section 42 letters addressed to section 42(1)(d) consultees. Any undelivered letters were logged by the Project Team and investigated to determine whether any alternative methods of contacting that party could be identified. This involved a process of diligent inquiry requiring desk-based research, Land Registry searches, site visits, and other methods that are described in Annex C: Land Referencing Methodology, of the Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1). The Applicant ascertained that there were numerous reasons why letters to section 42(1)(d) consultees were returned to sender. These reasons included:
- a. Deceased individuals
  - b. Dissolved companies
  - c. Bank branches that had closed
  - d. Businesses or individuals that had moved from their registered address
- 4.3.42 Appendix J of this report comprises a list of all section 42(1)(d) land interests consulted by the Applicant and a table listing all instances of section 42(1)(d) notification letters, for section 42(1)(d) consultees that are listed in the Book of Reference, that were returned to the Applicant as undeliverable, with an explanation of the action taken to redeliver them at an appropriate time. Whenever an alternative address could be established, a new letter was sent to that address.
- 4.3.43 There were no such instances of undeliverable letters to section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultees.
- 4.3.44 Table J.10 in Appendix J includes a column identifying whether a consultee in respect of whom there was an instance of undelivered mail still has a land interest affected by the Project and is named in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 4.3.45 Where there was sufficient time remaining within the advertised Statutory Consultation period to enable follow-up letters to be issued, while still ensuring that the statutory minimum 28 days to respond to the consultation was met, a follow-up letter was sent to the alternative contact address at that time.

- 4.3.46 In some instances, there was not enough time to enable the statutory minimum 28 days for responses to be provided, before the advertised consultation closing date. Where this was the case, those consultees were subsequently written to on 15 August 2019 and provided with 70 days to respond to the Project proposals. In instances when this follow up letter was also returned to the Applicant as 'undeliverable', further research was undertaken and these consultees were written to as part of Supplementary Consultation in January 2020 (and provided with 65 days to respond, including an extension to the deadline for consultation, as described in Chapter 6) or as part of the Design Refinement Consultation (and provided with 29 days to respond, although any new land interests were informed of the Design Refinement Consultation two weeks in advance of its launch, with an explanation of how they could find out more about the proposals presented at Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation). All section 42(1)(d) consultees, including those identified and consulted following an initial undeliverable notification letter, were given at least the 28 day statutory minimum period to respond. Further information regarding this follow-up consultation activity with persons who have an interest in land affected by the Project is provided in Chapter 5 of this report.

## 4.4 Section 46 (notifying the Planning Inspectorate)

- 4.4.1 The Applicant wrote to the Infrastructure Planning Lead at the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 9 October 2018 to provide formal notification of the commencement of the Statutory Consultation in respect of the Project. In accordance with section 46 of the Planning Act 2008, enclosed with this letter was a USB storage device containing copies of the consultation material that was provided to consultees identified under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, as well as examples of the letters that were sent to those 'section 42 consultees'. This notification was issued the day prior to the commencement of consultation under section 42, which began on 10 October 2018, in accordance with section 46(2) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 4.4.2 A copy of the letter notifying the Secretary of State of the proposed application for development consent under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 is included in Appendix L. Also included in Appendix L is a copy of the letter sent by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 31 October 2018, acknowledging receipt of the Applicant's section 46 notification.

## 4.5 Section 47 local community consultation

### Developing an approach to section 47 consultation

- 4.5.1 The Applicant prepared for the Statutory Consultation by planning an extensive campaign of engagement aimed at the local communities potentially affected by the Project. This required the Applicant to consider the needs and preferences of different communities and individuals across the affected area, including hard to reach groups.
- 4.5.2 The Applicant's approach to consultation led to the production of a draft SoCC, which set out in detail how the Applicant intended to provide an inclusive local community consultation that met the various needs of the identified community groups. As described in Section 4.1, the draft SoCC was the subject of consultation with relevant local authorities, initially on an informal basis and then

on a statutory basis under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, for their comment. This process led to a final version of the SoCC, in which the Applicant's plans for consultation were described. The final version of the SoCC was published and made available for inspection in accordance with section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008, as set out below.

4.5.3 The following sub-sections describe different aspects of the approach to local community consultation.

## Community consultation

### Materials produced to support consultation

4.5.4 The Applicant produced a suite of documents and maps to enable consultees to understand the wide range of issues included in its proposals for the Project. These documents included shorter and simplified guides to the consultation proposals as well as longer technical reports. In this way, the consultation material was able to accommodate the needs of different stakeholders, including those who had relatively little time to consider the proposals but who still wished to gain an overview before providing their feedback.

4.5.5 Table 4.5 provides a breakdown of all the documents and maps that formed part of the Applicant's Statutory Consultation. It includes some documents that were either produced and published before the consultation (but that were considered to be relevant and useful to consultees), such as the Applicant's response to the initial non-statutory consultation in 2016, and documents that are applicable to other schemes, such as the guides to compulsory purchase and blight. If the name of a document is highlighted in bold, this indicates that a copy of the full document is included in Appendix M of this report. All of the documents are available on the Statutory Consultation website:

**[REDACTED]**. Appendix M provides a web address to each document.

**Table 4.5 Statutory Consultation material**

Document	Description
<b>Material produced for Statutory Consultation</b>	
Lower Thames Crossing Your guide to consultation	Explaining the Project proposals, including summaries of the proposed route, a proposed approach for charging users of the new crossing and the predicted impacts it would have on traffic levels.
Consultation leaflets	Containing short explanations of the consultation proposals and information on how to take part in the consultation, for example the details of PIEs.
Response form	Containing questions on specific elements of the Project proposals and inviting respondents to comment generally on the proposals.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	Explaining how the Applicant would deliver its Statutory Consultation, listing the engagement and publicity activities to take place.

<b>Document</b>	<b>Description</b>
Case for the Project	Setting out why the Project is needed, based on assessments of existing traffic conditions and the predicted benefits that the Project could bring.
Approach to Design, Construction and Operation	Summarising the Applicant's approach to developing the design of the Project, as well as plans to safely build and operate the Project.
Map books	A series of maps and plans showing the proposed route, including some that highlighted environmental constraints and engineering plans.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Produced in three volumes to describe the expected impacts of the Project on the environment and the ways in which the Applicant would seek to reduce them. For further information regarding the PEIR, please refer to Chapter 10 of this report.
Preliminary Environmental Information Summary	A summary of the PEIR.
Traffic Forecasting Report	Describing the approach taken to forecasting the traffic impacts of the Project.
Traffic Forecasts Non-Technical Summary	A summary of the approach to modelling the effects of the Project on the highway network, including some graphical and tabulated outputs.
Section 47 Notice	A copy of the section 47 notice as it appeared in relevant newspapers.
Section 48 Notice	A copy of the section 48 notice as it appeared in relevant newspapers.
<b>Material produced and published in relation to the Project before Statutory Consultation</b>	
Lower Thames Crossing Response to Consultation 2017	A presentation of the Applicant 's preferred route and a summary of the 2016 consultation. Included in the Statutory Consultation as background material.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report	Produced in 2017 to establish the scope of an Environmental Statement and to support a request for a scoping opinion. Included in the Statutory Consultation as background material.
<b>Material applicable to all National Highways schemes</b>	
Your Property and Blight	Three guides produced by the Applicant to provide information to people whose property may be affected by new road proposals and improvements.
Your Property and Compulsory Purchase	
Your Property and Discretionary Purchase	

- 4.5.6 Copies of the consultation materials were available for inspection at a series of deposit locations, which are described in further detail later in this section. It was also possible to buy a full set of the consultation materials for the price of £175 (plus VAT and postage and packaging). This price was reflective of the cost to the Applicant of printing and binding the various documents included in the suite, and their combined page count.
- 4.5.7 All of the consultation documents could be viewed and downloaded from the Project's consultation website:  
[REDACTED]. The website also provided an online version of the consultation response form and was live at all stages during the consultation period. There were around 212,000 visitors to the website during the Statutory Consultation period.
- 4.5.8 The consultation website also hosted a computer generated 'fly-through' of the Project proposals. This depicted the new road and crossing as it would appear once construction of the Project is complete and roadside vegetation and trees are fully mature.
- 4.5.9 The Applicant commissioned a third-party agency to reproduce a version of the Project's Guide to Consultation in an 'Easy Read' format. The purpose of Easy Read is to convey information in a style that, by making use of infographics and short statements, is more easily understood by people who have difficulty reading.
- 4.5.10 The Easy Read version of the Guide to Consultation was available at PIEs and other engagement events during the consultation.
- 4.5.11 It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages and formats, by calling the Applicant's telephone line advertised on consultation materials or by email.
- 4.5.12 The Applicant received one request for a Braille version of the Guide to Consultation. A copy was produced and issued to the requesting party during the consultation period.

#### **Notification and publicity**

- 4.5.13 The Applicant fulfilled its duties under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 by providing notification of the Statutory Consultation to prescribed consultees, local authorities and individuals with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposals. More information on how these notifications were prepared and delivered is included in Section 4.3 of this chapter.
- 4.5.14 In addition to those notifications, the Applicant carried out an extensive notification and publicity campaign aimed at raising awareness of the consultation throughout the affected local area and the wider region.
- 4.5.15 At the beginning of the consultation period, a leaflet was posted to each of approximately 283,000 addresses (residential and non-residential) within 5km of the development boundary of the Project. Plate 4.3 shows a map of these postcode areas. The leaflet (a copy of which is provided in Appendix M) contained basic information about the Project and about the Statutory Consultation.



- 4.5.17 At the start of the consultation period, an email was sent from a Dart Charge email account to the database of registered contacts. Another email was sent from a National Highways email account to its database. Both emails provided basic information about the Project's Statutory Consultation and links to the consultation material.
- 4.5.18 A reminder email was also sent to these groups towards the end of the consultation period, to ensure that they were aware of the forthcoming deadline for responses.
- 4.5.19 In addition to the statutory notices placed in local, national and trade newspapers (which are described in Sections 4.5 to 4.7 of this chapter), the Applicant also placed an informal advertisement in local newspapers during the consultation.
- 4.5.20 The advertisement was published in 24 local print titles in two phases: first in the week beginning 15 October 2018 to announce the beginning of the consultation period; and lastly in the week beginning on 12 November 2018 to provide a reminder of the consultation to readers of those newspapers.
- 4.5.21 The advertisement was placed in the following publications:
- a. Thurrock Gazette
  - b. Kentish Times & Reporter Series (Bexley, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend)
  - c. Gravesend & Dartford Messenger (Series) & Messenger Extra
  - d. The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series
  - e. Basildon & Southend Echo
  - f. Brentwood Gazette
  - g. Brentwood Yellow Advertiser
  - h. Southend Standard, Castlepoint & Rayleigh Standard
  - i. Kent Messenger (Series)
  - j. Castlepoint Yellow Advertiser
  - k. Southend Yellow Advertiser
  - l. Essex Chronicle
  - m. Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times
  - n. Basildon Yellow Advertiser
  - o. Basildon Standard
  - p. Thanet KM Extra
  - q. Isle of Thanet Gazette



- r. Chelmsford & Maldon Yellow Advertiser
- s. Maldon & Burnham Standard
- t. Medway Messenger
- u. Sheerness Times Guardian
- v. Sittingbourne News Extra
- w. Thurrock & South Essex Independent
- x. Thurrock and Essex Enquirer

4.5.22 The advertisement was also placed in various digital settings, including Facebook, Twitter and search engines such as Google and Bing. It was also displayed in physical settings such as service and roadside areas serving the M25, A2 and A13.

4.5.23 The Applicant made use of its social media presence to promote the Statutory Consultation. During the consultation period, 132 Tweets were issued in relation to the proposals and the events being held to promote them. The Tweets had a combined reach of 300,000 individual accounts.

#### **Public information events (PIEs)**

4.5.24 When planning for the Statutory Consultation, the Applicant made provision for a series of PIEs at community venues across the area in which the Project would be situated. All PIEs were attended by Project staff members representing each of the core technical disciplines involved in preparing the Statutory Consultation proposals.

4.5.25 Event staff had received training in how to communicate effectively with members of the public, as well as briefings on topics covered by the consultation. Before each event began, staff attended a short briefing session at which information about the relationship between the proposed route and the surrounding area was presented and discussed.

4.5.26 A series of information boards were displayed at each PIE. They included information about the consultation process and the key features of the Project proposals. Also provided at these events was a screen or screens showing the computer generated 'fly through' of the Project on repeat.

4.5.27 The Applicant had also prepared a number of interactive digital guides to the Project proposals, including 'before and after' images of new road sections from different vantage points, which were also provided at PIEs.

4.5.28 Plate 4.4 below is a photograph of a typical PIE.

**Plate 4.4 A typical PIE layout**



4.5.29 It was possible to respond to the consultation at each PIE. Response forms were sealed into individual envelopes and taken away by a member of the event staff, who then ensured that they were directed to the independent agency that was responsible for analysing and reporting on responses.

4.5.30 Table 4.6 and Table 4.7 list the locations, dates and opening times of each PIE south and north of the River Thames respectively.

**Table 4.6 Venues, dates and opening times of PIEs south of the River Thames**

<b>PIEs south of the Thames</b>
Bluewater Shopping Centre, Bluewater Parkway, Greenhithe, DA9 9ST Saturday 20 October, 09:00 – 21:00 Sunday 21 October, 11:00 – 17:00
Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LG Thursday 1 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Chalk Parish Hall, Pirrip Close, Gravesend, DA12 2ND Monday 22 October, 14:00 – 21:00
Dover Town Hall, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1DL Tuesday 4 December, 14:00 – 21:00
Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford, DA1 2JZ Tuesday 23 October, 14:00 – 21:00
Doubletree Dartford Bridge, Masthead Close, Crossways Business Park, Dartford, DA2 6QF Monday 3 December, 14:00 – 21:00
Gravesham Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU Wednesday 21 November, 14:00 – 21:00

<b>PIEs south of the Thames</b>
Rochester Corn Exchange, Northgate, Rochester, ME1 1LS Wednesday 5 December, 14:00 – 21:00
Shorne Village Hall, 16 The Street, Shorne, DA12 3EA Saturday 3 November, 12:00 – 18:00

**Table 4.7 Venues, dates and opening times of PIEs north of the River Thames**

<b>PIEs north of the Thames</b>
Holiday Inn Basildon, Cranes Farm Road, Waterfront Walk, Festival Leisure Park, Basildon, SS14 3DG Monday 19 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Brandon Groves Community Club, Brandon Groves Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 6TD Friday 16 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Chadwell Village Hall, Waterson Road, Chadwell St Mary, RM16 4NX Friday 7 December, 14:00 – 21:00
Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU Tuesday 6 November 14:00 – 21:00
Havering College of Further and Higher Education, 42 Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 2LL Monday 26 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Havering Town Hall, Main Road, Romford, RM1 3BD Friday 30 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Holiday Inn Brentwood M25 J28, Brook Street, Brentwood, CM14 5NF Wednesday 28 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock Way, Grays, RM20 2ZP Saturday 27 October, 09:00 – 21:00 Sunday 28 October, 11:00 – 17:00
Linford Methodist Church, East Tilbury Road, Linford, SS17 0QQ Wednesday 14 November, 14:00 – 21:00
Orsett Hall Hotel, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, RM16 3HS Tuesday 16 October, 14:00 – 21:00
St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Lane, North Ockendon, RM14 3QH Thursday 22 November, 14:00 – 21:00
The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH Saturday 17 November 12:00 – 18:00
Tilbury Community Association, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AA Tuesday 30 October, 14:00 – 21:00
West Horndon Village Hall, Thorndon Avenue, West Horndon, CM13 3TP Wednesday 24 October, 14:00 – 21:00

- 4.5.31 Attendance at each PIE was registered by a member of staff counting visitors as they entered the exhibition space. The total number of attendees for all PIEs held during the Statutory Consultation was recorded as 8,764.
- 4.5.32 Attendees had the opportunity to fill out a satisfaction survey on completing their visit to each PIE. It was made clear that this survey was a separate exercise to

the main consultation process and its purpose was to gauge the effectiveness of the events rather than to understand people's views on the Project proposals.

- 4.5.33 The surveys showed that 50% of those attending believed the quality of the events to be 'very good' or 'good'. 70% said the information at the events was 'very good' or 'good'. Additionally, over half of respondents said the promotion of the events was 'very good' or 'good'.

#### Mobile Information Centre

- 4.5.34 The Applicant was aware that, even with an extended series of PIEs at a wide range of community venues, some people with an interest in the proposals might not be able to attend. To help address this concern, the Applicant planned and implemented a series of additional events that made use of the Mobile Information Centre (MIC). The MIC was a Highways England branded vehicle (National Highways was formerly known as Highways England) that provided space for display material and for discussions between event staff and visitors. In comparison to the PIEs, a smaller team of Project staff was able to present and answer questions on the key themes of the consultation proposals.
- 4.5.35 At each event held using the MIC, it was possible to look at maps and information displays similar to those used at the larger consultation events.
- 4.5.36 A photograph of a typical MIC event is shown in Plate 4.5 below.

**Plate 4.5 A typical MIC event**



- 4.5.37 Using the MIC allowed the Applicant to hold events in smaller communities that did not have venues large enough for a full PIE. It also allowed the Applicant to have a presence in areas of high footfall, for example pedestrianised areas close to shopping centres or high streets.
- 4.5.38 Table 4.8 and Table 4.9 provide a list of all the venues where an MIC event was held south and north of the River Thames respectively.

**Table 4.8 Dates and locations of MIC events south of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, 25 October 2018	13:00 – 19:00	Ebbsfleet Station, DA10 1EB
Wednesday, 31 October 2018	12:00 – 19:00	Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, ME7 3PD
Friday, 2 November 2018	10:00 – 17:30	One Bell Corner, Dartford Town Centre, DA1 1DU
Wednesday, 7 November 2018	11:00 – 15:00	Outside Marling Cross Library, Mackenzie Way, Gravesend, DA12 5TY
Friday, 9 November 2018	10:00 – 15:00	Higham Library Car Park, 8 Forge Lane, ME3 7AS
Friday, 9 November 2018	16:00 – 19:00	Higham Train Station Car Park, ME3 7JQ
Saturday, 10 November 2018	09:30 – 17:00	Bluewater Shopping Centre Winter Gardens, DA9 9ST
Thursday, 15 November 2018	10:00 – 15:00	Meadow Rooms, The St, Cobham, Gravesend, DA12 3BZ
Thursday, 15 November 2018	16:00 – 19:00	Sole Street Station Car Park, Cobham, Gravesend, DA13 0XY
Tuesday, 20 November 2018	12:00 – 19:00	Strood, Morrisons Car Park, 1 Knight Rd, Rochester, ME2 2AQ
Thursday, 22 November 2018	10:00 – 14:00	Bartella's Car Park, Wrotham Rd, Meopham, DA13 0JE
Thursday, 22 November 2018	15:00 – 19:00	Cuxton Recreation Ground, Cuxton, ME2 1EZ
Saturday, 24 November 2018	10:00 – 18:00	Gravesend Town Centre, DA12 2XX
Monday, 26 November 2018	12:00 – 19:00	Shorne Village Hall Car Park, 16 The Street, Shorne, Gravesend, DA12 3EA
Wednesday, 28 November 2018	10:00 – 19:00	Chalk, outside Parish Hall, Pirrip Close, Gravesend, DA12 2ND
Thursday, 6 December 2018	11:00 – 19:00	Cascades Leisure Centre Car Park, Thong Lane, DA12 4LG

**Table 4.9 Dates and locations of MIC events north of the River Thames**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday, 17 October 2018	12:00 – 18:00	Bay Tree Shopping Centre, Brentwood, CM14 4BX
Thursday, 18 October 2018	12:00 – 18:00	Basildon Town Centre, SS14 1EB
Friday, 26 October 2018	10:00 – 16:00	Romford, Market Place, RM1 3ER
Monday, 5 November 2018	13:00 – 19:00	Tilbury - Civic Square, RM18 8AA
Friday, 16 November 2018	CANCELLED	Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock Way, Grays, RM20 2ZP
Friday, 23 November 2018	13:30 – 19:00	Bulphan Village Hall Car Park, Church Rd, Bulphan, RM14 3RU
Tuesday, 27 November 2018	13:00 – 16:00	Gammonfields Way travellers' site, Long Lane, Grays, RM16 2QH
Thursday, 29 November 2018	13:00 – 19:00	Derwent Parade, Daiglen Drive, South Ockendon, RM15 5EH
Friday, 30 November 2018	10:00 – 18:00	Outside the library, St John's Way, Corringham, SS17 7LJ
Tuesday, 4 December 2018	14:00 – 18:00	Thames Chase Forest Centre, Broadfields Farm Cottage, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS
Wednesday, 5 December 2018	12:00 – 19:00	Orsett Churches Centre Car Park, High Road, Orsett, RM16 3ER
Thursday, 6 December 2018	09:00 – 22:00	Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock Way, Grays, RM20 2ZP
Saturday, 8 December 2018	10:00 – 17:00	Morrison's Car Park, 1 London Rd, Grays, RM17 5XZ
Monday, 10 December 2018	10:00 – 14:00	The Green, West Tilbury, Tilbury RM18 8TU
Monday, 10 December 2018	15:00 – 19:00	Car Park outside Stanford House (Coronation Avenue end), East Tilbury, RM18 8SB
Tuesday, 11 December 2018	10:00 – 14:30	Outside 'Roomes of Upminster', 41-49 Station Rd, Upminster RM14 2SX
Tuesday, 11 December 2018	15:00 – 19:00	Moor Lane Church, 226 Moor Lane, Upminster RM14 1HN

4.5.39 As stated in Table 4.9, a planned MIC event on 16 November at the Lakeside Shopping Centre was cancelled. Following discussions with the owners of the shopping centre, a decision was made to replace the MIC with a regional awareness event inside the shopping centre rather than using its outdoor space. As listed in Table 4.10 below, the awareness event took place on 6 December 2018.

### Regional awareness events

- 4.5.40 To make sure that people living across the South East were aware of the consultation and able to have their say, the Applicant also planned a series of regional awareness events.
- 4.5.41 At these events, which were held in community venues and areas of high footfall, a team of between two and four Project Team members were able to provide a summary of the consultation proposals, answer questions from members of the public and encourage participation in the consultation.
- 4.5.42 Plate 4.6 is a photograph of a typical regional awareness event.

**Plate 4.6 A typical regional awareness event**



- 4.5.43 Table 4.10 provides a list of all the regional awareness events held during the Statutory Consultation.

**Table 4.10 Dates and locations of regional awareness events**

Date	Time	Location
18 October 2018	08:30 – 18:00	The Mall, Maidstone
19 October 2018	08:30 – 18:00	Bouverie Place Shopping Centre, Folkestone
26 October 2018	09:00 – 17:30	Victoria Shopping Centre, Southend
1 November 2018	08:45 – 17:30	Country Square Shopping Centre
2 November 2018	08:30 – 18:00	Pentagon Shopping Centre, Chatham
13 November 2018	08:30 – 18:00	CEME Campus, Rainham

Date	Time	Location
15 November 2018	08:30 – 18:00	High Chelmer Shopping Centre, Chelmsford
24 November 2018	08:30 – 18:00	The Forum Shopping Centre, Sittingbourne
6 December 2018	09:00 – 22:00	Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock

### Deposit locations

4.5.44 Copies of the consultation documents listed in Table 4.5 were made available for inspection at a series of deposit locations near the Project route from the launch of consultation on 10 October 2018 to the close of consultation on 20 December 2018. A list of these deposit locations and their opening times is provided in Table 4.11, for deposit locations south of the River Thames, and Table 4.12, for deposit locations north of the River Thames.

**Table 4.11 Deposit locations and opening times south of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Dartford Library, Central Park, Market Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1EU	Monday – Wednesday 08:30 – 18:00 Thursday 08:00 – 20:00 Friday 08:30 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1BE	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Maidstone Library, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Rochester Library, Community Hub Rochester, Eastgate, Rochester, ME1 1EW	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

**Table 4.12 Deposit locations and opening times north of the River Thames**

Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4BP	Monday 09:00 – 18:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 18:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00 Thursday 09:00 – 18:00 Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Grays Library, Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5DX	Monday 09:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 09:00 – 19:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 13:00



Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Romford Central Library, St Edwards Way, Romford, Essex, RM1 3AR	Monday 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 20:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00
Tilbury Hub, Civic Square, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8AD	Monday 10:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00

4.5.45 The deposit locations were checked on a weekly basis to ensure sufficient supplies of the consultation documents were available.

4.5.46 Plate 4.7 is a photograph of a typical deposit location.

**Plate 4.7 A typical deposit location**



**Information points**

4.5.47 In order to provide further opportunities for local people to access printed versions of the consultation material, the Applicant installed a series of information points at community venues. Each information point provided consultation leaflets, copies of Your Guide to Consultation (Highways England, 2018d) and consultation response forms for people to collect and take away.

4.5.48 Plate 4.8 is a photograph of a typical information point.

**Plate 4.8 A typical information point in a public library**



4.5.49 Table 4.13 and Table 4.14 set out the locations and opening times of the information points at locations south and north of the River Thames respectively. All information points were open for the duration of the Statutory Consultation, which began on 10 October 2018 and ended on 20 December 2018.

**Table 4.13 Locations and opening times of the information points south of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Coldharbour Library, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, DA11 8AE	Monday 14:00 – 17:30 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:30 Thursday 14:00 – 17:30 Friday 09:00 – 17:30 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Cuxton Library, Bush Road, Cuxton, ME2 1EY	Tuesday 09:00 – 13:00 Thursday 14:00 – 18:00 Friday 14:00 – 18:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00
Dartford Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR	Monday – Thursday 08:45 – 17:15 Friday 08:45 – 16:45
Gillingham Library, 3 High Street, Gillingham, ME7 1BE	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Gravesham Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

<b>Locations south of the River Thames</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Higham Library, Villa Road, Higham, ME3 7BS	Monday 09:00 – 13:00 Tuesday 14:00 – 17:30 Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00 Thursday 14:00 – 17:30 Friday 09:00 – 13:00 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00
Kings Farm Library, 100 Sun Lane, Gravesend, DA12 5HR	Monday – Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Friday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00
Marling Cross Library, 266 MacKenzie Way, Gravesend, DA12 5TY	Tuesday 09:30 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 09:30 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Friday 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 14:00 – 16:00
Meopham Library, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0AH	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 14:00
Shorne Woods Country Park Visitor Centre, Brewers Road, Shorne, DA12 3HX	Monday – Sunday 10:00 – 16:00
Strood Library, 133 High Street, Strood, ME2 4TJ	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Riverview Park Library, The Alma, Leander Drive, Gravesend, DA12 4NG	Monday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Thursday 09:00 – 13:00 Friday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00

**Table 4.14 Locations and opening times of information points north of the River Thames**

<b>Locations north of the River Thames</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Aveley Library, Purfleet Road, Aveley, RM15 4DJ	Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Beehive Voluntary and Community Resource Centre, West Street, Grays, RM17 6XP	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00
Belhus Library, South Ockendon Centre, Derry Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX	Monday – Saturday 10:00 – 17:00

Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Blackshots Library, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU	Monday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Chadwell Library, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, RM16 4JP	Monday 10:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 19:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00
Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH	Monday – Thursday 08:30 – 17:30 Friday 08:30 – 17:00
Corringham Library, St John's Way, Corringham, SS17 7LJ	Monday 10:00 – 17:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 13:00 Thursday 10:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 17:00
East Tilbury Library (temporarily at village hall), East Tilbury Recreation Club, Princess Avenue, East Tilbury, RM18 8ST	Thursday 10:00 – 15:30 Friday 10:00 – 15:30
East Tilbury Post Office, 2-3 Stanford House, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, RM18 8YP	Thursday 10:00 – 15:30 Friday 10:00 – 15:30
Purfleet Community Hub, 53-54 River Court, Centurion Way, Purfleet, RM19 1ZY	Monday 09:00 – 12:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 15:00 – 17:00 Thursday 09:00 – 17:00
Rainham Library, 6 Celtic Farm Road, Rainham, RM13 9GP	Monday 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 20:00 Thursday 09:00 – 17:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00
Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6YF	Monday – Sunday 24 hours
Stanford-le-Hope Library, 26 High Street, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0HG	Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Thurrock Council Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL	Monday – Thursday 08:45 – 17:15 Friday 08:45 – 16:45

Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Upminster Library, 26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB	Monday 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 20:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00

### Additional engagement activities

- 4.5.50 Following a request made by a local community group, the Applicant arranged for two British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters to attend the Chadwell St Mary PIE on 7 December 2018 for a period of three hours. This helped to enable members of the local hearing-impaired community to ask questions of the event staff.
- 4.5.51 Following that event, the Applicant worked with Thurrock Council and with representatives of the hearing-impaired community to organise a session held at Thurrock Council's offices on 11 December 2018. At this session, BSL interpreters were able to fill in consultation response forms as dictated to them by attendees with hearing impairments.
- 4.5.52 Two members of the Project Team were in attendance to answer questions and to facilitate the event. There were five attendees, and the completed response forms were analysed and considered in the usual way. For more information on analysis and consideration of responses, see Chapter 11 of this report.
- 4.5.53 The proposals for Statutory Consultation included an impact on a travellers' site at Gammonfields Way, which is a 21 plot site next to the A13. It is managed by Thurrock Council and the construction of the Project would require the community who live there to be relocated.
- 4.5.54 Letters were sent to each property at Gammonfields Way travellers' site to inform residents of the Statutory Consultation, confirm that the site would need to be relocated as part of the Project, and invite them to an MIC event to be held at the site.
- 4.5.55 Thurrock Council's Traveller Liaison Officer was informed of the letter and the event to ensure that they were aware of the Applicant's plans and able to provide further information to residents of Gammonfields Way travellers' site.
- 4.5.56 The MIC, which took place on 27 November 2018 at Gammonfields Way travellers' site, gave the local community an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the Project Team.
- 4.5.57 On 4 December 2018, a meeting was also held between members of the Project Team and representatives of the Thames Chase Community Forest. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the proposals and to better understand the organisation's priorities and opinions. The meeting was followed by the scheduled MIC event at the Forest Centre.
- 4.5.58 The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) provides further detail on the efforts made by the Applicant to engage effectively with stakeholder organisations, including community groups.

## 4.6 Section 48 (newspaper notices)

- 4.6.1 Section 48(1) of the Planning Act 2008 provides that a notice publicising a proposed development must be published in the prescribed manner, namely in accordance with Regulation 4(2) and with reference to Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.
- 4.6.2 Regulation 4(2) of the APFP confirms that a notice must be published for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating near the proposed development, once in a national newspaper and once in the London Gazette. If the proposed development relates to offshore development, then the notice should also be placed once in Lloyd's List and once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.
- 4.6.3 Table 4.15 sets out the publications in which the Applicant's section 48 notice was published and when.
- 4.6.4 The last newspaper notice was published on 19 October 2018 in the Yellow Advertiser. The deadline for responses was 20 December 2018. This means that 64 clear days were provided for responses, well in excess of the 28 days required by Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations.

**Table 4.15 Section 48 notices in newspapers**

Title	Publication date of issues containing the section 48 notice	General area of circulation
Essex Chronicle (local newspaper – Reg 4(2)(a))	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	Essex
Fishing News (fishing trade journal – Reg 4(2)(d)(ii))	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	Trade newspaper serving marine industry
Kent Messenger (local newspaper – Reg 4(2)(a))	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	Kent
Lloyd's List (Reg 4(2)(d)(i))	10 October 2018	Trade newspaper serving marine industry
London Gazette (Reg 4(2)(c))	10 October 2018	London
Thurrock Gazette (local newspaper – Reg 4(2)(a))	4 October 2018 and 11 October 2018	Thurrock
The Times (national newspaper – Reg 4(2)(b))	10 October 2018	United Kingdom
Yellow Advertiser (local newspaper – Reg 4(2)(a))	12 October 2018 and 19 October 2018	Havering

- 4.6.5 As required by Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 48 notice was also included in the consultation packs that were sent to the 'consultee bodies', those falling within sections 42(1)(a)-(c) and any other organisations notified by the Planning Inspectorate to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations. The Planning Inspectorate's letter of 13 December 2017 confirmed that it had not identified any persons under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations, who may be affected by the Project. A copy of that letter is provided in Appendix C of this report, and more information regarding this process is included in Chapter 10.

## 4.7 Content of the section 48 notice

- 4.7.1 A copy of the section 48 notice as it appeared in each of the newspapers described in Table 4.15 is included in Appendix N.
- 4.7.2 The section 48 notice complied with the requirements of Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations as it included the following information:
- a. The name and address of the Applicant (Regulation 4(3)(a))
  - b. A statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State (Regulation 4(3)(b))
  - c. A statement that the application is EIA development (Regulation 4(3)(c))
  - d. A summary of the main proposals, specifying the location and route of the Project (Regulation 4(3)(d))
  - e. A statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project were available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Project) and times set out in the notice as well as through the Project's website (Regulation 4(3)(e))
  - f. The latest date on which the documents, plans and maps would be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than the deadline in subparagraph (i)) (Regulation 4(3)(f))
  - g. That a charge would be made for hard copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of that charge (Regulation 4(3)(g))
  - h. Details of how to respond to the publicity (Regulation 4(3)(h))
  - i. A deadline for receipt of responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the last newspaper notice was published (Regulation 4(3)(i))

## 4.8 Relevant responses

- 4.8.1 A total of 278 respondents (less than 1% of all responses) indicated that they had heard about the consultation by reading a section 48 notice, with many of these 278 respondents also indicating that they had heard about the consultation in other ways. None of these responses were provided by prescribed consultees. Responses from section 48 consultees – i.e. those who indicated that they heard about the consultation via that channel – are reported on in Chapter 11 as part of the wider section 47 consultee group.

## 5 Additional Statutory Consultation with section 42(1)(d) consultees

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 As described in Section 4.3, the Applicant has undertaken a continuous process of diligent inquiry in order to ensure that all persons with an interest in land listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) were identified and consulted under section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 5.1.2 Table 5.1 below provides a list of these phases of consultation with relevant headline information.
- 5.1.3 The final column in Table 5.1 shows, in relation to each phase, the number of persons with an interest in land consulted at that phase under section 42(1)(d) who are now listed in the Book of Reference. A list of these consultees can be found in Tables J.1.1 to J.1.11 of Appendix J. A list of persons with an interest in land appearing in the Book of Reference but in relation to whom there was insufficient time to consult prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application can be found in Table J.1.12. The Applicant has written to those land interest holders in October 2022 to explain how they can participate in the examination process, if the application is accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 5.1.4 Persons consulted under section 42(1)(d) who are no longer listed in the Book of Reference are identified in Table J.1.13 in Appendix J for completeness. This table includes the date they received a section 42 letter from the Applicant. As these consultees no longer have an interest in land affected by the Project, i.e., they are not listed within the Book of Reference, they are not included in Table 5.1 or the analysis below.



**Table 5.1 Phases of section 42(1)(d) consultation with landowners that are listed in the Book of Reference**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Letter sent on</b>	<b>Consultation start date</b>	<b>Consultation end date</b>	<b>Duration (i.e., date following receipt of consultation documents to consultation end date)</b>	<b>Number of s42(1)(d) consultees listed in the Book of Reference identified and consulted at this stage under s42</b>
1 – Statutory Consultation	9 October 2018	10 October 2018	20 December 2018	71 days	2,057
2 – Additions to Statutory Consultation as a result of ongoing land referencing	Various dates between 15 October and 21 November 2018	Various dates between 16 October and 22 November 2018	20 December 2018	Various durations between 28 days and 65 days	120
3 – Additional persons with an interest in land consultation	15 August 2019	16 August 2019	25 October 2019	70 days	506
4 – Supplementary Consultation	27 January 2020	29 January 2020	2 April 2020 (extended from 25 March 2020)	64 days (56 days before the one-week extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic)	587
5 – Additions to Supplementary Consultation as a result of ongoing land referencing	Various dates between 6 February and 26 February 2020	Various dates between 7 February and 27 February 2020	2 April 2020	Various durations between 35 days and 55 days	35
6 – Design Refinement Consultation	13 July 2020	14 July 2020	12 August 2020	29 days*	877

Phase	Letter sent on	Consultation start date	Consultation end date	Duration (i.e., date following receipt of consultation documents to consultation end date)	Number of s42(1)(d) consultees listed in the Book of Reference identified and consulted at this stage under s42
7 – Additions to Design Refinement Consultation as a result of ongoing land referencing	16 July 2020	17 July 2020	19 August 2020	33 days	4
8 – Community Impacts Consultation	13 July 2021	14 July 2021	8 September 2021	56 days	187
9 – Additions to Community Impacts Consultation as a result of ongoing land referencing	Various dates between 22 July and 26 August 2021	Various dates between 23 July and 27 August 2021	Various dates between 8 September and 27 September 2021	Various durations between 28 days and 47 days	54
10 – Local Refinement Consultation	11 and 13 May 2022	12 May 2022**	20 and 22 June 2022	39 days	223
11 – August 2022 – Consultation for additional persons with an interest in land	17 August 2022	18 August 2022	17 September 2022	30 days	56

*\*The Applicant did also write to newly identified persons with an interest in land on 29 June 2020, two weeks prior to the start of the Design Refinement Consultation, to notify them of the forthcoming consultation and explain where copies of previously published consultation materials could be accessed. Further letters were, as noted, issued to these persons with an interest in land on 13 July 2020, prior to the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation.*

*\*\*See Section 5.11 below regarding the extension which was given to the recipients of a number of these letters due to late sending.*

- 5.1.5 More information on each of these phases is set out below under the relevant headings.
- 5.1.6 For completeness, Table 5.2 provides a list of the number of persons consulted under category 1, 2 or 3 (within the meaning of section 44 of the Planning Act 2008) at the time when the section 42 letter was issued. Where the person with an interest in land held an interest which fell into more than one category, the Applicant has recorded the dominant category only (for example, if a person with an interest in land held an interest under categories 1 and 2, the interest has been recorded against category 1 only). It should be noted that the figures presented in Table 5.2 do not necessarily align with those now recorded in the Book of Reference, since changes to the design of the Project, including the Order Limits, mean that the categories have evolved over time.

**Table 5.2 Numbers of persons consulted under category 1, 2 or 3**

Consultation	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Land interest holders consulted under S42(1)(d) at the launch of Statutory Consultation	572	123	2277
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) following the launch of Statutory Consultation but before its conclusion	44	3	137
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) at the launch of the additional persons with an interest in land consultation	228	511	214
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) at the launch of Supplementary Consultation	291	746	209
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) following the launch of Supplementary Consultation but before its conclusion	13	41	2
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) at the launch of Design Refinement Consultation	54	398	814
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) following the launch of Design Refinement Consultation but before its conclusion	5	2	2
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) at the launch of Community Impacts Consultation	97	48	84
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) following the launch of Community Impacts Consultation but before its conclusion	33	5	33

Consultation	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) at the launch of Local Refinement Consultation	83	32	133
Land interest holders consulted under s42(1)(d) following the Local Refinement Consultation	25	8	24

## 5.2 Statutory Consultation

- 5.2.1 As described in Section 4.3 of this report, the Applicant prepared for its Statutory Consultation by identifying persons with an interest in land for the purposes of section 42(1)(d), in line with the criteria set out in section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 and with reference to all relevant guidance, including the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG's) (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG's)) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (DCLG, 2015), and the same department's Guidance on compulsory purchase process and the Crichel Down Rules (MHCLG, 2019). Of the 2,972 individuals and organisations holding an interest in land that were consulted by the Applicant under section 42, 2,057 of these are now listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 5.2.2 The Applicant notified all such parties of the commencement of Statutory Consultation by sending them a letter by first class post on 9 October 2018. The formal consultation period began on 10 October 2018 and ended on 20 December 2018, meaning consultees were given a period of 71 days to respond to the proposals. Other forms of publicity were made available before 10 October and the consultation platform, including the consultation website and response channels, which were available to use from 10 October 2018.
- 5.2.3 The letter provided a brief explanation of the way in which the person's land interest would be affected by the Project and was accompanied by a plan of the Order Limits. The letter also explained the purpose of the consultation and the opportunities for consultees to participate. An example of the letter issued to landowners on 9 October 2018 is provided in Appendix K of this report.
- 5.2.4 Responses to the Statutory Consultation, including those submitted by section 42(1)(d) land interest holders, are summarised in Chapter 11 of this report. An explanation is provided in Section 11.4 of how the Applicant had regard to all these responses. The tabular descriptions of the issues raised by all consultees that are provided in Chapter 11 indicate (in the columns titled 's42(1)(d)') which issues were raised by respondents categorised as section 42(1)(d) consultees.

## 5.3 Additions to Statutory Consultation

- 5.3.1 After the launch of the Statutory Consultation on 10 October 2018 but before its conclusion on 20 December 2018, the Applicant consulted a further 184 individuals and organisations identified as the owner of an interest in land affected by the Project. This was due to the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land affected by the Project. Of these people, 120 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).

- 5.3.2 All such parties were notified by letter of their status under section 42 and of the ongoing consultation, as soon as the necessary information pertaining to each interest could be established by the Applicant. An example of the letters sent at this time is provided in Appendix K.
- 5.3.3 As shown in Table 5.1, the 120 individuals and organisations notified in this way were provided with a period of between 28 and 65 days to respond to the consultation proposals.
- 5.3.4 Responses submitted by persons with an interest in land who were notified of the consultation between 15 October and 21 November 2018 were considered in the same way as all other responses. Noting that those written to under section 42 after the launch of the Statutory Consultation period were given a shorter period of time to respond, the Applicant also wrote to those individuals on a non-statutory basis as part of the additional landowner consultation that was undertaken in August 2019. This allowed those individuals and organisations further time to consider and comment on the Statutory Consultation proposals. The issues raised in those responses are described in Section 11.4 of this report along with an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them.

## 5.4 Additional persons with an interest in land consultation

- 5.4.1 The Applicant continued its process of diligent inquiry in the period after Statutory Consultation had ended, as described in Section 4.3 of this report. This process resulted in the identification of further affected land interests. On 15 August 2019, the Applicant consulted under section 42 a further 953 persons with an interest in land, who were identified as the owners of these interests. Of these people, 506 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2). Anyone consulted at this stage who is not listed in the Book of Reference is included in Table J.1.13 of Appendix J. The letter informed the recipient that they had been identified as owning an interest in land affected by the Project, for the purposes of section 42, and that they were being invited to provide feedback on the proposals presented during Statutory Consultation. They were given until 25 October 2019 to provide feedback, a period of 70 days.
- 5.4.2 Enclosed with the letter were a response form, a Freepost envelope and a set of 12 maps of the Project. The letter provided details of how to access a copy of the Guide to Consultation through the Project website or to request a printed copy to be posted to the recipient's address.
- 5.4.3 The letter also included an explanation of the details in the guide that were correct at the time of Statutory Consultation in 2018, but which had subsequently become outdated. This included details such as the dates and times of Public Information Events (PIEs) held during Statutory Consultation, as well as a section of the guide that referred to the use of private finance initiatives, which had been abolished by Government since the publication of the consultation material.
- 5.4.4 The letter explained that the consultation was open only for the named recipients of the letter and provided contact details to enable questions to be directed to the Applicant. An example of this letter is provided in Appendix K.

- 5.4.5 Responses to this stage of consultation were analysed and considered using the same methods and approach that were used for the earlier stage of Statutory Consultation. The issues they contained and an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them is provided in Section 11.5 of this report.

## 5.5 Supplementary Consultation

- 5.5.1 As described in Chapter 6 of this report, the Applicant held a non-statutory Supplementary Consultation on updates to the Project proposals between 29 January and 2 April 2020. The Applicant also used this opportunity to consult under section 42 a further 1,246 persons with an interest in land. These were people whom the Applicant had recently identified as the owner of an interest in land affected by the Project. Some of these new interests were the result of changes to the proposed Order Limits for the Project between Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation. Others were the result of new information from HM Land Registry or from the Applicant's ongoing research into the land affected by the proposals. Of these 1,246 persons, 587 persons are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2). Anyone consulted at this stage who is not listed in the Book of Reference is included in Table J.1.13 of Appendix J.
- 5.5.2 A letter was sent to these people on 27 January 2020, prior to the launch of Supplementary Consultation, informing them that they had been identified as a person with an interest in land for the purposes of section 42(1)(d) and that the Supplementary Consultation period would begin on 29 January 2020 and end on 25 March 2020. The letter also invited the recipient to provide feedback on the proposals published at Statutory Consultation in October 2018, as well as the updated proposals included in the Supplementary Consultation. The letter also explained that, if a response was intended for the Statutory Consultation, this should be made as clear as possible on the submission so that it could be considered separately from the responses to the Supplementary Consultation. An example of the letter sent to these section 42(1)(d) consultees at Supplementary Consultation, is provided in Appendix K.
- 5.5.3 As described in Chapter 6, the consultation period was extended to end on 2 April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Applicant notified consultees of the extension to the consultation period in a number of ways, including through updates to the consultation website, social media posts and engagement with stakeholder organisations.
- 5.5.4 Letters were also sent before the commencement of the Supplementary Consultation to each of the land interest holders that had previously been consulted under section 42(1)(d) and who were not identified as the owner of any new interest in land at this stage. These parties were written to on a non-statutory basis and were invited to comment on the Supplementary Consultation proposals.
- 5.5.5 Issues raised in responses at Supplementary Consultation are summarised in Chapter 12 of this report, along with an explanation of how those issues have been considered. The tables in which responses from Supplementary Consultation are summarised indicate which of the listed issues were raised by section 42(1)(d) consultees (which includes those consulted on a statutory

and non-statutory basis at Supplementary Consultation), and by other consultee strands.

