

# **Lower Thames Crossing**

9.155 Draft Statement of Common Ground between (1) National Highways and (2) Thames Enterprise Park Limited

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Volume 9

DATE: October 2023 DEADLINE: 6

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VERSION: 1.0

#### Status of the Statement of Common Ground

This is a Draft Statement of Common Ground with matters outstanding.

National Highways considers that this draft Statement of Common Ground is an accurate description of the matters raised by Thames Enterprise Park Limited and the status of each matter, based on the engagement that has taken place to date.

A high-level overview of the engagement undertaken since the DCO application was submitted on 31 October 2022 is summarised in Table A.1 in Appendix A.

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#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) 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 SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the Applicant and Thames Enterprise Park Limited, and where agreement has not been reached. Where matters are yet to be agreed, the parties will continue to work proactively to reach agreement and will update the SoCG to reflect areas of further agreement.
- 1.1.3 This version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 6.

#### 1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared in respect of the Project by (1) National Highways, and (2) Thames Enterprise Park Limited.
- 1.2.2 National Highways became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain, and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Project, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.
- 1.2.3 Thames Enterprise Park Limited is a major employment-led redevelopment of the former Corton Oil Refinery, Manorway, covering 167 hectares of land on the north bank of the Thames Estuary, Thurrock.

#### 1.3 Principal Areas of Disagreement

- 1.3.1 On 19 December 2022, the Examining Authority made some early Procedural Decisions to assist the Applicant, potential Interested Parties and themselves to prepare for the Examination of the DCO application.
- 1.3.2 One of these Procedural Decisions was to use a tracker recording Principal Areas of Disagreement in Summary (PADS). This tracker is known as the PADS Tracker.
- 1.3.3 The PADS Tracker provides a record of principal matters of disagreement emerging from the SoCG and will be updated alongside the SoCG as appropriate throughout the Examination with the expectation that a revised PADS Tracker should be submitted at every Examination deadline.

1.3.4 This SoCG was requested by Thames Enterprise Park Limited in their Written Representation, which came after the initial request from the ExA for PADS trackers. Thames Enterprise Park Limited are currently reviewing whether they would like to produce a PADS tracker or if given the small number of matters within the SoCG they are content that the SoCG adequately addresses their matters.

### 1.4 Terminology

1.4.1 In the matters table in Section 2 of this SoCG, 'Matter Not Agreed' indicates agreement on the matter could not be reached following significant engagement, and 'Matter Under Discussion' where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties. 'Matter Agreed' indicates where the issue has now been resolved.

#### 2 Matters

#### 2.1 Outstanding matters

- 2.1.1 Following submission of the DCO application, continued discussions on matters have taken place between the Applicant and Thames Enterprise Park Limited. These discussions are summarised in Appendix A.
- 2.1.2 The outcome of discussions to date are presented in Table 2.1, which details and presents the matters which have been agreed, not agreed, or are under discussion between (1) the Applicant and (2) Thames Enterprise Park Limited.
- 2.1.3 At Examination Deadline 6 there are eleven in total, of which two are agreed, and nine matters remain under discussion.
- 2.1.4 Subsequent versions of this SoCG will outline the changes between versions.

