



**Submission  
for the  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

**Submitted for Deadline 4**

**19 September 2023**

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

**In the matter of:**

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

**Planning Inspectorate Ref: TR010032**

**RSPB Registration Identification Ref: LTC – AP1738**

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 In this Submission we provide a brief response to the Examining Authority's first written questions and requests for information (ExQ1).

## 2. Response to the Examining Authority's first written questions and requests for information

2.1 We adopt the Examining Authority's unique reference number as requested.

### 9. Noise and vibration

2.2 **Q(1) 9.1.5. Receptors.** We look forward to considering the Applicant's response on this question, having raised queries in regard to this issue in our responses at earlier deadlines (REP2-092, 2.1; REP3-198, 2.2 - 2.4).

### 11. Biodiversity

2.3 **Q(1) 11.5.2. Monitoring of Success.** We look forward to considering the Applicant's response on this question, having raised queries in regard to this issue in our responses at earlier deadlines (REP2-092, 2.3).

2.4 **Q(1) 11.9.7. Caveats on Mitigation: Adequacy of Security.** This question is of central interest to RSPB. We look forward to considering the Applicant's response on this question, having raised queries in regard to this issue in our responses at earlier deadlines (REP2-092, 2.3; REP3-198, 3.2 - 3.3).

2.5 We would also highlight the need in addition to describing and securing the essential mitigation measures, that appropriate monitoring is in place to determine and ensure the effectiveness of mitigation over relevant timescales. This point correlates with the questions posed by the Examining Authority at Q(1) 11.5.2.

2.6 **Q(1) 11.10.5. Coalhouse Fort Mitigation.** We look forward to considering the Applicant's response on this question. The RSPB will review the referenced technical note on flood modelling produced for the Environment Agency and will provide any comments on this and the earlier Coalhouse Fort Technical Note (attached as Annex C13 of REP2-008) to the Examining Authority at a future Examination deadline.

#### 16. General and overarching questions

2.7 **Q(1) 16.1.4. Mitigation Route Map.** We endorse the suggestion of a Mitigation Route Map as expressed in this question and positively discussed at Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) on 8 September 2023.

2.8 The RSPB together with other Interested Parties (including Natural England in REP1-262, Annex D, 3.1.20 – 3.1.24) has commented on the poor transparency and complexity of identifying and tracking mitigation measures and their respective controls and monitoring obligations. We very much welcome the Applicant's engagement in this task, and look forward to their response at Deadline 4. Such investment should help deliver more effective scrutiny of the proposal by Interested Parties and the Examining Authority.

### 3. **Issue Specific Hearing 9 (ISH9): Environment and Biodiversity**

3.1 We attended Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) on 8 September 2023 which, due to the volume of material being considered, postponed some matters on the Agenda to a future hearing date. We note that this has now been confirmed as 23 October 2023. The RSPB will attend this hearing.