## 5.6 Additions to Supplementary Consultation

- 5.6.1 After the launch of the Supplementary Consultation on 29 January 2020 but before its conclusion on 25 March 2020, the Applicant consulted a further 56 individuals and organisations that had been identified as the owner of an interest in land, as a result of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land interests affected by the Project, during this period. Of the 56 individuals and organisations, 35 of the parties are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 5.6.2 All of these parties were notified by letter of their status under section 42 and informed of the ongoing Supplementary Consultation. All such letters were issued between 6 February and 26 February 2020.
- 5.6.3 As shown in Table 5.1, the 37 individuals and organisations notified in this way were provided a period of between 35 and 55 days to respond to the consultation proposals.
- 5.6.4 Responses submitted by persons with an interest in land who were notified of the consultation between 6 February and 26 February 2020 were considered in the same way as responses from other persons with an interest in land, who were notified prior to the commencement of the Supplementary Consultation on 27 January 2020. The issues raised in their responses are described in Chapter 12 along with an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them.

## 5.7 Design Refinement Consultation

- 5.7.1 As described in Chapter 7 of this report, the Applicant undertook a further non-statutory consultation on a set of design refinements from 14 July to 12 August 2020. In advance of the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests – a total of 1,266, of whom 877 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) – were consulted under section 42 by letter on 13 July 2020. In addition, two weeks in advance of the commencement of the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant notified all of the newly identified land interest holders that they had been identified as section 42 consultees and would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the Project between 14 July and 12 August 2020 as part of the forthcoming Design Refinement Consultation. An example of the letter sent on 29 June 2020 is set out in Appendix K.
- 5.7.2 The letter of 29 June 2020 explained that it would be possible to pre-order printed copies of consultation material, which would be delivered to their address at the start of the consultation period. The letter also explained where recipients could locate information about the proposals included in the Statutory Consultation in 2018, as well as the Supplementary Consultation held earlier in 2020, to familiarise themselves with those proposals. As with the equivalent letters sent at Supplementary Consultation, recipients were asked to make it as

clear as possible in their submissions if their comments were intended for the Statutory Consultation proposals.

- 5.7.3 As noted, a further letter was sent on 13 July 2020 to each of these people, confirming that the Applicant was consulting each recipient under section 42 and that the consultation period would begin on the following day. An example of this letter is provided in Appendix K.
- 5.7.4 On 13 July 2020, a letter was also sent to each person with an interest in land previously consulted under section 42, that had not been identified as the owner of a new interest in advance of the Design Refinement Consultation. The recipients of this letter were invited, on a non-statutory basis, to take part in the Design Refinement Consultation. An example of this letter can be found in Appendix Q.
- 5.7.5 Issues raised in response to the Design Refinement Consultation are summarised in Chapter 13 of this report, along with an explanation of how those issues have been considered. The tables in which responses from the Design Refinement Consultation are summarised indicate which of the listed issues were raised by section 42(1)(d) consultees (which includes those consulted on a statutory and non-statutory basis at Design Refinement Consultation), and by other consultee strands.

## 5.8 Additions to Design Refinement Consultation

- 5.8.1 After the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, as a result of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry, the Applicant consulted a further nine individuals and organisations that had been identified as the owner of an interest in land affected by the Project. Four of these consultees are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 5.8.2 All such parties were consulted by letter on 16 July 2020 of their status under section 42 and of the ongoing Design Refinement Consultation. An example of the letters sent at this time is provided in Appendix K. Each person was also notified of their opportunity to comment on the Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation proposals.
- 5.8.3 As shown in Table 5.1, the four individuals and organisations consulted at this time were provided with a period of 33 days to respond to the consultation proposals and were therefore given a new deadline to respond of 19 August 2020.
- 5.8.4 Responses submitted by persons with an interest in land who were notified of the consultation on 16 July 2020 were considered in the same way as responses from other persons with an interest in land who were notified in advance of the Design Refinement Consultation on 29 June 2020. The issues raised in their responses are described in Chapter 13 along with an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them.

## 5.9 Community Impacts Consultation

- 5.9.1 As described in Chapter 8 of this report, the Applicant undertook a further non-statutory consultation on the Project proposals from 14 July to 8 September 2021. In advance of the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a



number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests – a total of 229, of whom 187 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) – were consulted under section 42 by letter on 13 July 2021. This notified the recipients that they had been identified as section 42 consultees and would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the Project between 14 July and 8 September 2021. An example of this letter is set out in Appendix K.

- 5.9.2 The letter explained that it would be possible to order printed copies of consultation material, which would be delivered to their address. The letter also explained where recipients could locate information about the proposals included in the Statutory Consultation in 2018, as well as the Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations held in 2020, to familiarise themselves with those proposals. As with the equivalent letters sent at the previous consultation, recipients were asked to make it as clear as possible in their submissions if their comments were intended for the earlier consultation proposals.
- 5.9.3 On 13 July 2021, a letter was also sent to each person with an interest in land previously consulted under section 42, who had not been identified as the owner of a new interest in advance of the Community Impacts Consultation. The recipients of this letter were invited, on a non-statutory basis, to take part in the Community Impacts Consultation. An example of this letter can be found in Appendix S.
- 5.9.4 Issues raised in responses to the Community Impacts Consultation are summarised in Chapter 14 of this report, along with an explanation of how those issues have been considered. The tables in which responses from the Community Impacts Consultation are summarised indicate which of the listed issues were raised by section 42(1)(d) consultees (which includes those consulted on a statutory and non-statutory basis at Community Impacts Consultation), and by other consultee strands.

## 5.10 Additions to Community Impacts Consultation

- 5.10.1 After the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation, as a result of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry, the Applicant consulted a further 71 individuals and organisations that had been identified as the owner of an interest in land affected by the Project. Of these consultees, 54 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 5.10.2 All such parties were notified by letter between 22 July and 26 August 2021 of their status under section 42 and of the ongoing Community Impacts Consultation. An example of the letters sent at this time is provided in Appendix S. Each person was also notified of their opportunity to comment on previous consultations.
- 5.10.3 As shown in Table 5.1, each of the 54 consultees were provided with a consultation period of between 28 and 47 days to respond to the consultation (depending on the time at which the Applicant had identified them).

- 5.10.4 Responses submitted by persons with an interest in land who were notified of the consultation between 22 July and 26 August 2021 were considered in the same way as responses from other persons with an interest in land who were notified in advance of the Community Impacts Consultation on 13 July 2021. The issues raised in their responses are described in Chapter 14 along with an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them.

## 5.11 Local Refinement Consultation

- 5.11.1 As described in Chapter 9 of this report, the Applicant held a further non-statutory Local Refinement Consultation on a number of proposed changes to the Project between 12 May and 20 June 2022. In advance of the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests – a total of 248, of whom 223 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) – were consulted under section 42 by letter on 11 May 2022 (see further below regarding some instances of late sending of these letters and how the Applicant has addressed this). This notified the recipients that they had been identified as section 42 consultees and would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the Project between 12 May and 20 June 2022. An example of that letter is set out in Appendix K.
- 5.11.2 The letter explained that it would be possible to order printed copies of consultation material, which would be delivered to their address. The letter also explained where recipients could locate information about the proposals included in the Statutory Consultation in 2018, as well as the Supplementary and Design Refinements Consultations held in 2020, and the Community Impacts Consultation held in 2021, to familiarise themselves with those proposals. As with the equivalent letters sent at previous consultations, recipients were asked to make it as clear as possible in their submissions if their comments were intended for the proposals published in earlier consultations.
- 5.11.3 On 11 May 2022, a letter was also sent to each person with an interest in land previously consulted under section 42, who had not been identified as the owner of a new interest in advance of the Local Refinement Consultation. The recipients of this letter were invited, on a non-statutory basis, to take part in the Local Refinement Consultation. An example of this letter can be found in Appendix T.
- 5.11.4 During the course of May 2022, the Applicant became aware that a number of letters to persons with an interest in land had not been sent in the post on 11 May 2022, but had been delayed until 13 May 2022. To address this issue, the Applicant wrote to all of the newly identified persons with an interest in land on 24 May 2022 to explain that an error had occurred and to confirm that an extension to the deadline for responding to the consultation would be given to compensate for the period of delay in sending the original letter. The extended deadline for responses was 22 June 2022, meaning that a total of 39 days following the receipt of the original letter was provided.
- 5.11.5 Issues raised in response to the Local Refinement Consultation are summarised in Chapter 15 of this report, along with an explanation of how those issues have been considered. The tables in which responses from the Local

Refinement Consultation are summarised indicate which of the listed issues were raised by section 42(1)(d) consultees (which includes those consulted on a statutory and non-statutory basis at Local Refinement Consultation), and by other consultee strands.

- 5.11.6 After the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation, the Applicant was made aware that some of the letters were sent up to two days late. The affected recipients were sent a follow-up letter with a two-day extension. One recipient reported their letter had arrived more than two days late, and as such was given an extension of four days.

## **5.12 August 2022 – Consultation for additional persons with an interest in land**

- 5.12.1 After the conclusion of the Local Refinement Consultation and as a result of ongoing diligent inquiry, the Applicant identified a further 57 individuals and organisations that were the owners of an interest in land affected by the Project. Of these consultees 56 are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2).
- 5.12.2 All such parties were notified by letter on 17 August 2022 of their status under section 42, and were provided with the opportunity to respond to the proposals included in the recently concluded Local Refinement Consultation or to any preceding phase of pre-application consultation. An example of the letters sent at this time is provided in Appendix T. Recipients of these letters were provided with opportunities to contact the Applicant's land and property team so that questions about the nature of the impact of the Project on their land and on the likely development of the Project through the development consent process could be promptly addressed.
- 5.12.3 As shown in Table 5.1, the 56 individuals and organisations consulted at this time were provided with a period of 30 days to respond to the consultation proposals.
- 5.12.4 Responses submitted by persons with an interest in land who were notified of the consultation on 17 August 2022 were considered in the same way as responses from other persons with an interest in land who were notified in advance of the Local Refinement Consultation on 12 May 2022. The issues raised in their responses are described in Chapter 15 along with an explanation of how the Applicant has had regard to them.

## **5.13 Post Local Refinement Consultation**

- 5.13.1 As a result of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land interests affected by the Project, a further 58 persons with an interest in land were identified in September 2022.
- 5.13.2 Given the late stage at which these people were identified, there was insufficient time remaining to consult them and have regard to their responses prior to submission of the DCO application.
- 5.13.3 Nevertheless, the Applicant did write to each of these people in October 2022, confirming that they had now been identified as owning an interest in land that was affected by the Project. The letters also confirmed that, while there was

insufficient time to consult them under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, they would, in due course, be able to provide comments on the Project during the next stage of the planning process, if the DCO application were accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

- 5.13.4 Information on where to find out more about the proposals presented as part of the Applicant's pre-application consultation, was also provided. Copies of these letters are set out in Appendix K of this report. A list of these consultees can be found in Table J.1.12 in Appendix J.

## 6 Supplementary Consultation

### 6.1 Purpose of the Supplementary Consultation

- 6.1.1 Following the Statutory Consultation, the Project was developed further. Changes were informed by consideration of the issues raised in response to the Statutory Consultation, ongoing design development and new information from assessments and investigations.
- 6.1.2 Chapter 11 of this report provides an account of the issues raised through responses to Statutory Consultation and the ways in which the Applicant has had regard to them.
- 6.1.3 The Supplementary Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis, because the changes were designed to improve the Project but did not fundamentally affect its purpose, route or impacts. However, the consultation was conducted having regard to the principles of the pre-application statutory consultation set out in the Planning Act 2008 and in accordance with the DCLG Guidance (DCLG, 2015).
- 6.1.4 In planning the Supplementary Consultation, pre-engagement was also conducted by inviting the host local authorities to respond to the Applicant's proposed approach to carrying out the consultation. This is covered in more detail starting from paragraph 6.5.15.
- 6.1.5 Following Statutory Consultation, a thorough assessment of the proposals was carried out and changes were considered.
- 6.1.6 The intention was to assess the need for changes that would enable the Project to better fulfil its Scheme Objectives (including the need to achieve value for money) while also making amendments that accorded with public and stakeholder feedback.
- 6.1.7 Included within the scope of this review were the proposed route and its junctions, as well as approaches to matters such as environmental mitigation and plans to build the Project.
- 6.1.8 Responses to the Statutory Consultation informed decisions made by the Applicant on changes that should be included in the next iteration of the Project.
- 6.1.9 When deciding which of the proposed changes the Applicant should include in the Supplementary Consultation, consideration was given to the DCLG Guidance (DCLG, 2015). Paragraph 73 of the DCLG Guidance states:  
*'When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.'*
- 6.1.10 Further assessment was carried out to determine whether the changes being considered fulfilled any of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 73 of the DCLG Guidance, and whether other criteria set by the Applicant were met, such as changes to land requirements (temporary or permanent) or changes to the Order Limits. If any were met, this information was used to inform further discussions about whether that change should be included as a proposal in the Supplementary Consultation.

## 6.2 When Supplementary Consultation took place

- 6.2.1 The Supplementary Consultation was originally planned to take place between 29 January and 25 March 2020. The closing date of 25 March 2020 was publicised on consultation material, including letters sent to statutory consultees and landowners, and on a publicity leaflet issued to local residents.
- 6.2.2 A consultation period of eight weeks was considered to be appropriate, based on the Applicant's assessment of the scale and complexity of the consultation proposals, the anticipated public interest and previous consultation durations.
- 6.2.3 Following announcements and restrictions by the UK Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supplementary Consultation was extended by eight days to 2 April 2020. More information about how the Supplementary Consultation was impacted by the pandemic is explained in Section 6.5 of this chapter.

## 6.3 Who the Applicant consulted

- 6.3.1 Although the Supplementary Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the following groups and individuals were informed about the consultation:
- a. Section 42 – prescribed consultees, including relevant local authorities and statutory undertakers; those listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations; and those who own, occupy or have a legal interest in land that would be affected by the Project or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation as a result of the Project. More information about letters to section 42 consultees is provided in paragraphs 6.5.4 to 6.5.10 of this chapter.
  - b. Section 47 – local community consultees, including the people living in the vicinity of the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups, Dart Charge account holders and contacts registered on the Project's customer database. More information about community consultation is provided later in this chapter.

## 6.4 What the Applicant consulted on

- 6.4.1 The purpose of the Supplementary Consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees, the local community and other interested groups and individuals, including affected landowners, on the changes proposed in the consultation materials.
- 6.4.2 The Guide to Supplementary Consultation set out the proposed changes to the route in two sections: south of the River Thames and north of the River Thames. It then set out other proposed changes grouped by overarching themes, such as 'Property and landowners' and 'Utilities'. The Guide is included in Appendix Q of this report.
- 6.4.3 Chapter 11 of this report provides a summary of the responses to Statutory Consultation, including an account of each issue raised through the responses and how these were considered. It refers to issues that were developed and included in the proposals taken into Supplementary Consultation and, where

appropriate, directs the reader to other documents within the DCO application where more information on that issue is presented.

## Project updates

- 6.4.4 Other updates in relation to the Project were also included within the Supplementary Consultation information, so as to inform consultees of decisions that had been made regarding the Project. These are summarised here:
- a. Funding – Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement in October 2018 to end the use of private finance, it was confirmed the Project was being developed as a fully publicly-funded scheme.
  - b. Equal charging at the Dartford Crossing and the Lower Thames Crossing – At Statutory Consultation it was planned to seek flexibility for a range of charging scenarios. Further modelling and assessments demonstrated that making the charge for the Lower Thames Crossing the same as for the Dartford Crossing would be the most beneficial option.
  - c. Local Residents Discount Scheme (LRDS) – Engagement with stakeholders and feedback received during Statutory Consultation showed a high expectation that the scheme would include an LRDS. The Applicant took this opportunity to confirm that the intention for an LRDS would apply to residents of both Thurrock and Gravesham and would be implemented on a similar basis as applies to Dartford.
  - d. Removal of the roadside service facility – After further investigations, consideration of the feedback from Statutory Consultation and environmental considerations, it was concluded that the roadside service facility and the maintenance depot would be removed from the Project.
- 6.4.5 As summarised in Chapter 12 of this report, it was possible for consultees to comment on matters that were provided as updates, and where this was the case, the Applicant has had regard to those comments.

## South of the river in Kent

### M2/A2, including the junction with the A122

- 6.4.6 Following feedback from the Statutory Consultation, the junction configuration and connectivity with local roads in this location was reviewed. More direct connectivity between Gravesend and the M2 eastbound was proposed, and a redesigned Gravesend East junction with changes to link roads to improve journey times.

### Southern tunnel entrance redesign

- 6.4.7 The tunnel entrance was moved 350m to the south to reduce the impact on the Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. An informal public space, 'Chalk Park', was proposed to improve local biodiversity.

## North of the river in Thurrock and Essex

### Removal of the roadside service facility, maintenance depot and Tilbury junction

- 6.4.8 Having considered the benefits, the environmental impact and the views of consultees, it was concluded that a roadside service facility would not be included in the proposals. As a result, the maintenance depot and junction at Tilbury were also removed.

### Route between Tilbury and A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction

- 6.4.9 The Project route north of Tilbury and south of the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction was moved approximately 60m closer to Linford. This was proposed to reduce disruption and environmental impacts that would have otherwise been required to move pylons and overhead cables in this area.

### A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction

- 6.4.10 Some slip roads were redesigned at the proposed A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction. This also included changes to the A1013 slip roads. The main reasons for these changes were to reduce the visual impact and improve safety and connectivity at the junctions.

### Number of lanes

- 6.4.11 It was proposed that one lane southbound between the A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction and A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction would be removed, taking this section of the route from three to two lanes. Traffic modelling forecast that a significant proportion of traffic travelling southbound on the Project would join from the A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction, so fewer vehicles would use the route between the M25 and A13. It was explained that the change would reduce the amount of land required in this section, lessening the Project's environmental impact and offering better value for money by only providing the capacity required.

### Route through the Mardyke

- 6.4.12 The design of the road was further developed in this area and the Supplementary Consultation proposals included changes to the structures crossing the Mardyke River, Golden Bridge Sewer and Orsett Fen Sewer. The overall length of viaducts in the area increased by approximately 50m. This change would allow for more open views across the landscape and also reduce the volume of flood compensation required in this area.
- 6.4.13 The route near Ockendon was also proposed to be moved approximately 200m south-west to reduce the impact on the environment, avoid diverting a major gas main and reduce impacts on the landfill works in the area.

### A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction

- 6.4.14 The southbound link from the M25 to the Project was redesigned to avoid demolition and reconstruction of the existing Ockendon Road bridge over the M25.



### **M25 junction 29**

- 6.4.15 Changes to the layout of junction 29 of the M25 were proposed to reduce the amount of overhead cable diversions in the area. The M25 southbound slip road was shortened to remove the impact on the Folks Lane bridge.

### **Property and landowners**

- 6.4.16 The Order Limits was revised to reflect the design changes, with the inclusion of additional land that would be required to divert utilities, as well as land for new natural habitat areas. The Statutory Consultation Order Limits comprised 20.08km<sup>2</sup> and increased to 26.2km<sup>2</sup> for Supplementary Consultation.
- 6.4.17 Any newly identified section 42(1)(d) land interests were consulted on a statutory basis.

### **Facilities for walking, cycling and horse riding**

- 6.4.18 After reviewing responses to Statutory Consultation and further engagement with local authorities and other stakeholders, several changes to the Project were proposed which included revised plans for maintaining, improving and upgrading the walking, cycling and horse riding network in the vicinity of the Project.

### **Environmental impacts**

- 6.4.19 An Environmental Impacts Update (EIU) was produced for the Supplementary Consultation. The document explained the environmental effects associated with the proposed changes, compared with those considered in the PEIR published at Statutory Consultation. A link to the EIU is included in Appendix Q.
- 6.4.20 Chapter 6 of the Guide to Supplementary Consultation included an update on the ongoing environmental impact assessments and signposted the EIU for more detail.

### **Building the Project**

- 6.4.21 The Guide to Supplementary Consultation included an update on the proposals for building the Project. The update included a series of changes that fell into one of the following five areas:
- a. Construction hours
  - c. Tunnelling work/ground preparation works
  - d. How the Project would use other public roads and roads to construction sites
  - e. Construction impacts on local roads
  - f. Construction sites

### **Utilities**

- 6.4.22 Following Statutory Consultation, the Applicant continued to work with utility companies and other stakeholders to progress plans and to ensure the Project could be built safely and with minimum disruption.

- 6.4.23 A Utilities Update document was produced for the Supplementary Consultation. It outlined proposals for utility diversions and installation, both above and below ground. It included the proposed positioning of overhead electricity cables (including the relocation of pylons), as well as work to install utilities for the construction and operation of the Project. A link to the Utilities Update is included in Appendix Q.

### Using the Project

- 6.4.24 The Guide to Supplementary Consultation provided updated information on the way in which it was expected that the Project would be used. This included forecasted annual usage figures for 15 years after road opening, the predicted percentage reduction at the Dartford Crossing, and traffic flow maps as a result of the Project.
- 6.4.25 More detail was provided in a Traffic Modelling Update that included some of the key results from the Project's updated transport model, which was developed after the Statutory Consultation in preparation for the DCO submission. A link to the Traffic Modelling Update is included in Appendix Q.
- 6.4.26 A number of changes were made to the transport model. These included the following:
- a. Updating the list of other road schemes that are likely to be built on the road network, whether the Project is built or not
  - b. Revising the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles predicted to be on the road network, using more-recently published data
  - c. Updating the size and location of proposed housing and other developments
  - d. Making alterations to reflect the design changes made to the Project
  - e. Updating the modelling years
- 6.4.27 Broadly, the new model showed similar results to those that were presented at Statutory Consultation.

### Feedback mechanisms

- 6.4.28 It was possible throughout the Supplementary Consultation period to provide a response by using any of three dedicated response channels. These channels were advertised on the consultation response form and other consultation documents, as well as the notices and adverts published in local and national newspapers.

- 6.4.29 The three response channels were as follows:
- a. Online – by filling in an online version of the consultation response form hosted on the Project's consultation website:  
[REDACTED]
  - b. Post – by sending a completed response form or letter to FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION (Freepost envelopes were available to pick up from events, deposit and information points, or by telephone or email requests)
  - c. Email – by sending comments to ltc.consultation@traverse.ltd

## 6.5 How the consultation was carried out

### Engagement before Supplementary Consultation

6.5.1 The following section explains how engagement with local authorities was undertaken before the launch of Supplementary Consultation. It covers the development of changes for the design of the Project and plans for delivery of the Supplementary Consultation.

#### Technical workshops with host local authorities and statutory bodies

6.5.2 A series of technical workshops with host local authorities and Statutory Environmental Bodies were held between September and December 2019. These presented a range of topics, including changes and updates to the information communicated during the Supplementary Consultation. Table 6.1 below provides a summary of the meetings.

**Table 6.1 Workshops held before Supplementary Consultation**

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Design development workshop (north of the river)	4 September 2019	Workshop to discuss and share the design evolution of the Project since the previous workshop in April	Essex County Council Thurrock Council Environment Agency Historic England Natural England
Design development workshop (south of the river)	12 September 2019	Workshop to discuss and share the design evolution of the Project since the previous workshop in April	Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Medway Council Environment Agency Historic England
Design development workshop (south of the river)	7 November 2019	Workshop to focus on changes to the Order Limits and development of utilities diversions	Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Environment Agency Forestry Commission

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
			Historic England Kent Downs AONB Unit Natural England
Design development workshop (north of the river)	13 November 2019	Workshop to focus on changes to the Order Limits and development of utilities diversions	Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Thurrock Council Historic England Natural England
Utilities diversions update (two sessions on the same day; north and south)	3 December 2019	Meeting to provide an update on utilities diversions since those discussed in November 2019	North: Natural England Thurrock Council
			South: Gravesham Borough Council Historic England Kent County Council
Construction impacts workshop (two sessions on the same day, one for north of the river and one for south of the river)	11 December 2019	Workshop to discuss and share the potential impacts of building the Project	North: Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Thurrock Council Environment Agency Historic England Natural England
			South Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Environment Agency Historic England Kent Downs AONB Unit Natural England

6.5.3 The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) provide further information on the Applicant's engagement with stakeholder bodies.

### Notification to statutory consultees

6.5.4 Although non-statutory, the Applicant used the Supplementary Consultation as an opportunity to notify all of the organisations and individuals previously consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. They were identified as described in Section 4.3 of this report.

- 6.5.5 All such parties were notified by letter of the Supplementary Consultation. Letters were sent by first class post on 27 January 2020. Consultees also received an A3 booklet of land use plans and an A5 Supplementary Consultation leaflet which explained how they could respond to the consultation. Examples of the letters sent to prescribed bodies, local authorities and landowners who had already been consulted on a statutory basis at Statutory Consultation can be found in Appendix Q of this report.
- 6.5.6 As described in Chapter 5 of this report, the Applicant also consulted any newly identified persons with an interest in land under section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 during Supplementary Consultation. These new interests were consulted on a statutory basis in accordance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. All such parties were provided with an opportunity to respond to the Statutory Consultation proposals and the Supplementary Consultation proposals.
- 6.5.7 At Supplementary Consultation, 893 section 42(1)(d) consultees that are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) were identified, some of whom would have been consulted previously in relation to a different land interest. In some instances, one individual or organisation was the registered owner or interested party for multiple land interests. An example of the letters sent to new section 42(1)(d) consultees can also be found in Appendix Q. After the launch of Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant identified a further 43 individuals and organisations with an interest in land that are listed in the Book of Reference. This was due to the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land affected by the Project. These consultees were written to between 6 February 2020 and 26 February 2020. All of these interest holders were consulted on a statutory basis at Supplementary Consultation.
- 6.5.8 At the same time as consulting any newly identified section 42(1)(d) consultees at Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant gave those people an opportunity to provide feedback on any aspect of the Statutory Consultation proposals.
- 6.5.9 One response was received from newly identified section 42(1)(d) consultees commenting on the Statutory Consultation proposals. The issues raised in that response are summarised in Section 11.5 of this report.
- 6.5.10 Responses submitted by all other section 42(1)(d) consultees to the Supplementary Consultation are discussed in Chapter 12 of this report.

### **Notifying the Planning Inspectorate**

- 6.5.11 On 28 January 2020, the Applicant sent a letter and email to notify the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the commencement of the Supplementary Consultation. The email included a secure weblink to electronic copies of the material produced for consultation, as well as examples of letters that were sent to statutory consultees including newly identified land interests.
- 6.5.12 A copy of the letter to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the Supplementary Consultation is included in Appendix Q.

### **Community consultation**

- 6.5.13 Supplementary Consultation was prepared by planning an extensive campaign of engagement aimed at the local communities potentially affected by the

planned development. This approach included consideration of the needs and preferences of different communities and individuals across the affected area, including hard-to-reach groups.

- 6.5.14 The following sub-sections describe different aspects of the approach taken to local community consultation.

### **Approach to Supplementary Consultation**

- 6.5.15 Although there was no statutory obligation to consult with local authorities on the planned approach to Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant chose to engage with the eight host local authorities as part of ongoing engagement. A draft 'approach to Supplementary Consultation' brief was issued by email on 14 October 2019 to Brentwood Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, London Borough of Havering, Kent County Council, Medway Council and Thurrock Council.

- 6.5.16 The purpose of the document was to provide an overview of the Applicant's approach to consultation with local authorities and communities. The brief covered the following:

- a. When the consultation would be scheduled to commence
- b. The duration of the consultation
- c. The topics that would be included in the scope of the consultation
- d. An overview of consultation publicity methods including public notices, PIEs and deposit locations
- e. An overview of consultation materials

- 6.5.17 Thurrock Council and Kent County Council requested meetings to discuss their comments on the Supplementary Consultation approach and arrangements. These took place on the following dates:

- a. Thurrock Council on 24 September 2019 (requested before the first draft of the approach document)
- b. Kent County Council and Gravesham Borough Council on 14 October 2019

- 6.5.18 The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) provide further information on the Applicant's engagement with stakeholder bodies.

- 6.5.19 Written comments on the draft brief were received from Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, London Borough of Havering and Thurrock Council.

- 6.5.20 The comments covered a range of topics, including the events programme, deposit locations and consultation materials. Table 6.2 summarises the comments received and how the Applicant used feedback in planning Supplementary Consultation activities.

- 6.5.21 The final 'approach to Supplementary Consultation' document (included in Appendix Q) was issued on 23 January 2020 to all host local authorities.

The approach to Supplementary Consultation confirmed the plan for delivering the consultation, including the following:

- a. The address of the consultation website
- b. Dates and venues for public information and MIC events
- c. The venues and opening times of deposit and information points, and what would be available at each
- d. A list of consultation materials
- e. Details of how to respond
- f. A distribution map to show areas that would receive a Supplementary Consultation leaflet

**Table 6.2 Summary of feedback on draft approach to Supplementary Consultation**

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
Essex County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commented that the Project was unlikely to need events in Essex, except perhaps in Brentwood</li> <li>• Suggested use of Brentwood Borough Council offices for deposit locations</li> <li>• Requested information boards for council's foyer area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An event in Brentwood was not pursued due to its distance from the proposed changes. The nearest events held were in Upminster and Thames Chase Forest Centre.</li> <li>• Brentwood Library was used as a deposit location.</li> <li>• Information boards were not provided for the council's foyer area. Officers were briefed on all materials and content in workshops prior to the launch. The leader of Essex County Council and borough officers were briefed during Supplementary Consultation and materials were sent to all host local authorities.</li> </ul>
Gravesham Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed council would upload consultation materials onto its website</li> <li>• Provided suggestions of postcodes to cover for the consultation leaflet</li> <li>• Suggested Cascades Leisure Centre and Civic Centre for event locations with Manor Hotel as an alternative to Cascades if not available</li> <li>• Suggested MIC events in Shorne, Higham and Cobham (plus Shorne Woods Country Park at a weekend)</li> <li>• Felt 20:00 would be appropriate for closing time of events in view of experience last time and the time of year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The leaflet was sent to most of the postcode areas suggested. Those excluded were not selected because they were more than 2km away from the Project route.</li> <li>• Events were held at Cascades Leisure Centre and Gravesham Civic Centre.</li> <li>• MIC events were planned in Shorne Woods Country Park, Shorne Village Hall Car Park, Cobham and Higham. The events in Shorne Woods Country Park, Cobham and Higham were held, but the Shorne Village Hall event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>• Shorne Woods Country Park was used as an information point.</li> <li>• The Guide to Supplementary Consultation provided a summary of the changes and those made as a result of feedback.</li> </ul>



Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked about possible deposit locations, suggesting that Shorne Woods Country Park be used again, possibly for an information point</li> <li>• Strongly recommended a 'you said, we did' section in the materials to ensure people understand how National Highways responded to suggestions and comments</li> </ul>	
Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed council would upload consultation materials onto its website</li> <li>• Suggested extending the leaflet area to Meopham, Cuxton and Luddesdown Parish near the A227</li> <li>• Suggested use of Shorne Village Hall and at Cobham/Higham for a possible MIC event to ensure an event both north and south of the A2</li> <li>• Strongly recommended a 'you said, we did' section in the materials to ensure people understand how National Highways responded to suggestions and comments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaflets were posted to Meopham, Cuxton and Luddesdown.</li> <li>• Mobile events were planned in Shorne Village Hall Car Park, Cobham and Higham. The events in Cobham and Higham were held, but the Shorne Village Hall event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>• The Guide to Supplementary Consultation provided a summary of the changes and those made as a result of feedback.</li> </ul>
London Borough of Havering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed the proposal to have a PIE at New Windmill Hall</li> <li>• Suggested that the Project consider holding an MIC event in Romford</li> <li>• Requested if the Project could attend a local business engagement meeting ahead of this consultation as per with previous consultation events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mobile event in Romford was not pursued due to its distance from the Project. A PIE and an MIC event were planned in Upminster on two separate dates. The mobile event in Upminster was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>• The Applicant worked with the local MP to inform businesses and encourage their involvement in Supply Chain School events held during the Supplementary Consultation.</li> <li>• Romford Library was used as a deposit location.</li> <li>• Upminster Library was used as an information point.</li> </ul>

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggested that Romford and Upminster Libraries should be considered for deposit locations</li> </ul>	
Thurrock Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed it would point towards the consultation from the council's engagement portal</li> <li>Suggested listing events in date order, then town, then location</li> <li>Suggested the Easy Read document should be more accessible on the consultation website</li> <li>Suggested that there should be at least three events, possibly at Tilbury, East Tilbury library or school and Grays</li> <li>Suggested MIC events should be considered for Linford (church) and Ockendon</li> <li>Recommended that there should be a book of plans with north points on each map</li> <li>Suggested the Project consider providing large Project-wide maps at deposit locations as well as at events</li> <li>Stressed the need to be clear about what is being consulted on and what influence respondents can have on the Project</li> <li>Suggested a range of deposit locations should be used for all the materials to be viewed</li> <li>Commented that response time to questions posed by email or phone were too slow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events were listed in date order, and split south and north of the River Thames.</li> <li>The Easy Read version of the Guide was placed on the consultation website.</li> <li>Events were held in East Tilbury, Grays, Linford and Orsett.</li> <li>MIC events were planned in Chadwell St Mary and Grays Town Centre. The event in Chadwell St Mary was held, but the Grays Town Centre event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>Maps were discussed with Thurrock Council. The maps in the Guide to Supplementary Consultation all faced north. The Applicant explained to Thurrock the reasons why this was not possible with the map books.</li> <li>A leaflet which folded out into an A2-size Project-wide map was produced and made available at events.</li> <li>The Guide to Supplementary Consultation provided a summary of the key changes that were being consulted on.</li> <li>Eight deposit locations and 10 information points at locations across the Project area were used.</li> <li>The Applicant ensured that responses to questions by email or phone were answered within the standard period of 15 working days.</li> <li>A 'frequently asked questions' document was discussed with Thurrock Council. The Applicant indicated that it would be extremely lengthy and possibly onerous for members of the public, and so it would not be produced.</li> </ul>

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Suggested that a ‘frequently asked questions’ document would be valuable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested the Project show what movements cannot be made by traffic at proposed junctions</li> <li>• Suggested that they are provided with draft documents on a confidential basis, as a ‘sense check’</li> <li>• Raised the possibility of using Thurrock focus groups for targeted engagement on materials development</li> <li>• Suggested that it might be helpful to provide a QR code that linked to the Supplementary Consultation materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Guide to Supplementary Consultation included maps to show some connections and tables to summarise connections from the Project.</li> <li>• Themes and topics to be included in the consultation were shared in advance, as well as plans on the approach to how the consultation would be undertaken. Consultation materials were provided as soon as the consultation launched.</li> <li>• There would be a risk that members of a community focus group might share details of the consultation, ahead of its launch. This would mean that not all stakeholders would have equal access to materials in developing their consultation responses. For this reason, the Applicant did not progress with this suggestion.</li> <li>• A QR code was included in the Guide to Supplementary Consultation, response form, newspaper adverts, EIU and the Utilities Update.</li> </ul>

## Materials

6.5.22 To support the delivery of the Supplementary Consultation, a range of materials were produced to explain the proposed changes, to publicise the consultation and to set out the methods by which people could respond. Table 6.3 provides a breakdown of the documents and a description of what they included. If the name of a document is highlighted in bold, this indicates that a copy of it is included in Appendix Q of this report. Appendix Q provides weblinks to the other documents, all of which are available on the Supplementary Consultation website: [REDACTED].

**Table 6.3 Supplementary Consultation materials**

Document	Description
<b>Lower Thames Crossing Guide to Supplementary Consultation</b>	Explains the changes proposed in consultation materials including simplified maps and computer-generated images, signposting to supporting materials for further details. Also explains the process for providing feedback and set the closing date for responses to be received.
<b>Consultation leaflets</b>	<b>Supplementary consultation leaflet</b> – a summary of changes, list of PIEs and MIC events, list of information and deposit locations with a description of what can be found at each, how to respond to the consultation and the deadline.
	Map leaflet – a leaflet which folds out into an A2 map showing the route alignment with a satellite map background, including basic information about the consultation process. This was available to take away from events.
<b>Response form</b>	Contains the questions on the changes proposed in the consultation materials.
Environmental Impacts Update (EIU)	Explains how changes to the route, revised Order Limits and utility diversions affected the information that was presented in the PEIR at Statutory Consultation.
Traffic modelling update	Provides an overview of the work carried out to update the traffic model as part of the ongoing work to prepare for the DCO application. Includes updated traffic impacts of the Project.
Utilities Update	Contains updated proposals for utility diversions and installation, both above and below ground. Proposed positions of overhead electricity cables (including relocations of pylons), plus work to install utilities for the construction and operation of the Project.
Map books	Map Book 1: General Arrangements – shows proposed details of the Project, including permanent works, construction compounds, environmental mitigation, utilities diversions, Order Limits, and open space and replacement land.
	Map Book 2: Land Use Plans – shows areas where the Applicant is seeking powers to compulsorily acquire land

Document	Description
	or permanent rights. The plans also show the temporary land rights which are required in order to construct and operate the Project.
	Map Book 3: Engineering Plans – drawings in plan and profile, junction arrangements and cross-sections of the route showing lanes and earthworks.
Large scale maps	A range of larger-scale maps presenting the information shown in the map books, such as environmental constraints and land use.
Non-statutory notice	A non-statutory notice conveying basic information about the consultation, including key dates and how to respond, that was published in a series of newspapers.
Posters	An A4 and A3 poster advertising the consultation website, with a QR code which took people directly to the consultation website if scanned.
Your Property and Blight	Three guides produced by the Applicant to provide information to people whose property may be affected by new road proposals and improvements.
Your Property and Compulsory Purchase	
Your Property and Discretionary Purchase	

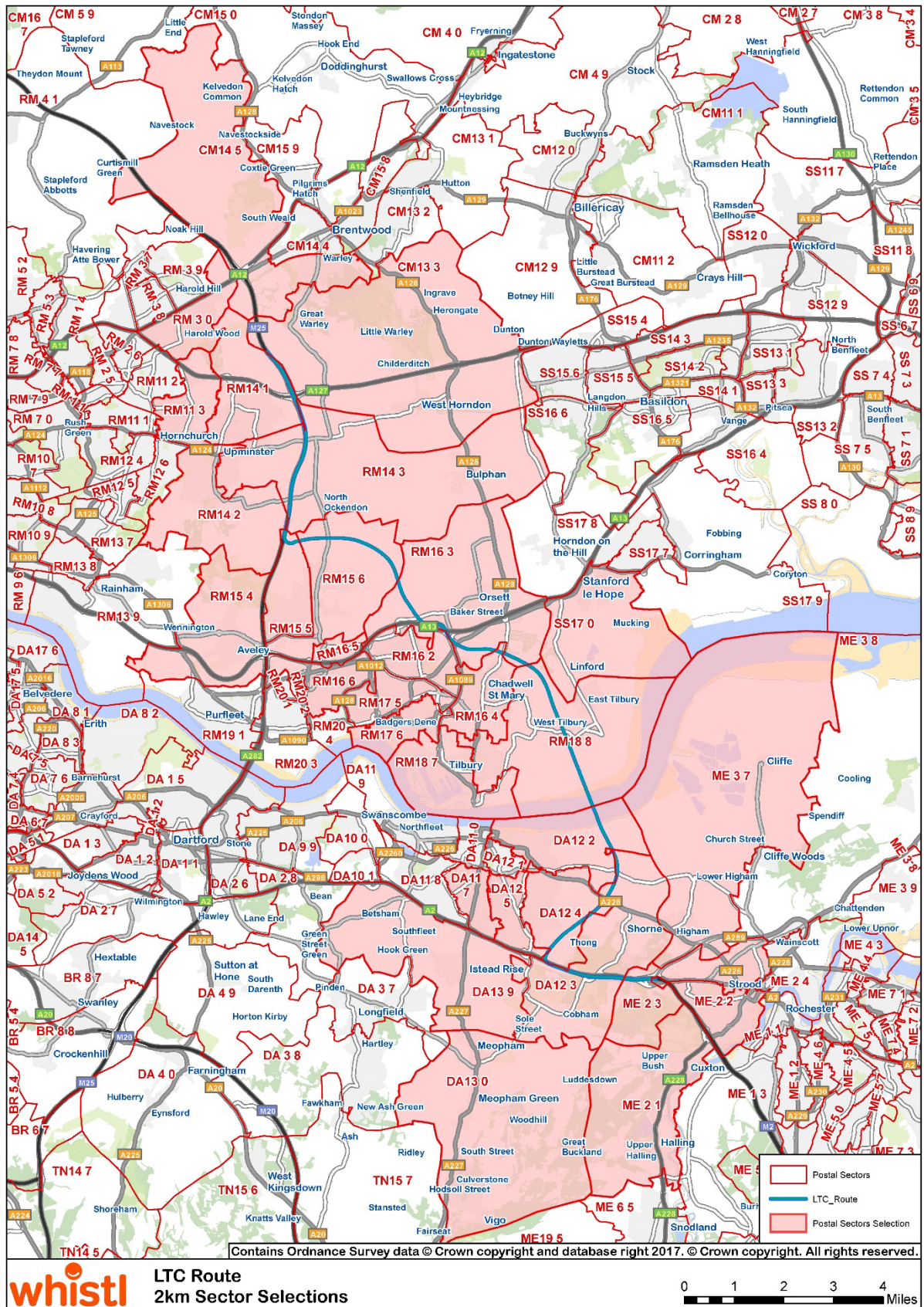
- 6.5.23 Copies of the consultation materials were available for inspection at a series of deposit locations, which are described in further detail later in this section of this report. It was also possible to buy a full printed set of the consultation material for the price of £110 (including VAT and P&P). This price reflected the cost to the Applicant of printing and binding the various documents included in the suite, and their combined page count. Consultation materials (one per household) were available on a USB memory stick free of charge by contacting the Applicant.
- 6.5.24 Consultation documents could be viewed and downloaded from the Project’s consultation website: [REDACTED]. The website also provided an online version of the consultation response form and was available throughout the consultation period. There were around 73,000 visitors to the website during the consultation.
- 6.5.25 A third-party agency was commissioned to reproduce a version of the Guide to Supplementary Consultation in an ‘Easy Read’ format. The purpose of Easy Read is to convey information in a style that, by making use of infographics and short statements, is more easily understood by people who have difficulty reading. It was available at PIEs and other engagement events during the consultation. A link to the Easy Read guide is available in Appendix Q.
- 6.5.26 It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages and formats, by calling the Applicant’s telephone line advertised on consultation materials or using an equivalent email address.
- 6.5.27 Three requests for alternative formats of the Guide to Supplementary Consultation were received. One for a braille version and two for large print

versions. One request for a USB with all documents was also received. The Applicant was able to fulfil all of these requests.

### Notification and publicity

- 6.5.28 The Applicant provided notification of the Supplementary Consultation to prescribed consultees, local authorities and individuals with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposals. These notifications are described further in later sections of this chapter.
- 6.5.29 In addition, an extensive notification and publicity campaign was carried out aimed at raising awareness of the consultation throughout the affected local area and the wider region.
- 6.5.30 At the beginning of the consultation period, a leaflet was posted to 135,000 addresses within 2km of the revised Order Limits. Plate 6.1 below provides a map of these postcode areas. The Supplementary Consultation leaflet (a copy of which is provided in Appendix Q of this report) contained a summary of the changes and details about the consultation.
- 6.5.31 A reduced postal area was selected for Supplementary Consultation compared with Statutory Consultation. This was mainly because the focus of the consultation was more about the specifics of the proposals, rather than the broader subjects such as what the Project would achieve and whether it was needed.
- 6.5.32 The Applicant informed the public of the Supplementary Consultation through a range of channels including advertisements in national and local newspapers, updates to the Project website, social media and leaflets sent directly to postal addresses.
- 6.5.33 At the start of the Supplementary Consultation, an email was sent to 44,000 subscribers on the Project's customer database, informing them of the consultation and inviting them to give their views. This included everyone who responded to the Statutory Consultation (and provided their email address and opted in for further communication). Emails were also sent to 230,000 Dart Charge account holders with addresses within 2km of the Order Limits. Copies of both emails are available in Appendix Q.
- 6.5.34 A consultation website was set up to allow people to access and download the Supplementary Consultation materials. The consultation website also publicised the venues and opening times of deposit and information points, PIEs and MIC events. A link to this website was included in all notices and materials produced. The website link is [REDACTED].
- 6.5.35 The Project website provides general information, including the history of the route, news for the local community and how to get in touch. This website was updated at the start of the Supplementary Consultation to publicise the consultation with a link to direct people to the consultation website.

### Plate 6.1 Leaflet distribution area for Supplementary Consultation



6.5.36 Advertisements publicising the Supplementary Consultation were placed in local and national newspapers, as described in Table 6.4 below. They were placed in 13 newspapers over four weeks during the consultation period, with a total circulation of 580,777.

