

Lower Thames Crossing

9.53 Comments on WRs

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared in respect of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the proposed A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project) made by National Highways Limited (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Transport (Secretary of State) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 on 31 October 2022.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this document is to set out the Applicant's response to the Written Representations (WR) received in accordance with the section 90 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.3 The WRs were submitted to the Examining Authority (ExA) at Deadline 1 of the Examination on 18 July 2023 and published on the Project page on the Planning Inspectorate website on the 21 July 2023. This document and the supporting appendices do not seek to respond to every element of the WRs but rather to focus on the pertinent points cited by the Interested Parties and respond to any important and relevant matters raised. Many of the matters raised in these WRs are also included in the Statements of Common Ground prepared between the relevant Interested Party and the Applicant. It also seeks to comment on any matters that may require clarification or correction where it may assist the ExA and the Examination process.

2 Structure

2.1 Structure of this document

- 2.1.1 This document responds to the submitted WRs from Interested Parties and, where addressed elsewhere in the application documents or examination submissions, provides a cross-reference to other Application Documents including the Relevant Representations Report [[REP1-180](#)], and where applicable, the Applicant's responses to Local Impact Reports and Statements of Common Ground.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant has engaged extensively, and this has led to advanced Statements of Common Ground. These are cross-referred in this document to avoid duplication of matters in the Examination documents, but this should not be seen as a lack of consideration of the WRs. Where new matters have been raised, these have been addressed in the document. This document also provides a response to the matters raised by other parties with which the Applicant has not entered into a Statement of Common Ground.
- 2.1.3 This demonstrates that the Applicant has carefully considered the issues reported in them and that they have been understood and addressed to aid the Examining Authority in its consideration of the Project.
- 2.1.4 The Applicant has noted that there are 99 WRs submitted at Deadline 1, 26 of which are from parties with which it has a Statement of Common Ground.
- 2.1.5 Due to the number of WRs, they have been grouped into tranches depending on the Interested Party.
- 2.1.6 There are 8 tranches:
- a. Tranche 1 – Statutory Environmental Bodies
 - b. Tranche 2 – Statutory Undertakers
 - c. Tranche 3 – Relevant Local Authorities & Transport Bodies
 - d. Tranche 4 –Emergency Services and Safety Partners Steering Group
 - e. Tranche 5 – Ports
 - f. Tranche 6 – Landowners
 - g. Tranche 7 – Parish Councils, Organisations and Groups
 - h. Tranche 8 – Local Residents
- 2.1.7 Each tranche forms an appendix of this report.
- 2.1.8 Due to the diverse nature of representations across tranches in terms of structure and focus, the approach to presenting the issues raised and the Applicant's responses is adapted as appropriate. For the Local Residents tranche, the Applicant has summarised the WR, in order to have consistency across the representations made and the Applicant's responses.

2.2 References to commitments in this document

- 2.2.1 Project commitments include embedded design measures, good practice measures and mitigation required to manage and reduce potentially significant effects. These are contained in series of documents known as “control documents” which present the mitigation measures identified in the application that must be implemented during design, construction, and operation. Each document is secured within the draft DCO [REP1-042] by means of an article, a specific requirement within Schedule 2 Requirements, Protective Provisions or the Deemed Marine Licence. More information on the control documents can be found in Chapter 14 of the Introduction to the Application [APP-003].
- 2.2.2 Good practice and essential mitigation for the Project is listed within Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2: Code of Construction Practice, First Iteration of Environmental Management Plan (CoCP) [REP1-157], which includes the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC). These are proposed to manage and reduce potentially significant effects, as relied on in the Environmental Statement and other DCO Application Documents. Commitments are indicated by a reference number and are secured through Schedule 2 Requirement 4 of the draft DCO [REP1-042].
- 2.2.3 Embedded mitigation measures that form part of the Project design are presented in the Design Principles [APP-516] and the Environmental Masterplan [APP-159 to APP-168], which are secured under Schedule 2 Requirements 3 and 4 of the draft DCO [REP1-042].
- 2.2.4 Mitigation to reduce carbon emissions is presented in the Carbon and Energy Management Plan [APP-552], secured through Schedule 2 Requirement 16 of the draft DCO.

Glossary

Term	Abbreviation	Explanation
A122 Lower Thames Crossing	Project	A proposed new crossing of the Thames Estuary linking the county of Kent with the county of Essex, to the east of the existing Dartford Crossing.
Department for Transport	DfT	The UK Government department responsible for the English transport network and a limited number of transport matters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that have not been devolved.
Development Consent Order	DCO	A DCO is a means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
Development Consent Order application	DCO application	The Project Application Documents, collectively known as the 'DCO application'.
Examining Authority	ExA	The Examining Authority is the Inspector, or the Panel of Inspectors appointed to conduct the Examination of the application
Order Limits	-	

Appendices A-H

Please see the following standalone documents:

Tranche 1

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix A - Statutory Environmental Bodies

Tranche 2

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix B - Statutory Undertakers

Tranche 3

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix C - Relevant Local Authorities & Transport Bodies

Tranche 4

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix D - Emergency Services and Safety Partners Steering Group

Tranche 5

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix E - Ports

Tranche 6

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix F - Landowners

Tranche 7

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix G - Parish Councils, Organisations and Groups

Tranche 8

9.53 Comments on WRs, Appendix H - Local Residents

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