

Reference number: TR010032  
Document reference: TR010032/EXAM/10.46

FAO Mr Smith (Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority)  
c/o Mr Bartkowiak (Case Manager)  
The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

A122 Lower Thames Crossing  
National Highways  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford  
MK41 7LW

National Highways Customer Contact  
Centre: 0300 123 5000

08 November 2023

Dear Mr Smith

## **A122 Lower Thames Crossing (Reference Number TR010032)**

### **1 Applicant's further planned amendments**

- 1.1.1 This letter relates to three further 'planned amendments' to the Application in response to stakeholder discussion and matters arising during Examination.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is comfortable that these amendments (having regard to paragraph 2.4 of Advice Note 16) do not constitute changes to the Application for which a formal change request is required and intends to reflect them in updated documents at Deadline 7. The Applicant notes that the acceptance of the relevant updated documents is at the discretion of the Examining Authority.
- 1.1.3 None of the planned amendments involve any increase in land or rights sought, any new or different likely significant environmental effects and are not complex in nature. They would not individually or collectively (either individually or cumulatively with the previous changes and amendments) result in a materially different project.
- 1.1.4 This letter sets out each of the planned amendments and the reasons for making them at this stage in the Examination.

### **1.2 Thong Lane Car Park removal (EA08)**

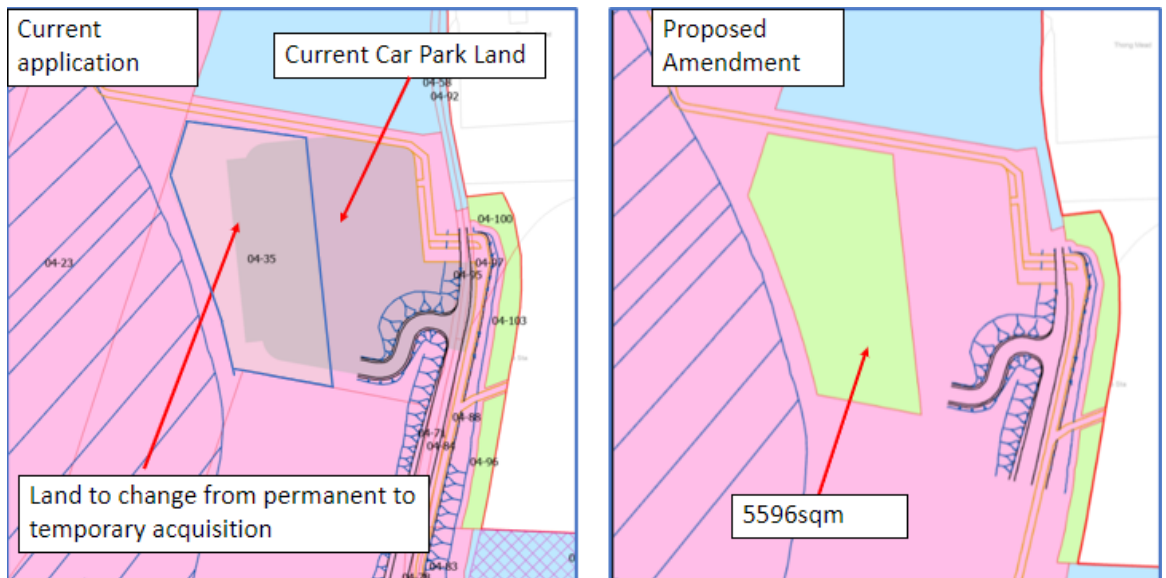
- 1.2.1 The Application currently includes for the main works compound located west of Thong Lane (Works No. CA2) to be reused as a car park (Work No. 1P) allowing the public to access the network of walking, cycling and horse riding (WCH) routes and connections into Chalk Park, Shorne Woods Country Park and Jeskyns Community Woodland (via Thong Lane green bridge north).
- 1.2.2 As confirmed by the Applicant at Issue Specific Hearing 9 (ISH9) [[EV-074](#)], the Application only includes the surface level car parking area. While the Environmental Statement has assessed additional visitor facilities (namely a

building with provision for a kiosk, toilets, changing and storage facility, and then an area for cycle hire and cycle wash facility), these would be subject to the need for separate planning permission by a third party which would manage and operate the facilities.

1.2.3 In response to concerns expressed by stakeholders in relation to the potential effects of recreational facilities (as expressed at ISH9 and through stakeholder engagement), the Applicant intends to remove the car park proposals (i.e. Work No. 1P) from the Application on a precautionary basis.

1.2.4 Removing the car park would enable an area of mitigation planting to be relocated further east with a circa 5,600sqm area changed from requiring permanent acquisition to temporary possession of land only as shown on Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1: proposed update to the Land Plans**



1.2.5 The Applicant notes that Kent County Council has advised that if the additional facilities were not secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO) their preference would be for the proposed car park to be removed from the Application entirely [[REP6-138](#)].