**Table 6.4 Details of newspaper adverts publicising the Supplementary Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Brentwood Gazette	3 February 2020	10 February 2020	2 March 2020	23 March 2020
Essex Chronicle	3 February 2020	10 February 2020	9 March 2020	30 March 2020
Gravesend & Dartford Messenger (Series) & Messenger Extra	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	2 March 2020	16 March 2020
Isle of Thanet Gazette	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	2 March 2020	30 March 2020
Kent Messenger (Series)	3 February 2020	10 February 2020	24 February 2020	30 March 2020
Kentish Times & Reporter Series (Bexley, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend)	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	2 March 2020	23 March 2020
Maldon & Burnham Standard	10 February 2020	24 February 2020	9 March 2020	30 March 2020
Medway Messenger Monday	3 February 2020	17 February 2020	24 February 2020	23 March 2020
Sheerness Times Guardian	3 February 2020	17 February 2020	16 March 2020	30 March 2020
Sittingbourne News Extra	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	16 March 2020	23 March 2020
KM Thanet Extra	3 February 2020	17 February 2020	16 March 2020	30 March 2020
The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	9 March 2020	16 March 2020
Thurrock Gazette	3 February 2020	10 February 2020	17 February 2020	9 March 2020

6.5.37 Five press releases were published throughout the consultation period. They were as follows:

- a. Wednesday 22 January 2020 to announce a further consultation (a copy is included in Appendix Q)
- b. Wednesday 29 January 2020 to announce the start of Supplementary Consultation
- c. Monday 24 February 2020 to invite media to the PIE at Cascades Leisure Centre on 27 February



d. Thursday 19 March 2020 to announce an extension to the Supplementary Consultation (a copy is included in Appendix Q)

e. Friday 3 April to announce the end of Supplementary Consultation

6.5.38 The Project's Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the Applicant's own accounts were used to raise awareness of the Supplementary Consultation and to signpost the consultation website. Examples of social media posts are included in Appendix Q.

#### Public information events

6.5.39 The Applicant planned to hold eight PIEs in areas where changes were proposed. The events enabled people to view the changes being proposed and to ask questions of the Project Team. Details of the events are provided in Table 6.5 and Table 6.6 below.

6.5.40 The Applicant selected the venues for these events based on data and feedback from local authorities on the equivalent events held for the Statutory Consultation. The Applicant also considered the accessibility and availability of potential venues, carrying out risk assessments on each to evaluate their suitability.

6.5.41 Plate 6.2 below provides a photograph of a typical PIE.

**Plate 6.2 A typical PIE layout**



6.5.42 Previews were held an hour before the advertised start time at the events at Thurrock Civic Centre and Cascades Leisure Centre. Invitees included councillors representing Brentwood Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, London Borough of Havering, Kent County Council, Medway Council and Thurrock Council. Members of local Parish Councils in Cobham, Higham and Shorne were also invited. These were communicated by email in advance of the events.

6.5.43 Table 6.5 and Table 6.6 provides a list of all the dates and venues where a PIE was planned.

**Table 6.5 PIEs south of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
Thursday 27 February 2020	14:00 – 20:00	Cascades Leisure Centre	Thong Lane, Gravesend, DA12 4LG
Saturday 14 March 2020	12:00 – 18:00	Gravesham Civic Centre	Windmill Street Gravesend, DA12 1AU

**Table 6.6 PIEs north of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
Friday 21 February 2020	14:00 – 20:00	The Civil Hall/ Thurrock Civic Centre	Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU
Saturday 22 February 2020	12:00 – 18:00	New Windmill Hall	St Marys Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH
Tuesday 3 March 2020	14:00 – 20:00	East Tilbury Village Hall	Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, RM18 8RB
Monday 9 March 2020	14:00 – 20:00	Orsett Hall Hotel	Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, RM16 3HS
Wednesday 11 March 2020	14:00 – 20:00	Linford Methodist Church	East Tilbury Road, Linford, SS17 0QS
Tuesday 17 March 2020	14:00 – 20:00	Brandon Groves Community Club	Brandon Groves Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 6TD

6.5.44 Attendees were encouraged to view material, take material away and complete and return a response form to provide their feedback on the changes proposed in the consultation materials.

6.5.45 The following documents were made available at the PIEs to provide attendees with a background to the Project, the changes being consulted on, environmental and traffic impacts and how feedback could be provided.

6.5.46 The following list covers all of the materials that were available to take away from PIEs:

- a. Guide to Supplementary Consultation
- b. Supplementary consultation response form and Freepost envelope
- c. Supplementary consultation mailing leaflet and fold-out map leaflet
- d. EIU
- e. Utilities Update

- f. Traffic Modelling Update
  - g. Easy Read (available on request)
  - h. Land and property leaflets (available on request)
- 6.5.47 The following materials were available to view at each PIE:
- a. Information boards describing the proposed changes and updated information provided for the Supplementary Consultation
  - b. Map Books 1, 2 and 3 for the Supplementary Consultation
  - c. A1 maps showing the full route alignment on a satellite background and General Arrangement sections of the route at a scale of 1:10,000
  - d. Screens displaying a presentation of computer-generated images of selected viewpoints showing the Project before the Statutory Consultation design and the Supplementary Consultation design
  - e. Documents produced for the Statutory Consultation including the PEIR
  - f. The Project update, summer 2019, providing insights from responses to the Statutory Consultation
- 6.5.48 Copies of all the materials available at the PIEs were also available on the consultation website.
- 6.5.49 Response forms were available at the events for attendees to provide their feedback. These forms could either be completed and deposited at the events or returned via the Freepost address. Attendees were also informed they could provide feedback online via the website or via email.
- 6.5.50 Attendance at each PIE was registered by a member of staff counting visitors as they entered the exhibition space. The total number of attendees for all PIEs held during the consultation was recorded as 1,848.
- 6.5.51 Attendees had the opportunity to fill out a satisfaction survey on completing their visit to each PIE. It was made clear that this survey was a separate exercise to the main consultation process and its purpose was to gauge the effectiveness of the events rather than to understand people's views on the Project proposals.
- 6.5.52 The event satisfaction survey received 194 responses. The survey showed that 57% felt the clarity and relevance of information was 'very good' or 'good' while 69% said the staff at the events were 'very good' or 'excellent'. Additionally, almost 60% said that their questions about the Project were answered, with the remaining 23% providing a text answer and 17% saying 'don't know'.
- 6.5.53 Following UK Government restrictions announced on 16 March 2020, the Applicant cancelled the last PIE which was due to take place on Tuesday 17 March at Brandon Groves Community Club. To read more about the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the Applicant's Supplementary Consultation, please refer to Section 6.6.

### Mobile Information Centre events

- 6.5.54 As with the Statutory Consultation, the Applicant planned a series of events for the Supplementary Consultation using the MIC.
- 6.5.55 The MIC was a Highways England branded vehicle where, by comparison with the PIEs, a smaller team Project staff was able to present and answer questions on the key themes of the Supplementary Consultation proposals.
- 6.5.56 For the Supplementary Consultation, 10 venues were planned. These locations were chosen based on where changes were proposed, and data from the Statutory Consultation. The accessibility of locations was considered by carrying out risk assessments on each to evaluate their suitability.
- 6.5.57 An 11th MIC event was added at Stanford-le-Hope following requests from the local community, Stephen Metcalfe (Member of Parliament for South Basildon and East Thurrock) and Councillor Gary Byrne (Thurrock Council). This was publicised on the Project website, consultation website and through local groups.
- 6.5.58 At each event held using the MIC, it was possible to look at maps and information displays similar to those used at the larger consultation events. Due to the smaller facility, the A1 maps were not available to view at the MICs.
- 6.5.59 Plate 6.3 below provides a photograph of a typical MIC event.

**Plate 6.3 A typical MIC event**



- 6.5.60 It was possible for visitors to the MIC to take away all of the same material that was available at PIEs.

6.5.61 Table 6.7 and Table 6.8 below provide a list of all the dates and venues where an MIC event was planned.

**Table 6.7 Dates and locations of MIC events south of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 4 March	10:00 – 19:00	Chalk Parish Hall, Pirrip Close, Gravesend, DA12 2ND
Friday 6 March	10:00 – 15:00	Higham Library Car Park, 8 Forge Lane, ME3 7AS
Friday 6 March	16:00 – 19:00	Higham Train Station Car Park, ME3 7JQ
Saturday 7 March	10:00 – 17:00	Gravesend Town Centre
Sunday 8 March	11:00 – 16:00	Shorne Woods Country Park, Brewers Road, Shorne, Gravesend, DA12 3HX
Thursday 12 March	10:00 – 15:00	Meadow Rooms, The Street Cobham, DA12 3BZ
Thursday 12 March	16:00 – 19:00	Sole Street Station Car Park, Cobham, DA13 3BZ
Wednesday 18 March	10:00 – 19:00	Shorne Village Hall Car Park, 16 The Street, Shorne, DA12 3EA

**Table 6.8 Dates and locations of MIC events north of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 26 February	10:00 – 19:00	Defoe Parade, Grays, RM16 4QR
Friday 28 February	12:00 – 17:00	Thames Chase Community Centre, Bradfield Farm Cottage, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS
Tuesday 10 March	11:00 – 19:00	Homestead Village Hall Car Park, Dunstable Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, SS17 8QT
Thursday 19 March	10:00 – 19:00	Upminster Library, 26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB
Saturday 21 March	10:00 – 17:00	Grays Town Centre, High Street, RM17 6NP

6.5.62 Attendance at each MIC was registered by a member of staff counting visitors as they entered the MIC exhibition space. The total number of attendees for all MICs held during the consultation was recorded as 2,041.

6.5.63 Following UK Government restrictions announced on 16 March 2020, the Applicant cancelled the three MICs due to take place on Wednesday 18 March, Thursday 19 March and Saturday 21 March at Shorne Village Hall Car Park, Upminster Library and Grays Town Centre respectively.

#### **Deposit locations and information points**

6.5.64 In addition to the PIEs and MICs, the Applicant established eight deposit locations and 10 information points.

- 6.5.65 The deposit locations and information points were located within public buildings and were unmanned. The locations were the same as those used for Statutory Consultation. Stock levels were checked and replenished every week to ensure there were sufficient copies of all documents. Details of the materials available are provided below.
- 6.5.66 At deposit locations, people could pick up a copy of the Guide to Supplementary Consultation, response form and Freepost envelope, and the A5 Supplementary Consultation leaflet. The map books, Traffic Modelling Update, Utilities Update and the EIU, plus an Easy Read version of the guide were available to view but not to take away. A list of the deposit locations and their opening times is provided in Table 6.9 and Table 6.10.

**Table 6.9 Deposit locations and opening times south of the River Thames**

<b>Locations south of the River Thames</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Dartford Library, Central Park, Market Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1EU	Monday – Wednesday 10:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 18:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00
Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1BE	Monday – Saturday 10:00 – 18:00
Maidstone Library, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ	Monday – Saturday 10:00 – 17:00
Rochester Library, Community Hub Rochester, Eastgate, Rochester, ME1 1EW	Monday – Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00

**Table 6.10 Deposit locations and opening times north of the River Thames**

<b>Locations north of the River Thames</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4BP	Monday 09:00 – 18:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 18:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00 Thursday 09:00 – 18:00 Friday 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00
Grays Library, Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5DX	Monday 09:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 09:00 – 19:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 13:00

Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Romford Central Library, St Edwards Way, Romford, Essex, RM1 3AR	Monday 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 20:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00
Tilbury Hub, Civic Square, Tilbury, Essex RM18 8AD	Monday 10:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00

6.5.67 At information points, people could pick up a copy of the Guide to Supplementary Consultation, response form, Freepost envelope and the A5 Supplementary Consultation leaflet.

6.5.68 Table 6.11 and Table 6.12 below set out the locations and opening times of the information points.

**Table 6.11 Information points and opening times south of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Marling Cross Library, Gravesend, DA12 5TY	Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 15:00
Meopham Library, Meopham, DA13 0AH	Monday – Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00
Riverview Park Library, Gravesend, DA12 4NG	Monday 09:00 – 13:00 Wednesday 13:00 – 17:00 Thursday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Friday 09:00 – 13:00 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00
Shorne Woods Country Park Visitor Centre, Shorne, DA12 3HX	29 January – 28 February: Monday – Friday 10:00 – 15:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday 09:00 – 16:00  1 March – 25 March: Monday – Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday and Sunday 09:00 – 17:00

**Table 6.12 Information points and opening times north of the River Thames**

<b>Locations north of the River Thames</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Belhus Library, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX	Monday – Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Blackshots Library, Grays, RM16 2JU	Monday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Chadwell Library, Chadwell St Mary, RM16 4JP	Monday 10:00 – 17:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 17:00 Friday 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
East Tilbury Library, East Tilbury, RM18 4JP	Tuesday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00
Thurrock Council Civic Offices, Grays, RM17 6SL	Monday – Thursday 08:45 – 17:15 Friday 08:00 – 16:45
Upminster Library, Upminster, RM14 2BB	Monday 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday 10:00 – 20:00 Friday 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00

6.5.69 On 23 March 2020, the UK Government announced further measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, restricting people to their home except for very limited purposes. Following this, it was announced that all deposit locations and information points were closed.

#### **Additional engagement activities during Supplementary Consultation**

6.5.70 During Supplementary Consultation, engagement with groups such as disabled road users was undertaken. A range of technical workshops and meetings with stakeholder groups also took place. This section provides a summary of these activities during the consultation.

#### **Gammonfields Way travellers' site**

6.5.71 The MIC visited the travellers' site on Monday 24 February 2020. Staff explained the changes to the Project which affected the residents directly, namely the two proposed locations for the relocation of the site. Residents were able to ask questions and were provided with consultation materials to view and take away and encouraged to complete response forms.



### Disabled road users

- 6.5.72 A workshop to discuss issues affecting disabled drivers and passengers was held at Orsett Hall on Monday 9 March 2020 to enable attendees to visit the PIE being held at the venue on the same day.
- 6.5.73 Its purpose was to bring together experts on issues affecting disabled road users and residents from representative organisations such as Driving Mobility and an independent road users watchdog to ensure that the views of the disabled community were represented.
- 6.5.74 The workshop featured in-depth discussions about the design features of the Project that were of interest to disabled users and residents. Attendees were encouraged to include their thoughts in their consultation responses.
- 6.5.75 Insights were also gained from the attendees' views on aspects of the Project, such as the operation of the route, which was fed back to the relevant team.
- 6.5.76 A framework for continued engagement has also been established. The Applicant was able to identify the communication and engagement needs of the community in terms of inclusivity.

### Event for users of sign language

- 6.5.77 An event for users of sign language with signers from an external company was organised to be held on Friday 20 March at Thurrock Council's offices.
- 6.5.78 Following UK Government restrictions announced on 16 March 2020, this event was cancelled. All anticipated attendees were notified that the event had been cancelled and provided with information about the extension to the consultation and the ways in which it remained possible to participate.

### Technical workshops and meetings

- 6.5.79 During Supplementary Consultation, a series of meetings were held with host local authorities and other community groups. These included regular meetings which were adapted to enable discussions about the proposed changes and provide information about the Supplementary Consultation. The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) provide further information on the Applicant's engagement with stakeholder bodies.

### Newspaper notices

- 6.5.80 The Applicant printed notices in newspapers publicising the consultation.
- 6.5.81 Although this was a non-statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to the requirements of section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, which provides that a notice should appear for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the proposed development, once in a national newspaper, once in the London Gazette and (where the proposed application relates to offshore development) once in Lloyd's List and once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.
- 6.5.82 Table 6.13 below sets out where the Supplementary Consultation notice was published and when. Copies of these notices are included in Appendix Q of this report.

**Table 6.13 Details of newspaper notices publicising the Supplementary Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2
Essex Chronicle	Thursday 6 February	Thursday 13 February
Fishing News	Thursday 6 February	n/a
Kent Messenger	Thursday 6 February	Thursday 13 February
Lloyd's List	Thursday 6 February	n/a
London Gazette	Thursday 6 February	n/a
Romford Recorder	Friday 7 February	Friday 14 February
The Times	Thursday 6 February	n/a
Thurrock Gazette	Thursday 6 February	Thursday 13 February

## 6.6 Extension to Supplementary Consultation

- 6.6.1 On 16 March 2020, the UK Government announced that people should stop non-essential travel and non-essential contact with others, to control the spread of COVID-19.
- 6.6.2 Following this announcement, on the same day, 16 March 2020, the Applicant announced the cancellation of the last four consultation events (one PIE and three MICs) via social media and the Project website.
- 6.6.3 On 19 March 2020, it was announced that the consultation would be extended by eight days, ending on Thursday 2 April 2020. This update was provided on the consultation website, social media and via a press release. This announcement also publicised two public consultation telephone services, to be held on Monday 23 March and Wednesday 25 March, between 14:00 and 20:00. More information about this activity is described below.
- 6.6.4 An eight-day extension was considered to be appropriate in the circumstances. In setting the duration of the extension, consideration was given to the need to provide sufficient time for responses to be submitted as well as the need to draw the consultation to a conclusion so that decisions could be progressed.
- 6.6.5 On 23 March 2020, the UK Government announced further measures, restricting people to stay at home except for very limited purposes. Many businesses and venues were closed and all gatherings of more than two people in public were not permitted.
- 6.6.6 On the same day, the Applicant announced via social media that all deposit locations and information points were closed. The consultation website was also updated with this information on 24 March 2020. The update reminded consultees that all documentation remained online and that paper copies could be requested. Information about the telephone consultation events was also included.

## Public consultation telephone services

- 6.6.7 Due to the Government restrictions, the Applicant organised two telephone services, for members of the public who had planned to go to the cancelled events. This gave them an opportunity to speak to a member of the Project Team about the changes that were being consulted on.
- 6.6.8 The telephone consultation events were publicised in a number of ways, which included:
- a. A press release on 19 March 2020 (a copy is included in Appendix Q of this report)
  - b. Updates on the Project website and consultation website on 19 March and 24 March 2020
  - c. Social media updates every day between 19 March and 25 March 2020
  - d. Emails to 44,000 subscribers held on the Project's customer database on 19 March 2020
  - e. Communications to the stakeholder network, including local authorities, councillors, Members of Parliament and campaign groups on 19 March 2020
- 6.6.9 A call centre was established to enable members of the public to call a number and be placed in a queue to be answered by the next available member of the Project Team.
- 6.6.10 Each person in the answering group was a generalist from the Project Team and had received sufficient training to answer any general queries. If in-depth queries were raised, a call-back was organised with a specialist from the Project Team.
- 6.6.11 A total of 17 calls were received across the two dates. Three of these were not during the opening hours, and were diverted to a message informing callers of the dates and hours that the service was available. Of the 14 calls, eight were followed up by call-backs from a specialist from the Project Team.

## 7 Design Refinement Consultation

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This chapter describes the non-statutory Design Refinement Consultation undertaken by the Applicant between 14 July and 12 August 2020.

### 7.2 Purpose of the Design Refinement Consultation

7.2.1 Following the non-statutory Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant further developed its proposals for the Project. This resulted in refinements to the proposals, informed by consideration of the issues raised during stakeholder engagement, consultation, ongoing design development and assessments and investigations. These refinements were presented during the Design Refinement Consultation.

7.2.2 Chapter 13 of this report provides an account of the issues raised in responses to the Design Refinement Consultation and the ways in which the Applicant has had regard to them.

7.2.3 As with Supplementary Consultation, the Design Refinement Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis because the changes were intended to improve the Project but did not fundamentally affect its purpose, route or impacts. However, the consultation was conducted having regard to the principles of the pre-application statutory consultation set out in the Planning Act 2008 and in accordance with the DCLG Guidance (DCLG, 2015). In addition, as part of the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant also consulted, under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, a number of persons with an interest in land who had recently been identified as part of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land interests affected by the Project.

7.2.4 In advance of the Design Refinement Consultation, host local authorities were also invited to respond to the Applicant's proposed approach to carrying out the consultation. This is covered in more detail later in this chapter.

7.2.5 Following Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant continued to assess and refine the Project proposals.

7.2.6 The intention was to assess the need for refinements that would enable the Project to better fulfil its Scheme Objectives (including the need to achieve value for money) while also making amendments that accorded with public and stakeholder feedback.

7.2.7 Included within this review were the proposed utility diversions, walking and cycling routes, landscaping plans, the re-location of the travellers' site near the A13/A1089 junction, maintenance access tracks for assets across the Project as well as environmental mitigation.

7.2.8 Responses to the Supplementary Consultation informed decisions made by the Applicant on refinements that should be included in the next iteration of the Project.

7.2.9 When deciding which of the proposed refinements the Applicant should formally include within the scope of the Design Refinement Consultation, consideration was given to the DCLG Guidance (DCLG, 2015). Paragraph 73 of the DCLG guidance states:

*‘When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.’*

7.2.10 Further assessment was carried out to determine whether the refinements being considered fulfilled any of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 73 of the DCLG guidance, and whether other criteria set by the Applicant were met, such as changes to land requirements (temporary or permanent) or changes to the Order Limits. If any of these were met, this information was used to inform further discussions about whether that refinement should be included as a proposal for consultation in the Design Refinement Consultation.

## 7.3 When Design Refinement Consultation took place

7.3.1 The Design Refinement Consultation took place between 14 July and 12 August 2020. The closing date and time of 12 August 2020 at 23:59 was publicised on consultation material, including letters sent to statutory consultees and landowners and publicity leaflets issued to local residents.

7.3.2 A consultation period of four weeks was considered to be appropriate, based on an assessment of the scale and complexity of the consultation proposals, which were much more contained in scope than those presented at Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation, as well as the anticipated interest of affected communities.

7.3.3 It is also important to note that the Design Refinement Consultation took place at a time when restrictions on social gatherings were in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This being the case, the Applicant undertook a primarily digital consultation and put measures in place to ensure the consultation was as accessible, interactive and engaging as possible. In so doing, the Applicant noted the recommendations of the National Infrastructure Planning Association, in a non-binding paper published in April 2020, on aspects of the DCO regime during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'digital-first' approach carried out by the Applicant is outlined from paragraph 7.6.21 onwards in this chapter. This approach included notifications and publicity two-weeks prior to the launch of the consultation so that consultees could pre-order the associated materials, a telephone service where people could speak to a Project representative and public webinars where people could learn more about the proposals and ask questions.

## 7.4 Who the Applicant consulted

- 7.4.1 As with Supplementary Consultation, although the Design Refinement Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the following groups and individuals were informed about the consultation:
- a. Section 42 – prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and those who own, occupy or have a legal interest in land that would be affected by the Project or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation as a result of the Project. More information about letters to section 42 consultees is provided from paragraphs 7.6.3 onwards in this chapter.
  - b. Section 47 – local community consultees, including people living in the vicinity of the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups and contacts registered on the Project's customer database. More information about community consultation is provided later in this chapter.

## 7.5 What the Applicant consulted on

- 7.5.1 The purpose of the Design Refinement Consultation was to seek feedback on the refinements presented in the consultation materials.
- 7.5.2 The Guide to Design Refinement Consultation set out the proposed refinements according to where they were located (i.e. south or north of the River Thames). It also outlined some of the proposals thematically, such as 'Property and landowners' and 'Environmental Impacts'. The Guide is included in Appendix R of this report.

### Project updates

- 7.5.3 Other updates in relation to the Project were also included within the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation, so as to inform consultees of the latest developments on the Project. These are summarised here:
- a. Road standard – The proposed Project route was confirmed as an all-purpose trunk road, and information regarding this classification was provided.
  - b. Road safety – It was explained that the design and operation of the Project would be guided by industry standards. This would include emergency areas spaced at intervals of between 800m and 1.6km, with the exception of the tunnel where enhanced operational and technology measures would be used.
  - c. Reducing the land required for works – It was confirmed that, following feedback from Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant had refined the land required for utility diversions and therefore reduced the impacts on environmentally sensitive locations.

- d. Property and landowners – At Supplementary Consultation there were approximately 270 residential and business properties within the Order Limits. Within the revised Order Limits, shown at the Design Refinement Consultation, this figure was reduced to approximately 150.
- e. User charging – It was confirmed that it remained the Applicant's intention to apply a road user charge for the Lower Thames Crossing, with a local resident discount scheme for those living in Thurrock and Gravesham. The level of the charge and charging regime would replicate the approach at the Dartford Crossing. As such, it was confirmed that the need for a Lower Thames Crossing charging consultation forum, as suggested at Statutory Consultation, was not considered necessary.

### **South of the river in Kent**

- 7.5.4 Some of the notable proposals outlined in the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation are described below.

#### **M2/A2, including the junction with the A122**

- 7.5.5 The Thong Lane green bridge north would move approximately 20m, resulting in enhanced green space. Due to this proposal, it was confirmed that refinements would also be required to the overhead electricity transmission cable diversion that was shown at Supplementary Consultation. A new 33kV electricity switching station at Thong Lane would be required to distribute electricity to all new and existing small substations along the proposed route. Following feedback from Supplementary Consultation, updated landscaping proposals were also presented at this location, including proposals for ancient woodland compensation.

#### **Southern tunnel entrance redesign**

- 7.5.6 After further investigation and consideration of the feedback at Supplementary Consultation, landscaping proposals around the electricity substation proposed at the southern tunnel entrance were presented.

### **North of the river in Thurrock and Essex**

#### **Route near Tilbury**

- 7.5.7 Utility works would be required to install power needed for the tunnel boring machine and provide power supply to the northern tunnel entrance and proposed construction site. A new landform providing wide-ranging views over the Thames Estuary was also proposed.

#### **A13/A1089/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction**

- 7.5.8 Following feedback from Supplementary Consultation, a new area of land for the relocation of the Gammonfields Way travellers' site was proposed.
- 7.5.9 Utility proposals in this area included a new permanent gas compound at Stanford Road that would be located within a site approximately 35m by 35m in area. A noise barrier, approximately 6m high, was proposed along the Project east of Brentwood Road. In total, 17 locations for noise barriers were presented

as part of the Design Refinement Consultation. These were at locations where the Applicant's further assessments showed that barriers would be effective in reducing road traffic noise at receptors along the Project route.

### **A122 Lower Thames Crossing/M25 junction**

- 7.5.10 Utility proposals included sewer diversion works from Ockendon Road to St Mary's Lane via the B186 North Road and overhead electricity cable diversion works around the B186 North Road. North of the Thames Chase Forest Centre, a new maintenance access track and a multi-utilities diversion were also proposed.

### **M25 junction 29**

- 7.5.11 Following feedback from Supplementary Consultation, a new footbridge over the A127 was proposed to link existing footpaths, as well as gas diversion works near Folkes Lane.

### **Property and landowner proposals**

- 7.5.12 In the consultation materials, the Applicant confirmed that the Order Limits had been reduced to approximately 23km<sup>2</sup>, compared with approximately 26km<sup>2</sup> at Supplementary Consultation. This was due principally to the reduction in land required to divert existing utilities across the Project route.
- 7.5.13 As noted, any land interests recently identified by the Applicant, as part of its ongoing diligent inquiry into affected land interests, were consulted on a statutory basis, under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, as part of the Design Refinement Consultation.
- 7.5.14 Information regarding the impacts of the Project on special category land, and sports and recreational facilities were also presented. A table within the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation set out the location of the special category land and sports and recreational facilities that would be impacted, how they would be impacted and the Applicant's proposed mitigation, i.e. reinstatement following works and/or acquisition of replacement land, where applicable.

### **Environmental impacts**

- 7.5.15 As at Supplementary Consultation, a comprehensive Environmental Impacts Update (EIU) was produced for the consultation. The document explained any new or changed environmental effects associated with the proposed refinements, compared with those considered and presented in the PEIR published at Statutory Consultation and the EIU published at Supplementary Consultation. A link to the EIU published as part of the Design Refinement Consultation is included in Appendix R.
- 7.5.16 Chapter 5 of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation also included a summary of the ongoing environmental impact assessments and signposted to the EIU for more detail.

### **Feedback mechanisms**

- 7.5.17 During the Design Refinement Consultation period, responses could be provided via any one or more of the following four methods. These channels



were advertised on the consultation materials as well as notices and adverts published in local and national newspapers.

7.5.18 The four response channels were as follows:

- a. Online – by filling in the online version of the consultation response form hosted on the Project's consultation website:  
[www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation](http://www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation)
- b. Post – by sending a response form or letter to FREEPOST LTC  
CONSULTATION
- c. Email – by sending comments or electronic copies of the response form to [lrc.consultation@traverse.ltd](mailto:lrc.consultation@traverse.ltd)
- d. Telephone – due to the restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help ensure accessibility, the option of providing verbal feedback over the phone by calling 0300 123 5000 was also offered.

7.5.19 Soon after the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, on 15 July, an error in the online response form was identified. The wording of question 5d – *'Did the telephone surgery answer your questions about our latest proposals?'* – was repeated for question 5e. Question 5e on the online form should have read *'Was the consultation promoted well and to the right people?'* To rectify this issue, the online response form was updated on 17 July. Prior to the update, the following statement was issued via Twitter and Facebook: *'Overnight between 3am and 4am, our consultation website will be offline for essential updates to be made. Thank you for your patience.'* Consultees who had responded to question 5e prior to the correction being made were also contacted and informed they could resubmit their answer to this question if they chose to. Depending on the contact details provided by these consultees, either a letter or an email was sent to them. A copy of the email is provided in Appendix R of this report.

7.5.20 On 20 July, some further minor inconsistencies between the wording of the downloadable response form and the online response form were discovered by the Applicant. This resulted in minor corrections being made on 24 July to nine sentences within the online response form. Prior to the update, the following statement was issued via Twitter and Facebook: *'Overnight between 3am and 4am, our consultation website will be offline for essential updates to be made. Thank you for your patience.'* The following statement was also added to the consultation website on 24 July:

*'Please note that we have identified some minor textual differences between the online and printed versions of the response form, which we have now corrected in the online version. These differences are non-material and do not impact on the questions or information we are seeking your feedback on so if you have already completed a response form, you do not need to complete another form and your responses will be considered in the usual way.'*

## 7.6 How consultation was carried out

### Engagement before Design Refinement Consultation

7.6.1 The following paragraphs explain how engagement was undertaken before the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation.

#### Technical workshops and engagement meetings

7.6.2 A series of technical workshops with host local authorities and Statutory Environmental Bodies were held between February and June 2020. These workshops and meetings covered a range of topics. Table 7.1 provides a summary of these meetings.

**Table 7.1 Summary of workshops and meetings held before the design refinement consultation**

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Construction impacts workshop (Two sessions on the same day, Statutory Environmental Bodies attended both and host local authorities attended separate workshops – one north of the river and one south of the river.)	6 February 2020	Workshop to discuss and share the potential impacts of building the Project, including impacts of construction, an overview of the transport assessment (for construction) and an update on the utilities diversions proposals	Thurrock Council Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Natural England Historic England Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit
Preliminary environmental impacts and mitigation and Code of Construction Practice review (Two sessions on subsequent days, Statutory Environmental Bodies attended both and host local authorities attended separate reviews – one north of the river and one south of the river.)	21 and 22 April 2020	Workshop to discuss and share the preliminary environmental impacts, assessment methodology, significant effects and approach to mitigation for each Environmental Statement topic	Thurrock Council Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Medway Council  Environment Agency Natural England Historic England Kent Downs AONB Unit Forestry Commission
North traffic modelling workshop (Combined session with all host local authorities north of the river.)	21 May 2020	First Project traffic modelling workshop for north of the Thames local authorities. Also to discuss general Project update and	London Borough of Havering Transport for London Thurrock Council

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
		technical questions from local authorities	Essex County Council Brentwood Borough Council
Key elements of the draft Development Consent Order (Combined session with all host local authorities and Statutory Environmental Bodies.)	21 May 2020	Workshop to discuss key elements of the DCO including Order Limits update, further consultation, DCO process and DCO Application Documents. Another key topic of discussion was the Statements of Common Ground.	Thurrock Council Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Medway Council Brentwood Borough Council  Environment Agency Natural England Historic England Kent Downs AONB Unit Forestry Commission
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments Review (Combined session for the local authorities north and south of the river along with Statutory Environmental Bodies, split over two days to provide flexibility.)	23 and 25 June 2020	Follow-up workshop from the sessions held in April 2020. Workshop to discuss and share the environmental impacts of the Project, assessment methodology, significant effects and emerging mitigation ideas for each Environmental Statement topic. Other topics discussed included the Environmental Masterplan, DCO programme and ongoing technical engagement	Thurrock Council Essex County Council London Borough of Havering Gravesham Borough Council Kent County Council Medway Council Brentwood Borough Council  Environment Agency Natural England Historic England Kent Downs AONB Unit Forestry Commission

## Notification to statutory consultees

- 7.6.3 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant used the opportunity as part of the Design Refinement Consultation to notify all of the organisations and individuals previously consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. These consultees were identified as described in Section 4.3 of this report.
- 7.6.4 On 29 June 2020, letters were sent to section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultees to provide advance notice of the start of the Design Refinement Consultation, due to commence in two weeks' time. This letter explained that, due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation would be carried out with an emphasis on digital engagement. In line with this approach, people were

directed to the website to view online or to download the consultation materials, when published on 14 July 2020. See Appendix R for an example of this letter.

- 7.6.5 The Applicant also took the opportunity to consult two additional bodies under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008: London & Continental Railways Limited and Thurrock Power Limited. Neither body had been identified as statutory consultees by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its Scoping Opinion dated December 2017 but, following further investigation into each body, it was considered they should be consulted as relevant statutory undertakers for the purposes of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations.
- 7.6.6 On 13 July, the Applicant therefore sent London & Continental Railways Limited and Thurrock Power Limited a letter under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 notifying them of the Design Refinement Consultation and how to respond. The letter included web links to information about the Statutory and Supplementary Consultations that the Applicant had carried out previously. A copy of the notice published under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 as part of the 2018 Statutory Consultation was also included with each letter, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. See Appendix R for a copy of this letter.
- 7.6.7 As described in Chapter 5 of this report, in advance of the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests were consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. All such parties were notified by letter and provided with an opportunity to respond to the Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation proposals.
- 7.6.8 At Design Refinement Consultation, a total of 1,179 section 42(1)(d) consultees that are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) were identified and sent a letter on 29 June and another on 13 July notifying them of the consultation. After the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant identified a further 11 individuals and organisations with an interest in land that are listed in the Book of Reference. This was due to the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land affected by the Project. These consultees were written to on 16 July 2020. All of these interest holders were consulted on a statutory basis at Design Refinement Consultation. The letters sent on 29 June provided advance notice of the consultation and included information on how to pre-order consultation materials. This letter also provided information about the previous consultations. Examples of the letters sent on 29 June and 13 July can be found in Appendix R, and an example of the letter sent on 16 July can be found in Appendix K.
- 7.6.9 On 13 July 2020, all persons with an interest in land who had previously been consulted under section 42(1)(d) at an earlier stage in the consultation process, these being persons who were not identified as having a new interest in land affected by the Project at Design Refinement Consultation, were also sent a letter notifying them of the Design Refinement Consultation, how to find out more information and how to respond. These persons were consulted on a

non-statutory basis. Examples of the letters sent to these consultees can be found in Appendix R.

- 7.6.10 Responses received from section 42(1)(d) consultees to the Design Refinement Consultation are addressed in Chapter 13 of this report.
- 7.6.11 It should be noted that during the Design Refinement Consultation period, 16 landowners, consulted on a non-statutory basis as part of the Design Refinement Consultation, contacted the Applicant to report that they had not received the letter sent on 13 July 2020. The company that arranged the delivery of the letters confirmed that Royal Mail was issued with the letters for delivery and there is no record of the letters being returned to sender or registered as undelivered. The Applicant wrote to these section 42(1)(d) consultees again, between 27 July and 5 August, providing them with the original letter. The Applicant also offered these specific consultees a one-week extension to the consultation period, meaning they had until Wednesday 19 August 2020 to provide a response. An example of the letter sent to these consultees is included in Appendix R.
- 7.6.12 Following the close of the Design Refinement Consultation (after 12 August 2020), an additional eight landowners consulted on a non-statutory basis as part of the Design Refinement Consultation contacted the Applicant to explain they had not received the letter dated 13 July 2020. The Applicant subsequently wrote to these landowners again between 19 August 2020 and 28 August 2020 and allowed 28 days to respond to the Design Refinement Consultation. An example of the letter sent to these eight landowners is included in Appendix R.

### Notifying the Planning Inspectorate

- 7.6.13 On 3 July 2020, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the commencement of the Design Refinement Consultation. A letter and email were issued on this date. The email included a secure weblink to electronic copies of the material produced for consultation, as well as examples of some of the letters that were sent to consultees, including the letter issued to newly identified landowners that were consulted on a statutory basis under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, as part of the Design Refinement Consultation.
- 7.6.14 A copy of the letter to notify the Secretary of State of the Design Refinement Consultation is included in Appendix R.

### Community consultation

- 7.6.15 As with Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant prepared for the Design Refinement Consultation by planning a campaign of engagement aimed at the local communities potentially affected by the planned development. This approach included consideration of the needs and preferences of different communities and individuals across the affected area, including hard-to-reach groups.
- 7.6.16 The following paragraphs describe different aspects of the approach to local community consultation.

## Approach to Design Refinement Consultation

- 7.6.17 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant chose to engage with the eight host local authorities (as part of wider ongoing engagement) regarding the approach to the Design Refinement Consultation. A draft ‘approach to Design Refinement Consultation’ brief was issued by email on 27 May 2020 to Brentwood Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, the London Borough of Havering, Kent County Council, Medway Council and Thurrock Council.
- 7.6.18 The purpose of the document was to provide an overview of the Applicant's approach to consultation with local authorities and communities and the publicity methods. The brief covered the following:
- a. When the consultation would be scheduled to commence
  - b. The duration of the consultation
  - c. The topics that would be included in the scope of the consultation
  - d. An overview of the consultation publicity methods including a ‘digital-first’ approach in-light of the COVID-19 restrictions
  - e. A distribution map showing areas that would receive a Design Refinement Consultation leaflet
- 7.6.19 Comments on the draft brief were received from Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, and Thurrock Council. The comments covered a range of topics, including the publicity programme and proposed channels. Dartford Borough Council and Essex County Council also acknowledged receipt of the brief but did not provide substantive comments. Table 7.2 summarises the comments received and how the Applicant used the feedback in planning the Design Refinement Consultation activities.
- 7.6.20 A final ‘approach to Design Refinement Consultation’ document and an accompanying cover note (both included in Appendix R) were issued on 29 June 2020 to all host local authorities. The approach document included the following:
- a. The finalised dates for the consultation
  - b. More detail regarding the ‘digital-first’ approach
  - c. Additional detail regarding the publicity and response channels that would be used to help ensure hard-to-reach groups, including those who were unable to access the internet, were able to participate in the consultation
  - d. Details and the opening hours for the telephone consultation service
  - e. Information on the public webinars and the topics these would cover
  - f. A final list of consultation materials
  - g. Details of how to respond

**Table 7.2 Summary of feedback on draft approach to design refinement consultation**

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested further information on how feedback received during Supplementary Consultation was taken on board and incorporated into the Design Refinement Consultation</li> <li>• Suggested promoting the Design Refinement Consultation on Twitter and LinkedIn to encourage feedback from businesses</li> <li>• Requested further information on the topics that would be covered during the public webinars</li> <li>• Requested further information on the telephone consultation service</li> <li>• Requested further information on how the consultation would be accessible for hard-to-reach groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cover note accompanied the final approach document, outlining in more detail the role of the supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations in the wider DCO application process as well as the reasoning behind the timing and length of the Design Refinement Consultation. The cover note also offered presentations regarding key themes that were raised during Supplementary Consultation.</li> <li>• The Design Refinement Consultation was promoted through an extensive publicity programme, including Facebook and Twitter. Local authorities, community groups and stakeholders were also encouraged to promote the consultation through their channels to raise awareness and encourage feedback.</li> <li>• Further details on the public webinars were provided in the final approach document.</li> <li>• Further details on the telephone consultation service were provided in the final approach document.</li> <li>• Further details on how hard-to-reach groups, including those unable to access the internet, would be able to participate and provide their feedback to consultation was included in the final approach document.</li> </ul>
Thurrock Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested further information on how feedback received during Supplementary Consultation was taken on board and incorporated into the Design Refinement Consultation</li> <li>• Requested that the consultation period to be extended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cover note accompanied the final approach document, outlining in more detail the role of the Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations in the wider DCO application process as well as the reasoning behind the timing and length of the Design Refinement Consultation. The cover note also offered</li> </ul>

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion was made that the non-statutory notice should be published in all local newspapers outlined in the SoCC as a minimum</li> <li>• Suggestion was made that the non-statutory notices should be published the week ahead of consultation launch to target those outside of the leaflet distribution zone</li> <li>• Requested further information on how the consultation would be accessible for hard-to-reach groups</li> <li>• Suggested that the telephone consultation service should be used as a response channel for those unable to access the internet</li> <li>• Requested further information on the statutory elements of the Design Refinement Consultation</li> <li>• Requested an increase in deposit locations</li> <li>• Requested that consultation maps be provided in a legible and user-friendly format</li> </ul>	<p>presentations regarding key themes that were raised during Supplementary Consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of publications used at Statutory Consultation informed the publications used for the Design Refinement Consultation notices. This list was tailored to reflect the communities most impacted by the latest proposals.</li> <li>• The non-statutory Design Refinement Consultation notices were published the week ahead of consultation launch in the publications listed in Table 7.5 below.</li> <li>• Further details on how hard-to-reach groups, including those unable to access the internet, would be able to participate and provide their feedback to consultation was included in the final approach document.</li> <li>• The telephone consultation service was included as a response channel.</li> <li>• Further details on the statutory elements of the consultation were included in the final approach document.</li> <li>• The potential venues for deposit locations and information points the Applicant sought to use for the Design Refinement Consultation were the same as for Supplementary Consultation. Six venues agreed to host hard copies of the consultation materials throughout the consultation period. East Tilbury Post Office was added upon request from a community group following the lack of available venues in the area due to COVID-19 restrictions. More information regarding deposit locations and information points can be found later in this chapter.</li> </ul>



Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large scale maps were added to the consultation materials, available to order and to take away from deposit locations and information points.</li> </ul>
Gravesham Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questioned the timing and length of the Design Refinement Consultation</li> <li>Requested further information on how feedback received during Supplementary Consultation was taken on board, and incorporated to the Design Refinement Consultation</li> <li>Asked for an additional postcode area (DA12) to be included in the leaflet distribution zone</li> <li>Offered to host a distribution location, subject to Government restrictions on social distancing</li> <li>Mentioned the expectation that the Applicant would arrange a public exhibition if Government restrictions were lifted</li> <li>Requested further information on how the consultation would be accessible for hard-to-reach groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A cover note accompanied the final approach document, outlining in more detail the role of the supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations in the wider DCO application process as well as the reasoning behind the timing and length of the Design Refinement Consultation. The cover note also offered presentations regarding key themes that were raised during Supplementary Consultation.</li> <li>The requested postcode was included in the leaflet distribution area.</li> <li>Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, libraries located in Gravesham, such as Gravesend, Meopham, Marling Cross and Riverview Park, were unable to host materials at the time.</li> <li>The approach to deposit locations and information points during the COVID-19 pandemic was explained in further detail in the final approach document. Six venues agreed to host hard copies of the consultation materials throughout the consultation period.</li> <li>Further details on how hard-to-reach groups, including those unable to access the internet, would be able to participate and provide their feedback to consultation was included in the final approach document.</li> </ul>

### **‘Digital-first’ approach**

- 7.6.21 As a result of the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a ‘digital first’ approach to consultation was taken, with special provisions put in place for those who did not have internet access and those who would normally attend a consultation event to speak to a member of the Project Team. The approach included the following:
- a. A telephone service, where people could speak to a Project representative if they had any questions regarding the proposals. For the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant also accepted consultation feedback by telephone.
  - b. Public webinars, where people could learn more about the key proposals and ask questions during question-and-answer sessions with Project Team representatives.
  - c. Pre-ordering and home delivery of Design Refinement Consultation documents (one copy per household), free of charge.
  - d. A leaflet-drop two weeks ahead of consultation launch to 135,000 properties within approximately 2km of the Project route centre line. The leaflet included a brief introduction to the Project, the Design Refinement Consultation, and the pre-order service for the consultation materials.
  - e. Publication of non-statutory notices in local and national newspapers, a week ahead of the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, to inform people about the consultation and how to take part.
  - f. Letters sent to any new land interest holders affected by the Project two weeks prior to the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, advising them of the forthcoming Design Refinement Consultation and giving them an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the materials published at Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation.
  - g. An enhanced online offering and ‘online exhibition’ was embedded within the Project consultation website. This section of the website included an interactive map where people could search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area, videos which covered the proposals across the Project and summary information from the consultation print materials, including visual depictions of before and after the Project proposals.

### **Materials**

- 7.6.22 To support the delivery of the Design Refinement Consultation, a range of materials were produced to explain the proposed refinements, publicise the consultation and set out the ways in which people could respond. Table 7.3 provides a breakdown of the documents published and a description of the

information they included. If the name of a document is highlighted in bold, this indicates that a copy of it is included in Appendix R of this report. Appendix R provides weblinks to the other documents, all of which are available on the Design Refinement Consultation website:

[www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation](http://www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation).

**Table 7.3 Design Refinement Consultation materials**

Document	Description
<b>Lower Thames Crossing Guide to Design Refinement Consultation</b>	Explains the refinements proposed, including simplified maps and computer-generated images, sign-posting to supporting materials for further details. Also explains the process for providing feedback and closing date for responses to be received.
<b>Consultation leaflet</b>	A summary of the proposals, information about how to learn more including digital engagement channels and, for those without access to the internet, details on how to pre-order materials.
<b>Response form</b>	A standalone document that contained questions on the proposed refinements as described in the consultation materials.
Environmental Impacts Update (EIU)	Information regarding the environmental effects associated with the proposed refinements, compared with those considered in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that was presented at Statutory Consultation and the EIU published at Supplementary Consultation.
Map books	Map book 1: General Arrangements – shows proposed details of the Project, including permanent works, construction compounds, environmental mitigation, utilities diversions, Order Limits, and open space and replacement land.
	Map book 2: Land Use Plans – showed areas where the Applicant is seeking powers to compulsorily acquire land or rights. The plans also show the land of which temporary possession would be sought in order to construct the Project.
	Map book 3: Engineering Plans – drawings in plan and profile, junction arrangements and cross-sections of the route including lanes and earthworks.
Large scale maps	A range of larger scale maps presented the information shown in the map books, including environmental constraints and land use.
Interactive online map books	The Project website included interactive maps for the General Arrangements, Land Use and Engineering plans. These interactive maps enabled people to search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area.