**Table 2.1 Matters** 

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
Consultation a	and engage	ment			
Request for a SoCG	2.1.1	TEP Ltd had previously requested to enter into a SoCG with the Applicant, but the Applicant declined at the time.  TEP Ltd has since reiterated their desire to enter into a SoCG in the Written Representation.	The Applicant acknowledges Thames Enterprise Park Limited's request for a SoCG in its Written Representation and subsequently offered to engage on the development of one.	N/A	Matter Agreed
Adequacy of engagement	2.1.2	To inform the TEP planning application TEP Ltd developed a fully validated VISSIM model (the TEP VISSIM model) which includes Sorells Roundabout, The Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout. The TEP VISSIM model includes the agreed package of highway mitigation works associated with TEP – including improvements at Sorrells Roundabout and The Manorway Interchange. The TEP VISSIM model is the most up to date model of the local highway network, which meets TAG validation and calibration requirements, and has been signed off and approved by National Highways. National Highways is aware of the TEP VISSIM model but has chosen not to use the TEP VISSIM model to understand the localised impacts of LTC at Sorells Roundabout, The	The Applicant is aware that TEP Ltd developed localised traffic models to support their planning application.  The Applicant developed the localised models of the Orsett Cock and Manorway junctions collaboratively with Thurrock Council. As part of the initial discussions, the scale and scope of these models was agreed, including that new standalone models would be developed for these junctions.  The Applicant released the Orsett Cock VISSIM model (version 3) to TEP at the same time it is issued to other Interested Parties on October 2023.	N/A	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout. Instead, National Highway has chosen to develop its own standalone models for Sorells Roundabout / The Manorway Interchange, and Orsett Cock Roundabout. The National Highways model of Sorells Roundabout / The Manorway Interchange does not include a base model, has not been validated and there is no supporting Local Modelling Validation Report (LMVR). This raises significant concern with the status of the National Highways VISSIM modelling work for Sorells Roundabout / The Manorway Interchange and the associated model outputs (driver delay, queue lengths, network performance). TEP is awaiting receipt of the National Highways Orsett Cock Roundabout VISSIM model.			
Design – Road	l, Tunnels, U	tilities			
Construction Phasing	2.1.3	TEP Ltd have concerns in relation to the impact of LTC during the construction phase, which extends to issues relating to construction timing and phasing.  TEP is concerned that if the impacts of LTC are not addressed as part of its construction, it has the real potential to create significant adverse impacts at The	The outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction (oTMPfC) describes the approach to traffic management during construction, including measures that could be taken to reduce impacts on local communities during construction. In advance of the construction of the Project a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared for each part of the works. Table	Outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction (oTMPfC) [REP5-056] Draft Development	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout, which in turn would pose the risk of deterring investors and operators from TEP.	2.3 of the oTMPfC identifies stakeholder considerations that would be addressed as a minimum by the TMP; this includes impacts on business hubs such as the Thames Enterprise Park, and states that activities such as advance warning/particular sensitivity around significant events, particularly evenings and weekends would be incorporated into the TMP and engagement with relevant stakeholders would take place as appropriate. This is secured under Schedule 2 Requirement 10 'Traffic management' of the draft Development Consent Order.  The Transport Assessment presents the impacts during the construction phase of the Project, and the Applicant considers it reflects a reasonable worst case and provides a proportionate assessment of the selected construction scenario. As set out at paragraph 8.1.7 of the Transport Assessment, includes a number of assumptions that were made to ensure that the construction programme is not under-represented.	Consent Order [REP5-024] Transport Assessment [REP4-148 to REP4-152]	