1.2.6 As a result of the amendment, clause S2.11 of the Design Principles would be revised accordingly.

1.2.7 The amendment will be reflected in the following documents at Deadline 7:

Document reference	Document title
TR010032/APP/2.2	2.2 Land Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/2.5	2.5 General Arrangement Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 4)

Document reference	Document title
TR010032/APP/2.6	2.6 Works Plans Volume B Composite (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 5)
TR010032/APP/2.7	2.7 Rights of Way and Access Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 4)
TR010032/APP/3.1	3.1 dDCO (Version 9)
TR010032/APP/4.1	4.1 Statement of Reasons (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/4.2	4.2 Book of Reference (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/6.2	6.2 ES Fig 2.4 - Environmental Masterplan Section 2 (2 of 10) (Version 4)
TR010032/APP/7.5	7.5 Design Principles (Version 5)
TR010032/APP/7.10	7.10 Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Version 3)
TR010032/EXAM/9.8	9.8 ES Addendum (Version 7)
	6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Project Description (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
	6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Population and Human Health (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
TR010032/EXAM/9.22	9.22 Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference Appx A – Schedule of Notifications (Version 5)
TR010032/EXAM/9.47	9.47 Schedule of Changes to the dDCO during Examination (Version 7)

### 1.3 Reduction in tunnels limits of deviation (EA09)

- 1.3.1 The Applicant has, following discussions with stakeholders, reviewed the limits of deviation (LoD) sought in connection with the tunnels against the proposed land acquisition, specifically with regard to land plots 13-46, 13-47, 13-48, 14-11, 15-19 and 15-20.
- 1.3.2 Through this amendment, the Applicant is proposing to regularise the position by reducing the upper vertical LoD for the bored tunnel to exclude the land over which the Applicant would not have powers to undertake the works.
- 1.3.3 The amendment will be reflected in the following documents at Deadline 7:

<b>Document reference</b>	<b>Document title</b>
TR010032/APP/2.15	2.15 Tunnel Limits of Deviation Plans (Version 3)

1.3.4 For clarity, this amendment does not involve any change to the works or land rights sought – only a reduction in the extent of the LoD.

#### **1.4 Plot 13-03 Open Space (EA10)**

1.4.1 In response to ExQ1\_Q13.1.4 and through oral submissions at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 3 (CAH3) Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) has suggested that plot 13-03 (which extends to 5,278sqm), owned by GBC, should be treated as open space. The land is a vegetated margin to the closed nine-hole golf course which GBC claim is used as a recreational walking route.

1.4.2 The Applicant is proposing to designate land no less in area to plot 13-03 at Chalk Park as replacement open space on a precautionary basis (under section 131(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be vested in GBC.

1.4.3 This amendment involves only a change to the legal designation of land and does not involve any physical design changes or change in the land or rights sought.

1.4.4 The amendment will be reflected in the following documents at Deadline 7:

<b>Document reference</b>	<b>Document title</b>
TR010032/APP/2.2	2.2 Land Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/2.4	2.4 Special Category Land Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 6)
TR010032/APP/2.5	2.5 General Arrangement Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 4)
TR010032/APP/2.6	2.6 Works Plans Volume B Composite (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 5)
TR010032/APP/3.1	3.1 dDCO (Version 9)
TR010032/APP/4.1	4.1 Statement of Reasons (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/4.2	4.2 Book of Reference (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/6.2	6.2 ES Fig 2.4 - Environmental Masterplan Section 3 (3 of 10) (Version 3)
TR010032/APP/7.2	7.2 Planning Statement Appx D Open Space (Version 3)
TR010032/EXAM/9.8	9.8 ES Addendum (Version 7)

Document reference	Document title
	6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 – Project Description (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
	6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 – Population and Human Health (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
TR010032/APP/7.10	7.10 Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Version 3)
TR010032/EXAM/9.2 2	9.22 Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (Version 5)
TR010032/EXAM/9.4 7	9.47 Schedule of Changes to the dDCO during Examination (Version 7)

## 1.5 Summary

- 1.5.1 The Applicant proposes to reflect these three additional planned amendments into the Application at Deadline 7 through updates to the documents listed in Appendix A.
- 1.5.2 The documents submitted at Deadline 7 will also reflect Proposed Changes EC03 and EC04 following the Examining Authority's confirmation of their acceptance in its procedural decision on 2 November 2023 [[PD-045](#)] as well as the amendment identified in the Deadline 5 Cover Letter [[REP5-001](#)] relating the removal of land from the Order Limits within plot 21-10 (EA07).

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim Wright

Head of Consents – Lower Thames Crossing

# Annex A Documents

## A.1.1 Table A.1

**Table A.1 Documents that accompany Deadline 7 submission relating to these amendments**

Document reference	Document title
TR010032/APP/2.2	2.2 Land Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/2.4	2.4 Special Category Land Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 6)
TR010032/APP/2.5	2.5 General Arrangement Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 4)
TR010032/APP/2.6	2.6 Works Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20)
TR010032/APP/2.7	2.7 Rights of Way and Access Plans Volume B (sheets 1 to 20) (Version 4)
TR010032/APP/2.15	2.15 Tunnel Limits of Deviation Plans (Version 3)
TR010032/APP/3.1	3.1 dDCO (Version 9)
TR010032/APP/4.1	4.1 Statement of Reasons (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/4.2	4.2 Book of Reference (Version 7)
TR010032/APP/6.2	6.2 ES Fig 2.4 - Environmental Masterplan (Sections 2 and 3)
TR010032/APP/7.2	7.2 Planning Statement Appx D Open Space (Version 3)
TR010032/APP/7.5	7.5 Design Principles (Version 5)
TR010032/APP/7.8	7.8 Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Version 3)
TR010032/EXAM/9.8	9.8 ES Addendum (Version 7)
	6.3 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
	6.3 ES Chapter 13 – Population and human health (updated via 9.8 ES Addendum)
TR010032/EXAM/9.22	9.22 Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (Version 5)
TR010032/EXAM/9.47	9.47 Schedule of Changes to the dDCO during Examination (Version 7)