Document	Description
<b>Non-statutory notice</b>	A non-statutory notice conveying basic information about the consultation, including key dates and how to respond, that was published in a series of newspapers.
Posters	A4 and A3 posters advertising the consultation website, with a QR code which took people directly to the consultation website if scanned.
Your Property and Blight	Three guides produced by the Applicant to provide information to people whose property may be affected by the new road proposals and improvements.
Your Property and Compulsory Purchase	
Your Property and Discretionary Purchase	

- 7.6.23 Copies of the consultation materials were available for inspection at one deposit location and five information points, which are described in further detail later in this section of this report. To help improve accessibility for responding to the consultation, it was also possible to order hard copies of the consultation material for home delivery, free of charge (limited to one copy per household).
- 7.6.24 Consultation documents could also be viewed and downloaded from the Project's consultation website: [REDACTED]. The website hosted an online version of the consultation response form and was available throughout the consultation period. During the consultation, there were approximately 50,000 click-throughs to the website and around 41,000 visits to the exhibition section of the website.
- 7.6.25 Towards the end of the Design Refinement Consultation, on 6 August, the Applicant identified that the interactive GIS maps on the consultation website were not consistently loading. This meant that people who wanted to view the interactive Engineering, Land Use or General Arrangement maps may have experienced intermittent loading issues. A server issue was identified and was fully corrected by 11 August.
- 7.6.26 A third-party agency was commissioned to reproduce a version of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation in an 'Easy Read' format. The purpose of Easy Read is to convey information in a style that, by making use of infographics and short statements, is more easily understood by people who have difficulty reading. This was made available upon request and was free of charge. A link to the Easy Read guide is available in Appendix R.
- 7.6.27 It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages and formats, by calling the Applicant's telephone line advertised on consultation materials or using an equivalent email address.
- 7.6.28 Braille versions of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation were produced by the Applicant prior to consultation launch as part of the consultation's accessibility strategy. No requests for this alternative format were received during the consultation period.

## Notification and publicity

- 7.6.29 The Applicant provided notification of the Design Refinement Consultation to prescribed consultees, local authorities and individuals with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposals. These notifications are described later in this chapter.
- 7.6.30 In the same way as Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant informed the public of the Design Refinement Consultation through a range of channels including advertisements in national and local newspapers, updates to the Project website, social media and direct communication.
- 7.6.31 As part of an extensive notification and publicity campaign aimed at raising awareness throughout the affected local area and wider region, the Applicant also notified key statutory and non-statutory groups including local businesses, community groups, Members of Parliament and emergency services. This exercise was carried out in addition to the formal consultation letters sent to prescribed consultees. Appendix R includes a full list of these groups and a copy of the emails sent to them. This was carried out two weeks before the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation by email and, as appropriate, by phone call. This communication provided these groups with information about the upcoming consultation and an offer of a briefing session during the consultation period. On the day of the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation, another email was sent to these groups informing them of the start of consultation, letting them know how they could get involved and how to find out more.
- 7.6.32 Emails were also sent to more than 44,000 subscribers on the Project's customer database, informing them of the Design Refinement Consultation and inviting them to give their views. This included people who responded to the Statutory and Supplementary Consultations (and provided their email address, having opted-in for further communication). These emails (an example of which can be found in Appendix R) were sent on the following dates:
- a. 29 June 2020, to raise awareness of the upcoming Design Refinement Consultation and to inform people they could pre-order consultation materials to be delivered following the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation
  - b. 14 July 2020, to announce the launch of consultation and raise awareness
  - c. 24 July 2020, to continue raising awareness
  - d. 6 August 2020, to highlight there was one week remaining until the end of the consultation
- 7.6.33 On 15 July 2020, the Applicant discovered (via analytics of who had received and opened emails) that a number of emails sent on 14 July 2020 had not been delivered. An investigation found that around 11,000 contacts, who had been added to the database after responding to the Statutory Consultation, had only signed-up to be notified of new consultations. Due to this, these contacts had been marked as 'do not contact' to avoid them being sent general Project update emails. This led to an error with these contacts being mistakenly

removed from the Design Refinement Consultation mass mailout. This was corrected via an email notification (a copy of which is included in Appendix R on this report) sent out to these contacts on 24 July 2020. Given the extensive publicity campaign and other methods that were used to publicise the Design Refinement Consultation, it was considered unnecessary to extend the consultation period for those that did not receive this email.

- 7.6.34 Two weeks in advance of the consultation launch, a leaflet was also posted to 135,000 addresses within 2km of the revised Order Limits. Plate 7.1 provides a map of these relevant postcode areas. The leaflet (a copy of which is provided in Appendix R of this report) contained a summary of the proposals and details about the consultation. It also included information about how to pre-order hard copies of the consultation materials which would be delivered free of charge. From the week commencing 6 July, leaflets were posted to 3,000 additional addresses within the DA12 postcode area. This was upon a request from Gravesham Borough Council that the Applicant should extend the leaflet drop to this area due to its proximity to the proposed route.
- 7.6.35 A consultation website was available for people to access and download the Design Refinement Consultation materials. The consultation website also publicised the public webinars, telephone surgery details and the deposit location and information points. A link to this website was included in all notices and materials produced. The website link is [REDACTED].
- 7.6.36 The Project website provides general information, including the history of the route, news for the local community and how to get in touch. This website was updated at the start of the Design Refinement Consultation to publicise the consultation with a link to direct people to the consultation website. The Project's consultation website also included an online exhibition section with accessible consultation materials such as an interactive map and explanatory video. Appendix R includes examples of the information provided on the online exhibition section of the Project's consultation website.

**Plate 7.1 Leaflet distribution area for Design Refinement Consultation  
(including extended DA12 area)**



7.6.37 Advertisements publicising the Design Refinement Consultation were placed in local and national newspapers, as described in Table 7.4. They were placed in 10 newspapers over four weeks during the consultation period, with a total circulation of 173,689.

**Table 7.4 Details of newspaper adverts publicising the Design Refinement Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Isle of Thanet Gazette	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Kent Messenger (Series)	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Kentish Times & Reporter Series (Bexley, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend)	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Maldon & Burnham Standard	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Medway Messenger Monday	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Sheerness Times Guardian	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Sittingbourne News Extra	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Thanet KM Extra	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020
Thurrock Gazette	13 July 2020	20 July 2020	27 July 2020	3 August 2020

7.6.38 Three news releases (copies of which are included in Appendix R) were published throughout the Design Refinement Consultation period. They were as follows:

- a. Monday 29 June 2020 to announce the upcoming consultation and that copies of the consultation materials could be pre-ordered
- b. Tuesday 14 July 2020 to announce the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation
- c. Wednesday 13 August 2020 to announce the close of the Design Refinement Consultation

7.6.39 The Lower Thames Crossing Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the Applicant's other social media accounts, were used to raise awareness of the Design Refinement Consultation and signpost to the consultation website. Examples of social media posts are included in Appendix R.



### Non-statutory newspaper notices

- 7.6.40 The Applicant published non-statutory notices in newspapers advertising the consultation.
- 7.6.41 Although this was a non-statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to the requirements of section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, which provides that notice should appear for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the proposed development, once in a national newspaper, once in the London Gazette and (where the proposed application relates to offshore development) once in Lloyd’s List and once in an appropriate fishing trade journal. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and so as to ensure people were given as much advance notice as possible, notices were placed in the majority of the publications listed below the week before the consultation launched.
- 7.6.42 Table 7.5 below sets out the publications in which the non-statutory notices were published and when. Copies of these notices are included in Appendix R of this report.

**Table 7.5 Details of newspaper notices publicising the Design Refinement Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2
Essex Chronicle	Thursday 9 July	Thursday 16 July
Fishing News	Thursday 9 July	Thursday 16 July
Kent Messenger	Thursday 9 July	Thursday 16 July
Lloyd's List	n/a	Tuesday 14 July
London Gazette	n/a	Tuesday 14 July
Romford Recorder	Friday 10 July	Friday 17 July
The Times	n/a	Tuesday 14 July
Thurrock Gazette	Thursday 9 July	Thursday 16 July

### Deposit locations and information points

- 7.6.43 Owing to the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many libraries and civic centres had limited capacity to host copies of the Design Refinement Consultation materials. The Applicant worked closely with the deposit locations and information points that were used for both the Statutory and Supplementary Consultations to identify how to display copies of the Design Refinement Consultation material safely, following Government guidance.
- 7.6.44 One deposit location and five information points were confirmed available for use ahead of the consultation launching. The materials were available at the venues as set out in Table 7.6 and Table 7.7.
- 7.6.45 The deposit location and information points were located within public buildings and were unmanned. Stock levels were routinely checked and replenished to ensure there were sufficient copies of all documents throughout the consultation period.

- 7.6.46 At the deposit location, members of the public could pick up a copy of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation, response form and Freepost envelope, large scale maps and the Design Refinement Consultation leaflet. The map books, the EIU as well as an Easy Read version of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation were available to view but not to take away.

**Table 7.6 Deposit location and opening times**

Location	Opening times
Rochester Library, Community Hub Rochester, Eastgate, Rochester, ME1 1EW	Monday – Saturday: 10:00 – 12.30 and 13:30 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed

- 7.6.47 At the information points, members of the public could pick up a copy of the Guide to Design Refinement Consultation, response form, Freepost envelope, large scale maps showing the proposals and a Design Refinement Consultation leaflet.

**Table 7.7 Information points and opening times**

Locations	Opening times
Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4BP	Monday – Tuesday, Thursday – Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed
Grays Library, Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5DX	Monday: 09:00 – 19:00 Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 09:00 – 19:00 Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed
Belhus Library, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX	Monday – Tuesday, Thursday – Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed
East Tilbury Post Office, Unit 2-3 Stanford House, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8YP	Monday – Wednesday: 06:30 – 18:30 Thursday – Sunday: 06:00 – 18:30
Corringham Library, St John's Way, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope SS17 7LJ	Monday – Friday: 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed

### Information events

- 7.6.48 Due to the restrictions in place associated with COVID-19, the PIEs and MIC events, which were arranged for the Applicant's previous consultations, could not be arranged. However, as part of a 'digital first' approach, steps were taken

so that those who did not have internet access and who would normally attend a consultation event could speak to a member of the Project Team and find out more. This included public webinars and a telephone surgery, as outlined below.

### Public webinars

- 7.6.49 Four webinars were held, with two covering the Project’s proposals south of the River Thames and two covering the Project’s proposals north of the River Thames. Each webinar included British Sign Language (BSL) translation and closed captioning.
- 7.6.50 For the Project proposals located south of the river, webinars were held on 20 July at 19:00 and 30 July at 19:00. For the Project proposals located north of the river, webinars were held on 21 July at 19:00 and 29 July at 19:00. Each webinar lasted approximately one hour.
- 7.6.51 The webinars were held on a platform called GoToWebinar. People could go to the Project website to sign-up and receive a link for the webinar they wished to attend. When registering, they were also able to pre-submit questions to be answered during the question-and-answer section of the webinar. After each webinar, recordings of each session were made available for viewing on the consultation website and the Lower Thames Crossing social media accounts.
- 7.6.52 During the webinar, representatives of the Project provided an overview of the consultation proposals related to the relevant section of the route. Members of the public were able to submit questions to Project representatives live during the webinar and the representatives responded to as many of the questions as possible during the live question-and-answer section of the webinar. Consultees in attendance were reminded in the webinar that if their question was not addressed during the question-and-answer section that they could book a call back using the telephone surgery service.
- 7.6.53 In total, 79 people registered to attend the webinars and a combined 57 questions were answered during the question-and-answer sections of the webinars. Below are the number of attendees recorded for each webinar:
- 20 July – 19 attendees
  - 21 July – 32 attendees
  - 29 July – 12 attendees
  - 30 July – 16 attendees

### Consultation telephone surgery

- 7.6.54 If members of the public wanted to speak to a member of the Project Team to find out more about the Design Refinement Consultation proposals, they could receive a call back from a member of the Project Team by completing an online form or by calling 0300 123 5000. This service was available between 14 July and 12 August 2020, Monday to Friday between the hours of 12:00 and 19:00.
- 7.6.55 As was the case at Supplementary Consultation, a generalist from the Project Team had received training to answer any general queries. If in-depth queries

were raised, however, a call-back was organised with a specialist from the Project Team.

7.6.56 A total of 68 calls were received and answered across the consultation period. Of the 68 calls received, 47 were followed-up by call-backs from a specialist from the Project Team.

7.6.57 The webinars and telephone surgery were publicised in a number of ways, including those described earlier in this chapter under ‘Notification and publicity’.

### Additional engagement activities during Design Refinement Consultation

7.6.58 During the Design Refinement Consultation, there was extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders. Table 7.8 provides a summary of the meetings held to discuss the Design Refinement Consultation.

**Table 7.8 Additional engagement during Design Refinement Consultation**

Meeting title	Date
Gravesham Borough Council All Members briefing	14 July 2020
Essex Developers Group briefing	14 July 2020
Lower Thames Crossing MP Forum – briefing offered to 31 MPs across the region including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MP for Dartford</li> <li>• MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock</li> <li>• MP for Thurrock</li> <li>• Office of MP for Gravesham</li> <li>• Office of MP for Hornchurch and Upminster</li> <li>• Office of MP for Tonbridge and Malling</li> <li>• Office of MP for Faversham and Mid Kent</li> <li>• Office of MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey</li> <li>• Office of MP for Witham</li> </ul>	15 July 2020
London Borough of Havering officer update meeting	15 July 2020
Meeting with Environment Agency and Natural England to discuss proposed use of land around Coalhouse Fort	15 July 2020
Gravesham Borough Council officer update meeting	15 July 2020
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council leader briefing	16 July 2020
Castle Point Borough Council leader briefing	17 July 2020
Sevenoaks District Council leader briefing	20 July 2020
London Borough of Havering officer update meeting	20 July 2020
Dover District Council leader briefing	21 July 2020
Environment Agency update briefing	22 July 2020
Natural England update briefing	22 July 2020

Meeting title	Date
Meeting with Wild Thyme Outdoors – Wilderness Adventures and Forest School	22 July 2020
Joint Kent County Council and Gravesham Borough Council officer update meeting	23 July 2020
Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council leader briefing	23 July 2020
MP for Gravesham's office briefing	27 July 2020
Medway Council all member briefing	28 July 2020
Stephen Metcalfe, MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock MP briefing	29 July 2020
Shorne Parish Council briefing	29 July 2020
London Borough of Havering officer update meeting	29 July 2020
Marine Management Organisation update briefing	30 July 2020
Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding interest group briefing	3 August 2020
Natural England update briefing	3 August 2020
Thames Chase Trust/Forestry England briefing	4 August 2020
Brentwood Borough Council leadership briefing	5 August 2020
Environment Agency briefing	5 August 2020
Natural England briefing	5 August 2020
Cobham Parish Council update meeting	5 August 2020
Forestry Commission briefing	6 August 2020
Medway Council leadership briefing	10 August 2020
Response times meeting with fire and rescue services	11 August 2020
Port of Tilbury – update meeting	12 August 2020
Meeting with Essex Place Services and Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service	12 August 2020

## 8 Community Impacts Consultation

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter describes the non-statutory Community Impacts Consultation undertaken by the Applicant between 14 July and 8 September 2021. In doing so, it also addresses the Adequacy of Consultation Representations (AoCRs) that were submitted by relevant local authorities in response to the Applicant's withdrawn application for development consent. This is because the Applicant's consideration of the views expressed in the AoCRs were a key factor in the decision to plan and undertake the Community Impacts Consultation.

### 8.2 The role of AoCRs

8.2.1 Under section 55 of the Planning Act, local authorities may make representations to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the adequacy of statutory consultation carried out as part of an application for development consent, to which the Planning Inspectorate must have regard when deciding whether or not to accept that application. In making that decision, the Planning Inspectorate must also consider other aspects of an application that are not within the defined scope of the AoCRs. The purpose of the AoCRs is to provide local authorities with an opportunity to comment on whether an Applicant has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

8.2.2 The duties set out in those sections of the Planning Act 2008 are as follows:

- a. Section 42 – Duty to consult defined groups of consultees on a proposed application.
- b. Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community, including the requirement to prepare a draft Statement of Community Consultation and provide affected local authorities with a formal opportunity to comment on it.
- c. Section 48 – Duty to publicise the proposed application, according to guidance set out in relevant regulations.

8.2.3 It is the duty of the Planning Inspectorate to request, receive and consider the AoCRs in relation to whether or not the statutory duties of the Applicant under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act have been met.

### 8.3 AoCRs on the Project

8.3.1 On 23 October 2020, following completion of the Design Refinement Consultation and finalisation of the Project plans, the Applicant submitted an application for development consent to build the Project. This application was withdrawn on 20 November 2020, following early feedback from the Planning Inspectorate. A note from a meeting between the Planning Inspectorate and the Applicant was published on the Inspectorate's website on 26 November 2020: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-Advice-00029-1-201126%20LTC%20Project%20Update%20Meeting.pdf>. It included an annex ('Observations from the consideration of Highways England's application for

Lower Thames Crossing’) in which, among other sections dealing with separate aspects of the Applicant’s application, some of the issues raised in AoCRs were set out under two headings: ‘Sufficiency of information’ and ‘Feedback on consultation’.

8.3.2 On receipt of the AoCRs and the observations provided by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant immediately began a detailed analysis of all of the issues contained in the AoCRs and their potential application to future work on the Project. As described later in this section, this process resulted in the decision to plan and undertake the Community Impacts Consultation.

8.3.3 In addition to the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant has engaged extensively with local authorities in the period between the withdrawn application and the preparation of an updated application, including discussions of topics covered in the AoCRs. The views expressed in 2020 in the AoCRs are therefore not necessarily still the views of the relevant authorities.

## Representations

8.3.4 The Planning Inspectorate received representations between 27 October 2020 and 13 November 2020. A total of 22 local authorities submitted representations, of whom seven raised issues and concerns and the remainder reported no issues or concerns. Table 8.1 lists the local authorities that responded:

**Table 8.1 Local authorities that submitted AoCRs**

	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Issues raised</b>
1	Thurrock Council	Yes
2	Gravesham Borough Council	Yes
3	London Borough of Havering	Yes
4	Kent County Council	Yes
5	Basildon Borough Council	No
6	Brentwood Borough Council	No
7	Cambridgeshire County Council	No
8	Castle Point Borough Council	No
9	Chelmsford City Council	No
10	Dartford Borough Council	No
11	East Sussex County Council	No
12	Essex County Council	Yes
13	Hertfordshire County Council	No
14	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	No
15	London Borough of Bexley	No
16	London Borough of Bromley	No
17	London Borough of Enfield	No

	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Issues raised</b>
18	London Borough of Redbridge	No
19	Medway Council	Yes
20	Southend-on-Sea City Council	No
21	Suffolk County Council	Yes
22	Surrey County Council	No

- 8.3.5 In addition to the individual representations from local authorities, a joint representation was submitted by Thurrock Council, the London Borough of Havering, and Gravesham Borough Council. Many of the issues raised in the joint response mirrored or were similar to the points raised by those authorities in their individual submissions. The topics covered by these authorities are summarised in Table 8.2 below, and included concerns over the quality and completeness of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) produced for the Applicant's Statutory Consultation, other concerns over the quality or accuracy of consultation materials, and the Applicant's decision to consult during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.3.6 The issues raised by Thurrock Council, London Borough of Havering, and Gravesham Borough Council both in their joint and individual AoCRs account for the majority of all issues raised across the AoCRs as a whole.
- 8.3.7 Kent County Council and Essex County Council raised concerns and issues that were broadly the same as some of the issues raised by Thurrock, Gravesham, and Havering. These were specifically in relation to the delivery of consultation during the pandemic, the availability of information, the timing and duration of consultation, and pressure on resources.
- 8.3.8 Medway Council raised concerns about traffic modelling and the impact of a non-disclosure agreement between the council and the Applicant in terms of the limitations it placed on the council.
- 8.3.9 Suffolk County Council raised issues concerning the potential impact of the Project on other planned developments, and not directly addressing the adequacy of the Applicant's consultation. In particular, concerns were raised about conflicts with construction phases for East Coast energy schemes, including Sizewell C, in terms of demand for construction materials.

### **Issue identification**

- 8.3.10 The Applicant carefully considered the AoCRs in order to identify the full range of issues raised by each authority, and in doing so grouped the issues together under three headings:
- a. Information/Materials
  - b. Timing/Duration
  - c. Consultees/Audience



- 8.3.11 The purpose of this process was to ensure a methodical and robust approach was applied to the task of understanding each issue and determining what the Applicant's response should be in each case.
- 8.3.12 The outcomes of this process are set out in two places within the report and its appendices. Table 8.2 below provides a summary overview of the issues that were grouped under the headings described in Section 8.1 above. It also provides a summary of the Applicant's responses to those issues. A more detailed analysis of the AoCRs is provided in Appendix V, with a response from the Applicant to each issue it describes.
- 8.3.13 Many of the issues raised by the authorities were also raised through responses to consultation or as feedback on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and its non-statutory equivalents ahead of subsequent rounds of consultation. As such, the responses provided by the Applicant to issues raised in AoCRs are similar or identical to responses provided in other sections of the report and its appendices dealing with consultation responses or with the SoCC and its non-statutory equivalents.
- 8.3.14 A number of the issues raised include specific concerns around technical engagement, i.e., engagement between the Applicant and stakeholder organisations, such as local authorities, on matters such as design development as part of the Applicant's ongoing day-to-day relationship with those bodies. Such concerns are addressed in Table 8.2 and in Appendix V, though a more detailed account of the Applicant's approach to stakeholder engagement is provided in the Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2).

**Table 8.2 Summary of themes and issues arising from AoCRs**

<b>Information and materials</b>		
<b>Subtheme</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	<b>Response summary</b>
Missing/insufficient information	<p>Councils argued that they considered themselves to be prejudiced in their ability to respond to consultations, with other consultees affected in the same way, and that the consultations were therefore ineffective, due to perceived deficiencies in the information presented at those consultations. Concerns included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The limitations of the preliminary environmental information provided at Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation.</li> <li>2. Documentation or information that was perceived to be missing from consultations, including appendices to the Environmental Statement (ES), the transport model and related traffic information, and the construction programme.</li> </ol>	<p>1. The Applicant first provided information on the environmental impacts of the scheme at Statutory Consultation by publishing the PEIR. At the following Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation an Environmental update document was provided, in each case setting out the proposed changes to the Project, confirming the validity of the previously consulted information, and advising on how the changes modified the reported environmental impacts.</p> <p>Following the submission and withdrawal of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in November 2020, the full Environmental Statement and suite of control documents as then drafted were issued to the local authorities, providing a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Project</p>

Information and materials		
Subtheme	Key issues	Response summary
	<p>3. The Transport Assessment not being shared with councils before the DCO application.</p> <p>4. Perceived non-compliance with paragraph 68 of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance, which explains that consultation must provide sufficient information for consultees to recognise and understand impacts.</p>	<p>and the proposed mitigations and controls.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the PEIR was a robust representation of the impacts of the Project and met the requirements set out in both legislation and guidance. Nevertheless, the Applicant recognises that there was concern from selected local authorities about the consultation with the community, specifically regarding the understanding of works, impacts and controls on a local level. The Applicant therefore undertook a further consultation in 2021, the Community Impacts Consultation.</p> <p>The Community Impacts Consultation materials included the Ward Impact summaries, which provided an overview of the changes and impacts the Project may have during its construction and operation within the selected wards. The summaries covered 12 topics including traffic, noise and air quality.</p> <p>In the following Local Refinement Consultation, the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation set out the proposed changes to the Project, and again confirmed the validity of the previously released information, and any changes to the impacts resulting from the proposed changes. The Applicant maintains that the information provided on the environmental impacts of the Project, during both public consultation and engagement, has been sufficient to understand the scheme-wide and localised impacts of the Project proposals, and to determine the suitability of the mitigation. During the successive phases of consultation and ongoing engagement throughout the pre-application period, stakeholders and the public have made a number of recommendations for additional mitigation, such as low-noise surfacing and increased bunding. The Applicant has considered these recommendations and applied them to the Project proposals where appropriate.</p>

Information and materials		
Subtheme	Key issues	Response summary
		<p>2. In the guidance document Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015) advice is given on the provision of preliminary environmental information. The guidance indicates that consultation needs to take place at a sufficiently early stage that consultees have <i>'a real opportunity to influence the proposals'</i>, while having <i>'sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts'</i> (paragraph 68).</p> <p>The Statutory Consultation was undertaken at a stage where meaningful contributions could be made by consultees, and this is reflected in the number of amendments that have arisen from that and the subsequent consultations. While a full Environmental Statement including appendices was not provided as the preliminary environmental information, the guidance acknowledges that <i>'it may not be possible for applicants to share their environmental statements during the consultation process'</i> (paragraph 92) and <i>'the preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement'</i> (Paragraph 93).</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the information set out within the PEIR, and in subsequent Environmental Updates and other consultation materials, was sufficient to allow informed comment on the proposals by the consultees. This is reflected in the complexity and range of responses received as reported in this document, the substance of which was then used to develop refinements in the design, construction and operational proposals as set out across the application.</p> <p>3. Construction and operational traffic modelling has been carried out according to the latest Department for Transport guidance and is as reliable and as accurate as possible within the limits of the discipline. The model has</p>

<b>Information and materials</b>		
<b>Subtheme</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	<b>Response summary</b>
		<p>been assessed by the Applicant's specialist traffic modelling team throughout its development and this specialist team has concluded that the model is suitable to assess the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant has followed a thorough process to identify traffic management measures, and kept proposals under ongoing review. In some areas the Applicant has changed them in order to reduce or eliminate the need for traffic management during construction, for example, the need for narrowed lanes, speed restrictions, temporary diversions, and temporary traffic lights. The process has been iterative and involves considering the design, traffic, and construction implications of the proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant shared detailed traffic model outputs, along with localised cordons of the traffic models, with local authorities each time a significant update to the model has taken place, providing opportunities for discussion on the forecast impacts of the Project. The impacts were also set out in the consultation materials at Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation. In response to feedback provided in the AoCRs, further information was set out in the Community Impacts Consultation, including an update to the operational traffic modelling, and an assessment of the traffic impacts during construction. The consultation also provided draft versions of the proposed control documents that form part of the DCO application and would in due course be used to manage environmental effects associated with the Project.</p> <p>4. The responses provided above to points 1 and 2 address the Applicant's position on the sufficiency of the information provided for pre-application consultation.</p>
Analysis/ publication of	Some authorities raised objections to the Applicant's approach to the	1. The evidence provided in the Consultation Report demonstrates that the Applicant undertook a thorough process of considering all feedback

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consultation responses	<p>analysis and reporting of consultation responses, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Suggestions that insufficient evidence had been provided to demonstrate how comments from preceding consultations had been taken into consideration in preparation for new rounds of consultation.</li> <li>2. Concern that the number of changes made to the Project proposals in response to consultation feedback was unreasonably low.</li> <li>3. A perception that there was insufficient time for the Applicant to consider and incorporate comments from the Design Refinement Consultation into the DCO application.</li> <li>4. The suggestion that only summary responses to issues raised were provided in the consultation report.</li> <li>5. A reported failure to provide updates on how feedback provided by councils had been considered by the Applicant, including the draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).</li> </ol>	<p>provided by all consultees, and that changes to the Project proposals were made whenever this was consistent with the Scheme Objectives and the overall development of the Project. In response to feedback provided by local authorities, the Applicant provided as part of the subsequent Community Impacts Consultation a 'You said, we did' document in which consultation feedback spanning three previous phases of consultation was summarised along with explanations of how the Applicant had sought to act on it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Responses to issues raised were presented as part of the Consultation Report shared with local authorities in October 2020 as part of the DCO submission. This document summarised the issues raised during Statutory, Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultation, as well as providing responses from the Applicant to those issues. Numerous changes to the Project proposals have been made as a result of consultation feedback, including some that were presented as a single change but which encompassed various distinct but related amendments affecting a relatively large area of the Project.</li> <li>3. The initial application for development consent was submitted in October 2020, which was a period of around 10 weeks after the conclusion of the Design Refinement Consultation. The Applicant made use of existing processes and experienced technical specialists to review responses to the consultation and implement changes to the Project proposals where this was considered appropriate. As described in Chapter 13, the Applicant made various changes to the Project proposals as a result of the Design Refinement Consultation, some that were included in the October 2020 application and others that were applied in time for the Community Impacts Consultation.</li> <li>4. The Applicant sought to prepare the sections of the Consultation Report that</li> </ol>

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		<p>address the consideration of consultation responses by following relevant guidance, as well as precedents set by other consultation reports. The level of detail provided to explain how issues raised by consultees had been considered and addressed is considered to be appropriate and reasonable, with references provided to other documents within the DCO application where further information on a given topic can be found.</p> <p>5. The Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2) and the Statements of Common Ground (Application Document 5.4) provide an overview of the efforts made to provide meaningful engagement with local authorities on matters such as the development of control documents. As part of the Community Impacts Consultation held after the receipt of AoCRs, the Applicant consulted on draft versions of several control documents, including the CoCP.</p>
Consultation materials/ design/ process	<p>There were instances of local authorities questioning the accessibility of materials produced for consultation, with some suggestions that these individually or collectively compromised the overall adequacy of consultation. Examples include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of technical language in material intended for non-technical audiences.</li> <li>2. Maps being difficult to understand, with the north orientation arrow pointing in different directions on each plan.</li> <li>3. 'Easy read' materials not giving a true representation of the design and the likely effects of the Project.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Applicant took steps to ensure that consultation materials were clear and understandable, provided an appropriate level of detail about the proposals, and were suitable for both technical and non-technical audiences. This typically involved producing several documents covering the same subject but at different lengths and levels of complexity, based around what were considered to be the preferences and requirements of different consultee groups. Chapters 4-9 describe the materials produced for each phase of pre-application consultation.</li> <li>2. Maps produced for Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation provided clear information about the proposals to the public and stakeholders. Each map included a compass symbol to make it clear which way on the map was north, though in some instances the orientation of the maps was changed, based on what was considered to be the most sensible and</li> </ol>

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		<p>easily understood way of presenting what is necessarily a complex set of plans.</p> <p>In response to feedback received during the Design Refinement Consultation and the AoCRs, the maps produced for the Community Impacts Consultation and Local Refinement Consultation were changed to provide a consistent north orientation in both printed and online versions.</p> <p>3. In line with accessibility guidelines, the Applicant produced ‘easy read’ versions of core consultation documents, so that it remained possible for readers who rely on such resources to access and participate in consultation processes. The Applicant engaged specialist firms to produce its ‘easy read’ materials and took their guidance on what was and was not an appropriate volume of information and degree of complexity for that format.</p> <p>Feedback provided on the accessibility of consultation materials was gratefully received by the Applicant. It informed the approach taken to the preparation of materials for subsequent consultations.</p>
Technical engagement	<p>Key issues raised by local authorities regarding technical engagement included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limited opportunities to exchange views and ideas with the Applicant.</li> <li>2. Suggestions that meetings did not allow sufficient opportunity to provide feedback on proposals.</li> <li>3. A lack of technical engagement from the Applicant on the development of a draft application for development consent.</li> </ol>	<p>1. Productive technical engagement has taken place between the Applicant and local authorities, as well as other key stakeholders, throughout the pre-application period. Information has been provided to local authorities during periods of formal public consultation and as part of an ongoing process of sharing work in progress, with continuous opportunities to provide meaningful feedback. The Applicant took note of the concerns expressed through AoCRs, and this process informed its revised approach to engagement with local authorities and stakeholders for the remainder of the pre-application period. More information on this approach and the extent of stakeholder engagement throughout the pre-application period is provided in the Statement of Engagement (Application Document 5.2).</p>

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		<p>2. This technical engagement has involved providing detailed technical information, regular meetings, seminars and workshops with project specialists, and feedback from the Applicant on comments provided by local authorities.</p> <p>3. Detailed technical information has been provided (including a full copy of the withdrawn DCO application). This covers scheme design, environmental impacts and mitigation, and traffic modelling.</p>
Timing and duration		
COVID-19	<p>Issues raised relating to the COVID-19 pandemic included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuation of Supplementary Consultation after the effects of the pandemic became apparent.</li> <li>2. Criticism that the Design Refinement Consultation was planned and carried out while the pandemic was ongoing.</li> <li>3. The suggestion that the potential impacts of COVID-19 should have been a higher priority than carrying out consultation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The decision to complete the Supplementary Consultation at the same time as Government measures to restrict the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic was not taken lightly. As described in Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report, the overriding priority was to protect the health and safety of everyone potentially affected by or interested in the proposals, including local residents, stakeholder organisations and staff. The arrangements that were put in place for both consultations ensured that this priority was achieved, while also providing all consultees with convenient and effective ways of engaging with the proposals.</li> <li>2. As was the case with the decision to complete the Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant's decision to carry out the Design Refinement Consultation on a 'digital-first' basis while COVID-19 restrictions remained in place was taken on the grounds that it was safe to do so and that the planned engagement methods were appropriate and accessible. More information on the delivery of the Design Refinement Consultation is provided in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report.</li> <li>3. The number of responses submitted to both consultations carried out in 2020, and the depth of information they contain, indicate that public awareness of the exercises, and consultees' ability to meaningfully engage with the material</li> </ol>



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		was significant. The Applicant is therefore satisfied that the decision to consult during the COVID-19 restrictions was valid, and that consultees felt able to safely engage with the material that was produced and the various ways in which it was made available.
Holidays/ summer/ duration	<p>1. Criticism for the decision to carry out consultation during summer months, creating an impact on resources and the ability of local authorities and other consultees to respond.</p> <p>2. Further criticism for the four-week duration of the Design Refinement Consultation, which was considered to be too short.</p>	<p>1. The decision to consult during the summer months was also considered to be appropriate, noting that the consultation took place over only a proportion of the summer period rather than all of it, and that there is a reasonable expectation that work should continue on long-term developments such as the Project throughout the year.</p> <p>2. A consultation period of four weeks was considered appropriate for the Design Refinement Consultation, based on an assessment of the scale and complexity of the consultation proposals and the anticipated public interest. The consultation materials were more contained in scope than those presented at Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation and the subsequent Community Impacts Consultation for which periods of 10 weeks, nine weeks and eight weeks respectively were provided.</p> <p>The duration of the Design Refinement Consultation was also considered appropriate within the context of the Applicant's wider consultation and engagement process, with continuous technical engagement with stakeholders taking place throughout the Project's design and development process.</p>
Consultation overlap/ proximity	<p>Concerns raised regarding the amount of time between the Supplementary Consultation and the Design Refinement Consultation, including:</p> <p>1. A sense of 'consultation fatigue' for members of the public expected to respond to the two consultations over what was perceived to be too short a space of time.</p> <p>2. A suggestion that there was insufficient time for feedback from the</p>	<p>1. Supplementary Consultation ended on 2 April 2020, while the Design Refinement Consultation launched over three months later, on 14 July 2020. It is acknowledged that organisations and individuals commit time and resources to the preparation of consultation responses. The Applicant acknowledges and is grateful for this effort, but also maintains that the decision to proceed with public consultation was necessary in order to make progress towards the</p>

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	Supplementary Consultation to be considered and taken into account prior to the Design Refinement Consultation.	<p>fulfilment of the Scheme Objectives agreed with the Department for Transport.</p> <p>2. The Applicant considers that the period of time between the two consultation exercises allowed sufficient time for feedback provided during the Supplementary Consultation to be considered and, where relevant, to inform the proposals that were presented as part of the Design Refinement Consultation.</p>
<b>Consultees/audiences</b>		
Disadvantaged groups	Suggestions that some consultee groups, including older people, were disadvantaged by the 'digital-first' approach of the Design Refinement Consultation.	<p>In preparation for the Design Refinement Consultation, measures were put in place to ensure that those with limited or no access to computers or the internet could participate. These measures included the delivery of leaflets to over 135,000 addresses across the area where the Project would be situated, letters to people with an interest in land that would be affected by the Project, as well as public notices in local newspapers.</p> <p>It was possible to request the delivery of copies of the consultation material free of charge and to submit a response using a Freepost address. Responses could be submitted via the telephone and, if further information was required, it was possible to speak to a member of the Project team on the telephone.</p> <p>Every effort was made to ensure the consultation materials were presented in accordance with best practice UK web usability guidelines.</p> <p>For those with reading or learning difficulties, the Applicant also provided paper and online 'easy read' documents explaining the latest proposals.</p> <p>Suggestions on the quality and appropriateness of digital consultation, and the need for complementary 'in person' engagement and hard copy consultation materials were considered by the Applicant and applied to the preparation of the Community Impacts</p>

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		Consultation and the Local Refinement Consultation.

8.3.15 As referred to in Table 8.2, one of the primary ways in which the Applicant responded to issues raised in the AoCRs was to prepare and deliver the Community Impacts Consultation. The remainder of Chapter 8 provides more detail on that consultation.

## 8.4 How consultation was carried out

### Purpose of the Community Impacts Consultation

8.4.1 As described in Section 8.2, the Applicant's decision to carry out the Community Impacts Consultation was made in light of early feedback from the Planning Inspectorate on the withdrawn application for development consent, as well as feedback provided by local authorities through their AoCRs. In particular, the Applicant chose to act on the suggestion that more could have been done to set out and invite comment on the impacts of the Project on local communities and the planned mitigations. As described later in this chapter, the material produced for the Community Impacts Consultation sought to set out these impacts and to describe the various ways in which the management of environmental effects of construction and operation of the new road and its supporting infrastructure are embedded in the Project proposals.

8.4.2 An additional purpose of the Community Impacts Consultation was to describe and invite comment on a series of refinements to the Project proposals. Responses to the Design Refinement Consultation informed the Applicant's decisions concerning these refinements.

8.4.3 When deciding which of the proposed refinements the Applicant should formally include within the scope of the Community Impacts Consultation, consideration was given to the MHCLG's Guidance on pre-application consultation (DCLG, 2015). An extract from the MHCLG guidance, paragraph 73 states:

*'When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.'*<sup>2</sup>

8.4.4 Further assessment was carried out to determine whether the refinements being considered fulfilled any of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 73 of the MHCLG guidance, and whether other criteria set by the Applicant were met, such as changes to land requirements (temporary or permanent) or changes to the Order Limits. If any of these were met, this information was used to inform

<sup>2</sup> Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process

further discussions about whether that refinement should be included as a proposal for consultation in the Community Impacts Consultation.

8.4.5 Chapter 14 of this report provides an account of the issues raised in response to the Community Impacts Consultation and the ways in which the Applicant has had regard to them.

8.4.6 As with Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation, the Community Impacts Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis because the changes proposed did not fundamentally affect the purpose of the Project, its route or its impacts. However, the consultation was conducted having regard to the principles of the pre-application Statutory Consultation set out in the Planning Act 2008 and in accordance with MHCLG guidance: 'The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process' (DCLG, 2015). In addition, as part of the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant also consulted, under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, a number of persons with an interest in land who had recently been identified as part of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land interests affected by the Project.

## 8.5 When the Community Impacts Consultation took place

8.5.1 The Community Impacts Consultation took place between 14 July and 8 September 2021. The closing date and time of 8 September 2021 at 23:59 was publicised on consultation material, including letters sent to statutory consultees and landowners and publicity leaflets issued to local residents.

8.5.2 A consultation period of eight weeks was considered to be appropriate, based on feedback from stakeholders as well as the scope of the consultation proposals, supporting information, and the anticipated level of public interest.

8.5.3 It is also important to note that the Community Impacts Consultation took place at a time of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and uncertainty on whether those restrictions would ease or be lifted during the summer of 2021. This being the case, the Applicant undertook a primarily digital approach to consultation, similar to the approach taken to the Design Refinement Consultation and put measures in place to ensure the consultation was as accessible, interactive and engaging as possible. The Applicant looked to support this approach with a series of Public Information Events (PIEs) and Outdoor Information Centres (OICs) along the route. More information on the delivery of the consultation, including the full range of digital and in-person engagement it offered, is set out below.

## 8.6 Who the Applicant consulted

8.6.1 As with Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation, although the Community Impacts Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis the following groups and individuals were informed about the consultation:

- a. Section 42 – prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and those who own, occupy or have a legal interest in land that would be affected by the Project or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation as a result of the Project. More information about letters to

section 42 consultees is provided from paragraphs 8.7.3 onwards in this chapter.

- b. Section 47 – local community consultees, including people living near the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups and contacts registered on the Project's customer database. More information about community consultation is provided from paragraphs 8.7.15
- c. Onwards of this chapter.

## 8.7 What the Applicant consulted on

- 8.7.1 As described in Section 8.2 of this chapter, the preparation of the Community Impacts Consultation was directly informed by feedback provided through AoCRs and subsequent observations made by the Planning Inspectorate. This included consideration of the topics that should be addressed in the consultation materials as well as the way in which those topics should be presented.
- 8.7.2 The Applicant's initial intention was to focus the consultation on the planned construction of the Project, including an overview of likely construction methods, the potential environmental and traffic effects of these, and the various ways in which those effects would be mitigated. As described later in this chapter, the Applicant sought feedback from host local authorities on its plans for the delivery of the consultation and this process generated suggestions (among others, addressing different topics) on the planned timing of the consultation as well as the overall scope of the proposed material.
- 8.7.3 As a result, the Applicant chose to delay the delivery of the consultation in order to broaden the scope of the consultation in line with local authority feedback. As a result, the Applicant prepared detailed overviews of both the planned construction process and the operational phase of the Project, addressing the predicted impacts and planned mitigations for each. The delay also allowed for the avoidance of any potential clash with the pre-election period for local elections affecting some local authorities.
- 8.7.4 In order to respond fully to suggestions made in the AoCRs that previous consultations did not provide local residents with sufficiently clear explanations of how individual communities might be affected, the Applicant also produced a set of Ward impact summaries, in which the impacts of the Project were set out on a ward-by-ward basis. Further, in line with suggestions made about the completeness of information in earlier consultation packs about the way in which feedback from preceding rounds of consultation had been considered, the Applicant provided an extensive You said, we did document, covering three previous consultations on the Project.
- 8.7.5 The Guide to Community Impacts Consultation ('the Guide') provided an overview of all of the proposals set out in the consultation materials, with other documents covering the same topics but in greater detail and different formats. More on the other consultation materials is provided later in this chapter. The

following is a summary of the issues covered in each chapter of the Guide, excluding chapters such as the introduction and 'how to have your say'.

### **Chapter 3: Project updates**

- 8.7.6 The Guide contained a number of proposed updates to the Project proposals, summarised as follows:

#### **Utility Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**

- 8.7.7 As a result of the construction of the new road, a number of significant utility diversions (for example, gas pipelines and overhead electrical lines) would be required. Four of these met the relevant criteria for them to be defined as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in their own right:
- a. Diversion of a high-pressure gas pipeline in two sections between the A2 and the A226 (each section comprising its own NSIP)
  - b. Diversion of one high-pressure gas pipeline around the A13
  - c. Diversion of one high-voltage electricity transmission network around the A13

#### **Order Limits**

- 8.7.8 Referred to in previous consultations as the development boundary, the Order Limits are the outermost edges of the Project. Following the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant had reduced the area within the revised Order Limits from 22.9 km<sup>2</sup> to 22.2 km<sup>2</sup>.
- 8.7.9 At the time of the Design Refinement Consultation there were 150 residential and business properties within the Order Limits. Within the revised Order Limits shown at the Community Impacts Consultation, this figure was reduced to 130.

#### **South of the river in Kent**

- 8.7.10 The proposals outlined in the Guide included the following:

##### **A2/M2 corridor**

- 8.7.11 A gas pipeline would be located underneath Brewers Road and Park Pale instead of the land adjacent to the A2. This would reduce the impact on ancient woodland and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 8.7.12 Following stakeholder feedback, the previous proposal, which required two crossings of the existing National Grid gas feeder pipeline, was revised to improve safety. The revised diversion route avoids the need for the crossings. This would reduce risk to the pipeline, the workforce and the environment. This change means the Applicant would require permanent rights over a slightly larger area.
- 8.7.13 Access to the Harlex Haulage business has been changed and a Public Right of Way (PRoW) diverted to improve public safety.
- 8.7.14 Relocation of Shorne Woods utility switching station from Thong Lane to the A226. The change would reduce visual impacts by removing the existing overhead power cables.

### **South of Gravesend (A2/Cyclopark)**

- 8.7.15 An electricity cable would be located either under, or next to, the footpath around the A2 Roman Road, from Valley Drive west to the B262 Hall Road to reduce the impact on this area.

### **South of the River Thames/South Portal**

- 8.7.16 Works to install the temporary drainage pipeline from the Southern tunnel entrance compound to the River Thames would be carried out in a field behind the houses on the north side of Lower Higham Road. Access would be required via an existing entrance to the field from Lower Higham Road.
- 8.7.17 The Applicant included three arable fields in the Order Limits to the north of Chalk and to the south of the Thames and Medway Canal and Metropolitan Police firing range. The proposed changes to how these fields are farmed would improve the habitat for birds during construction.