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
Traffic and ec	onomics				
Need for the Project	2.1.4	TEP Ltd has highlighted in all previous consultation responses an in-principal support for the LTC; however, TEP has concerns with the 'severe' impact on the highway network. This will consequentially lead to impacts on the economic activity and future growth of TEP during construction of the proposed LTC and once it is operational.	Noted.	N/A	Matter Agreed
Information sharing  Traffic model	2.1.5	TEP Ltd's concerns in relation to The Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout have yet to be addressed. It is understood that Thurrock Council and DP World/London Gateway (DPWLG) have also raised similar concerns. In an attempt to address these concerns LTC has undertaken additional modelling work of The Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout in the form of standalone VISSIM models. It is understood that NH has provided a copy of these VISSIM models to other key stakeholders including DPWLG, however, this information has not been made available to TEP. Until this information is made available to TEP, we cannot progress our evaluation.  Access to the model file will enable us to	The Department for Transport has issued guidelines on how transport models should be built, and the extent to which the predictions of traffic flows and times produced by the model compare with real life. The Applicant considers that the model is suitable for assessing the Project and its impacts along the A13, and at the Orsett Cock and Manorway junctions.  The Applicant has undertaken additional local junction modelling (using microsimulation modelling within VISSIM) for both the Orsett Cock and Manorway junctions that is available in Appendix B and Appendix C of the Localised Traffic Modelling. These models have been developed in partnership with Thurrock Council. Reports relating to both models have been submitted by the Applicant at	Localised Traffic Modelling [REP3-126 Localised Traffic Modelling, Appendix B – Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report [REP1-188] Localised Traffic Modelling, Appendix C – Orsett Cock	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		the traffic assessment including consideration of any latent demand within the modelling work.	Deadline 1. This has been provided in Localised Traffic Modelling.  The physical extents of the models have been agreed with Thurrock Council as part of their development. The Applicant does not consider that there is interaction between the two junctions and the modelling results for neither junction show interaction between traffic using the junction and traffic on the A13 mainline.  The Applicant has shared copies of the model files for the Manorway junction with TEP on 5 October 2023 to enable them to undertake an assessment. The Applicant has shared further copies of the VISSIM data for Orsett Cock junction with TEP on 20 October 2023.	Report [REP1-189]	
VISSIM traffic flows	2.1.6	There appears to be a discrepancy between the LTAM traffic flows and the VISSIM traffic flows for Orsett Cock Roundabout. The data contained within the Localised Traffic Modelling Report shows variances of up to 50% in traffic movement on certain arms when comparing the LTAM and VISSIM flows. Further questions are raised when comparing the VISSIM traffic flows set out within the Localised Traffic Modelling	The Applicant considers it important to note that the VISSIM model for the Orsett Cock junction does not directly use forecast flows from the LTAM.  The approach used in the development of the VISSIM model is set out at section 3.4 of Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix C – Orsett Cock Forecasting Report.  In relation to a comparison of flows between Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B -	Localised Traffic Modelling (v2.0) [REP3-126] Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B - Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		Report and those at Appendix B. There are notable variances when comparing the traffic data from the VISSIM traffic flows quoted with the Traffic Modelling Report and the Appendix.	Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report, flows for the Orsett Cock junction in the former are shown for 2030 in Tables 4.5 and 4.6. Within Appendix B, the flows presented in Plates 3.2 – 3.4 inclusive are observed traffic flows from May 2018.	Report [REP1-188] Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix C – Orsett Cock Forecasting Report [REP1-189]	
Modelling results  Queuing	2.1.7	TEP Ltd is concerned that the interaction between The Manorway Interchange and Orsett Cock Roundabout is still not fully understood by virtue of the assessment taking the form of two standalone VISSIM models. The output from the models also demonstrates significant queuing and delay at Orsett Cock Roundabout, particularly on the eastbound A13 off-slip, and this has the potential to have a knock-on effect on The Manorway Interchange and in turn the operation of TEP. This is a critical issue given that The Manorway Interchange is the sole point of access for all HGV movement to and from TEP (and the majority of all vehicle movements).  Document 9.15 Localised Traffic Modelling Reports shows queueing of up to 1.7km on the A13 eastbound off slip	The Applicant recognises that the Project will change the pattern of traffic in the region. In many places on the network, and within Thurrock, this would lead to beneficial impacts, and in some cases, it would lead to adverse impacts. Overall, the benefits on the road network would outweigh the adverse impacts, and this is reflected in the positive economic benefit of the Project within Thurrock as set out in Chapter 5 of Need for the Project; Chapter 4 of the Planning Statement; and the Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report - Appendix D.  Chapter 7 of the Transport Assessment includes details of the scale of impacts both on roads and junctions, setting out where impacts are forecast to be adverse or beneficial. The forecast impacts of the Project on the highway network are also	Need for the Project [APP-494] Planning Statement [APP-495] Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report - Appendix D: Economic Appraisal Package [APP-524, APP-525, APP-526 and APP-527]	Matter Under Discussion

