

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH 5): Tunnelling

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 5 on Tunnelling	Thursday 7 September 2023 Hearing Starts at 10am Blended event Venue Registration Process from 9:15am Virtual Registration Process from 9:15am	Orsett Hall Hotel Prince Charles Ave, Orsett, Grays RM16 3HS By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing**
- 3. Limits of deviation**

a)	Limits of deviation
i	The Applicant is asked to justify the limits of deviation.
ii	Vertical limits of deviation including consideration of protection zones, dredging, and scour protection.
iii	Economic and social effects related to the potential effects on river traffic.
iv	Monitoring, remedial works and future maintenance.

All IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

4. Tunnel Boring Methodology

a)	Tunnel boring methodology
i	To what extent should the DCO should allow for flexibility in terms of the tunnel construction methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the type of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) be secured through the DCO. • Should the DCO allow for the potential use of either a single or 2 TBMs and the associated impacts of these approaches.
b)	Water resource management
i	The approach to water resource management.
iii	Mitigation, monitoring and remedial actions.
c)	Dewatering
i.	The approach to dewatering associated with the construction of the tunnel.

All IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

5. Monitoring

a)	Monitoring
i	The approach to monitoring, reporting and remediation.
ii	The approach to risk management with particular regard to dealing with unexpected incidents.

All IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

6. Unexploded ordnance

a)	Unexploded ordnance
i	Whether the approach to dealing with unexploded ordnance is sufficient.

All IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

7. Construction Compound Matters

a)	Construction compound matters
i	Whether the approach to waste and material management is appropriate.
ii	The effect of noise, vibration and other disturbance on the local community.

	The effect of the proposed onsite accommodation and related management of potential socio-economic impacts.
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All IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

8. Next steps

9. Closing

Purpose of this ISH

The purpose of this ISH is to inquire into matters relating to tunnelling. This will include matters relating to construction, monitoring, limits of deviation and unexploded ordnance. In addition, matters relating associated with the works and temporary accommodation within the construction compounds will be explored. The ExA will explore what, if any, alterations or additions should be made to the dDCO and/or the relevant certified documents.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this Hearing.

- The Applicant
- The host local authorities
- Adjoining local authorities
- Environment Agency
- Port of London Authority
- Port of London Tilbury London Ltd
- DP World London Gateway (DPWLG)
- Marine Management Organisation
- Any other public authority affected by the proposed development
- Any utility service provider or statutory undertaker with land, infrastructure, alignments or apparatus affected by the proposed development within the environs of the proposed tunnel and portals
- Emergency Services and Safety Partners Steering Group
- Thames Crossing Action Group

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All Interested Parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the Agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the Hearing.

The Applicant is requested to have people with the following expertise available to assist the hearing:

- Tunnelling construction
- Waste management
- Drainage, flood risk and water resource management
- Construction management procedures

This list may also assist other IPs who are able to draw on staff or advisors to support them.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the Hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional Agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the Hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Registration Process

Registering as a speaker

The speakers invited to this hearing are listed above. If you are invited, please register at **9-15am**. This enables arrangements to be explained and hearings to make a prompt start.

You can register in person at the venue. If you are attending virtually though, you will receive joining and registration instructions in a separate email, shortly in advance of the event. This email will also explain what to do if you have difficulties getting connected.

Observing the hearing

Hearings are held in public. If you are not speaking, public seating at the venue will be open from **9-15am**. If you are observing on-line, please go to the [project landing page](#) on the National Infrastructure Planning website where you will find:

- on the day - a link to a livestream to watch the hearing in real time; and
- after the event has closed - a link to the recordings of the hearing

All Interested Parties (IPs) are welcome to submit observations in writing by the deadline following the hearing.

Procedure at an ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Parties attending an ISH for the first time are encouraged to view parts of previous ISH1 held at the start of this Examination, using the recordings held online. Whilst the matters to be examined in this hearing – identified in this Agenda – will be different, the approaches taken to hearing management and involvement by parties will be similar. Introductory and advisory material included in the opening stages of that hearing will not be set out in full in later hearings and so the ISH1 recording of the opening session on Day 1 will assist those who are not familiar with this type of hearing.

- ISH1 Recordings ([Day 1 – 21 June 2023](#))
- ISH1 Recordings ([Day 2 – 23 June 2023](#))

Participants at the hearing are reminded of the importance of respecting all other participants and allowing everyone here to have their say. Please do not interrupt the other speakers. If the ExA needs to clarify something that is being said, then the ExA will intervene. Unnecessary interruptions that disrupt the hearing can be viewed as unreasonable behaviour for which awards of costs can be sought by other interested parties; they can also lead to a party being removed from the hearing.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to written responses to actions, to written questions or to a subsequent hearing.

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the hearing or how to participate.

Email: Lowerthamescrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0303 444 5000

Contingencies

If this hearing is unable to proceed or continue, then the ExA will adjourn incomplete business to hearing times in October or November 2023 that have been reserved in the Examination Timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided in the banner on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.