### **North of the river in Thurrock and Essex**

#### **Tilbury area**

- 8.7.18 The Applicant extended the Order Limits to the south of Substation Road, where it passes between the existing power transmission site to the north and the site of the old Tilbury Power Station to the south. This would allow for a new power line to be placed underground and would reduce impacts on the Statutory Undertakers.
- 8.7.19 Two existing culverts on the Tilbury Main river to the east of the new road would be removed and a further culvert replaced with a larger structure.
- 8.7.20 Vehicle access to a private wharf situated to the east of Port of Tilbury (Tilbury 2 terminal) and to the west of Coalhouse Fort was changed to a single vehicle crossing to limit the impact on the Two Forts Way PRoW.
- 8.7.21 The Applicant removed the East Tilbury Jetty to the east of Port of Tilbury (Tilbury2 terminal) as any deliveries by river would come through the Port of Tilbury or other established port/dockside facilities.
- 8.7.22 The Applicant reduced the land required to accommodate a pipe to discharge surplus water into the river.
- 8.7.23 An area of ecological mitigation land would no longer be within the Order Limits following stakeholder feedback.

#### **A13/A1089 junction**

- 8.7.24 A modification to the A13 junction, comprising an extra lane on the link road extending from where the road passes Baker Street through to the Orsett Cock junction to provide additional capacity.
- 8.7.25 The Applicant identified an alternative location for the restringing of overhead power lines north of Linford and reduced the area required within the Tarmac site but extended the Order Limits north-east over vegetation and agricultural land.

- 8.7.26 Changes to the route of utility diversions to the south of Stanford Road A1013 and an overall reduction in the Order Limits as the utilities could be located along field boundaries.
- 8.7.27 Extension of the Order Limits to fields to the east and west of the A1089 Dock Approach Road to ensure permanent access rights to the overhead line network.
- 8.7.28 Following feedback received from landowners and the owners of Orsett Showground, the proposed replacement area for Orsett Showground was removed from the Order Limits.
- 8.7.29 The Applicant reduced the Order Limits around the Ron Evans Memorial Field following changes to replacement open space proposals.
- 8.7.30 Working with the relevant Statutory Undertaker, the Applicant refined the area to the north of the A13 between Rectory Road and Orsett Cock junction, to divert a high-pressure gas pipeline. This allowed a reduction of the Order Limits, reducing the impact at Orsett Showground and land currently being used for football pitches by Orsett Park Royals Football Club.

#### **Mardyke Valley/North Road**

- 8.7.31 The proposed replacement Orsett Fen common land was reconfigured, and the Order Limits amended.
- 8.7.32 There was an amendment to the landscape design to provide a suitable ditch network and habitat for water voles.
- 8.7.33 A refinement to the Order Limits, including an overall reduction around Ockendon Road/Pea Lane to avoid impacting existing vegetation.
- 8.7.34 A flood relief channel would be built next to the Mardyke, at the western end of the proposed viaduct. A flood bund would be constructed to the west of where the new road would cross the Mardyke. There would be a reduction in the size of the compensatory flood storage area here.
- 8.7.35 A reduction in the size of the compensatory flood storage area to the north of Green Lane.

#### **M25/J29**

- 8.7.36 An extension of the Order Limits around St Marys Lane substation to include an existing substation, which some of our utility diversions will connect to.
- 8.7.37 To avoid impacting a local business, the woodland planting and environmental mitigation proposals in the area to the north of J29 of the M25 and around Folkes Lane Woodland were changed.
- 8.7.38 Access from Moor Lane east and from Laburnham Gardens is no longer needed due to the proposed introduction of access directly from the new J29 road.

#### **Special category land**

- 8.7.39 Following the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant updated its proposals for special category land at five sites:



### **Shorne Woods Country Park**

- 8.7.40 A small area of permanent rights would be required along the north of the A2 for ecological mitigation.

### **Cyclopark**

- 8.7.41 The Applicant reduced the impact on the Cyclopark by reducing the width of the land required for our works north of the A2.

### **Ron Evans Memorial Field**

- 8.7.42 The Applicant proposed to acquire two areas of replacement land to the south and west of the existing site. The replacement land would be landscaped and connected to the area of the memorial field to be retained to the north of Long Lane.

### **Orsett Fen – common land**

- 8.7.43 The Applicant now proposes to provide replacement land to the north and south of the existing common land. This replacement area would be designated as common land and benefit from the same rights of access and common rights as the existing and retained common land.

### **Thames Chase Community Forest**

- 8.7.44 The Applicant reduced the amount of replacement open space land, removing a previously proposed area of land on the eastern side of the M25. Now all the proposed replacement land would be on the western side of the M25, situated north and south of the existing Thames Chase Community Forest.

### **Replacement open space and common land**

- 8.7.45 The Applicant proposed to acquire six areas of land to provide replacement open space and common land, known as special category land, within the Order Limits. For these areas the Applicant would provide 926,200m<sup>2</sup> of replacement land, which is more than the 816,200m<sup>2</sup> the Applicant proposed to acquire.
- 8.7.46 These areas would be Shorne Woods Country Park, Tilbury Green, Ron Evans Memorial Field, Orsett Fen – common land, Thames Chase Community Forest and Folkes Lane Woodland.
- 8.7.47 The land would be acquired in accordance with the relevant provisions of sections 131 and 132 of the Planning Act 2008, which means the Applicant would provide replacement land which is no less in area than that which the Applicant proposed to purchase, and which will be no less advantageous to those, if any, entitled to rights of common or other rights, and to the public.

### **Private recreational facilities**

- 8.7.48 In addition to impacting special category land, the Project would affect a number of private recreational facilities, as well as the Orsett Showground site.
- 8.7.49 Following the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant updated its proposals at three of these facilities:

### **Gravesend Golf Centre**

- 8.7.50 The site consists of a nine-hole pitch and putt golf facility with a driving range. The Applicant proposed to permanently acquire part of the facility for the landscaped parkland around the South Portal.
- 8.7.51 At the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant proposed to provide a replacement golf facility to the south-east of the Cascades Leisure Centre, to enable the Gravesend Golf Centre business to continue. Following engagement with Gravesham Borough Council and the current operator, the Applicant proposed to replace the golf facility on land within the site of the Cascades Leisure Centre, which is currently used as football pitches. That proposal, if agreed, would be delivered separately to the Project.
- 8.7.52 If a golf facility was provided on that site, the Applicant would seek to provide football pitches on the land to the south-east of the Cascades Leisure Centre, rather than provide a golf facility on that land as proposed at the Design Refinement Consultation. However, should these proposals not be implemented, the Applicant would provide a replacement golf facility as previously proposed.

### **Linford Allotments**

- 8.7.53 This land comprises approximately 2ha of land within the Order Limits and would be required for the temporary construction and for permanent operation of an existing overhead electricity cable and a new corridor for several utilities.

### **Orsett Park Royals Football Club pitches**

- 8.7.54 A field to the north-west of Orsett Cock junction is currently being used by Orsett Park Royals Football Club for two football pitches and one smaller pitch. The Applicant proposed to divert a gas pipeline to the south and east of the pitches. There may be some impact on the area currently used for the smaller pitch during the diversion works, which the Applicant would seek to mitigate.

### **New open space sites**

- 8.7.55 Following the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant continued to develop its proposals for an open space site at Chalk Park and proposed a new site at Tilbury Fields:

#### **Chalk Park**

- 8.7.56 A new open space site, Chalk Park, is proposed on part of the Southern Valley Golf Club site, which would be permanently acquired.

#### **Tilbury Fields**

- 8.7.57 A new park, Tilbury Fields, of around 45ha is being proposed on the northern banks of the River Thames, just west of the North Portal.

## **Chapter 4: Our approach to assessments**

- 8.7.58 Chapter 4 of the Guide provided a summary of the impacts of the Project during construction and operation, and the appropriate mitigation measures that were proposed. The Guide signposted to the Ward impact summaries for more

information on localised impacts and mitigation measures, and to the Construction update and Operations update for impacts at a Project-wide level.

### **Chapter 5: Construction update**

- 8.7.59 Chapter 5 of the Guide included a summary of the construction methods and activities that are likely to be used to construct the Project. The Guide also described the role that a series of documents ('the control documents') would play in securing mitigation for the Project, and summarised the likely construction impacts and mitigation measures at a Project-wide level.
- 8.7.60 Chapter 5 was based on the Construction update, which was a separate and more detailed document produced for the consultation.

### **Chapter 6: Operations update**

- 8.7.61 Chapter 6 of the Guide provided information on the likely impacts of the new road and tunnel after the planned opening in 2030, including traffic and environmental impacts, and utilities.
- 8.7.62 Chapter 6 was based on the Operations update, which was also produced for the consultation and offered a similar level of detail to the Construction update.

### **Chapter 7: Ward impact summaries**

- 8.7.63 As described later in this chapter, the Applicant produced Ward impact summaries, for each of the local authority wards that would be directly affected by the Project proposals. Each summary described the operational and construction impacts of the Project in each ward, with different sections focusing on different types of impact, for example, air quality impacts or biodiversity impacts.
- 8.7.64 Chapter 7 of the Guide explained the purpose of the Ward impact summaries and the topics they contained.

### **Chapter 8: You said, we did**

- 8.7.65 Another document produced by the Applicant for the Community Impacts Consultation was the You said, we did document. It set out some of the key issues and themes raised by consultees in response to three consultations – the Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation, and Design Refinement Consultation – and the actions taken by the Applicant to consider and, where appropriate, act on them by amending the Project proposals.
- 8.7.66 Chapter 8 of the Guide provided a summary of the You said, we did document.

### **Chapter 9: Feedback mechanisms**

- 8.7.67 During the Community Impacts Consultation period, responses could be provided via any of the following four methods. These channels were advertised on the consultation materials as well as notices and adverts published in local and national newspapers.

- 8.7.68 The four response channels were as follows:
- a. Online – by filling in the online version of the consultation response form hosted on the Project's consultation website:  
[www.highwaysengland.co.uk/lccconsultation](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/lccconsultation)
  - d. Post – by sending a response form or letter to FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION
  - e. Email – by sending comments or electronic copies of the response form to [lcc.consultation@traverse.ltd](mailto:lcc.consultation@traverse.ltd)
  - f. Telephone – due to the restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help ensure accessibility, the option of providing verbal feedback over the phone by calling 0300 123 5000 was also offered.
- 8.7.69 Chapter 9 of the Guide sets out these response channels as well as the Applicant's data privacy notice.

## 8.8 How consultation was carried out

### Engagement before the Community Impacts Consultation

- 8.8.1 The following paragraphs explain how engagement with relevant stakeholders was undertaken before the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation.

### Technical workshops and engagement meetings

- 8.8.2 A series of technical workshops and meetings with host local authorities and Statutory Environmental Bodies were held between 1 February and 14 July 2021. These workshops and meetings covered a range of topics that helped to inform the Applicant's development of the consultation. Table 8.3 provides examples of these meetings.

**Table 8.3 Summary of workshops and meetings held in preparation for the Community Impacts Consultation**

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Catch-up meeting	2 February 2021	To discuss consultation and ongoing matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> </ul>
Progress meeting	11 February 2021	To discuss approach to consultation, including the scope and timings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council</li> </ul>
Consultation approach discussion	16 February 2021	To discuss approach to consultation, including the scope and timings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Consultation meeting	16 February 2021	To discuss consultation and next steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	16 February 2021	To discuss consultation and ongoing matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Consultation update	17 February 2021	To discuss the scope of consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dartford Borough Council</li> </ul>
Workshop	23 February 2021	To discuss a range of items including Tilbury Fields design and East Tilbury waterfront.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Consultation meeting	25 February 2021	To discuss the scope of consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council</li> </ul>
Consultation meeting	15 March 2021	To discuss consultation and next steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	24 March 2021	To discuss the Order Limits changes and Tilbury Fields proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Agency</li> </ul>
Progress meeting	08 April 2021	To discuss approach to consultation, including the scope and timings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>
Consultation meeting	12 April 2021	To discuss approach to consultation, including the scope and timings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	19 April 2021	To provide an overview of consultation materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Downs AONB Unit</li> </ul>
Draft outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) and outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) session	20 April 2021	To discuss comments on the draft oSWMP & oLEMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Draft oSWMP and oLEMP session	22 April 2021	To discuss comments on the draft oSWMP & oLEMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council</li> </ul>
oLEMP and oSWMP combined session with south local authorities	29 April 2021	Combined session on draft oLEMP and oSWMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council</li> <li>• Medway Council</li> <li>• Dartford Borough Council</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Stakeholder briefing	10 May 2021	Briefing on updated Order Limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dartford Borough Council</li> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Essex County Council</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Historic England</li> <li>• Kent Downs AONB Unit</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Marine Management Organisation</li> <li>• Thames Gateway Kent</li> </ul>
Workshop – Tilbury Fields	20 May 2021	Workshop to discuss Tilbury Fields design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Historic England</li> <li>• Natural England</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	22 June 2021	Included an update on the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> </ul>
Consultation briefing	28 June 2021	To provide a briefing on the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway Council</li> </ul>
Consultation materials briefing	29 June 2021	To brief on draft consultation materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>
Community Impacts Consultation briefing	30 June 2021	To provide an outline of the project consultation materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Community Impacts and Public Health Advisory Group (CIPHAG) meeting (Session 4)	30 June 2021	Included a consultation update and discussion on consultation with hard to reach groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Public Health England</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Consultation briefing	5 July 2021	To discuss the consultation draft materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul>

## Notification of statutory consultees

- 8.8.3 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant notified all of the previously identified section 42 consultees of the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation. These consultees were identified through the processes described in Section 4.3 of this report.
- 8.8.4 On 13 July 2021, letters were sent to existing section 42(1)(a)-(c) consultees to provide notice of the start of the Community Impacts Consultation. Recipients were made aware of the previous consultations and how they could view materials and respond to the latest consultation. See Appendix S for a copy of this letter.
- 8.8.5 On the same date, formal section 42 notification letters were sent to a number of additional organisations who had been identified as section 42 prescribed bodies.
- 8.8.6 These organisations included some that had been suggested by the Planning Inspectorate following the decision by the Applicant to withdraw the DCO application in November 2020, as referred to in Section 8.2. Table 8.4 below sets out each of the organisations suggested by the Planning Inspectorate and the outcome of the Applicant's consideration of each suggestion.

**Table 8.4 Suggested additional s42(1)(a) consultees**

Organisation	The Applicant's consideration	Outcome
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis	The Applicant concluded that there was no requirement to treat this body as a s42(1)(a) consultee, but chose to inform it of the launch of the consultation on a non-statutory basis.	Written to on 13 July 2021 to inform it of the launch of consultation.
Southfleet Parish Council	The Applicant concluded that there was no requirement to treat this body as a s42(1)(a) consultee, but chose to inform it of the launch of the consultation on a non-statutory basis.	Written to on 13 July 2021 to inform it of the launch of consultation.
Orsett Hospital Minor Injuries Unit	The Applicant concluded that there was no requirement to treat this body as a s42(1)(a) consultee, but chose to inform it of the launch of the consultation on a non-statutory basis.	Written to on 13 July 2021 to inform it of the launch of consultation.



Organisation	The Applicant's consideration	Outcome
Port of Gravesend	The Applicant concluded that there was no requirement to treat this body as a s42(1)(a) consultee, but chose to inform it of the launch of the consultation on a non-statutory basis.	Written to on 13 July 2021 to inform it of the launch of consultation.
Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.
Murphy Gas Networks Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.
Eclipse Power Networks Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.
Energy Assets Networks Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021. (The Applicant had formally notified this organisation of its status under s42 in October 2018, but using an outdated company name. As such, the Applicant took the opportunity at the Community Impacts Consultation to formally consult the body under the correct name.)
Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.

Organisation	The Applicant's consideration	Outcome
Murphy Power Distribution Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.
Vattenfall Networks Limited	The Applicant accepted that this body should be treated as a s42(1)(a) consultee and duly notified it of its status and of the launch of the consultation.	Notified of status as a s42 prescribed body on 13 July 2021.
Southern Water	The Applicant informed this body of its status as a s42(1)(a) statutory undertaker in October 2020, having previously notified it at the launch of the Statutory Consultation of its status as a s42(1)(d) land interest.	Notified of the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation on 13 July 2021 in the same manner as other existing s42(a)-(c) consultees.
Thames and Medway Canal Association	The Applicant concluded that there was no requirement to treat this body as a s42(1)(a) consultee, but chose to inform it of the launch of the consultation on a non-statutory basis.	Written to on 13 July 2021 to inform it of the launch of consultation.

8.8.7 Others had been identified by the Applicant as part of ongoing diligent inquiry into the land affected by the Project.

8.8.8 The following additional bodies, all of whom are Statutory Undertakers, were also identified by the Applicant, as part of ongoing diligent inquiry, and were therefore notified of their status under s42 of the Planning Act 2008 at the commencement of the Community Impacts Consultation.

- a. Eastern Power Networks Plc/London Power Networks Plc/South Eastern Power Networks Plc
- b. Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
- c. Indigo Power Limited
- d. Last Mile Electricity Limited and Last Mile Gas Limited
- e. Leep Gas Networks Limited
- f. Squire Energy Limited

8.8.9 An example of the letters sent to these bodies at the start of the Community Impacts Consultation is provided in Appendix K.

- 8.8.10 As described in Section 5.1 of this report, in advance of the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests were consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. All such parties were notified by letter and provided with an opportunity to respond to the Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation, Design Refinement Consultation and Community Impact Consultation proposals.
- 8.8.11 At Community Impacts Consultation, a total of 193 section 42(1)(d) consultees that are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) were identified and sent a letter on 13 July notifying them of the launch of the consultation. After the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant identified a further 54 individuals and organisations with an interest in land that are listed in the Book of Reference. This was due to the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land affected by the Project. These consultees were written to on various dates between 22 July and 26 August 2021. All of these interest holders were consulted on a statutory basis at Community Impacts Consultation. Examples of the letters sent on 13 July can be found in Appendix K.
- 8.8.12 On 13 July 2021, all persons with an interest in land who had previously been consulted under section 42(1)(d) at an earlier stage in the consultation process, these being persons who were not identified as having a new interest in land affected by the Project at Community Impacts Consultation, were also sent a letter notifying them of the Community Impacts Consultation. These persons were consulted on a non-statutory basis. An example of the letter sent to these consultees can be found in Appendix S.
- 8.8.13 Responses received from section 42(1)(d) consultees to the Community Impacts Consultation are addressed in Chapter 14 of this report.

### **Notifying the Planning Inspectorate**

- 8.8.14 As part of ongoing engagement with the Planning Inspectorate on the development of the Project, the Applicant provided updates on its plans to launch the Community Impacts Consultation. Copies of the consultation materials were shared with the Planning Inspectorate, in addition to details of when the consultation would be held and other relevant details.

### **Community consultation**

- 8.8.15 As with the Supplementary Consultation and the Design Refinement Consultation, the Applicant prepared for the Community Impacts Consultation by planning a campaign of engagement aimed at the local communities potentially affected by the planned development. This approach included consideration of the needs and preferences of different communities and individuals across the affected area, including hard to reach groups.
- 8.8.16 The following paragraphs describe different aspects of the approach to effectively engaging with local communities as part of the Community Impacts Consultation.

## Approach to Community Impacts Consultation

- 8.8.17 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant chose to engage with host local authorities (as part of wider ongoing engagement) regarding the approach to the Community Impacts Consultation. Those local authorities being Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, the London Borough of Havering, Kent County Council, Medway Council and Thurrock Council. A draft 'Approach to Community Impacts Consultation' document was prepared by the Applicant and issued to the host authorities. The Applicant also engaged with Brentwood Borough Council regarding the approach to the Community Impacts Consultation and shared key information such as the programme for consultation events.
- 8.8.18 The purpose of the document was to provide an overview of the Applicant's approach to consultation with local authorities and communities, including the planned publicity of the consultation. The brief covered:
- a. When the consultation would be scheduled to commence and its duration
  - b. The topics that would be included in the scope of the consultation and the documents in which they would be presented
  - c. An overview of the consultation publicity methods including a 'digital-first' approach in light of the COVID-19 restrictions
  - d. A distribution map showing areas that would receive a Community Impacts Consultation leaflet
- 8.8.19 Comments on the draft document were received from seven of the local authorities contacted. The comments covered a range of topics, including the availability and formats of consultation materials, duration of the consultation and feedback mechanisms. Brentwood Borough Council responded to say it was content with the approach and gave no comments. Table 8.5 summarises the comments received and how the Applicant used the feedback in planning the Community Impacts Consultation activities.
- 8.8.20 A final 'Approach to Community Impacts Consultation' document (included in Appendix S) and an accompanying cover note was issued on 16 June 2021 to the host local authorities. It included:
- a. The finalised dates for the consultation
  - b. More detail regarding the 'digital-first' approach
  - c. Further detail regarding the consultation publicity and planned events in light of easing COVID-19 restrictions
  - d. Details about the telephone consultation service
  - e. Information on the public webinars and the topics these would cover
  - f. A final list of consultation materials
  - g. Details of how to respond

**Table 8.5 Summary of feedback on draft Approach to Community Impacts Consultation**

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
<b>Dartford Borough Council</b>	Requested more information on construction impacts to date, and areas of mitigation.	The Construction update outlined impacts, mitigation and construction methods, and You said, we did (YSWD) provided information on how the Applicant had incorporated comments into the design over time.
	Raised the impact at the A2 and Dartford town centre and rat running in the local area.	The Operations update included updated traffic modelling during operation, and the Ward impact summaries provided an overview of the activities, impacts and mitigations expected in those wards most likely to be affected by the Project during its construction and operation.
	Requested details on cumulative impacts and timings of other major projects in the area.	The Operations update included information on cumulative and intra-Project effects.
	Noted deposit locations and information points were impacted by COVID-19 and the council could not take responsibility for cleaning areas/documents.	The locations planned were dependent on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and were therefore subject to change. Packs of documents were provided for people to take away so multiple people would not be touching the same documents or waiting in the venues. COVID-19 protocols also applied at venues.
	Requested the consultation was longer than six weeks, particularly if new information was significant.	In light of feedback received, the consultation was extended from six to eight weeks – 14 July to 8 September 2021. This was considered an adequate amount of time for people to review and respond.
	Suggested the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) should be included in the consultation, and should incorporate all management measures so the whole picture can be seen.	The Approach document outlined that a selection of draft DCO documents would be included in the consultation including the CoCP and Register of Environmental Actions and Controls (REAC). The draft COCP, together with the REAC, set out a framework for how the mitigation and management of environmental effects would be delivered and maintained during the construction and operations phases of the Project. More localised effects and management measure were covered in Ward impact summaries.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	Queried the publication of notices and engaging hard to reach communities.	The consultation was carried out on a non-statutory basis and, as such, there was no legal obligation to publish notices advertising the consultation. However, as part of the Applicant's ongoing commitment to promoting the consultation widely, and following best practice, notices were published in local and national newspapers and online.  The Project undertook a number of activities to ensure that hard to reach groups were engaged, as outlined in the 'Approach to Community Impacts Consultation' document.
	Asked to know the specific area of Dartford where the leaflet would be distributed.	A map showing the distribution area was sent to the local authority.
	Highlighted the REAC would only relate to the proposals as they were and may not be fully aligned with the proposals as set out in the consultation, which may cause confusion.	A cover note was provided at the beginning of the document that provided context for the reader.
	Commented the ward level approach was good. Noted one of the challenges when presenting the impacts at a high level is that it is challenging for the public to understand how they are impacted at a local level.	The Ward impact summaries presented both construction and environmental issues at a localised level for various topics. Wider impacts and impacts that could not be presented at ward level were captured within the Construction update and Operations update. Signposting was provided throughout to help readers find more detailed technical information if required.
	Thought the YSWD approach was good, but suggested it should not be one-sided and explained what the Project was not doing and why. Suggested holding discussions with relevant stakeholders before putting it on paper, in order to give them an opportunity to feedback on the approach.	YSWD provided an overview of the feedback received during the previous rounds of consultation and how, where possible, these have been incorporated into the design. It contained enough information, presented in non-technical language, for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and how the Applicant proposed to mitigate these. Signposting was provided throughout for people to find more detailed technical information if required.
	Satisfied with the approach to the Community Impacts Consultation, particularly in light of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Comment noted.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
<b>Essex County Council</b>	More construction detail needed.	The Construction update provided more information about how the construction of the Project is likely to be carried out, as well as associated impacts and mitigations.
	Queried whether proposed deposit locations and information points would be open and urged that Government guidance be constantly reviewed.	The locations planned were dependent on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and were therefore subject to change. Throughout the consultation stage deposit locations and information points were largely unaffected by COVID-19 related closures.
	Satisfied with the proposed length of consultation (six weeks).	Comment was noted. In light of feedback received, the consultation was extended from six to eight weeks – 14 July to 8 September 2021.
	Queries regarding alternative formats and provision for those with disabilities.	A version of the Guide in an 'easy read' format was produced. It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages and formats (such as Braille and large print), by calling the Applicant's telephone line, as advertised on consultation materials, or using an equivalent email address. Each webinar included British Sign Language (BSL) translation and closed captioning. It was possible to request the delivery of copies of the consultation material free of charge and to submit a response form using a Freepost address. Responses could be submitted via telephone and, if further information was required, it was possible to speak to a member of the Project team on the telephone. Leaflets and paper consultation materials were made available at information points and deposit locations in the local community.
	Scale of consultation is always a big issue with the sheer volume of documents.	The scope of the consultation was necessarily broad but efforts were made to offer consultees a range of ways to engage with the topics, including consultation material offering varying levels of detail, as well as interactive online resources and face-to-face engagement where consultees could ask the questions that were most relevant to them.
	Happy with the digital approach given the circumstances.	Comment noted.

	<b>Summary of comments</b>	<b>How comments were used by the Applicant</b>
	Satisfied with the public event venues and approach; presumes the digital approach will act as a comprehensive back-up if restrictions change or people are uncomfortable attending events.	Comment noted.
	Would welcome the chance to see what has changed following feedback.	Comment noted.
<b>Gravesham Borough Council</b>	Requested an overall construction timetable, with specific information related to south of the River Thames/Gravesham, highlighting features such as length of various construction phases (e.g., closure of Brewers Road bridge) and length of closures of the PROW network.	Such information was included in the Construction update. The Ward impact summaries provided ward-based impacts descriptions which included information about PROWs, air quality, noise and vibration, landscape and visual impact, road closures/delay, and relevant wider traffic impacts likely to affect ward residents, along with associated mitigation.  The outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction (oTMPfC), which was included as part of the consultation, showed locations where traffic management measures would generally be in place for greater than three months, along with indicative construction activities on/near the local road network south of the River Thames.
	Questioned whether venues south of the river would be included, as the information points listed are to the north.	Appendix 2 of the Approach document listed the deposit locations and information points, which were located both north and south of the river. These were dependent on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time and were therefore subject to change.
	Proposed the consultation period be eight weeks given uncertainties due to potential COVID-19 restrictions.	In light of feedback received, the consultation was extended from six to eight weeks – 14 July to 8 September 2021.



	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Welcomed the proposed publication of the CoCP and REAC, but suggested the public would not understand the language, know what is relevant to them or how they would be affected.</p>	<p>The Ward impact summaries presented both construction and environmental issues at a localised level, and made clear reference to CoCP and REAC, as did other consultation documents.</p> <p>The Guide, Construction and Operations update, Ward impact summaries and YSWD provided enough information, presented in non-technical terms, for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and how the Applicant proposed to mitigate these. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information.</p>
	<p>Queried if additional documents would be produced for the smaller utility NSIPs related to the Project, or if this would be subsumed into the documents that make up the DCO application.</p>	<p>All aspects of the Project proposals would be submitted as part of a single DCO Application.</p> <p>No individual assessments would be provided on the scope and impacts of the individual utility NSIPs, as the impacts on the community would be clearer if presented as a single coherent picture rather than a series of disaggregated elements.</p> <p>The consideration of the individual NSIPs within the DCO application was addressed directly with the relevant authorities through engagement.</p>
	<p>Requested face-to-face consultation events.</p>	<p>While the Project adopted a digital-first approach, this was supported by physical events, deposit locations and information points, subject to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.</p>
	<p>Raised leaflet distribution as postcode sector DA12 1 was shown as omitted on the map.</p>	<p>The leaflet distribution was extended from 2km to 5km and included DA12 1.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Noting that while some land owners need to be statutorily consulted, suggested a Statutory Consultation should be undertaken given some of the utilities proposals would qualify as NSIPs in their own right, and the length of time since the Statutory Consultation in 2018.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognised some landowners needed to be consulted on a statutory basis, as had been done with the previous non-statutory consultations.</p> <p>The utility diversions, some of which constitute NSIPs in their own right, had been consulted on as part of previous consultations. The DCO application will incorporate all of the NSIPs, including necessary associated documentation.</p> <p>Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the consultation provided a level of detail and methods of engagement that would be broadly equivalent to those provided for a Statutory Consultation.</p>
	<p>Requested better visualisations and images of various features of the route, such as the A2/A122 Lower Thames Crossing junction.</p>	<p>Updated and good quality images of the route and its components were used throughout the consultation materials, and an updated fly-through was developed.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested to be involved in the selection of wards in the Ward impact summaries documents.</p>	<p>Ward impact summaries were produced for each ward where there would be a direct physical impact from the construction or operation of the Project. Two additional wards immediately north and south of the Dartford Crossing were also selected, on the basis that the existing traffic conditions at Dartford underpin the need for the Project.</p> <p>At a meeting with Gravesham Borough Council on 8 April 2021, the various wards proposed to be included in the Ward impacts summaries were discussed. The suggestions made were considered and it was agreed that an adequate level of detail for the suggested wards would be covered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higham</li> <li>• Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown</li> <li>• Chalk</li> <li>• Riverside</li> <li>• Westcourt</li> <li>• Riverview</li> <li>• Singlewell</li> <li>• Woodlands</li> <li>• Northfleet South, Istead Rise and Painters Ash</li> </ul>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Raised that, for both the construction and operational phases, traffic would divert onto local roads, whether planned or from an incident.</p> <p>Suggested that analysis needs to include the impact of closure of the tunnel or the bridge at the Dartford Crossing, as well as of the Project.</p>	<p>The Construction update provided detail on the proposed construction schedule, main construction activities, construction methods, mitigations and controls that would be put in place.</p> <p>The Operations update detailed the predicted impacts and associated mitigation measures once the road was in operation, and presented information on the updated traffic modelling work carried out by the Applicant to assess the impact the completed road would have on the wider network.</p> <p>The Ward impact summaries and the Construction update included traffic information based on modelling of the 11 proposed phases of traffic management. This modelling was limited to the impacts of long-term closures, so it did not include short-term traffic management (such as overnight or weekend road closures) nor did it include short-term/unplanned closure of the Dartford Crossing.</p> <p>The impact of incidents or road closures, including both crossings being closed simultaneously, was not modelled because traffic modelling is not typically effective at predicting the outcomes of scenarios of this type. This is because of the multiple variables that make up any single incident, or set of incidents, that can affect the operation of the road network. Variables include the severity of the incident, its precise location, the length of carriageway and number of lanes affected, the time of day and the duration of the incident. Scenarios of this type do not lend themselves to being modelled to provide reliable data that can be used to reduce or avoid disruption to the network.</p>
	<p>Welcomed the proposed YSWD document.</p> <p>However, requested the YSWD should cover major points raised across all consultations, particularly updates to the Environmental Assessment. Given the length of time that has elapsed over the many consultations this is not very meaningful to the non-technical audience.</p>	<p>The YSWD covered feedback from Statutory, Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations. It summarised feedback from all questions asked about the proposals, including feedback on environmental impacts.</p>
	<p>Requested affected land owners are properly notified about any updates to the Order Limits.</p>	<p>In line with statutory requirements and as had been done on previous consultations, affected landowners were notified of the consultation.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
<b>London Borough of Havering</b>	Requested the inclusion of information about construction, for onsite construction, and what it would mean for communities.	The Ward impact summaries presented both construction and environmental issues at a localised level for various topics. Wider impacts and impacts that were unable to be presented at ward level were captured within the Construction update and Operations update. The Ward impact summaries, updates, YSWD and Guide provided references to the CoCP and REAC and provided sufficient information for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information if required.
	Questioned whether deposit locations could be used due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place. Confirmed Havering would be willing to facilitate deposit locations and information points, should Government restrictions allow. Questioned the safety of people touching materials and using public spaces due to the pandemic.	The Applicant is grateful for London Borough of Havering's offer of assistance to host consultation materials in local libraries. A series of information events and drop-ins were held at locations along the route, and COVID-19 restrictions were monitored daily to ensure these events could still go ahead. Packs of consultation materials were provided for the public to take away from the deposit locations so multiple people did not have to touch the same documents and to limit the time people needed to spend inside the venues.
	Stated a six-week consultation period is too short, due to residents and businesses being occupied managing the implications of COVID-19, and requested this to be increased to a statutory, 12-week consultation.	There were a number of successful online consultations delivered across the country during the pandemic, including the Applicant's Design Refinement Consultation, and the lessons from these consultations were applied to the preparations for the Community Impacts Consultation. The Applicant also acted on the opportunities provided by the reducing impacts of COVID-19, and further enhanced its in-person consultation offering, such as through face-to-face events. The consultation was extended from six to eight weeks, and after one week moved from digital to provide physical events and materials.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Strongly supported the consultation material being provided in alternative formats.</p> <p>Suggested providing information in other languages for hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Supported the Applicant being open to suggestions for how to improve the approach to consulting hard to reach groups and welcomed further discussion on how to achieve this.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced an ‘easy read’ version of the consultation material, as well as provided BSL translation at the public webinars.</p> <p>In line with the Applicant’s policy, any requests for material in other formats were considered on a case-by-case basis, to ensure the best solution was provided that enabled consultees to engage with the materials.</p>
	<p>Welcomed publicity proposals aimed at providing stakeholders who did not have access to the internet with printed copies of the consultation material, and suggested this should be communicated at consultation launch through various local media channels.</p>	<p>The Community Impacts Consultation was advertised widely, including through a dedicated Project website, announcements on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter) as well as notices published in local and national newspapers.</p> <p>The Applicant reached out to key stakeholders, community groups and representatives to encourage them to share information about the consultation on their websites and social media channels.</p>
	<p>Suggested the dates for online consultation events should be widely published.</p>	<p>Alongside the advertisement campaign, the Applicant undertook a number of activities to ensure that hard to reach groups were engaged.</p>
	<p>Welcomed the production of the Guide, and suggested this should set out what was included in the consultation and why, and which material should be reviewed for particular topics.</p>	<p>The Guide provided sufficient information for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information if required.</p>
	<p>Commented Havering has an elderly population that would be ‘left out’ from attending public events.</p>	<p>In addition to holding public events and drop-in sessions, the Applicant put in place a number of other methods for consultees to access and provide feedback on the consultation materials.</p> <p>This included webinars and a telephone call-back service, as well as being able to order hard copies of the consultation materials.</p> <p>Following the Applicant’s policy, any requests for material in other formats were considered on a case-by-case basis, to ensure the best solution was provided to enable consultees to engage with the materials.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested the whole of Havering be notified in advance of consultation launch, particularly two Business Improvement Districts in the borough that fell outside of the proposed consultation leaflet area.</p>	<p>Following feedback, the distribution area was increased from 2km to 5km, which captured a large portion of Havering, including the area closest to the Project proposals.</p> <p>The consultation was advertised widely, including through a dedicated Project website and announcements on social media, as well as notices published in local and national newspapers, and online.</p> <p>The Applicant also reached out to key stakeholders, community groups and representatives to encourage them to share information about the consultation on their websites and social media channels.</p>
	<p>Welcomed promotion of the consultation through social media and third-party channels, and stated it would assist in this process.</p>	<p>The Applicant would like to thank the London Borough of Havering for its offer of support in promoting and signposting the consultation.</p>
	<p>Suggested promotion of the consultation via local newspapers, including in the Romford Recorder. Suggested using local radio stations, in particular Time FM which covers the borough.</p>	<p>The consultation was actively publicised by the Applicant in a number of local and national newspapers but not on radio. The notice was published in the Bromley News Shopper, Essex Chronicle, Kent Messenger, Thurrock Gazette, Romford Recorder, London Gazette, Fishing News, Lloyds List and The Times. Decisions on which media types and which individual publications to use for promotional purposes were made based on feedback from local authorities but also other factors such as lessons learned from previous consultations.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Suggested stakeholders are consulted on all the changes made following the application's withdrawal. Encouraged the Applicant to broaden its consultation to include any changes made to chapters of the Environment Statement and any other documents that were updated since the planning application was withdrawn, including new material such as the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.</p>	<p>The consultation included changes made to the Project since the application withdrawal, including information on the construction and operational impacts on affected communities.</p> <p>The Ward impact summaries presented both construction and environmental issues at a localised level for various topics. Wider impacts, and impacts unable to be presented at ward level, were captured with the Construction update and Operations update.</p> <p>YSWD provided an overview of the feedback received during the previous rounds of consultation and how, where possible, these were incorporated into the design. They contained enough information for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more.</p> <p>Further detail on how construction traffic would be managed was available in the outline Construction Management Plan, which was included in the consultation materials.</p>
	<p>Requested the Planning Inspectorate's comments be addressed and taken into consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant carefully considered the section 51 advice provided by the Planning Inspectorate during the development of the Community Impacts Consultation, notably including the meeting note published following a meeting between the Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate on 26 November 2020. Among other aspects, this led to the inclusion in the consultation of the control documents, and the provision of a comprehensive YSWD document setting out how previous consultations had been considered and how the responses had been used to develop the proposals.</p>
	<p>Requested the consultation clearly sets out construction impacts, including at a ward level.</p>	<p>The Ward impact summaries presented both construction and environmental issues at a localised level for various topics. Wider impacts and impacts that were unable to be presented at ward level were captured with the Construction update and Operation update.</p>



	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	Suggested including Rainham (Havering) and Wellington wards in the Ward impact summaries, but acknowledged the line needed to be drawn somewhere on how many wards to include.	The Applicant included three Havering wards in the Ward impact summaries including Chapter 21 Upminster ward and Chapter 22 Harold Wood and Cranham wards. These wards were included due to their proximity to the M25 where works would be taking place.
	Requested the consultation webinars include information on the impacts to Havering, in addition to the impacts on Thurrock and Kent.	The Applicant ran a series of webinars covering four regions along the route. Two of these covered Havering. The webinars provided an overview of the Project and the proposals outlined in the Operations update, Construction update, Ward impact summaries and the YSWD consultation materials, and were presented in relation to their geographic region. The webinars were scheduled for 60 minutes each and held at different times throughout the consultation period to give people different options to attend. The webinars were also recorded and retained on the consultation website and the Applicant's YouTube channel for future reference.
	Commented that the feedback loop had not been closed and the Project had not communicated how comments had affected the Project.	The YSWD document provided an overview of the feedback received during the previous rounds of consultation and how, where possible, these were incorporated into the design. These contained enough information in layman's terms for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information if required.
	Welcomed the production of a YSWD document to understand how previous comments had been taken into account.	Comment was noted.
	Requested traffic management information be presented in a format that would be understood by all stakeholders.	The Guide, Construction update and Operations update, Ward impact summaries and YSWD provided enough information in layman's terms for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information, for example in the oTMPfC.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
<b>Kent County Council</b>	Request for information to explain how the Project is engaging with London Resort, including details of overlapping construction programmes, the demand this places on skills and employability, and the cumulative impact of the projects on the highway network and environment.	The Applicant reviewed the impacts set out in the London Resort DCO application, and set out where there would be cumulative impacts with the Project within Chapter 4 of the Operations update.
	Suggested the telephone call-back service hours were more flexible, to ensure everyone, such as shift workers, could access the service.	The Applicant enabled people to book an appointment (via the website or the Applicant's Customer Contact Centre) to receive a call-back from a member of the Project team.  Call-backs were made on eight specific days, when there were no physical events or webinars, and were scheduled for afternoons, evenings and weekends to give people flexibility on when to request a call-back.
	Requested a live chat or email option for those who feel uncomfortable making a telephone call or have a question out of hours of the telephone service.	There was not a live chat feature, however, as with previous consultations, there was a dedicated email address, <a href="mailto:info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk">info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk</a> , where consultees were able to ask questions out of hours.
	Queried what provisions were being made for those with hearing difficulties who may not be able to make phone calls.	The Applicant undertook several activities to ensure the consultation was accessible for those with hearing and other difficulties, such as proactively producing an 'easy read' version of the consultation material, as well as providing BSL translation at the public webinars.  The Applicant was also prepared to consider and act on any requests for material in other formats as they arose, so the best solutions could be provided to ensure consultees could engage with the materials.
	Requested clarification as to whether a non-technical summary of the CoCP and REAC would be provided, or at very least summarised simply within the Guide.	The Guide, Construction update and Operations update, Ward impact summaries and YSWD provided enough information in non-technical terms for people to clearly understand what was proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information if required, including, where relevant, references to the CoCP and REAC.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	Questioned what lessons were learnt from the digital approach used at the previous consultation, and how would these be incorporated into this consultation	The Project is committed to ongoing learning and aims to improve engagement with local communities. Working with the relevant suppliers, it was understood how visitors used the Design Refinement Consultation website and webinars, and changes were incorporated into the Community Impacts Consultation to improve the customer experience. For example, information was presented by geography as well as the topics being consulted upon, to help people easily find the information most relevant to them.
	Noted the CoCP makes reference to other documents in the original DCO application, which would not be included in this consultation.	A range of draft control documents were provided for comment as part of the consultation.
	Requested consultation material be shared with local authorities in advance of the official consultation launch date, to help in formulating responses and taking them through the necessary governance processes.	Information was shared with local authorities ahead of the consultation through Engagement Approach Workshops, including the updated non-statutory SoCC addendum.
	Suggested mobile venues are considered near shopping areas, such as Bluewater Mall, to attract more people.	A comprehensive programme of community engagement was organised that included a series of indoor and outdoor events. The locations and venues were chosen because they were accessible to the local communities most affected by the plans to build and operate the Project. Events were held in shopping areas, including Grays and Gravesend town centres, but not at Bluewater Shopping Centre.
	Suggested the consultation be promoted through social media to help encourage feedback from businesses.	<p>The Applicant publicised the consultation widely through various online channels including a dedicated website, social media such as Facebook (@lowerthames), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/lowerthamescrossing/) and Twitter (@lowerthames).</p> <p>The Applicant also reached out to key stakeholders, community groups and representatives to encourage them to share information about the consultation on their websites and social media channels.</p>
	Fully supported the inclusion of a YSWD document.	Comment was noted.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
<b>Medway Council</b>	Interested in the construction impacts, particularly how the A289 and B2000 would be impacted by construction traffic, and the potential role of the North Sea Terminal wharf at Cliffe during construction.	<p>The Ward impact summaries presented construction issues at a localised level for various topics. Wider impacts and impacts that were unable to be presented at ward level were captured within the Construction update and Operations update.</p> <p>The Ward impact summaries, updates, YSWD and Guide, where relevant, made clear reference to the CoCP and REAC and provided enough information for people to clearly understand what was being proposed, what impacts were identified and the proposed mitigation. Signposting was provided throughout the documents for people to find more detailed technical information if required.</p>
<b>Thurrock Council</b>	Requested a construction schedule, to show what works would be conducted, when and for how long, especially identifying when walking, cycling and horse riding routes would be installed, road and PRow diversions/stoppings up would occur and utilities would be relocated.	The Construction update provided an outline of the construction programme, along with explanations of how the work would be phased. The document noted that this programme was indicative and subject to change.
	Concern about other local NSIPs, as there may be other major utility relocation NSIPs alongside the Project. Requested these need to be included in the explanation of the proposals, along with the consequences and identification on a map.	It was explained that information on other NSIPs and their interaction with the Project would be provided where possible in the DCO application. This would also include information on the utility diversions associated with and located across the Project route. It was also explained that a small number of these utility diversions qualify as NSIPs in their own right and will form part of the same DCO application for the Project.
	Raised deposit locations and information points would need additional resources to ensure they retain their COVID-19 security levels and are continuously cleaned.	The locations of all events, deposit locations and information points were dependent on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and were therefore subject to change. Measures were taken to help provide a safe environment for visitors and staff. For example, stacks of documents were provided for people to take away so that multiple people would not be touching the same documents or waiting unduly in the venues.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested the consultation be extended to at least eight weeks, if not longer. Reasoning for this request being that the consultation was likely to be held during the continuation of the pandemic, that it is of a similar scale and complexity to the Supplementary Consultation (which was held over eight weeks), and Government/Planning Inspectorate for England (PINS) guidance stressing the need for adequate time to be given to the public to fully understand/comment on the proposals.</p>	<p>In light of feedback received, the consultation was extended from six to eight weeks – 14 July to 8 September 2021. This was considered an adequate amount of time for people to review and respond.</p>
	<p>Flagged staffing of telephone call-backs five days a week may not be adequate and that consideration should have been given to running these on two evenings a week and every Saturday.</p>	<p>The Applicant enabled people to book an appointment (via the website or the Applicant’s Customer Contact Centre) to receive a call-back from a member of the Project team.</p> <p>Call-backs were made on eight specific days, when there were no physical events or webinars, and were scheduled for afternoons, evenings and weekends to give people flexibility on when to request a call-back.</p>
	<p>Requested further information on any additional help that could be given (and stated in consultation materials) to assist people without internet or with user issues.</p>	<p>The Applicant worked closely with local authorities, community groups and representatives on identifying relevant stakeholders who could not access digital resources, to ensure they were being notified of the consultation and that there were practical opportunities for those parties to participate.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook several activities to ensure those with limited or no access to the internet were notified of the consultation, including leafleting properties within 5km of the route, publishing notices in local and national newspapers, enabling people to order consultation materials free of charge, and the provision of telephone services on the days where no physical events or webinars were held.</p> <p>The Applicant worked closely with local authorities, community groups and representatives to try to ensure deposit locations and information points were available and accessible. The deposit locations included hard copies of the full suite of consultation documentation.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	Flagged a lack of choice of map books, and suggested that the use of online interactive maps with the possibility of showing proposals and mitigation, and key areas of interest would be useful to residents in Thurrock.	An interactive map was developed for the consultation as had been the case for previous consultations, with a focus on impacts and mitigation proposals during construction and operation.
	Raised that the Guide would provide less information than at previous consultations, and that this was unacceptable, as is signposting to previous consultation documents and materials, which is inconvenient for the public.	The focus of the consultation was providing information at a local level on how the Applicant plans to build the Project, including impacts to traffic, communities and the environment. It also summarised the feedback received during previous consultations and explained how this had been incorporated into the plans to date.  There was no requirement for consultees to refer to material produced for earlier phases of consultation in order to understand the topics addressed in the Guide.
	Requested Corringham be added to the leaflet distribution zone.	In response to feedback received, the leaflet distribution zone was increased from 2km to 5km from the proposed route, which included Corringham.
	Suggested local public information boards should be installed in key locations and with adequate content agreed with Thurrock Council.	The Applicant undertook several activities to ensure local people were notified of the consultation, including leafleting properties within 5km of the route and publishing notices in local and national newspapers. The ability for people to order consultation materials free of charge was also provided as was a telephone service on the days when no physical events or webinars were held. It was considered that the level of advertisement and methods for engaging with the Project for this round of consultation was proportionate, and consequently the option of installing information boards was not pursued.
	Suggested health-related issues need covering in detail within the construction consultation, using all the topics of the Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) scope on page 3 (Table 1.1) of the DCO submission-version of the HEqIA. Recommended this is covered in a separate document.	The Ward impact summaries included a section summarising the potential health impacts of the Project during construction and operation.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested each change in the Order Limits be identified with reasons for changes such as access to the Port of Tilbury London (PoTL), additional areas of mitigation (with Natural England), additional open space, further junction mitigation. Further suggested that there should be a clear note that future changes may still be necessary following further discussions with Council officers on mitigation.</p>	<p>The Applicant presented ward changes to the proposed Order Limits within the Operations Update. Further, the Guide provided information on the key changes to the route design that had been made since the Design Refinement Consultation. The YSWD document also provided information on how the Project design has evolved throughout the design process as a result of stakeholder feedback.</p>
	<p>Requested the Applicant explain what should happen if things do not 'go to plan' – what would happen and how would impacts be controlled? How would each key issue (such as noise and air quality exceedances, road blockages/ severance, contamination and unexploded ordnance (UXO) issues) be dealt with (for example, informing residents, stopping work, new measures and permits).</p>	<p>The Applicant explained that it was considering plans for post-consent monitoring and an adaptive management framework for the Project, and offered the council an opportunity to discuss other areas which could sit under that framework.</p>
	<p>Suggested the DCO securing mechanism needs to clearly identify how mitigation is legally secured in the DCO, such as specifying that the CoCP and REAC are 'control documents' secured by Requirements'. Stated it would not be adequate to specify it will be included in the contract, for which stakeholders and PINS have no control, or as an annex to the Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>The consultation materials were carefully prepared to clearly set out the context of the control documents, and to show how they would be secured within the draft DCO.</p>
	<p>Suggested an Environmental update was required for the consultation, as the PEIR was incomplete for Statutory Consultation, and the two subsequent updates lacked useful detail. Proposed the public and stakeholders needed much more detailed information on Environmental Statement topics, as the latest information was too general and not up-to-date.</p>	<p>The Applicant first provided information on the environmental impacts of the scheme at Statutory Consultation using the PEIR. At the following Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation an Environmental update document was provided, that set out the proposed changes to the Project, confirmed the validity of the previously consulted information and advised on how the changes modified the reported environmental impacts.</p>