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		which is of a concern, as the busiest period (14:00 to 15:00) has not been modelled and there is potential for the queue during this period to exceed 1.7km.	set out in Chapter 7 of the Transport Assessment, which includes junctions along the A13 such as the Orsett Cock and Manorway junctions.	Transport Assessment [REP4-148 to REP4-152]	
			As set out in Table 5.1 of Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B - Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report shows that flows in the 14:00-15:00 hour are significantly lower than the hours examined in both the LTAM and the Orsett Cock VISSIM model. Therefore the Applicant does not consider that an interpeak assessment at the Orsett Cock junction is warranted.	Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B - Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report [REP1-188]	
A13/A1089 Orsett Cock junction	2.1.8	TEP has further concerns in relation to route choice, route availability and the number of u-turn movements which would be diverted to The Manorway Interchange due to the proposed layout of the A13/A1089 (Orsett Cock) junction – particularly at the Orsett Cock Roundabout, and the network operation and traffic flow.	Traffic modelling does not indicate that the Manorway junction would be used as an alternative route, to avoid Orsett Cock junction, to reach Port of Tilbury by U-turning at Manorway junction to access the A1089. There is some slow-moving traffic at the eastbound A13 off-slip but it is not sufficient that traffic would instead drive the longer distance to Manorway and U-turn there to come back on the A13 to Orsett Cock or the A1089.	N/A	Matter Under Discussion
			The Applicant considers that the Orsett Cock junction would operate acceptably in future years with the Lower Thames Crossing. The modelling does not show		

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			that there would be any interaction between the two junctions.  Modifications to the design of the Project presented at Local Refinement Consultation led to changes in traffic routeing. The revised design does not lead to an increase in use of the A1013 by Port of Tilbury heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic as it would be able to join the A1089 via the Orsett Cock junction from the A13 or the Project depending on the direction of travel of these vehicles.		
Modelling methodology  Peak periods	2.1.9	There is no assessment of the busiest peak period on the local highway network – the shift changeover period at 14:00. Instead, LTC has assessed the 'average' hourly flow between 10:00 – 16:00. This methodology makes no allowance for the spike in movement which is forecast to occur to and from TEP, TOP and DPWLG to coincide with shift changeovers. Therefore, the true impact and operation of the local highway network with LTC during construction and in operation is not properly considered or assessed.  To provide further context to this, DPWLG is forecast to generate 4,074 PCUS movement between 1400 and 1500, whilst the modelling work for LTC has	The Applicant has set out the time periods assessed within the Applicant's strategic transport model, together with reasoning as to how the periods were selected, within Section 3.3 of the Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report Appendix B: Transport Model Package.  The model hours assessed within the localised traffic models were agreed with Thurrock Council as part of the models development. Only the AM and PM peaks were considered as these represent the busiest times on the network. The selection of the hours for the Orsett Cock model is detailed within Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B – Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report. At the Manorway junction, the hours from the	Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report Appendix B: Transport Model Package [APP-520] Localised Traffic Modelling Appendix B – Orsett Cock VISSIM Local Model Validation Report [REP1-188]	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		assumed 2,541 as an inter peak flow which is 1,533 PCU's lower. The detailed modelling work associated with Thames Enterprise Park shows that the network including Sorells Roundabout and the A13 Manorway Interchanges shows congestion to be greatest between 1400 to 1500 when compared to the AM and PM peak hours.	LTAM were used because observed data was not available when the model was built.		
Modelling methodology Mitigation	2.1.10	The Applicant's assumptions for TEP are taken from 2021 and do not include or allow for the latest mitigation proposed to be delivered by TEP in accordance with the Resolution to Grant for redevelopment secured on 9 June 2022 (Ref: Application No: 18/01404/OUT).	The Applicant can confirm that both the Project's strategic transport model and the localised traffic model of the Manorway junction include the mitigation schemes at the Sorrells roundabout and the A13 Manorway junction that are proposed to be delivered by TEP in accordance with the Resolution to Grant secured on 9 June 2022.		Matter Under Discussion
Economic impacts	2.1.11	TEP Ltd, Thamesoil Port and the London Gateway combined account for 85% of available employment land supply within Thurrock whilst sharing the same access route enhancing the risks arising from delays resulting from LTC.  TEP Ltd is concerned that if the impacts of LTC are not addressed as part of its construction and operation, it has the real potential to create significant adverse impacts at The Manorway Interchange	The Project's proposed approach to monitoring impacts on the road network is summarised within Chapter 10 of the Transport Assessment, and set out fully in the Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Plan. The Project consulted on the Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Plan as part of the Community Impacts Consultation in July 2021. This document sets out how the Applicant would work with local	Transport Assessment [REP4-148 to REP4-152] Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Plan [APP-545] Transport Assessment	Matter Under Discussion

