



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

Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) Mitigation, Compensation & Land Requirements

Date: 8 September 2023

Venue: Orsett Hall Hotel & MS Teams

Action Points

No	Party	Action	Deadline
1	Natural England	Mitigation Route Map Best Practice Examples To provide advice/examples of best practice for setting out clear audit system (often referred to as a “Mitigation Route Map”) for each proposed biodiversity enhancement/mitigation/compensation. To be shared with the Applicant ASAP and then provided to the ExA as part of post hearing submissions.	D4
2	Natural England & Kent Downs AONB Unit	Landscape Scale Strategy Give consideration to providing comments as to whether the land within the Order Limits is sufficient to provide the proposed mitigation and compensation for the loss of habitats having regard to the proposed “landscape scale” strategy.	D4
3	Applicant	Biodiversity Net Gain Provide an answer to the suggestion from Natural England that the BNG calculation utilising version 3.1 can be upgraded to version 4.0 through primarily a desktop exercise, The results of a revised BNG calculation if undertaken to be submitted to version 4.0.	D4 D5

No	Party	Action	Deadline
4	Kent County Council	<p>Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) Suggest additional/altered wording within the OLEMP [REP3-106] as to how the Council considers a co-ordinated delivery of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMPs) could be achieved, having particular regard to the likelihood that the LEMPs will be produced and then delivered by multiple contractors.</p>	ISH7 / D4
5	Gravesham Borough Council	<p>Post Hearing Submission Provide post hearing submission detailing comments provided by Ms Highland on Agenda Item 3.b) i – Extent and Type of Landscaping.</p>	D4
6	Applicant	<p>Hole Farm Community Woodland Provide a copy of the Planning Application in relation to the Hole Farm Community Woodland submitted to Brentwood Borough Council (as referred to by the Thames Crossing Action Group). Please also provide a summary statement identifying any additional works and benefits anticipated as being related to mitigation and/or compensation for the LTC proposed development and which would not have been included in the Hole Farm planning application proposal had LTC not been proposed.</p>	D4
7	Applicant	<p>Potential double counting of mitigation: Hole Farm Address questions raised about the potential for the ‘double counting’ of mitigation and/ or compensation to be provided at Hole Farm. Please make reference to the fact that this site appears to have already been purchased with plans to create a community woodland which does not appear to be contingent on the construction of LTC so will be provided in any event.</p>	D4
	Natural England	Provide a response to the Applicant’s commentary.	D5

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8	The Applicant	<p>Potential double counting of mitigation: Kent nitrogen sites (arising from Bluebell Hill and Burham)</p> <p>Please address questions raised from Kent CC about the potential for the ‘double counting’ of mitigation and/ or compensation in relation to sites proposed to be acquired and managed by the LTC undertaker and sites managed by others pursuant to Stewardship schemes.</p> <p>Please make reference to the fact that the originally justified land take at Bluebell Hill and Burham has been reduced, but that part of the land is suggested as moving into Stewardship that would provide equivalent management outcomes. Please clarify whether the LTC project places any reliance on the management of land through Stewardship? If it does, having regard to the potentially temporary and reversible nature of Stewardship outcomes, please explain how land in Stewardship could contribute towards the delivery of any outcomes required to address the effects of the proposed.</p> <p>If there is no reliance being placed on the Stewardship then please explain why the nitrogen deposition land being removed from LTC at Burham and Bluebell Hill is not being replaced elsewhere. What has changed?</p>	D4
	Natural England	<p>If there is any reliance placed on Stewardship by the LTC proposed development, please provide a response to the Applicant’s commentary.</p>	D5
9	Applicant	<p>Bluebell Hill: Ecological connectivity & nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Please provide additional commentary in respect of the now proposed removal of sites at Bluebell Hill. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation as to how ecological connectivity and outcome quality can be relied upon in relation to land that would be under a Stewardship scheme, if this land is now outside the applicant’s control. 	D4

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Or, alternatively, explain why this connectivity is now not necessary to be secured as part of the LTC Project. 	
10	Natural England	<p>Green Bridges: Best Practice Please provide a copy of Natural England’s publication/literature review in respect of best practice for Green Bridges across the UK and Europe.</p>	D4
11	Applicant	<p>Green Bridges: Ecological Matters Provide comments as to whether the proposed Thong Lane and Brewers Road A2 green bridges could cause a detriment to wildlife (through potential for additional roadkill incidents) given the narrow landscaped area and the at grade exit onto the proposed Darnley Lodge Lane 2-way local connection.</p>	D4
	Natural England	<p>Comment on whether greater connectivity north-south (in association with that which exists over HS1) from the proposed green Thong Lane bridge over the A2 would result in an ecological benefit, even if this is not an ideal solution.</p>	D4
12	Applicant	<p>Green Bridges: Ecological Matters Provide a written response to Agenda Item 4.a) iii.</p> <p>“What is the target species for each of the green bridges and how are they specifically provided for”, having regard to Natural England’s advice that a green bridge below 20m will not function appropriately as an ecological corridor.</p> <p>Please also provide a response to document what monitoring is proposed, by whom and at what timeframes to determine success of the green bridges from both planting and target species perspectives?</p>	D4
13	Gravesham Borough Council	<p>Adequacy of surveys Provide comments on the adequacy of the surveys set out within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP3-106].</p>	D4

No	Party	Action	Deadline
14	Applicant & Natural England	Agenda Item 8 Provide written comments setting out areas of agreement and disagreement in respect of Agenda Item 8.	D4