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested consideration is given as to how environmental standards, impacts and mitigation are presented.</p>	<p>Following the submission and withdrawal of the DCO application in late 2020, the full Environmental Statement and suite of control documents as then drafted was provided to the local planning authorities, providing a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Project and the proposed mitigations and controls.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the PEIR was a robust representation of the impacts of the Project and met the requirements set out in both legislation and guidance. Nevertheless, the Applicant recognises that there was concern from selected local authorities about the consultation with the community, specifically regarding the understanding of works, impacts and controls on a local level. The Applicant therefore undertook a further consultation in 2021, the Community Impacts Consultation.</p> <p>The Community Impacts Consultation materials included the Ward impact summaries documents, which provided an overview of the changes and impacts the Project may have during its construction and operation within the wards. The summaries covered 12 topics including traffic, noise and air quality. In addition, drafts of the control documents were provided.</p> <p>In the following Local Refinement Consultation, the Guide to the Local Refinement Consultation document set out the proposed changes to the Project, and again confirmed the validity of the previously released information, and any changes to the impacts resulting from the proposed changes. The Applicant maintains that the information provided on the environmental impacts of the Project, during both public consultation and engagement, has been sufficient to understand the scheme-wide and localised impacts of the proposals, and to determine the suitability of the mitigation. During the consultation and engagement over the past few years, stakeholders and the public have made a number of recommendations for additional mitigation, such as low-noise surfacing and increased bunding. The Applicant has considered and, where appropriate, incorporated these recommendations into the proposals.</p>



	<b>Summary of comments</b>	<b>How comments were used by the Applicant</b>
	Requested high quality images for consultation with the possibility for an updated 'fly-through' of the Project route.	Updated and good quality images of the route and its components were used throughout the consultation materials, and an updated fly-through was developed.
	Requested local authority involvement in the identification of wards that would be covered by the construction information detail, specifically requesting the inclusion of Tilbury, East Tilbury and Chadwell, but also wards on the periphery of the Project.	A meeting on 1 April 2021 provided the Applicant with an opportunity to discuss with Thurrock Council the proposed wards that would be included within the Ward impacts summary. Tilbury, East Tilbury and Chadwell were all included, as were certain wards on the periphery of the Project.
	Requested the Applicant produce a 'typified version of a ward', where all impacts are identified and mitigation explained, to ensure full coverage of all the issues.	In developing the Ward impact summaries, the Project shared examples of draft a Ward impact summary with relevant authorities.
	Requested the Applicant presented Population and Human Health at ward level not Project-wide.	The Ward impact summaries included a section summarising the potential health impacts of the Project during construction and operation.
	Requested the Applicant added the additional wards Stanford-le-Hope and Belhus Wood.	Belhus ward was included in the Ward impact summaries, but the Stanford-le-Hope ward was not included on the basis of the limited predicted impacts on that ward.
	Requested the Applicant identify construction effects.	The construction effects were detailed within the Construction update at a Project-wide level, with more localised information provided in the Ward impact summaries.
	Requested the Applicant mapped and summarised the ward summaries on one sheet.	Consideration was given to how this could work, but given the large amount of information and the high number of wards that were covered it was felt that this would be incredibly difficult to achieve effectively. The Applicant considered the information provided within the Ward impact summaries was sufficient and accessible enough for people to understand the potential impacts in different local areas along the route.

	Summary of comments	How comments were used by the Applicant
	<p>Requested YSWD includes a high level of detail and explains how, following many hundreds of public/stakeholder comments, only 11 design changes were made to the Project, and the reasoning for inclusion and exclusion.</p> <p>Suggested that the Consultation Report would need to distil the key issues raised into a manageable list of around 50-100 in total for Thurrock.</p>	<p>YSWD provided information on some of the changes that were, or were not, made to the route design as a result of stakeholder feedback. Stakeholders and the public may have raised issues or suggestions that were not fully represented in YSWD. However, as a summary document the detail provided was high level.</p> <p>The Consultation Report describes the approach to, and outcomes of, consultation and engagement undertaken on the Project. It also sets out, in Chapters 11-15, a comprehensive list of all issues contained in consultation responses and explains how they have been considered.</p>
	<p>Suggested that for each issue identified from the Consultation Report, a timeline should show both how and why the scheme has changed to response to comments/issues. Noted that 'the preliminary design review (PDR) does this quite well'.</p>	<p>This comment was noted.</p>
	<p>Suggested that throughout the consultation, summaries and generalisations should be avoided, (for example, '2019 Summer Update' or the two 'Environmental Updates' with Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation). Further suggested detail is key to avoiding 'consultation fatigue' and showing people exactly how they are affected by construction and the completed scheme.</p>	<p>The Guide, Construction update, Operations update, Ward impact summaries and YSWD provided information in accessible language for people to clearly understand what is being proposed, with a focus on community and environmental impacts, how these impacts have been identified and how we propose to mitigate them. Signposting was provided throughout consultation documents for people to find more detailed technical information.</p>
	<p>Requested transparency and honesty with the public using real information and normal language, avoiding 'gloss' and marketing methods and attempts to sell the Project.</p>	

### 'Digital-first' approach'

- 8.8.21 Preparations for the Community Impacts Consultation took place when restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were being eased. The Applicant was aware that while some people would be prepared to participate in a consultation through traditional face-to-face engagement, others would not, and so the consultation was prepared using many of the 'digital-first' methods that had been successfully used for the Design Refinement Consultation. These methods included:
- a. A telephone service, where people could speak to a Project representative if they had any questions regarding the proposals. For the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant also accepted consultation feedback by telephone
  - b. Public webinars, where people could learn more about the key proposals and ask questions during question-and-answer sessions with specialist staff
  - c. Home delivery of Community Impacts Consultation documents (one copy per household), free of charge
  - d. From 12 July 2021, the week of the consultation launch, a leaflet was posted to approximately 288,000 addresses in postcodes that are within 5km of the Project's centre line
  - e. Publication of non-statutory notices in local and national newspapers to inform people about the consultation and how to take part
  - f. Letters sent to any new land interest holders affected by the Project, notifying them of the Community Impacts Consultation and giving them an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the materials published at Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation
  - g. An enhanced online offering and 'online exhibition' was embedded within the Project consultation website. This section of the website included an interactive map where people could search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area, videos which covered the proposals across the Project and summary information from the consultation print materials including visual depictions of before and after the Project proposals
  - h. A reminder postcard three weeks before the closing date of the consultation to approximately 288,000 properties within approximately 5km of the route centre line, reminding recipients to respond to the consultation, providing details of where to find more information, have their say, and the consultation closing date

8.8.22 As described later in this chapter, the consultation complemented these methods with face-to-face engagement for those who felt comfortable and were able to do so.

### Materials

8.8.23 To support the delivery of the Community Impacts Consultation, a range of materials were produced to explain the proposed refinements, publicise the consultation and set out the ways in which people could respond. Table 8.6 provides a breakdown of the documents published and a description of the information they included. If the name of a document is highlighted in bold, this indicates that a copy of it is included in Appendix S of this report. Appendix S provides weblinks to the other documents, all of which are available on the Community Impacts Consultation website:

[REDACTED]

**Table 8.6 Community Impacts Consultation material**

Document	Description
Lower Thames Crossing Guide to Community Impacts Consultation	An explanation of the key themes covered by the consultation, including summaries of the Construction and Operations updates, a series of proposed changes, and the You said, we did document. It also explained the process for providing feedback and closing date for responses to be received.
Consultation leaflet	A summary of the proposals, information about how to learn more including digital engagement channels and, for those without access to the internet, details on how to pre-order materials.
Construction update	An overview of the principles and methods that are likely to be used to build the new road and tunnel, and changes to existing utilities infrastructure. It also detailed the measures proposed to mitigate potential adverse effects.
Operations update	Information on the new road, junctions, the tunnel, utilities, environmental design and green infrastructure. It also included changes made since the Design Refinement Consultation, some updates to the traffic forecasts and how this would impact the environment.
Ward impact summaries	An overview of the changes and impacts the new road might have during its construction and operation at a local level. This covered topics such as changes to traffic, noise and air quality.
You said, we did	A summary of responses received during the Applicant's three previous consultations and how these have been used to refine further the design of the Project.
Response form and Freepost envelope	A standalone document that contained questions on the proposed refinements, impacts and mitigations, as described in the consultation materials.
Map books	Map book 1: General Arrangements – shows proposed details of the Project, including permanent works, construction compounds, environmental mitigation, utilities diversions, Order Limits, and open space and replacement land.

Document	Description
	<p>Map book 2: Land Use Plans – showed areas where the Project is seeking powers to compulsorily acquire land or rights. The plans also show the land of which temporary possession would be sought in order to construct the Project.</p> <p>Map book 3: Engineering Plans – drawings in plan and profile, junction arrangements and cross-sections of the route including lanes and earthworks.</p>
Large scale maps	A range of larger scale maps presented the information shown in the map books including environmental constraints and land use.
Interactive online map books	The Project website included interactive maps for the General Arrangements, Land Use and Engineering Plans. These interactive maps enabled people to search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area.
Draft DCO application documents	<p>As well as the documents listed above, the Applicant also consulted on draft versions of a number of other technical documents, which set out how the Applicant, and its appointed Contractors, would build and operate the new road. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Consent Order Schedule 2 and Explanatory Note</li> <li>• Outline Site Waste Management Plan</li> <li>• Outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction</li> <li>• Materials Handling Plan</li> <li>• Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments</li> <li>• Code of Construction Practice</li> <li>• Design Principles</li> <li>• Wider Network Impacts – management and monitoring plan</li> <li>• Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan</li> <li>• Framework Travel Plan</li> </ul>
Non-statutory notice	A non-statutory notice conveying basic information about the consultation, including key dates and how to respond, that was published in a series of newspapers.
Posters	A4 and A3 posters advertising the consultation website, with a QR code which took people directly to the consultation website if scanned.
Your Property and Blight	Three guides produced by the Applicant to provide information to people whose property may be affected by the new road proposals and improvements.
Your Property and Compulsory Purchase	
Your Property and Discretionary Purchase	
‘Easy read’	The Applicant partnered with a member of the UK Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF) to produce ‘easy read’ versions of the consultation material.

Document	Description
Reminder postcard	A postcard reminding recipients to respond to the consultation, providing details of where to find more options, have their say, and the consultation close date.

- 8.8.24 Copies of the consultation materials were available for inspection at seven deposit locations and 11 information points from 21 July, which are described in further detail later in this chapter. To help improve accessibility for responding to the consultation, it was also possible to order hard copies of the consultation material for home delivery, free of charge (limited to one copy per household).
- 8.8.25 Consultation documents could also be viewed and downloaded from the Project's consultation website. The website hosted an online version of the consultation response form and was available throughout the consultation period. During the consultation, there were approximately 80,600 visits to the consultation website.
- 8.8.26 A third-party agency was commissioned to reproduce a version of the Guide to Community Impacts Consultation in an 'easy read' format. The purpose of 'easy read' is to convey information in a style that, by making use of infographics and short statements, is more easily understood by people who have difficulty reading. This was made available upon request and was free of charge. A link to the 'easy read' guide is available in Appendix S.
- 8.8.27 It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages and formats, by calling the Applicant's telephone line advertised on consultation materials or using an equivalent email address.
- 8.8.28 As part of the consultation's accessibility strategy, the Applicant had made arrangements for the Guide to be produced in Braille upon request. No requests for this alternative format were received during the consultation period.

### Notification and publicity

- 8.8.29 The Applicant provided notification of the Community Impacts Consultation to prescribed consultees, local authorities and individuals with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposals. These notifications are described from paragraph 8.7.1 onwards in this report.
- 8.8.30 Building on the expertise gained from holding preceding phases of consultation, the Applicant informed the public of the Community Impacts Consultation through a range of channels including advertisements in national and local newspapers, updates to the Project website, social media and direct communication.
- 8.8.31 As part of an extensive notification and publicity campaign aimed at raising awareness throughout the affected local area and wider region, the Applicant also notified key statutory and non-statutory groups including local businesses, community groups, Members of Parliament and emergency services. This exercise was carried out in addition to the formal consultation letters sent to prescribed consultees. On the day of the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation, an email was sent to these groups informing them of the start of consultation, letting them know how they could get involved and how to find out

more. Appendix S includes a full list of these groups and a copy of the email sent to them.

- 8.8.32 Emails were also sent to more than 27,000 subscribers on the Project's customer database, informing them of the Community Impacts Consultation and inviting them to give their views. This included people who responded to the Statutory, Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations (and provided their email address, having opted-in for further communication). These emails (examples of which can be found in Appendix S) were sent on:
- a. Wednesday 14 July 2021 to announce the launch of consultation and raise awareness
  - b. Tuesday 20 July 2021 to explain what to expect at consultation events and continue raising awareness
- 8.8.33 On 14 July 2021, the Applicant discovered (via analytics of who had received and opened emails) that the email sent earlier that day contained some broken links to the consultation website due to a redirect error. The email was resent to all recipients once the error had been identified.
- 8.8.34 From 12 July 2021, the week of the consultation launch, a leaflet was posted to approximately 288,000 addresses in postcodes that are within 5km of the route centre line. Plate 8.1 provides a map of these relevant postcode areas. The leaflet (a copy of which is provided in Appendix S of this report) contained a summary of the proposals and details about the consultation. It also included information about the home delivery service for the consultation materials.





- 8.8.35 A consultation website was available for people to access and download the Community Impacts Consultation materials. The consultation website also publicised the public webinars, telephone surgery details and the deposit location and information points. A link to this website was included in all notices and materials produced. The website link is [REDACTED].
- 8.8.36 The Project website ([REDACTED]) provides general information on the Project rather than solely consultation information, including the history of the route, news for the local community and how to get in touch. This website was updated at the start of the Community Impacts Consultation to publicise the consultation with a link to direct people to the consultation website. The consultation website also included an online exhibition section with accessible consultation materials such as an interactive map and explanatory video. Appendix S includes examples of the information provided on the online exhibition section of the consultation website.
- 8.8.37 Advertisements publicising the Community Impacts Consultation were placed in local and national newspapers, as described in Table 8.7. They were placed in 10 newspapers over four weeks during the consultation period, with a total circulation of 173,689.

**Table 8.7 Details of newspaper adverts publicising the Community Impacts Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Romford and Brentwood Recorder (Series)	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Essex Chronicle	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Kent and Sussex Courier	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Brentwood Gazette	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Thurrock Gazette	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Kent Messenger (Series)	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Maldon & Burnham Standard	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Sheerness Times Guardian	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021
Sittingbourne News Extra	12 July 2021	26 July 2021	9 August 2021

- 8.8.38 Two news releases (copies of which are included in Appendix S) were published throughout the Community Impacts Consultation period. They were as follows:
- a. Wednesday 23 June 2021 to announce the upcoming consultation
  - b. Wednesday 14 July 2021 to announce the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation

8.8.39 The Lower Thames Crossing Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the Applicant's other social media accounts, were used to raise awareness of the Community Impacts Consultation and signpost to the consultation website. Examples of social media posts are included in Appendix S.

### Non-statutory newspaper notices

8.8.40 The Applicant published non-statutory notices in newspapers advertising the consultation.

8.8.41 Although this was a non-statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to the requirements of section 48, which provides that a notice should appear for at least two successive weeks in local newspapers circulating near the proposed development, once in a national newspaper and once in the London Gazette. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and so as to ensure people were given as much advance notice as possible, notices were placed in the majority of the publications listed below in the week before the consultation launched.

8.8.42 Table 8.8 below sets out the publications in which the non-statutory notices were published and when. Copies of these notices are included in Appendix S of this report.

**Table 8.8 Details of newspaper notices publicising the Community Impacts Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2
<b>National newspaper</b>		
The Times	n/a	Wednesday 14 July 2021
<b>Local newspapers</b>		
Essex Chronicle	Thursday 8 July 2021	Thursday 15 July 2021
Kent Messenger	Thursday 8 July 2021	Thursday 15 July 2021
London Gazette	n/a	Wednesday 14 July 2021
Romford Recorder	Friday 9 July 2021	Friday 16 July 2021
Thurrock Gazette	Thursday 8 July 2021	Thursday 15 July 2021
Bromley News Shopper	Wednesday 7 July 2021	Wednesday 14 July 2021
<b>Trade journals</b>		
Lloyd's List	n/a	Wednesday 14 July 2021
Fishing News	Thursday 8 July 2021	Thursday 15 July 2021

### Deposit locations and information points

8.8.43 Owing to the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many libraries and civic centres had limited capacity to host copies of the Community Impacts Consultation materials. The Applicant worked closely with the deposit locations and information points that were used for the Statutory, Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultations to identify how to display copies of the Community Impacts Consultation material safely, following Government guidance.

- 8.8.44 Seven deposit locations and 11 information points were confirmed available for use ahead of the consultation launching. This differed from the published non-statutory SoCC addendum, as two venues listed remained closed (Tilbury Hub (deposit location) and Thurrock Council Civic Offices (information point), and two additional information points, not previously listed in the SOCC were used: Higham Library and Corringham Library. The list of venues was kept up-to-date on the website throughout the consultation. Materials were available at the venues from 21 July 2021 as set out in Table 8.9 and Table 8.10.
- 8.8.45 The deposit locations and information points were all library centres. In addition, Shorne Woods Visitor Centre was used as an information point in Kent. Library staff were on hand to direct visitors to the information. There was also a point of contact for the library to direct any queries about the consultation to the relevant contact details provided by the Applicant. Stock levels were routinely checked and replenished to ensure there were sufficient copies of all documents throughout the consultation period.
- 8.8.46 At the deposit locations, members of the public could pick up hard copies of the full suite of consultation documentation.

**Table 8.9 Deposit locations and opening times south of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Rochester Library, Rochester Community Hub, Rochester, ME1 1EW	The normal opening times of the venues varied during the Community Impacts Consultation due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.
Dartford Central Library and Museum, DA1 1EU	
Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, DA12 1BE	
Maidstone Library, Maidstone, ME14 1LQ	

**Table 8.10 Deposit locations and opening times north of the River Thames**

Locations north of the River Thames	Opening times
Grays Library, Grays, RM17 5DX	The normal opening times of the venues varied during the Community Impacts Consultation due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.
Brentwood Library, Brentwood, CM14 4BP	
Romford Central Library, Romford, RM1 3AR	
Tilbury Hub, Tilbury, RM18 8AD	Location closed at the time of consultation

- 8.8.47 At information points, members of the public could pick up a copy of the Guide to Consultation, paper copies of the consultation response form and Freepost return envelopes. Table 8.11 and Table 8.12 set out the venues of information points.

**Table 8.11 Information points and opening times south of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Marling Cross Library, Gravesend, DA12 5TY	The normal opening times of the venues varied during the Community Impacts Consultation due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.
Meopham Library, Gravesend, DA13 0AH	
Riverview Park Library, Gravesend, DA12 4NG	
Shorne Woods Visitor Centre, Gravesend, DA12 3HX	

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Higham Library, Villa Road, Higham, Rochester, ME3 7BS (additional information point)	

**Table 8.12 Information points and opening times north of the River Thames**

Locations south of the River Thames	Opening times
Belhus Library, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX	The normal opening times of the venues varied during the Community Impacts Consultation due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.
Blackshots Library, Grays, RM16 2JU	
Chadwell Library, Grays, RM16 4JP	
East Tilbury Post Office, Essex, RM18 8YP	
East Tilbury Library, East Tilbury, RM18 8ST	
Corringham Library, St John's Way, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 7LJ (additional information point)	
Thurrock Council Civic Offices, Grays, RM17 6NG (location closed at the time of consultation)	Location closed at the time of consultation

### Information events

- 8.8.48 The Applicant held a series of 18 events during the Community Impacts Consultation, comprising 12 PIEs and six OICs. The purpose of the events was to provide opportunities for local people to speak to members of the Project team about the proposals, collect copies of consultation documents, and to view material produced for the events such as large-scale maps of the Project area.
- 8.8.49 The Applicant selected the venues for these events based on data and feedback from local authorities on the equivalent events held for the Statutory Consultation. The Applicant also considered the accessibility and availability of potential venues, carrying out risk assessments on each to evaluate their suitability.

### Public Information Events

- 8.8.50 PIEs held for the Community Impacts Consultation were similar in terms of their layout and staffing arrangements to the equivalent events held for the Statutory Consultation and Supplementary Consultation. They took place in indoor venues
- 8.8.51 Plate 8.2 below provides a photograph of a typical PIE.

### Plate 8.2 A typical PIE



- 8.8.52 Each PIE was attended by Project staff representing different technical specialisms relevant to the proposals, as well as generalist staff who had been trained to explain the purpose of the events and their role within the wider consultation process.
- 8.8.53 Table 8.13 and Table 8.14 below provide lists of the dates and venues, north and south of the River Thames, where PIEs were held.

**Table 8.13 PIEs south of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
22 July 2021	14:00 – 20:00	Cascades Leisure Centre	Thong Lane Gravesend DA12 4LG
3 September 2021	14:00 – 20:00	Cascades Leisure Centre	Thong Lane Gravesend DA12 4LG

**Table 8.14 PIEs north of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
24 July 2021	12:00 – 18:00	The Civic Hall	Blackshots Lane Grays RM16 2JU
26 July 2021	14:00 – 20:00	Orsett Hall Hotel	Prince Charles Avenue Orsett RM16 3HS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
29 July 2021	14:00 – 20:00	East Tilbury Village Hall	Princess Margaret Road East Tilbury RM18 8RB
26 August 2021	14:00 – 20:00	East Tilbury Village Hall	Princess Margaret Road East Tilbury RM18 8RB
31 July 2021	12:00 – 18:00	The New Windmill Hall	St Marys Lane Upminster RM14 2QH
6 August 2021	14:00 –20:00	Linford Methodist Hall	East Tilbury Road Linford Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0QQ
24 August 2021	14:00 –20:00	Linford Methodist Hall	East Tilbury Road Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0QQ
18 August 2021	14:00 – 20:00	Homestead Village Hall	Dunstable Road Stanford-le-Hope SS17 8QT
31 August 2021	14:00 –20:00	Chadwell Village Hall	Waterson Road Chadwell St Mary RM16 4NX
1 September 2021	14:00 – 20:00	Brandon Groves Community Club	Brandon Groves Avenue South Ockendon RM15 6TD

8.8.54 The following documents were made available at the PIEs for visitors to read and to takeaway:

- a. Guide to Community Impacts Consultation
- b. Community Impacts Consultation response form and Freepost envelope
- c. Construction update
- d. Operations update
- e. Ward impact summaries (three volumes: South, North 1, and North 2)
- f. You Said, we did
- g. A3 map books (three volumes: General Arrangements, Land Use, and Construction)
- h. ‘Easy Read’ version of the Guide

- i. 'Easy Read' version of the Ward summaries
- j. 'Easy Read' version of You said, we did
- k. 'Your Property and Blight' booklet
- l. 'Your Property and Compulsory Purchase' booklet
- m. 'Your Property and Discretionary Purchase' booklet

8.8.55 Reference copies of each of the above documents as well as the following additional materials were available for visitors to view:

- a. Large scale map books (three volumes: General Arrangements, Land Use, and Construction)
- b. Draft Framework Construction Travel Plan
- c. Draft outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
- d. Draft outline Site Waste Management Plan
- e. Draft outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction
- f. Draft Materials Handling Plan
- g. Draft Design Principles
- h. Draft Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Plan
- i. Draft DCO Schedule 2 and Explanatory Note
- j. Draft Code of Construction Practice
- k. Draft Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments

8.8.56 Copies of all the materials available at the PIEs were also available on the consultation website.

8.8.57 Attendance at each PIE was registered by a member of staff counting visitors as they entered the exhibition space. The total number of attendees for all PIEs for the Community Impacts Consultation was recorded as 1,182.

### **Outdoor Information Centres**

8.8.58 The purpose of OICs was to enable the Applicant to ensure that face-to-face engagement could take place in areas where indoor venues were not available for hire. Holding events in outdoor areas was also intended to provide alternatives for people who might not wish to attend indoor events due to concerns over COVID-19.

8.8.59 Table 8.15 and Table 8.16 provide the details of OICS north and south of the River Thames where events were held.

**Table 8.15 Outdoor Information Centres south of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
4 August 2021	12:00 – 17:00	Chalk Parish Hall car park	Pirrip Close Gravesend DA12 2ND
8 August 2021	10:00 – 16:00	Shorne Woods Country Park	Brewers Road Shorne DA12 3HX
14 August 2021	10:00 – 16:00	Gravesend town centre	King Street Gravesend DA12 2XX
21 August 2021	10:00 – 16:00	Gravesend town centre	King Street Gravesend DA12 2XX

**Table 8.16 Outdoor Information Centres north of the River Thames**

Date	Time	Venue	Address
13 August 2021	11:00 – 15:00	Thames Chase Forest Centre	Broadfields Farm Pike Lane Upminster RM14 3NS
7 August 2021	10:00 – 16:00	Grays town centre	High Street Grays RM17 6NP

8.8.60 The following materials were available to view and takeaway at an OIC:

- a. Guide to Community Impacts Consultation
- b. Community Impacts Consultation response form and Freepost envelope
- c. Construction update
- d. Operations update
- e. Ward summaries (three volumes: South, North 1, and North 2)
- f. You said, we did
- g. A3 map books (three volumes: General Arrangements, Land Use, and Construction)

8.8.61 Reference copies of each of the above documents as well as the following additional materials were available for visitors to view:

- a. 'Easy read' version of the Guide



- b. Large scale map books (three volumes: General Arrangements, Land Use, and Construction)
- c. Draft outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction
- d. Draft Code of Construction Practice
- e. Draft Register of Environmental Actions and Controls
- f. 'Your Property and Blight' booklet
- g. 'Your Property and Discretionary Purchase' booklet

8.8.62 The total number of attendees at Outdoor Information Centres was recorded as 1,315.

### Public webinars

8.8.63 Six webinars were held, with two covering the Project proposals south of the River Thames, two covering the Project proposals north of the River Thames up to the A13, and two covering the Project proposals north of the A13. Each webinar included BSL translation and closed captioning.

8.8.64 For the Project proposals located south of the river, webinars were held on 28 July 2021 at 19:00 and 2 September 2021 at 19:00. For the Project proposals located north of the river up to the A13, webinars were held on 2 August 2021 at 19:00 and 25 August 2021 at 19:00. For the Project proposals located north of the A13, webinars were held on 10 August 2021 at 19:00 and 17 August 2021 at 19:00. Each webinar lasted approximately one hour.

8.8.65 The webinars were held on a platform called 'GoToWebinar'. Interested parties could go to the Project website to sign-up and receive a link for the webinar they wished to attend. When registering, they were also able to pre-submit questions to be answered during the question-and-answer section of the webinar. After each webinar, recordings of each session were made available for viewing on the consultation website and the Applicant's social media accounts.

8.8.66 During the webinar, representatives of the Project provided an overview of the consultation proposals related to the relevant section of the route. Members of the public were able to submit questions to Project representatives live during the webinar and the representatives responded to as many of the questions as possible during the live question-and-answer section of the webinar. Consultees in attendance were reminded in the webinar that if their question was not addressed during the question-and-answer section that they could book a call-back using the telephone surgery service.

8.8.67 In total, 158 people registered to attend the webinars and a combined 85 questions were answered during the question-and-answer sections of the webinars. Below are the number of attendees recorded for each webinar:

- a. Wednesday 28 July 2021 – 56 attendees (79 registered)
- b. Monday 2 August 2021 – 33 attendees (45 registered)
- c. Tuesday 10 August–2021 – 30 attendees (44 registered)

- d. Tuesday 17 August 2021 – 10 attendees (15 registered)
- e. Wednesday 25 August 2021 – 10 attendees (29 registered)
- f. Thursday 2 September 2021 – 19 attendees (62 registered)

#### **Consultation telephone call-back service**

8.8.68 The Applicant enabled people to book an appointment (via the website or the National Highways Customer Contact Centre) to receive a call-back from a member of the Project team. Call-backs were made on eight specific days:

- a. Friday July 23 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- b. Friday July 30 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- c. Thursday August 5 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- d. Saturday August 7 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- e. Thursday August 12 2021, 10:00 to 17:00
- f. Friday August 20 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- g. Monday August 23 2021, 12:00 to 19:00
- h. Monday September 6 2021, 12:00 to 19:00

8.8.69 As was the case at Supplementary and Design Refinement Consultation, a generalist from the Applicant's Project team had received training to answer any general queries. If in-depth queries were raised, however, a call-back was organised with a specialist from the Applicant's Project team.

8.8.70 A total of 37 call requests were received. Of these, 22 required follow-up call-backs from a specialist in the Applicant's team.

8.8.71 The webinars and telephone surgery were publicised in a number of ways including those described earlier in this chapter.

#### **Additional engagement activities during Community Impacts Consultation**

8.8.72 During the Community Impacts Consultation, there was extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders. Table 8.17 provides examples of the meetings held to discuss the Community Impacts Consultation.

**Table 8.17 Summary of workshops and meetings held during the Community Impacts Consultation**

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
10th Parliamentary Forum	14 July 2021	To discuss the latest Project developments, including the consultation and Project timings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gareth Johnson MP</li> <li>• Jackie Doyle-Price MP</li> <li>• Stephen Metcalfe MP</li> <li>• Damian Green MP</li> <li>• The Office of Adam Holloway MP</li> <li>• The Office of Tom Tugendhat MP</li> <li>• The Office of Priti Patel MP</li> <li>• The Office of James Duddridge MP</li> <li>• The Office of Natalie Elphicke MP</li> <li>• The Office of Rehman Chishti MP</li> <li>• The Office of Julia Lopez MP</li> </ul>
Project update meeting	16 July 2021	To provide an update, including consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South East Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	19 July 2021	To provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Downs AONB Unit</li> </ul>
Update meeting	19 July 2021	To provide an update, including consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council – Cllr Bob Lane</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	19 July 2021	To discuss matters, including the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
ESSPCG meeting	22 July 2021	To discuss the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex Police</li> </ul>
Project update meeting	26 July 2021	To provide an update and discuss engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thames Estuary Growth Board</li> <li>• Thurrock Business Board</li> <li>• Opportunity South Essex</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
All members meeting	26 July 2021	To brief on the consultation and discuss advocacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent County Council</li> </ul>
Mardyke water vole mitigation	5 August 2021	To discuss Mardyke water vole mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment Agency</li> </ul>
Consultation letter discussion	9 August 2021	To discuss the joint letter from councils asking for an extension to the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Project update	23 August 2021	To provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federation of Small Businesses</li> </ul>
Feedback meeting	31 August 2021	To provide feedback on the green bridge designs and landscape assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural England</li> </ul>
Catch-up meeting	1 September 2021	Progress meeting, including consultation response and deadline extension.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essex County Council</li> </ul>
Public Rights of Way meeting	2 September 2021	To discuss scheme impacts on PROWs and potential mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Spaces Society</li> </ul>

## 9 Local Refinement Consultation

### 9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter describes the non-statutory Local Refinement Consultation undertaken by the Applicant between 12 May and 20 June 2022.

### 9.2 Purpose of the Local Refinement Consultation

9.2.1 Following the non-statutory Community Impacts Consultation which took place between 14 July and 8 September 2021, the Applicant further developed its proposals for the Project. This resulted in refinements to the proposals, informed by consideration of the issues raised through the preceding consultation, as well as stakeholder engagement, on-going design development, assessments and investigations. These refinements were presented during the Local Refinement Consultation.

9.2.2 Chapter 14 of this report provides an account of the issues raised in responses to the Community Impacts Consultation and the ways in which the Applicant has had regard to them, including the inclusion of revised proposals in the Local Refinement Consultation.

9.2.3 As with the Community Impacts Consultation, the Local Refinement Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis because the changes proposed do not fundamentally affect the purpose of the Project, its route or its impacts. However, the consultation was conducted having regard to the principles of the pre-application statutory consultation set out in the Planning Act 2008 and in accordance with MHCLG guidance: 'The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process' (DCLG, 2015). In addition, as part of the Local Refinement Consultation, the Applicant also consulted, under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, five newly identified s42(1)(a)-(b) consultees, and a number of persons with an interest in land who had recently been identified as part of the Applicant's ongoing diligent inquiry into land interests affected by the Project. More information on this is provided later in this chapter.

9.2.4 In advance of the Local Refinement Consultation, host local authorities were also invited to respond to the Applicant's proposed approach to carrying out the consultation. This is also covered in more detail later in this chapter.

### 9.3 When Local Refinement Consultation took place

9.3.1 The Local Refinement Consultation took place between 12 May and 20 June 2022. The closing date and time of 20 June 2022 at 23:59 was publicised on consultation material, including letters sent to statutory consultees and landowners and publicity leaflets issued to local residents.

9.3.2 A consultation period of five and a half weeks was considered to be appropriate, based on an assessment of the scale and complexity of the consultation proposals, which were much more contained in scope than those presented at Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation and the Community Impacts Consultation.

## 9.4 Who the Applicant consulted

- 9.4.1 As with the Community Impacts Consultation, although the Local Refinement Consultation was undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the following groups and individuals were informed about the consultation:
- a. Section 42 – prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and those who own, occupy or have a legal interest in land that would be affected by the Project or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation as a result of the Project.
  - b. Section 47 – local community consultees, including people living in the vicinity of the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups and contacts registered on the Project's customer database. More information about community consultation is provided later in this chapter.

## 9.5 What the Applicant consulted on

- 9.5.1 The purpose of the Local Refinement Consultation was to seek feedback on the refinements presented in the consultation materials.
- 9.5.2 The Guide to the Local Refinement Consultation (“the Guide”) set out the proposed refinements according to where they were located (i.e. south or north of the River Thames). It also outlined some of the proposals thematically, such as 'Improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders' and 'Nitrogen Deposition'. A copy of the Guide is included in Appendix T of this report. The following is a summary of the issues covered in each chapter of the Guide, excluding chapters such as the introduction and 'how to have your say'.

### Chapter 3 – You Said, We Did

- 9.5.3 Following the precedent set at the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant produced a 'You Said, We Did' summary of how feedback from the Community Impacts Consultation had been considered and used as part of ongoing development of the Project proposals. Chapter 3 provided an overview of the feedback received as well as a table setting out how changes being proposed as part of the Local Refinement Consultation were influenced by feedback from the preceding consultation.

### Chapter 4 – Proposed changes since the community impacts consultation

- 9.5.4 The Guide contained a number of proposed changes to the Project proposals South and North of the river, summarised as follows.

#### South of the river in Kent

##### A2/M2 Corridor – Shorne Ifield Road

- 9.5.5 Relocation of the proposed compensatory woodland (12.5ha) to the south of Shorne Ifield Road from the previously proposed location north of Shorne Ifield Road.

## **A2, Roman Road and Pepper Hill, Gravesend**

- 9.5.6 A change to the Order Limits along the A2 to include Roman Road and Pepper Hill was proposed. This would provide a safe working space and a viable route for electricity cables and avoid the potential closure of cycle route NCR177 for a prolonged period.

## **Southern Tunnel Entrance**

- 9.5.7 Permanent acquisition of remaining 8ha area of Southern Valley Golf Club as a result of engagement with the landowner, feedback received during the community impacts consultation and further design development.

## **North of the river in Havering, Thurrock and Essex**

### **Tilbury area**

#### **Proposed location of Tilbury Fields**

- 9.5.8 An area of land previously identified for Tilbury Fields on the western side of the area (that borders the riverfront) had been relocated to the eastern side of the Lower Thames Crossing. This was due to the land previously identified being required for the potential future development of Thames Freeport.
- 9.5.9 Proposed landscaping would provide accessible footpaths to the top of the landform, which connect with the existing local footpath network. New footpaths within Tilbury Fields would ensure the park could be accessed via the Two Forts Way in the south and in the north via footpath FP200.

#### **North of the tunnel entrance and south of the Tilbury Loop railway line**

- 9.5.10 The existing proposals were modified to include operational access roads so that maintenance and emergency vehicles could access the Project. This would improve the safety of the new road once it is in operation.
- 9.5.11 A new bridge was introduced to allow the Applicant's operational vehicles and emergency service vehicles to cross over the new road at this location. As a result, the access road on the eastern side of the route could be removed.

#### **West of the LTC, on the site of the former Tilbury Power Station**

- 9.5.12 Working with the Port of Tilbury, the construction activities and support for the future plans for Thames Freeport had been refined. The Order Limits were extended to include the former Tilbury Power Station and former coal yard sites to be used during construction.
- 9.5.13 In addition, work was carried out with the developers of the Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant and Port of Tilbury to coordinate the multiple construction plans and accesses for this area, increasing the sustainability of the combined development plans.

#### **Dock Road, Hume Avenue and Port of Tilbury**

- 9.5.14 The previously proposed pipeline along Dock Road would no longer be required and the land associated with this proposal has been removed from the Order Limits.

### **Coopers Shaw Road (and fields to the north), and Gun Hill**

- 9.5.15 The proposed water pipelines along Dock Road and Rectory Road are no longer required. The land associated with these proposals along Dock Road, Hume Avenue, the A1089 to Fort Road access road, Rectory Road, Church Lane and part of Station Road were removed from the Order Limits.

### **North of Muckingford Road, west of Linford**

- 9.5.16 Part of an existing overhead power line would be retained that had previously been proposed to be placed underground. This would be achieved by constructing a temporary pylon, east of the existing one, between Muckingford Road and the Linford allotments.
- 9.5.17 The overhead power lines would be realigned via the temporary pylon while the existing pylon is removed, and a new terminal pylon is built in its place. The temporary overhead power lines would then be relocated on to the new pylon heading north and, on reaching the new terminal pylon, would be installed underground, joining the previously proposed route heading south. The temporary pylon and overhead power lines would then be removed.
- 9.5.18 To achieve this, the Order Limits needed to be increased to the south-west of Linford. Some of the land previously proposed for temporary use only would now need to be changed to temporary use with the permanent acquisition of rights.

### **Brentwood Road, south of the Orsett Cock junction**

- 9.5.19 The proposal was to divert a water pipeline along the A1013. The diverted asset severs a link with the existing water pipeline located further east, affecting local water services. The proposed change would reconnect residents by providing a new water pipe from the existing supply.
- 9.5.20 An extension of the Order Limits and acquisition of permanent rights is required to enable Essex and Suffolk Water to construct, operate and maintain this connection.

### **Various locations around the A13/A1089 junction**

- 9.5.21 The proposal included six landscaping features where the Project would join the A13.
- 9.5.22 The additional landscaping is located within the order limits presented in the 2021 Community Impacts Consultation, relating to land previously identified for woodland and other planting alongside the new road.

### **A link road south of the A13, between the Orsett Cock junction and the A1089**

- 9.5.23 The proposed link road was revised, reducing the traffic on Brentwood Road and the A1013 Stanford Road in comparison to the traffic forecasts that were presented in summer 2021.
- 9.5.24 The A1089 southbound is currently accessed from a link road off the A13 westbound, which is to the west of the Orsett Cock junction. As part of the design, the Applicant proposed moving the link road so that traffic using it would



leave the A13 earlier, and before westbound traffic from the Orsett Cock junction would join the A13.

- 9.5.25 This new proposal would result in a change to the connection from the A13 westbound to the A1089 southbound that would be accessed directly from the Orsett Cock junction. Traffic would be able to access the A1089 southbound from the A13 and Orsett Cock junction without the need to use local roads. Westbound traffic on the A13 to the east of the Orsett Cock junction would need to leave the A13 at the Orsett Cock junction to access the new link road to the A1089 southbound.

#### **North of the A13, from Baker Street to near the A128 Brentwood Road and east of the Orsett Cock junction, south of the A13**

- 9.5.26 The proposed route of a gas pipeline diversion in this location was refined to avoid a scheduled monument west of Orsett.
- 9.5.27 The Order Limits were modified as a result of this change and the pipeline could pass through a gap in existing vegetation, removing a risk to a veteran tree.
- 9.5.28 There would be a minor extension of the Order Limits to allow for modifications to be completed to the existing network east of Orsett Cock junction.

#### **Mardyke Valley / North Road area**

##### **Section of the route that passes under North Road crossing (near The Wilderness)**

- 9.5.29 The depth of cutting proposed for a 2.4km stretch of the new road was reduced from 6.5m to 5.5m. By raising the road in this location, the amount of excavated material would be considerably reduced, without any significant change in noise and visual impacts during construction or operation.

##### **M25/LTC junction (North Ockendon)**

- 9.5.30 Proposed additional landscaping up to six metres from the existing ground level with planting around the M25/LTC junction.
- 9.5.31 In addition, two other landscaping features around the junction between the Project and the M25 were proposed.
- 9.5.32 The additional landscaping would be within the Order Limits presented in the 2021 community impacts consultation and would relate to land identified for woodland and other planting along the new road. No further land would be required to accommodate this change.

##### **LTC/M25 junction (North Ockendon)**

- 9.5.33 At the Community Impacts Consultation, the 1.5km section of road at this location was proposed to be in a cutting up to 11.3m below ground level.
- 9.5.34 As a result of further design refinement, the proposal was to raise the height of the road alignment while maintaining the required headroom clearance beneath existing structures.
- 9.5.35 The depth of the cutting at the LTC/M25 junction would be reduced by 1.5m to 9.8m below ground level for around 1.5km.