Topic	Item No.	Thames Enterprise Park (TEP) Limited Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		and Orsett Cock Roundabout, which in turn would pose the risk of deterring investors and operators from TEP.  Given that the supplementary transport VISSIM modelling work is not available at the time of writing this representation, therefore we reserve the right to comment on the Economic Impact of LTC at later stage, when sufficient information is provided to TEP.	authorities and the Department for Transport, and the role of the Applicant and other organisations in the future management of the road network.  The Applicant has set out how its approach to wider network impacts, including at the Orsett Cock and Manor Way A13 junctions, is compliant with policy within Transport Assessment Appendix F: Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Policy Compliance.	Appendix F: Wider Network Impacts Management and Monitoring Policy Compliance [APP-535]	

## **Appendix A Engagement activity**

Table A.1 Engagement activities between the Applicant and Thames Enterprise Park Limited since the DCO application was submitted on 31 October 2022

Date	Overview of engagement activities
25 November 2022	Meeting to discuss the Project and its impact on the road network
20 December 2022	Non-Disclosure Agreement between the Applicant and Thames Enterprise Park Limited signed
12 January 2023	Meeting regarding traffic data
16 January 2023	GIS shapefiles from the Lower Thames Area Model for 2016 base year and model forecast year 2030 shared with Thames Enterprise Park Limited
January – February 2023	Emails from the Applicant regarding availability for follow-up VISSIM modelling meeting
12 June 2023	Email from the Applicant regarding the start of examination and availability for follow-up VISSIM modelling meeting
14 July 2023	Meeting to discuss the examination timetable and VISSIM modelling
10 August 2023	Emailed draft SOCG to Thames Enterprise Park Limited
18 August 2023	Email TEP Ltd concerning progression of their review of SoCG
29 August 2023	Email TEP Ltd concerning progression of their review of SoCG
11 September 2023	Email TEP Ltd concerning progression of their review of SoCG and sharing of traffic count data at Manorway junction
20 September 2023	Email TEP Ltd concerning progression of their review of SoCG
3 October 2023	Updated SoCG received from TEP Ltd
5 October 2023	Email from the Applicant sharing VISSIM data of Manorway Interchange
16 October 2023	Meeting to review the SoCG and discuss next steps
20 October 2023	Email from the Applicant sharing the VISSIM data of Orsett Cock junction
24 October 2023	Email from the Applicant sharing Deadline 6 final version of SoCG

## **Appendix B 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, at or east of the existing Dartford Crossing.
Department for Transport	DfT	The 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	Means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
Lower Thames Area Model	LTAM	Transport model designed to forecast impacts of providing additional road-based capacity across the River Thames at or east of the existing Dartford Crossing.
Outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction	oTMPfC	Outlines the approach to carrying out temporary traffic management for the safe construction of the Project and the management measures to reduce the impact on local communities.
Traffic Management Plan	TMP	The approach to carrying out temporary traffic management for the safe construction of the Project. It will also explain management measures available to the Contractor to reduce the impact on the local community (including journey time reliability, access, and safety).

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