## **M25 Junction 29 area**

### **To the west of Clay Tye Road and within Thames Chase Community Forest, Upminster**

- 9.5.36 Following site investigations by UK Power Networks and feedback from landowners, the proposal to divert electricity cables in this location was refined. Overhead power lines would now be diverted along two new taller pylons north of their current position either side of the M25. Another electricity cable through the proposed Thames Chase footbridge would be diverted, removing the need for trenchless installation of the cables under the M25, as previously proposed at the supplementary consultation.
- 9.5.37 This change would use more of the existing electricity infrastructure to deliver the proposal and removes the requirement for a substation to be built along Clay Tye Road. It also reduces the extent of works previously proposed to the east and west of the M25, resulting in some changes to the Order Limits in this location.

### **South of the Shoeburyness railway line (between Upminster and Laindon), west of the B186 Warley Street**

- 9.5.38 At the Supplementary Consultation, the Applicant proposed to divert an existing electricity cable in this location. Whilst this diversion is still required, following discussions with UK Power Networks the diversion was refined and the construction area was moved 30m to the east.
- 9.5.39 This proposal would result in a reduction in the Order Limits to the north of Tyes Stud Farm as the land is no longer needed.
- 9.5.40 Permanent rights of access would be required from Warley Street for the operation and maintenance of the network by UK Power Networks. There would also be a minor increase in the Order Limits to the east of the cable diversion to accommodate the construction of these works.

### **Improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders**

- 9.5.41 Ongoing discussions with stakeholders as well as consideration of consultation feedback had led to a series of proposed changes to the Applicant's plans for routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. These were summarised in Chapter 4 of the guide.
- 9.5.42 To the south of the River Thames the proposals included:
- a. Redesignation of Hever Court pedestrian-cycle track north of the A2/Lower Thames Crossing junction to a bridleway
  - b. Redesignation of footpath NS169 as a pedestrian-cycle route at Michael Gardens
  - c. Redesignation of footpath NG8, south of the A226 Gravesend Road

- 9.5.43 To the north of the river the proposals included:
- a. New footpaths to link the heritage assets of Coalhouse Fort and Bowaters Battery to East Tilbury
  - b. The realignment of BR219 along the Mardyke river
  - c. Upgrading the walking, cycling and horse-riding bridge over the A127, east of M25 junction 29
  - d. A new walking, cycling and horse-riding bridge over the A127 west of junction 29
  - e. The eastern end of FP136 to be upgraded to a bridleway link to Mardyke Way. The proposed equestrian bridge over the Mardyke River would be a footbridge and the existing footbridge to the north would be replaced with an equestrian bridge

### Special category land

- 9.5.44 The Local Refinement Consultation proposals included amendments to areas of special category land (as defined by the Acquisition of Land Act 1981) that had previously been the subject of consultation by the Applicant. The Guide described in full the three amendments summarised below.

#### Tilbury Green

- 9.5.45 This area of land is registered common land and allows for public access. It includes FP200 and links into other footpaths within the surrounding area.
- 9.5.46 The proposals close to Tilbury Green were changed to accommodate emerging plans for Thames Freeport, located immediately west of the Project on the north bank of the River Thames. The area of Tilbury Green within the Order Limits had not changed but the area that is proposed to be acquired permanently had increased from approximately 7,400m<sup>2</sup> to approximately 12,500m<sup>2</sup>.
- 9.5.47 Areas of the diverted footpath would be designated as common land so that they would benefit from the same rights as the affected parts of FP200. The replacement land comprises approximately 12,800 square metres compared with approximately 12,500 square metres that is proposed to be acquired. The replacement land would be no less advantageous for the public.

#### Walton Common and Parsonage Common

- 9.5.48 The land is registered as common land and provides scrub and grassland, which is valuable for wildlife and drainage.
- 9.5.49 Construction of the Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant (TFGP) NSIP, separate to the Project, would result in the permanent loss of approximately 10.1ha of Walton Common. A Section 16 (Commons Act 2006) application has been submitted in connection with TFGP to de-register the area of Walton Common affected by the TFGP proposal. If successful, the existing site would no longer be common land and an area of approximately 11.6ha immediately to the north would instead be designated as common land.

- 9.5.50 The proposal would reduce the Order Limits around Fort Road and the Port of Tilbury entrance to avoid impacts on Walton Common.

#### **Thames Chase Community Forest**

- 9.5.51 This site consists of open fields, walking tracks and a mix of vegetation, including memorial trees. It is designated as open space.
- 9.5.52 The utility diversion proposals had been developed further to refine the land needed at this location, and more of the existing utilities infrastructure would be used to deliver the proposal.
- 9.5.53 The revised proposal diverts overhead power lines along two new taller pylons north of their current position either side of the M25. It would divert another electricity cable through the proposed Thames Chase footbridge, removing the need for trenchless installation of the cables under the M25 as previously proposed. The replacement land covers approximately 156,100 square metres. This is no less in area than the land proposed to be permanently acquired and the land that may be less advantageous once the necessary rights are acquired. The proposals for the replacement land are unchanged from the previous proposals.
- 9.5.54 The replacement land would provide new woodland and biodiversity mitigation, and would include a mixture of grassland, scrub and trees. It would provide equal accessibility and would be no less advantageous for the public.

#### **Private recreational facilities**

- 9.5.55 Following the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant identified the need to amend its proposals affecting Linford Allotments, which is one of the private recreational facilities that would be affected by the Project.

#### **Linford Allotments**

- 9.5.56 Since the Community Impacts Consultation, the utilities design had changed slightly in this location, and so the Applicant proposed to divert both existing overhead electricity powerlines onto a temporary alignment over the allotments, and then back to the existing alignment permanently after the works are complete.
- 9.5.57 This would result in a temporary impact on the use of the allotments during construction, including restriction on the use of the site during the works. These works would be similar in nature to those undertaken for the routine operation and maintenance of the existing utilities assets in this location. This would not prevent the existing use of the allotments following the completion of works.

### **Chapter 5 – Assessment of the impacts of nitrogen deposition and proposals for mitigation and compensation**

- 9.5.58 Chapter 5 of the Guide described the impacts on the environment of nitrogen emissions from traffic flows that would change as a result of operating the Project, along with the assessments carried out to identify the proposals for mitigating and compensating for the predicted impacts.

- 9.5.59 The chapter explained:
- a. which designated sites are likely to be significantly affected
  - b. what mitigation and compensation measures were explored and those that are being proposed
  - c. compensation sites proposed for habitat creation
- 9.5.60 In this instance, mitigation means measures that would reduce the amount of nitrogen deposition, while compensation refers to proposals to offset the emissions by creating new habitats and enhancing existing ones.
- 9.5.61 As was explained in the Guide, the proposals included compensation sites that were outside of and not connected to the existing Order Limits.

## 9.6 How consultation was carried out

### Engagement before Local Refinement Consultation

- 9.6.1 The following paragraphs explain how engagement with relevant stakeholders was undertaken before the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation.

#### Technical engagement meetings

- 9.6.2 A series of meetings with host local authorities and statutory environmental bodies were held between January and May 2022. These meetings covered a range of topics. Table 9.1 provides a summary.

**Table 9.1 Summary of meetings held in preparation for the local refinement consultation**

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Regular catch-up meeting	5 January 2022 2 February 2022	Meetings to provide updates and discuss ongoing work and tasks. This meeting has also been used to provide an update on the Local Refinement Consultation in relation to the SoCC and the proposed changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> </ul>
Nitrogen deposition and consultation briefing	18 January 2022	Meeting to introduce topics that will form part of the upcoming LTC consultation, the associated Statement of Community Consultation and the plans for consultation events. The meeting also included an update on the selection of nitrogen deposition compensation sites to be covered in the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Consultation briefing	25 January 2022	Meeting to introduce topics that will form part of the upcoming LTC consultation, the associated Statement of Community Consultation and the plans for consultation events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for London</li> </ul>
Nitrogen deposition briefing	25 January 2022	Meeting to provide an update on the selection of nitrogen deposition compensation sites to be covered in the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Regular catch-up meeting	8 & 22 February 2022 8 March 2022	Meetings to provide updates and discuss ongoing work and tasks. This meeting has also been used to provide an update on the Local Refinement Consultation in relation to the SoCC and the proposed changes, attended by Consultation and Technical Specialists to provide updates, respond to issues and answer questions raised by the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for London</li> </ul>
Consultation design change briefing	28 April 2022	Meeting to discuss changes that will form part of the upcoming LTC consultation. Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional landscaping M25 (North Ockendon)</li> <li>Raising section of LTC road at M25 Junction at North Ockendon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Consultation content briefing	5 May 2022	Session to provide an outline of the project consultation materials. Agenda to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local refinement consultation</li> <li>Response to community impacts consultation</li> <li>Landowner engagement and minor refinements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essex County Council</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Consultation content briefing	5 May 2022	Session to provide an outline of the project consultation materials. Agenda to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local refinement consultation</li> <li>Response to community impacts consultation</li> <li>Landowner engagement and minor refinements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Borough of Havering</li> </ul>
Nitrogen Deposition Methodology Briefing	10 March 2022	Briefing covering methodology for understanding nitrogen deposition impacts and the Project's approach for mitigation and compensation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Fortnightly catch-up meeting	9 meetings during January 2022 – May 2022	Meetings to provide updates and discuss ongoing work and tasks. This meeting has also been used to provide an update on the Local Refinement Consultation in relation to the SoCC and the proposed changes, attended by Consultation and Technical Specialists to provide updates, respond to issues and answer questions raised by the local authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Local Refinement Consultation update	4 May 2022	Meeting to provide the Council with a briefing on the content of the Local Refinement Consultation materials and additional documents content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Local Refinement Consultation update	20 January 2022	Meeting to provide update on the SoCC and proposals for Nitrogen deposition to be included in the Local Refinement Consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent County Council</li> <li>Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>
Walking, cycling and horse-riding strategy development update	30 March 2022	Update on the Walking, Cycling and Horse-riding strategy development and how it relates to changes in the upcoming Local Refinement Consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent County Council</li> <li>Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>

Meeting title	Date	Description	Attendees
Local Refinement Consultation update on changes to order limits	1 April 2022	Local Refinement Consultation update on changes to Order Limits at the medieval settlement north of Shorne Ifield Road and the Chalk Park extension.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>
Local Refinement Consultation update and materials run through	6 May 2022	Local Refinement Consultation and project update including consultation materials run-through, response to Community Impacts Consultation, Landowner engagement and minor refinements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> </ul>
Nitrogen deposition Q&A	24 May 2022	Q&A session for council regarding the proposals for nitrogen deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent County Council</li> </ul>
Design of Tilbury Fields Meeting	25 January 2022	Meeting to discuss the proposed Tilbury Fields re-design with all relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Historic England</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul>
Environment & Community Group Local Refinement Consultation briefing	16 May 2022	Briefing to update on Local Refinement Consultation proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• Kent Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Buglife</li> </ul>
Consultation Briefings	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022	To present the Applicant's proposal for the Local Refinement Consultation and to discuss any SoCG feedback Dartford Council may have.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dartford Borough Council</li> </ul>
Consultation Briefings	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	To present proposals for upcoming Local Refinement Consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway Council</li> </ul>
Consultation Briefing	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	To present proposals for upcoming Local Refinement Consultation and discuss any feedback relating to SoCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tonbridge and Malling Council</li> </ul>

## Notification to statutory consultees

9.6.3 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant used the opportunity as part of the Local Refinement Consultation to notify all of the organisations and individuals previously consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. These consultees were identified as described in Section 4.3 of this report.



- 9.6.4 On 11 May 2022, letters were sent to existing section 42(1) (a)-(c) consultees to provide notice of the start of the Local Refinement Consultation. Recipients were made aware of the previous consultations and how they could view materials and respond to the latest consultation. See Appendix T for a copy of this letter.
- 9.6.5 On the same date, formal section 42 notification letters were sent to five additional organisations who had been identified as section 42 prescribed bodies or host authorities. In each case, the new organisations had become s42 consultees as a result of the newly proposed environmental mitigation areas in Kent, which involves land not previously included within the Order Limits.
- 9.6.6 Table 9.2 below lists the five organisations and the reasons for their status as section 42 consultees.

**Table 9.2 Additional section 42 consultees**

Organisation	Status under s42
Aylesford Parish Council	S42(1)(a)
Boxley Parish Council	S42(1)(a)
South East Water	S42(1)(a)
Ashford Borough Council	S42(1)(b)
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	S42(1)(b)

*An example of the letter sent to the five organisations is provided in Appendix K of the Consultation Report.*

- 9.6.7 As described in Chapter 5 of this report, in advance of the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation, further land referencing undertaken by the Applicant resulted in the identification of a number of additional affected land interests. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owners of these affected interests were consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. All such parties were notified by letter and provided with an opportunity to respond to the Statutory Consultation, Supplementary Consultation, Design Refinement and Community Impacts Consultation proposals.
- 9.6.8 For the Local Refinement Consultation, a total of 223 section 42(1)(d) consultees that are listed in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.2) were identified and sent a letter on 12 May 2022 to notify them of the launch of the consultation. After the launch, 58 s42 letters were sent to newly identified people. Of these, 57 appear in the Book of Reference.
- 9.6.9 Also on 12 May 2022, all persons with an interest in land who had previously been consulted under section 42(1)(d) at an earlier stage in the consultation process, these being persons who were not identified as having a new interest in land affected by the Project at Local Refinement Consultation, were also sent a letter notifying them of the Local Refinement Consultation, how to find out more information and how to respond. These persons were consulted on a non-statutory basis. Examples of the letters sent to these consultees can be found in Appendix T.

- 9.6.10 Shortly after the launch of the consultation it became apparent to the Applicant that the delivery of letters to newly identified and previously consulted s42(1)(d) land interests may have been inadvertently delayed. The Applicant investigated this issue in order to establish the full extent of the issue before concluding that there had been a delay of two days. In order to address this issue and ensure that all affected parties were fairly treated, the Applicant wrote again to all new and existing s42(1)(d) land interests to explain that the deadline for responses had been extended, for named recipients of the letters, by two days to 22 June 2022.
- 9.6.11 Responses received from section 42(1)(d) consultees to the Local Refinement Consultation are addressed in Chapter 15 of this report.

### **Notifying the Planning Inspectorate**

- 9.6.12 On 10 May 2022, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the commencement of the Local Refinement Consultation. A letter and email were issued on this date. The Applicant also supplied at this time electronic links to copies of the material produced for consultation, as well as examples of some of the letters that were sent to consultees, including the letter issued to newly identified landowners that were consulted on a statutory basis under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, as part of the Local Refinement Consultation.
- 9.6.13 A copy of the letter to notify the Secretary of State of the Local Refinement Consultation is included in Appendix T.

### **Community consultation**

- 9.6.14 As with the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant prepared for the Local Refinement Consultation by planning a campaign of engagement aimed at the local communities potentially affected by the planned development. This approach included consideration of the needs and preferences of different communities and individuals across the affected area, including hard-to-reach groups.
- 9.6.15 The following paragraphs describe different aspects of the approach to effectively engaging with local residents as part of the local community consultation.

### **Approach to the Local Refinement Consultation**

- 9.6.16 Although undertaken on a non-statutory basis, the Applicant chose to engage with the 10 host local authorities regarding the approach to the Local Refinement Consultation. A draft 'Local Refinement Consultation: Non-Statutory Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Addendum' (the 'draft non-statutory SoCC Addendum') document was issued by email on 13 January 2022 to the following local authorities: Brentwood Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, the London Borough of Havering, Kent County Council, Maidstone Council, Medway Council, Thurrock Council, and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The SoCC Addendum was also issued to Transport for London. Maidstone Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council had become

host authorities as a result of the newly proposed environmental compensation areas described earlier in this chapter.

- 9.6.17 The draft non-statutory SoCC Addendum was issued shortly before dedicated meetings scheduled to discuss the document, gain initial feedback and to discuss it took place. Following the initial meetings in which informal feedback was given, local authorities were given approximately a month to respond with formal feedback, with all responses due back by 18 February.
- 9.6.18 The 10 host authorities mentioned above and Transport for London were invited to meetings on the subject of the draft non-statutory SoCC addendum.
- 9.6.19 The purpose of the draft non-statutory SoCC Addendum was to provide an overview of the Applicant's approach to consultation with local authorities and communities and the publicity methods. The SoCC Addendum included:
- a. The proposed start date and duration of the consultation
  - b. A project overview giving a high-level summary of the Project and our approach to consultation
  - c. A list and short explanation of the consultation materials
  - d. An overview of the consultation publicity methods and how consultees could respond
  - e. An appendix giving a list of proposed changes included in the Local Refinement Consultation
  - f. An appendix showing the leaflet distribution area for properties in the vicinity of the route
  - g. An appendix giving proposed deposit locations and information points
- 9.6.20 Formal feedback on the SoCC was received from Dartford Council, Gravesham Borough Council, London Borough of Havering, Medway Council, Thurrock BC officers and the leader of the Council. Essex CC advised that they had no substantive feedback.
- 9.6.21 On 1 March 2022, an update note was provided to local councillors in Brentwood Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, London Borough of Havering, Medway Borough Council, Kent County Council, and Thurrock Council, informing them that the Applicant would reschedule the Local Refinement Consultation to run following the pre-election period, launching at 00.01 on Thursday 12 May 2022 closing on Monday 20 June 2022 at 23.59. The consultation was rescheduled due to concerns raised by some local authorities over the initial proposed consultation period running over a pre-election period. The Applicant also added two additional events, as well as deposit locations and information points in response to feedback from local authorities. A copy of the email is available in Appendix T.

- 9.6.22 Between 4 March 2022 and 7 March 2022, the Applicant sent an update note entitled 'Non-Statutory Statement of Community Consultation Addendum: Update on Local Authority Feedback' to host local authorities that included more detail on the proposed updates to the consultation plans, including an additional one-week governance extension period for local authorities to submit a response, a preview of the consultation materials shortly ahead of the launch date and an acknowledgement of the suggestions sent for minor changes to the draft non-statutory SoCC Addendum text and images. This Update on Local Authority feedback is available in Appendix T.
- 9.6.23 Five local authorities provided a formal response to the draft non-statutory SoCC Addendum, and six authorities (including Transport for London) provided informal feedback through meetings or as part of ongoing correspondence. Feedback from all 11 bodies is summarised in Table 9.3 below.
- 9.6.24 Following consideration of the formal responses, a final 'Lower Thames Crossing: Local Refinement Consultation Non-Statutory Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Addendum' (the final non-statutory SoCC Addendum) was issued for information to local authorities on 29 April. The final non-statutory SoCC Addendum included:
- a. The finalised dates for the consultation
  - b. An updated list of materials that would be supplied as part of the consultation and the chapters in the consultation guide
  - c. Additional detail regarding the publicity and response channels that would be used to help ensure hard-to-reach groups, including those who were unable to access the internet, were able to participate in the consultation
  - d. Information on the videos provided
  - e. Details of how to respond
  - f. An appendix showing the leaflet distribution area including all postcodes within 2km of the route of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and to postcodes in proximity to proposed new areas of compensatory habitat for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition on designated ecological sites
  - g. An appendix showing deposit locations and information points
- 9.6.25 The final non-statutory SoCC Addendum is available in Appendix T.

**Table 9.3 Summary of feedback on draft approach to local refinement consultation**

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
<b>Brentwood Borough Council</b> (formal response not supplied)	Consultation response may need to be officer-only, or delayed until after the local elections held on 5 May 2022.	Noting the concerns expressed by Brentwood Borough Council and other local authorities, the consultation was rescheduled until after the election period.
<b>Dartford Borough Council</b> (formal response supplied)	Suggested a consultation event should be held at Bluewater	The Applicant considered this request but an event at Bluewater was not provided as the impacts of the changes proposed in the Local Refinement Consultation were not considered to be directly relevant to Dartford. However, the Applicant added Dartford Library as a venue to take away consultation materials and response forms to ensure an information venue was available in Dartford.
	Request for more information about presentation of The Community Impacts Consultation impact feedback	A verbal update was given about the approach to publishing Community Impacts Consultation feedback and a written update provided in the cover note to final SoCC. This note explained that the Applicant would publish an online update, 'Response to Community Impacts Consultation', which sets out the headline feedback from the Community Impacts Consultation and how the Applicant considered those points.
	Request for more information about DCO submission date and impact of Nitrogen deposition proposals on Dartford	Approved messaging and information on DCO submission date and NDEP proposals provided during ongoing stakeholder engagement.
<b>Essex County Council</b> (no formal response)	Essex County Council advised that it would not provide formal comments.	Noted
	Recognised that other Local Authorities would raise pre-election period as an issue	Noting feedback from local authorities, the consultation was rescheduled until after the pre-election period
	Requested feedback on scope of the <i>You Said, We Did</i> document	The Applicant provided a verbal update about the approach to publishing Community Impacts Consultation feedback and written update in cover note to final SoCC. This note explained that the Applicant would publish an online update which sets out the headline feedback from the Community Impacts Consultation and how the Applicant considered those points.

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
<b>Gravesham Borough Council</b> (formal response)	Suggested eight-week consultation	The Local Refinement Consultation was extended to 5.5 weeks from 4 weeks to allow additional time to respond. Local authorities were also given an additional one-week governance extension period.
	Notes addition of new NDEP compensation land sites within Order Limits, and suggests that the additional land included and NDEP issues newly presented would require additional time to consider	The consultation was extended to 5.5 weeks and NDEP explanatory text and drawings were provided as part of consultation.
	Notes timing of consultation would impact some other Local Authorities' elections	Noting feedback from local authorities, the consultation was rescheduled until after the election period.
	Requested additional consultation event in Gravesham	In response to Gravesham's request, an additional event was provided in Gravesham at Shorne Village Hall on Friday 10 June 2022.
	Queried level of detail in Community Impacts consultation <i>You said, we did</i> document	The consultation guide included a summary of information in response to the Community Impacts Consultation and signposted to the full document. The Applicant provided a verbal update about the approach to publishing the Community Impacts Consultation feedback and a written update was provided in the cover note to the final SoCC. This note explained that the Applicant would publish an online update which sets out the headline feedback from the community impacts consultation and how the Applicant considered those points.
	Suggested traffic modelling and environmental information was insufficient	The traffic modelling, environmental information and other assessment information were included in accordance with the scope of the consultation and were reviewed to ensure that consultees could comment meaningfully on the proposals. The Applicant has also provided traffic modelling and other assessment information to local authorities through ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
<b>London Borough of Havering</b> (formal response)	Concern over timing of consultation due to pre-election period	Noting feedback from local authorities, the consultation was rescheduled until after the election period.
	Concern that consultation was not long enough	In response to feedback from the London Borough of Havering and other local authorities, the Applicant increased the consultation duration to 5.5 weeks to allow more time to consider the proposals and respond. Local authorities were also given an additional one-week governance extension period.
	Suggestions about publicity channels, including social media, local radio, and hard-to-reach groups	The Applicant drew on its experience of holding previous consultations and the measures taken to promote and inform audiences of the consultation. This included supplying consultation materials to local authorities to distribute on their channels. Using local radio was considered but it was decided not to use that channel of communication on the basis that other methods would prove to be more impactful and cost effective. The methods and channels for publicising the consultation to hard-to-reach groups were included in the final non-statutory SoCC Addendum.
	Suggestion to use Rainham Library as information point	Rainham Library was not used as a deposit location as it is not in the vicinity of proposed changes. Belhus Library, South Ockendon and Upminster Library were used as information points nearby. The London Borough of Havering confirmed that this did not present an issue ahead of publication of the final SoCC.
<b>Kent County Council</b> (no formal response)	Concern that consultation dates would coincide with Easter	The Applicant rescheduled consultation to avoid the Easter period and local pre-election period.
	Suggested other venues nearer to Blue Bell Hill be used as deposit location rather than Tonbridge library	Kent History & Library Centre, Maidstone, was used as a deposit location. The deposit locations at Snodland Library and Cuxton Library were also at a similar distance from Blue Bell Hill.
<b>Maidstone Council</b> (no formal response)	Requested that draft SoCC addendum could be shared with leader and chief executive	The Applicant agreed to this suggestion.

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
<b>Medway Council</b> (formal response)	Concerns over the authority’s ability to respond to consultation in proposed timeframes	In response to feedback from Medway Council and other local authorities, the Local Refinement Consultation was rescheduled and extended, with a Local Authority governance period added.
	Requested event in Medway	A consultation event at Chatham was provided in the initial draft SoCC.
	Suggested Cuxton Library as deposit location	Cuxton library was used as a deposit location.
<b>Thurrock Council</b> (formal response)	Concerns over consultation running over pre-election period and Easter	In response to feedback from Thurrock Council and other local authorities, the Local Refinement Consultation was rescheduled to avoid the Easter period and pre-election period.
	Suggested consultation not long enough and eight-week consultation	In response to feedback from local authorities, the Applicant increased consultation duration to 5.5 weeks.
	Suggested that the consultation did not follow Cabinet Office guidelines and is not adequate or fair	The Applicant has followed all relevant guidance on consultation best practice and has ensured that all legal compliance has been met.
	Scope of consultation would fall disproportionately on Thurrock	The Applicant engaged previously with Thurrock Council on the changes and developments presented in the Local Refinement Consultation. Additionally, the Applicant extended the consultation to 5.5 weeks, added a governance period for local authorities, and added two events in Thurrock, one at <b>Tilbury Community Association, on Tuesday 7 June</b> and one at East Tilbury Village Hall on Thursday 26th May
	Queries over Community Impacts consultation feedback being issued but not within the scope of the Local Refinement Consultation.	The consultation guide included a summary of information in response to the Community Impacts Consultation and signposted to the full ‘You Said, We Did’ response document.




Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
	Further modelling and assessment information is required	The scope of the consultation comprised a series of changes to the Project, and so a full re-consultation on the traffic and air quality changes across the entire affected area was not considered appropriate. During the development of the consultation materials, information on the changes in traffic flows and environmental impacts associated with the changes subject to consultation were included. This information was reviewed during development of the consultation materials to ensure that consultees could comment meaningfully on the proposals. The Applicant has also provided traffic modelling and other assessment information to local authorities through ongoing stakeholder engagement. All assessment information provided at Local Refinement Consultation was in line with assessment approach and consultation scope.
	Review of final SocC requested	The draft non-statutory SoCC was updated in line with feedback provided by local authorities before being finalised and issued for reference to those local authorities. It was not considered necessary to invite a further round of comment on the document, though the Applicant continued to engage with local authorities before the launch of consultation and during its delivery.
	More detail about project proposals requested	Comments requesting further Project details were noted. A full description of the changes was provided as part of the Local Refinement Consultation.
	Suggestions about leaflet and consultation material distribution, events and consultation	Two additional events were provided in Thurrock as a result of feedback from Thurrock Council: one at <b>Tilbury Community Association, on Tuesday 7 June</b> as a result of SoCC feedback and one at East Tilbury Village Hall on Thursday 26th May following councillor feedback after the consultation launch.  Tilbury Hub was added as a venue to take away consultation materials and response form.  Chadwell St Mary Library was added as a venue to take away consultation materials and response forms, and to view reference materials and technical documents.

Local authority	Summary of comments	How comments were considered by the Applicant
<b>Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council</b> (no formal response)	Confirmed that Snodland Library and Larkfield Library are suitable venues to hold consultation materials	Snodland Library was used as a venue to take away consultation materials and response forms, and to view reference materials and technical documents.  Larkfield Library was used as a venue to take away consultation materials and response forms.
	Suggested event venues including Bridgewood Hotel, near A229, and the Holiday Inn near Rochester	Bridgewood Hotel was used as an event venue.
<b>Transport for London</b> (no formal response)	Queried the level of detail to be provided for the A127 bridge.	Descriptions of new A127 bridge and upgraded bridge was given in consultation materials and the locations shown on drawings and maps.
	Asked whether a rationale and narrative for NDEP would be provided to inform stakeholders	Information on NDEP was provided as part of the Local Refinement Consultation. As this was developed it was carefully reviewed to ensure that it provided a clear rationale and narrative for the revised proposals.
	Queried timings around pre-election period.	In response to feedback from Transport for London and local authorities, the consultation was rescheduled to avoid the pre-election period.

## 'Digital-first' approach

- 9.6.26 Preparations for the Local Refinement Consultation took place when restrictions put in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic were being eased. The Applicant was aware that while some people would be prepared to participate in a consultation through traditional face-to-face engagement, others would not, and so the consultation was prepared using many of the 'digital-first' methods that had been successfully used for the Design Refinement Consultation and refined again for the Community Impacts Consultation. These methods included:
- 9.6.27 A telephone service, where people could speak to a Project representative if they had any questions regarding the proposals. For the Local Refinement Consultation, the Applicant also accepted consultation feedback by telephone. Twelve members of the public used this service and the Applicant responded to queries on topics including property, employment and accessibility-related issues.
- 9.6.28 Ordering and home delivery of Local Refinement Consultation documents (one copy per household), free of charge.
- 9.6.29 A leaflet-drop ahead of consultation launch to around 150,000 properties within approximately 2km of the route centre line and areas affected from nitrogen deposition mitigation and compensation measures. The leaflet included a brief introduction to the Project, the Local Refinement Consultation, and the pre-order service for the consultation materials.
- 9.6.30 Publication of non-statutory notices in local and national newspapers a week ahead of the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation to inform people about the consultation and how to take part.
- 9.6.31 An interactive map where people could search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area.
- 9.6.32 Video guides to the proposals north and south of the River Thames

## Materials

- 9.6.33 To support the delivery of the Local Refinement Consultation, a range of materials were produced to explain the proposed refinements, publicise the consultation and set out the ways in which people could respond. Table 9.4 provides a breakdown of the documents published and a description of the information they included. If the name of a document is highlighted in bold, this indicates that a copy of it is included in Appendix T of this report. Appendix T provides weblinks to the other documents, all of which are available on the Local Refinement Consultation website
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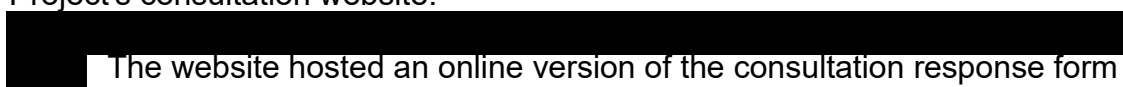
**Table 9.4 Local Refinement Consultation materials**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Lower Thames Crossing Guide to the Local Refinement Consultation</b>	Explains the refinements proposed, including simplified maps and computer-generated images, signposting to supporting materials for further details. Explains the process for providing feedback and the closing date for responses to be received.
<b>Consultation leaflet</b>	A summary of the proposals, information about how to learn more, including digital engagement channels and, for those without access to the internet, details on how to pre-order materials.
<b>Response form</b>	A standalone document that contained questions on the proposed refinements as described in the consultation materials.
Map books	Map book 1: General Arrangements – shows proposed details of the Project, including permanent works, construction compounds, environmental mitigation, utilities diversions, development boundary, and open space and replacement land.
	Map book 2: Land Use Plans – showed areas where the Project is seeking powers to compulsorily acquire land or rights. The plans also show the land of which temporary possession would be sought in order to construct the Project.
	Map book 3: Engineering Plans – drawings in plan and profile, junction arrangements and cross sections of the route including lanes and earthworks.
Large scale maps	A range of larger scale maps presented the information shown in the map books including environmental constraints and land use.
Interactive online map books	The Project website included interactive maps for the General Arrangements, Land Use and Engineering plans. These interactive maps enabled people to search by address or postcode to see the Project proposals in their area.
Aerial view of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing	Aerial view map of the Lower Thames Crossing and wider area.
Non-statutory Statement of Community Consultation Addendum	Issued to local authorities and stakeholders outlining the approach to community consultation.
Non-statutory notice	A non-statutory notice conveying basic information about the consultation, including key dates and how to respond, that was published in a series of newspapers.
Posters	A4 and A3 posters advertising the consultation website, with a QR code which took people directly to the consultation website if scanned.
Your property and blight	

Document	Description
Your property and compulsory purchase	Three guides produced by the Applicant to provide information to people whose property may be affected by the new road proposals and improvements.
Your property and discretionary purchase	

9.6.34 Copies of the consultation materials were available for inspection at eight deposit locations and 15 information points, which are described in further detail later in this section of the consultation report. To help improve accessibility for responding to the consultation, it was also possible to order hard copies of the consultation material for home delivery, free of charge (limited to one copy per household).

9.6.35 Consultation documents could also be viewed and downloaded from the Project's consultation website:



The website hosted an online version of the consultation response form and was available throughout the consultation period. During the consultation, there were approximately 20,000 click throughs to the website.

9.6.36 A third-party agency was commissioned to reproduce a version of the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation in an 'Easy Read' format. The purpose of Easy Read is to convey information in a style that, by making use of infographics and short statements, is more easily understood by people who have difficulty reading. This was made available at events, deposit locations and information points. It was also available upon request, free of charge. There were no requests for the Easy Read guide to be posted. A link to the Easy Read guide is available in Appendix T.


9.6.37 It was also possible to request copies of documents in alternative languages, by calling the Applicant's telephone line advertised on consultation materials or using an equivalent email address. There were no requests received for Local Refinement Consultation documents in alternative languages.

9.6.38 A Braille version of the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation was produced by the Applicant as part of the consultation's accessibility strategy.

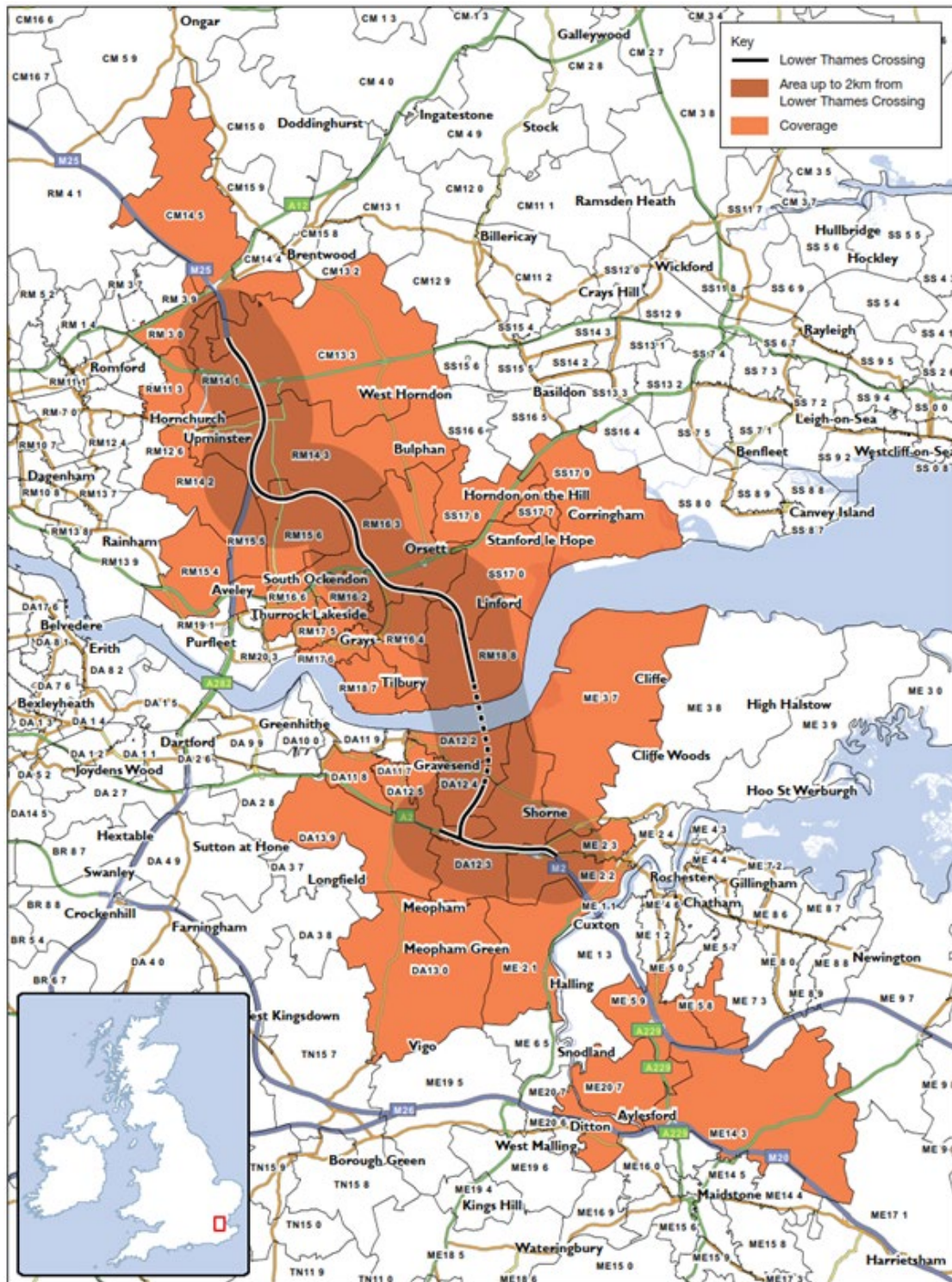
### Notification and publicity

9.6.39 In the same way as the Community Impacts Consultation, the Applicant informed the public of the Local Refinement Consultation through a range of channels including advertisements in national and local newspapers, updates to the Project website, social media and direct communication.

9.6.40 As part of an extensive notification and publicity campaign aimed at raising awareness throughout the affected local area and wider region, the Applicant also notified other stakeholder groups including local businesses, community groups, Members of Parliament and emergency services. This exercise was carried out in addition to the formal consultation letters sent to prescribed consultees. Appendix T includes a full list of these groups and a copy of the emails sent to them. This communication provided these groups with information about the upcoming consultation and an offer of a briefing session during the consultation period.

- 9.6.41 Emails were also sent to more than 27,000 subscribers on the Project's customer database, informing them of the Local Refinement Consultation and inviting them to give their views. This included people who responded to the Statutory and Supplementary, Design Refinement and Community Impacts Consultations (and provided their email address, having opted-in for further communication). An example of the email is provided in Appendix T.
- 9.6.42 A consultation website was available for people to access and download the Local Refinement Consultation materials. The consultation website also publicised the public webinars, telephone surgery details and the deposit location and information points. A link to this website was included in all notices and materials produced. The website link is  

- 9.6.43 The Project website provides general information including the history of the route, news for the local community and how to get in touch. This website was updated at the start of the Local Refinement Consultation to publicise the consultation with a link to direct people to the consultation website. The Project's consultation website also included an online exhibition section with accessible consultation materials such as an interactive map and explanatory video. Appendix T includes examples of the information provided on the online exhibition section of the Project's consultation website.

### Plate 9.1 Leaflet distribution area for the Local Refinement Consultation



*Leaflet distribution area including all postcodes within 2km of the route of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and to postcodes in proximity to proposed new areas of compensatory habitat for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition on designated ecological sites*

9.6.44 Advertisements publicising the Local Refinement Consultation were placed in local and national newspapers, as described in Table 9.5. They were placed in nine newspapers over five weeks during the consultation period, with a total circulation of 100,078.

**Table 9.5 Details of newspaper adverts publicising the Local Refinement Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Brentwood Gazette	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	n/a
Essex Chronicle	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	n/a
Kent Messenger (Series)	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	13 June 2022
Kent & Sussex Courier	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	n/a
Maldon & Burnham Standard	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	n/a
Sheerness Times Guardian	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	n/a
Sittingbourne News Extra	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	13 June 2022
The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	13 June 2022
Thurrock Gazette	16 May 2022	23 May 2022	30 May 2022	06 June 2022	13 June 2022

9.6.45 A news release (included in Appendix T) was issued on 12 May 2022 to announce the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation.

9.6.46 The Applicant’s social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter, were used to raise awareness of the Local Refinement Consultation and signpost to the consultation website. Examples of social media posts are included in Appendix T.

#### Non-statutory newspaper notices

9.6.47 The Applicant published non-statutory notices in newspapers advertising the consultation.

9.6.48 Although this was a non-statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to the requirements of section 48, which provides that notice should appear for at least two successive weeks in local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the proposed development, once in a national newspaper and once in the London Gazette.

9.6.49 Table below sets out the publications in which the non-statutory notices were published and when. Copies of these notices are included in Appendix T of this report.



**Table 9.6 Details of newspaper notices publicising the Local Refinement Consultation**

Publication name	Week 1	Week 2
Essex Chronicle	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
Fishing News	n/a	19 May 2022
Kent Messenger	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
Lloyd's List	n/a	18 May 2022
London Gazette	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
Romford & Hornchurch Recorder	13 May 2022	20 May 2022
The Times	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
Thurrock Gazette	12 May 2022	19 May 2022
Bromley News Shopper	11 May 2022	18 May 2022

### Deposit locations and information points

- 9.6.50 The Applicant made arrangements for eight deposit locations and 15 information points at venues across the Project area, with consultation material available to take away or to read as reference copies at each location. The materials were available at the venues as set out in Table 9.7 and Table .
- 9.6.51 The deposit locations and information points were located within public buildings and were unmanned. Stock levels were routinely checked and replenished to ensure there were sufficient copies of all documents throughout the consultation period.
- 9.6.52 At the deposit locations, members of the public could pick up a copy of the Guide to the Local Refinement Consultation, response form and Freepost envelope, large scale maps and the Local Refinement Consultation leaflet. The map books as well as an Easy Read version of the guide were available to view but not to take away.

**Table 9.7 Deposit location and opening times**

Location	Opening times
Cuxton Library, Bush Rd, Cuxton, Rochester ME2 1EY	Tuesday: 09:00 – 13:00 Thursday & Friday: 14:00 – 18:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday, Monday & Wednesday: Closed
Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BE	Monday – Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Maidstone Library, Kent History & Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ	Tuesday – Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday & Monday: Closed
Snodland Library, 15-17 High Street, Snodland ME6 5DA	Tuesday – Saturday: 09:00 – 18:00 Sunday & Monday: Closed

Location	Opening times
Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood CM14 4BP	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 09:00 – 18:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 13:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Chadwell Library, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays RM16 4JP	Monday & Thursday: 10:00 – 19:00 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Grays Library, Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 – 19:00 Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Romford Central Library, St Edwards Way, Romford RM1 3AR	Monday & Thursday: 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed

9.6.53 At information points, members of the public could pick up a copy of the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation, response form, Freepost envelope, large scale maps showing the proposals and a Local Refinement Consultation leaflet.

**Table 9.8 Information points and opening times**

Location	Opening times
Coldharbour Library, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 8AE	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 09:00 – 18:00 Tuesday: 09:00 – 20:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Dartford Library, Central Park, Market Street Dartford DA1 1EU	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 08:30 – 18:00 Thursday: 08:30 – 20:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Higham Library, Villa Road, Higham, Rochester ME3 7BS	Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 09:00 – 13:00 Tuesday & Thursday: 14:00 – 17:30 Saturday: 10:00 – 14:00 Sunday: Closed
Larkfield Library, Martin Square, Aylesford ME20 6QW	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00 Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
Meopham Library, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend DA13 0AH	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 09:00 – 13:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 14:00 Wednesday & Sunday: Closed

Location	Opening times
Riverview Park Library, The Alma, Leander Drive, Gravesend DA12 4NG	Monday & Friday: 09:00 – 13:00 Wednesday: 13:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 14:00 Tuesday and Sunday: Closed
Shorne Woods Visitor Centre, Gravesend DA12 3HX	Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday – Monday: 09:00 – 16:30
Strood Library, 133 High St, Strood, Rochester ME2 4TJ	Monday – Friday: 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
Belhus Library, South Ockendon Centre, Derry Avenue, South Ockendon RM15 5DX	Monday – Friday: 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed
Corringham Library, St Johns Way, Corringham Stanford-le-Hope SS17 7LJ	Monday & Tuesday: 10:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 10:00 – 13:00 Thursday – Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00 Sunday: Closed
East Tilbury Library, Princess Avenue, East Tilbury RM18 8ST	Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Friday: Closed
Harold Hill Library, 19a Farnham Road, Romford RM3 8ED	Monday: 10:00 – 17:00 Tuesday & Thursday: 09:00 – 20:00 Wednesday & Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed
Stanford-le-Hope Library, High Street, Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0HG	Monday & Thursday: 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 18:00 Tuesday, Friday & Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 Sunday & Wednesday: Closed
Tilbury Library, Tilbury Hub, Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8A	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 Sunday & Wednesday: Closed
Upminster Library, 26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2BB	Monday & Thursday: 10:00 – 20:00 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed

## Information events

- 9.6.54 The Applicant held a series of 10 Public Information Events (PIEs) for the Local Refinement Consultation. The purpose of the events was to provide opportunities for local people to speak to members of the Project team about the proposals, collect copies of consultation documents, and to view material produced for the events such as large-scale maps of the Project area.

9.6.55 The Applicant selected the venues for these events based on data and feedback from local authorities on the equivalent events held for the Statutory Consultation. The Applicant also considered the accessibility and availability of potential venues, carrying out risk assessments on each to evaluate their suitability.

9.6.56 Plate 9.2 below provides a photograph of a typical PIE.

**Plate 9.2 Photograph of a typical PIE**



9.6.57 Each PIE was attended by Project staff representing different technical specialisms relevant to the proposals, as well as generalist staff who had been trained to explain the purpose of the events and their role within the wider consultation process.

9.6.58 Table 9.9 below provides a list of the dates and venues of PIEs.

**Table 9.9 PIEs held for the Local Refinement Consultation**

Location	Venue	Date	Time
Gravesend	Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, DA12 4LG	Friday 20 May	14:00 – 20:00
Maidstone	Village Hotel – Maidstone, Castle View, Forstal Road, Kent, Maidstone, ME14 3AQ	Monday 23 May	14:00 – 20:00
Chatham	Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Near Bluebell Hill, Walderslade Woods, Chatham, ME5 9AX	Thursday 9 June	14:00 – 20:00

Location	Venue	Date	Time
Shorne	Shorne Village Hall, 16 The Street, Shorne, DA12 3EA	Friday 10 June	14:00 – 20:00 <sup>3</sup>
Grays	The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU	Thursday 19 May	14:00 – 20:00
Tilbury	East Tilbury Village Hall, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, RM18 8RB	Thursday 26 May	14:00 – 20:00
Hornchurch	North Street Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX	Friday 27 May	14:00 – 20:00
Stanford-le-Hope	East Thurrock Community Association, 77 Corringham Road, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0NU	Monday 6 June	14:00 – 20:00
Tilbury	Tilbury Community Association, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AA	Tuesday 7 June	14:00 – 20:00
Orsett	Orsett Hall Hotel, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, RM16 3HS	Monday 13 June	14:00 – 20:00 <sup>4</sup>

9.6.59 The following documents were made available at the PIEs for visitors to read and to takeaway:

- a. Guide to Local Refinement Consultation
- b. Local Refinement Consultation response form and Freepost envelope
- c. Easy read guide to Local Refinement Consultation
- d. A3 General Arrangements Map
- e. A3 Land Use Plans
- f. Local Refinement Consultation leaflet
- g. Your Property and Our Road Proposals document
- h. Your Property and Blight leaflet
- i. Your Property and Compulsory Purchase leaflet
- j. Your Property and Discretionary Purchase leaflet

<sup>3</sup> BSL interpreters available at this event

<sup>4</sup> BSL interpreters available at this event

- 9.6.60 Reference copies of the following materials were available for visitors to view:
- a. General Arrangements Map Book
  - b. Land Use Map Book
  - c. Engineering Map Book
- 9.6.61 Copies of all the materials available at the PIEs were also available on the consultation website.
- 9.6.62 The total number of attendees for all PIEs for the Local Refinement Consultation was approximately 600.

### Consultation telephone surgery

- 9.6.63 If members of the public wanted to speak to a member of the Applicant's project team to find out more about the Local Refinement Consultation proposals, they could receive a call back from a member of the Applicant's project team by completing an online form or by calling 0300 123 5000.
- 9.6.64 A generalist from the Applicant's project team had received training to answer any general queries. If in-depth queries were raised, a call-back was organised with a specialist from the Applicant's project team.
- 9.6.65 A total of 12 calls were received and answered across the consultation period. Of the 12 calls received, six queries were addressed by the project team and six were followed-up by call-backs from a specialist.
- 9.6.66 The telephone surgery was publicised in a number of ways including those described earlier in this chapter under 'Notification and Publicity'.

### Additional engagement activities during Local Refinement Consultation

- 9.6.67 During the Local Refinement Consultation, there was extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders. Table 9.10 provides a summary of the meetings held to discuss the Local Refinement Consultation.

**Table 9.10 Additional engagement during Local Refinement Consultation**

Meeting title	Date
Dartford and Gravesham Cycling Forum project update	13 June 2022
West Kent Badger Protection Group project update regarding badger protection plans	13 June 2022
Thurrock Cycling Forum project update	9 May 2022
Cyclopark project update	20 June 2022
Bombers Café project update	8 June 2022
Public Information Event preview at Cascades Centre for Higham Parish Council, Shorne Parish Council and Cobham Parish Council	20 May 2022
Public Information Event Preview for Campaign to Protect Rural England (CRPE).	20 May 2022
WELCOM Community Forum briefing at East Tilbury	26 May 2022

Meeting title	Date
Aylesford Parish Council briefing	9 June 2022
Shorne Parish Council update	10 June 2022
Gateway Learning Community briefing	29 April 2022
Cobham Hall School briefing	18 May 2022
Gateway Learning Community briefing	6 May 2022
Gad's Hill School	10 June 2022
Tyas Stud Farm Travellers off St Mary's Lane – project briefing	13 June 2022

## 9.7 Additional engagement with persons with an interest in land

9.7.1 As part of ongoing engagement with affected land interests, the Applicant undertook three phases of engagement activity with persons with an interest in land in December 2021, May 2022 and September 2022.

### Additional engagement with persons with an interest in land after Community Impacts Consultation (December 2021)

- 9.7.2 Following the Community Impacts Consultation, as a result of the Applicant's continued work to refine and improve the Project proposals, a number of minor changes were proposed. The changes identified were localised in nature and limited in extent, and as such the Applicant engaged with persons that were identified as the owner of, or having an interest in, the land where the changes were located.
- 9.7.3 For completeness, a summary of the changes was included in a document titled Landowner engagement and minor refinements, which was made available publicly for information at the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation on 12 May 2022. A link to this document on the consultation website can be found in Appendix T. Due to the limited extent of the changes, this document did not form part of the consultation material that was made available for feedback during the Local Refinement Consultation. Therefore, feedback received from persons with an interest in land in relation to the changes are summarised in Chapter 9 rather than in Chapter 15 where responses to the Local Refinement Consultation are addressed.
- 9.7.4 In total, there were nine proposed changes. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owner of an interest in land affected by these changes – a total of 67 – were sent a letter on 13 December 2021. This letter notified recipients of the change(s) affecting their land interest and explained that they would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the change(s) between 13 December 2021 and 17 January 2022. An example of the letter is set out in Appendix T.
- 9.7.5 In addition, the letters contained a separate enclosure with text describing the relevant change(s), as well as an accompanying Bespoke Plan and/or Land Use Plan to show the extent and location. The recipients were also sent a bespoke response form with a question on the change(s) relevant to them, to

assist them in providing their feedback. An example of the response form can be found in Appendix T.

9.7.6 A short description of each of the nine changes can be found in Table 9.11 below:

**Table 9.11 Summary of changes for December 2021 engagement activity with persons with an interest in land**

Change title	Change description
Relocation of proposed southern drainage ponds	The three drainage ponds at the southern tunnel entrance were proposed to be relocated to avoid overhead power lines and sites identified during archaeological trial trenching work.
Linford borehole pipeline realignment and land use change	Following engagement with Essex and Suffolk Water, the Applicant proposed to change the alignment of the Linford borehole pipeline. This resulted in a change in the land use to acquire the necessary rights.
Revised alignment of electricity pylons, east of Hoford Road, west of the Tarmac site	Following ongoing discussions with UK Power Networks and further site investigations, the Applicant proposed a minor revision to the location of electricity pylons.
Reduction to the Order Limits to reduce the impact on a local business	After discussions with UK Power Networks and a local business, the Applicant proposed to reduce the Order Limits around two pylons within the operational site of Tarmac, west of Buckingham Hill Road. The Applicant proposed to increase the Order Limits slightly elsewhere within the site so the utility company could complete its works following this refinement.
Adjustment to Hornsby Lane area provided for turning	A minor adjustment was proposed to the location of the area provided for vehicle turning on Hornsby Lane. This was to ensure that it is a safe distance from an electricity pylon.
Relocation of Stanford Road construction compound	The Applicant proposed to relocate the Stanford Road construction compound to reduce the impact on agricultural land and move it further away from Whitecroft Care Home. It would be relocated approximately 230 metres south of the current proposed location
Realignment of Brentwood Road gas pipeline	Following a request from Cadent Gas, the proposed route of a gas pipeline was proposed to change from the western side of Brentwood Road to the eastern side.
Land use change at Green Lane to accommodate rights to operate and maintain utility assets	Following ongoing discussions with National Grid, a minor change in land use was proposed so that rights could be acquired for the operation and maintenance of the utility company's infrastructure on completion of the Project.
Relocation and extension of Folkes Lane working area Order Limits	Following discussions with UK Power Networks regarding the diversion of part of its network, the Applicant proposed a minor modification to the Order Limits at Folkes Lane. This would reduce the impact on existing vegetation within Folkes Lane woodland.

9.7.7 Each of the 67 persons with an interest in land were provided with a period of 35 days to respond to the proposals, which took into account bank holidays.

9.7.8 The Applicant received a total of 18 responses from persons with an interest in land. After considering the feedback received, these changes were taken



forward in the Project proposals. Nine responses provided no objection or stated no concerns, and five responses provided conditional support or were neither supportive nor opposed to the proposals. Four responses were opposed to the change 'Relocation and extension of Folkes Lane working area Order Limits'. A summary of the negative feedback received to the change and the Applicant's response can be found in Table 9.12 below:

**Table 9.12 Summary of negative feedback received to December 2021 engagement activity and the Applicant's response**

Change title	Summary of negative responses received to change	The Applicant's Response
Relocation and extension of Folkes Lane working area Order Limits	Comments concerned about access to, and works taking place on, the land required for the works, including the impact on future development of the land. Comments asked for more detail on the construction works that would be required, including duration, timings and equipment required. The comments did not express opposition to the change itself, but did express concerns about the manner in which works would be carried out.	<p>As with all large infrastructure projects, the Applicant's proposed schedule for construction would be refined and become more certain once contractors are appointed and the detailed design further developed.</p> <p>The assessments in the Environmental Statement (ES) have informed the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), which sets out the range of measures and procedures that would be used to limit or avoid impacts on the local community during construction. The appointed contractor would be required to prepare and have approved an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which would be prepared in accordance with the CoCP. The EMP would detail suitable mitigation to be implemented throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>The Applicant has continued to engage with the affected landowner in relation to the proposed work on their land, and considers it appropriate to pursue the proposed change.</p>

### **Additional engagement with persons with an interest in land during Local Refinement Consultation (May 2022)**

- 9.7.9 In parallel with the Local Refinement Consultation, the Applicant held a second round of engagement with persons with an interest in land in relation to a small number of further changes. The changes identified were localised in nature and limited in extent, and as such the Applicant only engaged with persons that were identified as the owner of, or having an interest in, the land where the changes were located. These changes were not consulted on as part of the Local Refinement Consultation.
- 9.7.10 However, a summary of the changes was included in a document titled Landowner Engagement and Minor Refinements, which was made available publicly for information only at the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation

on 12 May 2022. A link to this document on the consultation website can be found in Appendix T. This is the same document that contained the changes from the December 2021 engagement activity.

- 9.7.11 In total as part of this second round of engagement, there were eight proposed changes. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owner of an interest in land affected by these changes – a total of 62 – were written to on 12 May 2022. This letter notified recipients of the proposed change(s) and explained that they would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the change(s) between 12 May 2022 and 20 June 2022. An example of the letter is set out in Appendix T.
- 9.7.12 In addition, the letters contained a separate enclosure with text describing the relevant change(s), as well as an accompanying Bespoke Plan and/or Land Use Plan to show the extent and location. The recipients were also sent a bespoke response form with a question on the change(s) relevant to them, to assist them in providing their feedback. An example of the response form can be found in Appendix T.
- 9.7.13 A short description of each of the eight changes can be found in Table 9.13 below:

**Table 9.13 Summary of changes for May 2022 engagement activity with persons with an interest in land**

Change title	Change description
Extension to the Order Limits south of Hornsby Lane	The Applicant proposed to extend the Order Limits south of Hornsby Lane by approximately 30 metres into agricultural land. This would provide space for utility networks and would avoid a nearby residential property.
Extension to the Order Limits at Orsett Cock	The Applicant proposed a minor change to the Order Limits to undertake works to existing Cadent Gas infrastructure and ensure continued supply to Chadwell St Mary.
Provision of alternative construction access route to the Medebridge Road construction compound	The Applicant proposed to provide an alternative construction access route to the Medebridge Road construction compound. This would allow construction vehicles to bypass an existing weighbridge, mitigating concerns raised by a business operator.
Relocation of the Mardyke construction compound	The Applicant proposed to relocate the Mardyke construction compound slightly to the north of its previous location to reduce the severance of agricultural land.
Relocation of the Medebridge construction compound	Following the removal of a proposed gas pipeline diversion, the Applicant proposed to move the Medebridge construction compound to the south, adjacent to the route of the new road. This change would reduce the impact on the farmland and facilitate the removal of approximately 23 hectares of land from the Order Limits.
Extension to the Order Limits west of North Road	The Applicant proposed a minor increase to the Order Limits to allow a sufficient working area to construct a new walking, cycling and horse-riding route along North Road.

Change title	Change description
Relocation of the M25 construction compound	The Applicant proposed to move and consolidate part of the M25 compound to an area of land to the west of its previous location to significantly reduce the impact on the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This also resulted in the removal of an environmental mitigation area from the Order Limits to the west of the M25.
Relocation of the Warley Street construction compound	Following discussions with the utility company (Cadent Gas), an engineering solution has been identified to avoid diverting a high-pressure gas pipeline to the southeast of M25 junction 29. This change would require the relocation of the Warley Street construction compound to the east of its previously proposed location, due to its proximity to the retained pipeline.

- 9.7.14 Each of the 62 persons with an interest in land were provided with a period of 39 days to respond to the proposals, which took into account bank holidays.
- 9.7.15 The Applicant received a total of 10 responses from persons with an interest in land. One response was neither supportive nor opposed to the proposals. Nine responses were opposed to the changes 'Relocation of the M25 construction compound', 'Provision of alternative construction access route to the Medebridge Road construction compound' and 'Relocation of the Medebridge Construction Compound' as described in Table 9.13 above.
- 9.7.16 Following interest from residents on Church Lane regarding the relocation of the M25 construction compound, the Applicant undertook an additional targeted engagement activity with all residents in relation to this change and the residents were provided with the previously used materials and an opportunity to comment on the proposal.
- 9.7.17 All properties on Church Lane were written to on 1 September 2022. This letter notified recipients of the M25 construction compound change and explained that they would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the change until 2 October 2022. An example of the letter is set out in Appendix T.
- 9.7.18 In addition, the recipients were provided with text on a separate enclosure to describe the change, as well as accompanying Bespoke Plans and Land Use Plans to show the extent and location. The recipients were also sent a response form to assist them in providing their feedback. An example of the response form can be found in Appendix T. The residents received the same information that was sent to persons with an interest in land in relation to this change.
- 9.7.19 Each recipient was provided with a period of 30 days to respond to the proposal, which took into account bank holidays. The Applicant received a total of four responses from households on Church Lane, which were all opposed to the change.
- 9.7.20 A summary of the negative feedback received to the changes and the Applicant's responses for the May 2022 and Church Lane September 2022 engagement activities can be found in Table 9.14 below:

**Table 9.14 Summary of negative feedback received to May 2022 and Church Lane September 2022 engagement activity, and the Applicant’s response**

Change title	Summary of negative responses received to change	The Applicant’s Response
<p>Relocation of the M25 construction compound</p>	<p>Comments concerned about the new location of the compound and its impact on local residents and wildlife, including noise, construction traffic, pollution, light pollution and visual impact. Comments were also concerned about the impact of the access road to the compound passing close to residential properties and questioned why the land previously proposed for the M25 construction compound was designated as a SINC.</p>	<p>The London Borough of Havering was concerned that the location of part of the compound would impact a ‘Metropolitan’ Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which is a regionally important site due to its biological significance. The Applicant was not previously aware of the ‘Metropolitan’ status of the SINC and, after considering the feedback received, explored alternative sites for the compound so the Project would not impact on this land. The compound needed to be in proximity to the works taking place at the M25 and the Applicant therefore relocated this part of the compound to adjoin the existing, smaller part of the compound, rationalising the land take in one area.</p> <p>Within the part of the compound which is proposed to be relocated, the northern section, located closest to Church Lane, would be used for the storage of earthworks. This would act as an acoustic barrier to construction related works, which would continue to take place further away from residential properties, within the larger part of the compound, located to the south.</p> <p>The western part of the M25 compound would remain in its previously proposed location, to the south-west of Church Lane. This is where the majority of construction related works would be taking place.</p> <p>It is not therefore anticipated that the proposed alteration to the layout of the M25 compound would change the impacts for the residents of Church Lane, which has been previously consulted on during the Community Impacts Consultation in 2021. In addition, the M25 construction compound would, as with all other compounds across the Project, be subject to the implementation of measures to control the impacts of</p>

Change title	Summary of negative responses received to change	The Applicant's Response
		<p>noise, lighting and other construction related effects.</p> <p>The Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) set out the best practice and location-specific measures that would be used to reduce the impact of the Project's construction and operation on local people. These include measures to reduce noise, dust and light impacts on local communities.</p>
<p>Provision of alternative construction access route to the Medebridge Road construction compound</p>	<p>Comments concerned about increased traffic on Medebridge Road, which could increase health and safety risks for local businesses, and increase dust in the area.</p>	<p>The Project has a suite of control documents - the Outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction (Application Document 7.14), the Framework Construction Travel Plan (Application Document 7.13) and the outline Materials Handling Plan (Application Document 6.3,</p>
<p>Relocation of the Medebridge Construction Compound</p>	<p>Comments concerned about the increased traffic on Medebridge Road, which could increase the health and safety risk for local businesses, and increase dust in the area. Comments to confirm the extent of the temporary land required for the works.</p>	<p>Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2, Annex B) which provide a number of measures by which the Project would manage and aim to reduce the impact of the Project's construction on the road network.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered the safety of the public and workers at all stages of design, and this would be prioritised at every phase of construction and during the Project's operation and maintenance. The Code of Construction Practice (Application Document 6.3, Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2) sets out the standards to which the appointed Contractor would have to adhere, with regards to maintaining safety and security at all times. The CoCP was included by the Applicant in the material provided for the Community Impacts Consultation in 2021. Comments on those documents provided in responses to the consultation are set out in Section 14.4 of this report.</p> <p>In addition, the Medebridge Road construction compound would, as with all other compounds across the Project, be subject to the implementation of</p>

Change title	Summary of negative responses received to change	The Applicant's Response
		<p>measures to control the impacts of dust and other construction related effects.</p> <p>The Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) set out the best practice and location-specific measures that would be used to reduce the impact of the Project's construction and operation on local people. These include measures to reduce noise, dust and light impacts on local communities.</p> <p>For more information about the land required for the Project's construction and operation, see the Land Plans (Application Document 2.2) and Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1), with the latter setting out why the Applicant needs each parcel of land.</p>

### Additional engagement with persons with an interest in land after Local Refinement Consultation (September 2022)

- 9.7.21 Following the Local Refinement Consultation, as a result of the Applicant's continued work to refine and improve the Project proposals, a further 10 minor changes were proposed. The changes identified were localised in nature and limited in extent, and as such the Applicant engaged with persons that were identified as the owner of, or having an interest in, the land where the changes were located.
- 9.7.22 In total, there were ten proposed changes. All persons identified by the Applicant as the owner of an interest in land affected by these changes – a total of 61 – were written to on 1 September 2022. Of the 61, eight were newly identified as owners or having an interest in the land affected by these changes. The letter notified recipients of the change(s) on their land interest and explained that they would have an opportunity to submit their views in relation to the change(s) between 1 September 2022 and 2 October 2022. An example of the letter is set out in Appendix T.
- 9.7.23 In addition, the recipients were provided with text on a separate enclosure to describe the relevant change(s), as well as an accompanying Bespoke Plan and/or Land Use Plan to show the extent and location. The recipients were also sent a bespoke response form with a question on the change(s) relevant to them, to assist them in providing their feedback. An example of the response form can be found in Appendix T.
- 9.7.24 A short description of each of the ten changes can be found in Table 9.15 below:

**Table 9.15 Summary of changes for September 2022 engagement activity with persons with an interest in land**

Change title	Change description
<p>Separation of cycling and horse-riding routes through Jeskyns Community Woodland in relation to temporary diversion route for National Cycle Route 177</p>	<p>Following ongoing discussions with Forestry England, the Applicant's proposals for the temporary diversion of National Cycle Route 177 would no longer include the redesignation of permissive paths to a bridleway. Instead, the Order Limits would be revised to include an existing path through the woodland to accommodate use by cyclists, as well as pedestrians, and the existing section of track (part of an existing horse-riding route) previously included in the Order Limits would be removed.</p> <p>This is one of four proposed changes affecting walkers, cyclists and horse riders included as part of this phase of engagement with persons with an interest in land, all of which are referenced within this table. The Applicant also engaged with the following community groups in relation to these changes: British Horse Society North, British Horse Society South, Thurrock Cycling Forum and Dartford Gravesham Cycling Forum.</p>
<p>Realignment of temporary diversion route for National Cycle Route 177 through Ashenbank Wood</p>	<p>Following ongoing discussions with the Woodland Trust, the Applicant proposed an extension to the Order Limits in Ashenbank Wood to ensure the temporary diversion route for National Cycle Route 177 follows only the existing alignment of the Darnley Trail. In addition, this part of the Darnley Trail is no longer proposed to be upgraded to bridleway status, and surface upgrades would be removed once the roadside route is available.</p>
<p>New area of compensatory habitat near Burham</p>	<p>As a result of ongoing assessments and feedback from the landowner, the Applicant proposed to remove approximately 32 hectares of the M2 corridor/Blue Bell Hill compensation area from the Order Limits and create an additional compensation area further west, on land to the east of Burham. This new area is approximately nine hectares, which would be added to the Order Limits, and accessed via a track from Rochester Road.</p>
<p>Land use change at the junction between Brewers Road and the A2 slip road</p>	<p>The Applicant proposed to make a minor change to the land use requirements at the junction between Brewers Road and the A2 slip road to enable the installation of traffic signals.</p>
<p>Amended design of compensatory woodland planting north of Shorne Ifield Road</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified a discrepancy in the information presented in the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation and the General Arrangements and Land Use Map Books, published during the Local Refinement Consultation in May 2022, regarding the size and location of proposed compensatory woodland planting north of Shorne Ifield Road.</p>

Change title	Change description
Realignment of foul water sewer diversion	Following feedback from Anglian Water, the proposed diversion to its foul water sewer near Hoford Road needs to be refined. The Applicant proposed to amend the route further west of its previously proposed location, before connecting into the existing alignment of the foul water sewer to the south. This would include extending the Order Limits by approximately 0.5 hectares.
Relocation of Tilbury substation, and new electricity cables permanently required to power the North Portal and provide temporary power to the segment factory	The Applicant proposed to move the Tilbury substation, which is required to temporarily power the tunnel boring machine, further west of its previously proposed location and increase the footprint by approximately 50% to host the substation and store construction equipment. Furthermore, the previous proposals included a temporary underground 11kV electricity cable, located between the east of Tilbury and the North Portal, to supply power during construction, and the Applicant now proposes this to be permanent to power the temporary segment factory and add resilience to the network by providing an additional power supply for the North Portal.
Change of design and land use to bridge for walkers, cyclists and horse riders over the A127, to the west of junction 29	Following feedback from cycling groups, the bridge for walkers, cyclists and horse riders over the A127 is proposed to be realigned. This would ensure the structure is able to connect with existing stairs on the north side of the A127.
Proposal for new water pipe and self-regulating valve for mitigation at Coalhouse Point	The Applicant identified a need to provide a direct water supply from the River Thames to the Coalhouse Point environmental mitigation land to maintain water levels. This is proposed to be facilitated via the installation of a new water pipe and self-regulating valve, which would allow a controlled flow through the existing flood bund. This would provide a safe and consistent water supply to the mitigation land at Coalhouse Point.
Land use change to the north of Station Road	The Applicant clarified a discrepancy in the information presented in the Guide to Local Refinement Consultation and the General Arrangements and Land Use Map Books, published during the Local Refinement Consultation in May 2022, regarding the land use requirements to the area of land and a shared use path close to Station Road and the northern tunnel entrance.

- 9.7.25 Each of the 61 persons with an interest in land were provided with a period of 35 days to respond to the proposals.
- 9.7.26 The Applicant received a total of six responses from persons with an interest in land. After considering the feedback received, these changes were taken forward in the Project proposals. Two responses provided no objection or stated no concerns, and one response was neither supportive nor opposed to the proposals. Three responses were opposed to the changes ‘New area of compensatory habitat near Burham’, ‘Realignment of foul water sewer diversion’ and ‘Land use change to the north of Station Road’. A summary of the negative



feedback received to the change and the Applicant's responses can be found in Table 9.16 below:

**Table 9.16 Summary of negative feedback received to September 2022 engagement activity and the Applicant's response**

Change title	Summary of negative responses received to change	The Applicant's Response
New area of compensatory habitat near Burham	Comments opposed to the location of the area of compensatory habitat near Burham, including suggestions for where it should be located instead.	The Applicant has continued to engage with the affected landowners regarding their concerns and is continuing this dialogue to reach an agreement regarding the proposals and address the concerns. The Applicant considers it appropriate to pursue the proposed changes.
Realignment of foul water sewer diversion	Comments concerned about the impact on future development of the land.	
Land use change to the north of Station Road	Comments concerned about being able to access to private land as a result of the change, and a request for clarification on freehold ownership over the land.	

## 10 Consultation under the EIA Regulations

### 10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The Applicant identified at an early stage in the Project’s development that it would be an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development under Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations.
- 10.1.2 Further information on how the Applicant has complied with the EIA Regulations in relation to the preparation of the Environmental Statement are contained in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.1).
- 10.1.3 Where relevant, the pre-application publicity and consultation requirements have been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and the EIA Regulations. A summary of how the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements of the EIA Regulations is set out in this chapter.

### 10.2 Ongoing engagement with Statutory Environmental Bodies

- 10.2.1 Table 10.1 provides a summary of engagement undertaken by the Applicant with the relevant Statutory Environmental Bodies in the development of the Project.

**Table 10.1 Ongoing engagement with Statutory Environmental Bodies**

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
Environment Agency (EA)	<p>There has been regular and extensive engagement with the EA. The Applicant has engaged with the EA regularly in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly area manager meetings starting in 2018.</li> <li>• Fortnightly catch-up strategy meetings.</li> <li>• Collaborative working sessions and technical meetings with various host local authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Regular meetings provided Project updates, particularly noting any Project changes since the last meeting, and creating a forum for the EA to ask questions and provide feedback. The main discussion points for these collaborative meetings were varied, please see below for a non-exhaustive list of these topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump test methodology and water feature survey.</li> <li>• Impacts to East Tilbury landfill.</li> <li>• Flood risks along the route and the Applicant’s approach to conducting a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).</li> <li>• The scope and approach to the ecology surveys.</li> <li>• The pond between East and West Tilbury, the content of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment, the Tilbury spur flood risk, the Scoping Opinion Report and clearance at the Mardyke.</li> </ul>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scope and approach to hydraulic modelling at Tilbury Marshes and the Mardyke, Tilbury link, and the model and survey datasets available from the EA.</li> <li>• Abstraction licences arrangements and hydrogeology north of the River Thames near the Tilbury pond.</li> <li>• Fluvial modelling.</li> <li>• South Portal outfalls.</li> <li>• Ecological mitigation proposals</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive (WFD), the design of watercourse crossings and diversions.</li> <li>• The service level agreement (SLA) with the EA.</li> <li>• The scope and approach to ground investigations and drainage strategy.</li> <li>• The EA’s requirements regarding maintenance at watercourses and the Mardyke proposals.</li> <li>• Flood risks modelling, waste and contamination and the potential roadside service facility.</li> <li>• Drainage proposals in terms of infiltration swales in flood plains and the discharge of tunnel effluent into the main river. Pump test locations and their impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The EA response to Statutory Consultation.</li> <li>• Legacy, skills and employment.</li> <li>• Stockpiling regulatory requirements; the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and the potential for the weekly colocation of an EA team member.</li> <li>• Hydro geology work and risk assessments.</li> <li>• Impacts to Ingrebourne Valley.</li> <li>• Methodologies for assessing flood risk and required scope for hydraulic modelling of watercourses.</li> <li>• Programme engagement and SLA.</li> <li>• Updates on scoping reports, surveys and desk-based study data.</li> </ul> <p>The EA is also a member of the Tunnel Design and Safety Consultation Group (TDSCG), a working group established in January 2018 to discuss the safety requirements of the A122 Lower Thames Crossing river tunnel. This working group involved regular meetings, teleconferences and email correspondence on single or multiple tunnel safety topics.</p> <p>The EA has taken part in several bilateral meetings with other Statutory Environmental Bodies, including the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and Kent Downs AONB Unit. These bilateral meetings provided project updates and a forum to discuss any revised development boundaries, engagement and communications, the scope of the environmental assessment, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and the submission of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).</p>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
	<p>For SoCG, the core objective for the EA is: ‘Fully signed off SoCG at time of submission covering baseline and methodologies (and other matters where possible)’.</p> <p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Statement (ES) Chapters and Appendices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Terrestrial Biodiversity</li> <li>– Marine Biodiversity</li> <li>– Material Assets and Waste</li> <li>– Road Drainage and the Water Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Framework Directive (WFD)</li> <li>○ Flood Risk Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>– outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Protective Provisions</li> <li>• Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) and draft Development Consent Order (draft DCO)</li> </ul>
Forestry Commission	<p>There has been regular engagement with the Forestry Commission throughout the development of the Project via meetings and workshops. Bilateral meetings with the Forestry Commission ensured regular Project updates were provided, specifically in relation to the development of utility diversions and associated environmental impact. The Forestry Commission was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on relevant topic matters such as the ancient woodland impact, translocation of soils and compensatory planting.</p> <p>Engagement with the Forestry Commission was also undertaken with its management body, Forestry England (previously Forestry Enterprise) through regular meetings to discuss project interaction with Thames Chase Trust and Jeskyns Community Woodland. Discussions focused specifically on impact to both lands and mitigation proposals as the Project design developed further.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission has attended joint workshops with Statutory Environmental Bodies and local authorities. These workshops provided an opportunity for the forum to comment on Project design changes, construction impacts, environmental impact assessment and emerging mitigation proposals, as well as other aspects in the drafting of the DCO application. The Forestry Commission and Forestry England have also attended legacy and benefits workshops with other Environment Groups (both statutory and non-statutory).</p> <p>The Forestry Commission was given the opportunity to review or have sight of key Project documents ahead of DCO submission, such as relevant draft ES chapters and early iterations of the CoCP, the REAC and the Design Principles.</p> <p>For SoCG, the core objective for the Forestry Commission is: ‘Fully signed off SoCG at time of submission’.</p>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
	<p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Terrestrial Biodiversity</li> <li>– Landscape and Visual</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Environmental Masterplan</li> <li>• REAC</li> <li>• oLEMP</li> </ul>
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Discussions with Historic England have taken place throughout the development of the Project via meetings, workshops, and site visits. At bilateral meetings and site visits, Historic England were provided with updates on the Project and were given the opportunity to comment on updated development boundaries, the cultural heritage draft desk-based assessment, archaeological investigation and cultural heritage landscape and setting.</p> <p>Historic England also attended joint workshops with other Statutory Environmental Bodies and local authorities where they were briefed on upcoming public consultations, and were given the opportunity to comment on key design development, utility diversion design and its associated impact, construction impacts and cross-topic environmental impacts and mitigation. Historic England has also attended legacy and benefits workshops with other Environment Groups (both statutory and non-statutory).</p> <p>Alongside these workshops, monthly progress meetings were held from late 2019 to bring together Historic England and archaeological advisors from Kent County Council, Essex County Council Place Services, and the London Borough of Havering for coordinated engagement on cultural heritage surveys, impact analysis and mitigation.</p> <p>Historic England was given the opportunity to review or have sight of key Project documents ahead of DCO submission, such as the draft cultural heritage desk-based assessment, relevant draft ES chapters and early iterations of the CoCP, the REAC and the Design Principles.</p> <p>For SoCG, the top issue for Historic England was: ‘Full impact assessment on built heritage and archaeology and mitigation to be completed.’ Fourteen out of 20 issues are currently under discussion.</p> <p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Heritage and buried archaeology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Grade I and II* listed buildings</li> <li>– Registered parks and gardens</li> <li>– Scheduled monuments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ES Chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cultural Heritage</li> <li>– Landscape and Visual</li> <li>– Appendices (i.e., desk-based assessment)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	<p>Engagement with the MMO consisted of teleconference meetings and workshops. As a Statutory Environmental Body, the MMO was invited to workshops during the options phase where it was briefed on Project options development. Teleconference meetings were focused on marine environmental impact assessment and mitigation. This provided MMO the opportunity to feedback on the Project’s proposed marine monitoring and modelling programme, construction methodology on drainage and impact and dewatering discharge proposals, and the marine environmental impact associated with it. The Applicant was also able to gain advice from the MMO on in-river ground investigations, the draft Deemed Marine Licence (DML) requirements and securing requirements in the DCO. The MMO has also been briefed on design changes on elements of the draft DML.</p> <p>For SoCG, the top issue for MMO was: ‘Suitability of the Applicant’s Deemed Marine Licence for construction works in river.’ Six out of 19 issues are currently under discussion.</p> <p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Marine Biodiversity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deemed Marine Licence</li> </ul> <p>The MMO was identified as a consultee under section 42(1)(aa) on the basis that the Project would affect or would be likely to affect the waters in or adjacent to the seaward limits of the territorial sea for the purposes of section 42(2)(a) of the Planning Act 2008. The MMO was also consulted under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 because the MMO is a prescribed body in respect of applications likely to affect the marine area in England and Wales, for the purposes of Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations (in addition, the MMO was listed in Table A1 of the Scoping Opinion). A copy of the letter sent to the MMO under section 42 is set out in Appendix K.</p>
Natural England (NE)	<p>There has been regular and extensive engagement with NE with regular bilateral meetings taking place between members of the EA and the Applicant, these meetings had a variety of purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline the Project scope of ecological surveys and to seek formal feedback and agreement in principle.</li> <li>• Introduce (NE) the timeline, approach to and scope of undertaking ground investigations and to seek formal feedback and agreement in principle. This included ascertaining what consents may be needed, what requirements for consents and a timeline.</li> <li>• To discuss environmental impacts and emerging mitigation.</li> <li>• To discuss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) pumping test timings and mitigation options.</li> <li>• To discuss the innovative water quality survey tool proposed to be used in surface water features within the Fillborough Marshes area in the SSSI/Ramsar site.</li> <li>• To discuss material transport proposals for the South Portal and survey requirements to inform the assessment.</li> </ul>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortnightly meetings to discuss the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</li> <li>• To discuss direct and indirect effects on Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</li> <li>• To discuss project hydrogeology and the WFD Stage 4 Assessment.</li> <li>• To discuss traffic modelling.</li> <li>• To discuss protected species and green bridge proposals.</li> <li>• To discuss potential utility diversions, environmental impacts and the proposed HRA programme and evidence base.</li> <li>• To discuss pumping tests required in the Ramsar site and near the South Portal, options for transporting material from the site to Cliffe Pools, the potential impacts on the Ramsar site and additional ecological survey requirements.</li> <li>• To provide an overview of the information presented at Statutory Consultation including highways alignment design, the PEIR, key public-facing and technical materials. The meetings also acted as a forum for the Statutory Environmental Bodies to ask Project-related questions.</li> </ul> <p>For SoCG, the core objective for NE is: ‘Fully signed off SoCG at time of submission covering baseline and methodologies (and other matters where possible).’</p> <p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</li> <li>• Protected species licences</li> <li>• ES Chapters and Appendices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Terrestrial Biodiversity</li> <li>– Marine Biodiversity</li> <li>– Population and Human Health</li> <li>– Road Drainage and the Water Environment</li> <li>– Landscape and Visual</li> <li>– Noise and Vibration</li> <li>– oLEMP</li> <li>– Cumulative Effects Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CoCP, REAC and draft DCO</li> </ul>
Kent Downs AONB Unit	<p>Kent Downs AONB Unit took part in several technical meetings with Thurrock Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council and the Applicant’s Project team to discuss the issues of legacy, skills and employment. The meetings were also used to exchange ideas and approaches for use in future collaboration and to discuss how to achieve the wider benefits of the Project within Government.</p> <p>Bilateral meetings were held between the Kent Downs AONB Unit, NE, Gravesham Borough Council and the Applicant’s Project team to discuss</p>

Statutory Environmental Body	Ongoing engagement activity
	<p>and agree on the locations of a Representative Viewpoints for the preparation of photomontages.</p> <p>A joint meeting was held with Kent Downs AONB Unit and NE to discuss the potential impacts to the Kent Downs AONB and to provide an overview of the information presented at Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>Other meetings were held individually with Kent Downs AONB Unit, their purposes were varied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide an update on the Project, Order Limits, EIA and landscape surveys.</li> <li>• To discuss the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).</li> <li>• To discuss mitigation and compensation for the Kent Downs AONB area and traffic modelling.</li> <li>• To brief on the approach to the environmental assessment, including landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and discuss future engagement and brief on Project development.</li> </ul> <p>For SoCG, the core objective for the Kent Downs AONB Unit is: ‘Fully signed off SoCG at time of submission covering baseline and methodologies (and other matters where possible).’</p> <p>Key topics of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Chapters and Appendices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Landscape and Visual</li> <li>– Noise and Vibration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CoCP and REAC</li> <li>• oLEMP</li> </ul>

### 10.3 Notifying the Secretary of State

10.3.1 On 31 October 2017 and by means of a letter to the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that an Environmental Statement would be prepared and submitted with the application for development consent to construct the Project. The Environmental Statement presents the findings of the EIA in compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix C.

### 10.4 Request for a Scoping Opinion

10.4.1 Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations states that a person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent may ask the Secretary of State for a written opinion as to the scope, and level of detail, to be provided in the Environmental Statement (known as a Scoping Opinion). In this context, and in accordance with Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations, an EIA Scoping Request was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31 October 2017 and included *inter alia*:

- a. A plan to identify the land



- b. A description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity
  - c. An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment
- 10.4.2 Acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, the Planning Inspectorate provided a Scoping Opinion in respect of the Project on 13 December 2017. Appendix 1 of the Scoping Opinion provided a list of all of the bodies that were formally consulted by the Secretary of State under regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations before the Secretary of State adopted the Scoping Opinion.
- 10.4.3 A copy of the Scoping Opinion letter is provided in Appendix C. Appendix 2 of the Scoping Opinion included copies of the responses submitted by consultation bodies under Regulation 10(11) of the EIA Regulations. Appendix 4.1 of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.3) provides Project responses on a line-by-line basis to both the Scoping Opinion and comments provided by the organisations that were consulted on it.

## 10.5 Section 48 publicity under the Planning Act 2008

- 10.5.1 Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations states that where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1) of the Planning Act 2008, send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant by the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c).
- 10.5.2 In accordance with Regulation 13, the Applicant sent a section 48 notice to the consultation bodies on 4 October 2018. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix K. A full list of the consultation bodies that received the section 48 notice is set out in Appendix H. As noted, the Inspectorate's letter of 13 December 2017 enclosing its Scoping Opinion confirmed that it had not identified any persons under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations, who may be affected by the Project.
- 10.5.3 As set out in section 4.3 (under 'Identification of section 42(1)(a) (prescribed bodies) and section 42(1)(aa) consultees'), the Applicant identified additional organisations at several stages after its Statutory Consultation that were considered to be section 42(1)(a) prescribed bodies. This means that these bodies are also consultation bodies for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. Therefore, each organisation was issued with a copy of the section 48 notice published at Statutory Consultation. Copies of the letters to these entities are provided in Appendix K of the report.
- 10.5.4 Three organisations (Thurrock Power Limited, London and Continental Railways Limited and Southern Water Services Limited) were identified as section 42(1)(a) prescribed bodies in advance of the launch of the Design Refinement Consultation. Thurrock Power Limited and London and Continental Railways Limited are listed in Table H.2 of Appendix H, since they were consulted under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008. Southern Water Services Limited is also listed in Table H.2 of Appendix H, as it was consulted

under section 42(1)(a) on 7 October 2020. However, it was also consulted, as a person with an interest in land, under section 42(1)(d), at Statutory Consultation in October 2018 and is therefore listed in Appendix J.

- 10.5.5 At the launch of the Community Impacts Consultation held in July 2021, a further 14 utilities companies were identified and notified of the consultation, and of their status as relevant Statutory Undertakers. These bodies are listed in Chapter 4 and Appendix H of the consultation report.
- 10.5.6 At the launch of the Local Refinement Consultation held in July 2022 and as part of ongoing diligent inquiry into the land affected by the Project proposals, three additional bodies – Aylesford Parish Council, Boxley Parish Council and South East Water – were notified of the consultation and of their status as prescribed consultees. Also at this point, two local authorities – Ashford Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – became local authorities with the meaning of section 43(2) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 10.5.7 Copies of the letters sent to the entities described in Sections 10.5.4-10.5.6 and the copy of the original section 48 notice that was enclosed are provided in Appendix K.

## 10.6 Consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information

- 10.6.1 In accordance with Regulation 12(1) of the EIA Regulations, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) must set out (a) whether the proposed scheme is EIA development, and (b), how, if the scheme is EIA development, the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the ‘preliminary environmental information’. The SoCC confirmed that the Project constitutes EIA development (paragraph 15) and how the Applicant proposed to consult on the PEIR (paragraph 16). A copy of the SoCC is provided in Appendix G.
- 10.6.2 Regulation 12(2) defines ‘preliminary environmental information’ as information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which (a) has been compiled by the Applicant, and (b) is reasonably required for the aforementioned consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. Further details of how the Applicant publicised and consulted on its PEIR are included in Chapter 4.
- 10.6.3 Regulations 12 and 14 of, and Schedule 4 to, the EIA Regulations set out the information which is to be included in the PEIR. The first column of Table 10.2 below sets out the specified information.
- 10.6.4 In accordance with Regulation 12(2)(b), the PEIR presented the information that was ‘reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)’. The second column of Table 10.2 below explains where the specified information could be found in the PEIR produced for the Project.

**Table 10.2 Location of information in the PEIR**

<b>Specified information (by reference to Regulation 14(2) of the EIA Regulations)</b>	<b>Location of that information in the PEIR</b>
(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development	Chapter 2 – Project Description
(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment	Chapters 6 to 16 dealt with a separate topic area – for example ‘Air Quality’ and ‘Climate’ and each contained a subsection on ‘Potential effects and mitigation measures’
(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment	Chapters 6 to 16 dealt with a separate topic area – for example ‘Air Quality’ and ‘Climate’ and each contained a subsection on ‘Potential effects and mitigation measures’
(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the Applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment	Chapter 3 – Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives
(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d)	Preliminary Environmental Information Summary
(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected	Chapters 1 to 16

- 10.6.5 In addition to the PEIR, a non-technical summary, the Preliminary Environmental Information Summary (Highways England, 2018) was produced and included in the material that accompanied the Statutory Consultation. Information on the predicted environmental impacts of the Project and the proposals to mitigate those impacts was also included in Your guide to consultation (Highways England, 2018).
- 10.6.6 The Statutory Consultation on the Project, including the PEIR, ran from 10 October to 20 December 2018. The consultation response form (included in Appendix M) included two questions asking for feedback on the environmental impacts of the Project and how the Applicant intended to mitigate them, as described in the PEIR.
- 10.6.7 The PEIR generated useful feedback from statutory and non-statutory organisations as well as other participants in the Statutory Consultation. Section 7.4 sets out the issues raised by consultees in relation to impacts on the environment and the Applicant’s assessment of them. Appendix 1.2 of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.3) sets out the comments provided by Statutory Environmental Bodies and local authorities in response to the Statutory Consultation, including the Applicant’s response to the matters raised.

- 10.6.8 The Supplementary Consultation and Design Refinement Consultation, both held in 2020 and described in Chapter 5 of this report, provided updated information on the Applicant's assessment of environmental impacts in relation to the Project in the form of environmental impact updates. Links to those updates are set out at in Appendix Q (for the Supplementary Consultation) and Appendix R (for the Design Refinement Consultation).
- 10.6.9 Section 12.4 (for Supplementary Consultation) and 13.4 (for the Design Refinement Consultation) set out the issues raised by all consultees in relation to the environmental information provided as part of the respective consultations.
- 10.6.10 Feedback provided through all phases of consultation on the Project has helped to inform the Applicant's ongoing consideration of environmental impacts and its approach to developing a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 10.6.11 With the exception of the three bodies described in paragraph 9.5.3 – 9.5.7, who were issued with a copy of the section 48 notice at a later date, all 'consultation bodies' were sent a copy of the section 48 notice, at the same time that it was published by the Applicant in local and national newspapers, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.
- 10.6.12 Chapter 11 of this report summarises the issues raised by respondents to the Statutory Consultation, including those related to the PEIR and those submitted by 'consultee bodies'.

## 10.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 10.7.1 An applicant for development consent must give consideration to whether a project has the potential to significantly affect certain European protected wildlife sites, and must provide a report which should include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment. The Applicant has submitted with its application for development consent a HRA Report (as part of Application Document 6.5), comprising an HRA Stage 1 Screening Report and an HRA Stage 2 Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (SIAA).
- 10.7.2 Paragraph 96 of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's guidance on pre-application consultation (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015) recommends that scheme promoters should consult with certain Statutory Conservation Bodies (and any other non-statutory bodies the promoter considers necessary) before finalising its HRA Report or No Significant Effects Report.
- 10.7.3 The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with statutory and non-statutory Environment Groups throughout the development of the Project, including engagement focused on the production of its HRA. The Stage 1 Screening Report sets out a summary of engagement with Natural England on the HRA, including details of the matters that were discussed.
- 10.7.4 The feedback generated through these forms of engagement has informed the scope and the content of the HRA.

- 10.7.5 The PEIR, which was consulted on as part of the Statutory Consultation described in Chapter 4 of this report, explained that the Applicant intended to prepare an HRA to support its application for development consent. It also explained (in paragraph 9.1.7) that the data from a survey provided in Chapter 9 would be used to inform the subsequent HRA and that the scope of that survey had been established to collect the necessary data for both the EIA and HRA.

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