

National Infrastructure Planning

Sent by email only to:
LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref: TR010032
Kent Downs AONB Unit Interested Party Ref: 20035310

11th December 2023



Kent Downs AONB Unit
West Barn
Penstock Hall Farm
Canterbury Road
East Brabourne
Ashford, Kent TN25 5LL



Anglesey
Arnside and Silverdale
Blackdown Hills
Cannock Chase
Chichester Harbour
Chilterns
Clwydian Range
Cornwall
Cotswolds
Gower
Cranbourne Chase and
West Wiltshire Downs
Dedham Vale
Dorset
East Devon
Forest of Bowland
Howardian Hills
High Weald
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
Kent Downs
Lincolnshire Wolds
Llyn
Malvern Hills
Mendip Hills
Nidderdale
Norfolk Coast
North Devon
North Pennines
North Wessex Downs
Northumberland Coast
Quantock Hills
Shropshire Hills
Solway Coast
South Devon
Suffolk Coast and Heaths
Surrey Hills
Tamar Valley
Wye Valley

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Responses of the Kent Downs AONB Unit to Procedural Deadline 9

Please find attached the Kent Downs AONB Unit's response to Deadline 8 of the Lower Thames Crossing Examination.

As advised in our covering letter to our Deadline 8 Submission, on the 22nd November 2023, all AONBs in England and Wales became National Landscapes and the Kent Downs AONB has been renamed the Kent Downs National Landscape. However, in the interests of consistency and in view of the advanced stage of the Examination and the imminent completion of the Examination, we have retained reference to the Kent Downs AONB/AONB Unit in our submission and will continue to do so in any subsequent correspondence.

The AONB Unit's submissions at Deadline 9 comprise:

- Response to Applicants Post Hearing Submission to ISH 11, incorporating:
 - Action Point 1 The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) - section 245 (5) & (6)(a)
 - Action Point 3 Local Landscape Character Area boundaries
 - Action Point 4 Kent Downs AONB landscape impact assessments
 - Action Point 7 Width of the Green Bridges
 - Action Point 16 Nitrogen deposition compensation – spatial relationship between impact and compensation
- Comments on Applicant's submissions at D7:
 - Doc 7.5 Design Principle V6
 - 9.192 Applicants Responses to the Examining Authority's Third Written Questions (ExQ3)

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Enhancing landscapes and life in the Kent Downs

The Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) promotes and co-ordinates the conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs AONB. Funding is provided by DEFRA, Kent County Council and the local authorities of Ashford, Bromley, Canterbury, Dover, Gravesham, Medway, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale and Tonbridge & Malling. Other organisations represented on the JAC include Natural England, the Environment Agency, Country Land and Business Association, National Farmers Union, Kent Association of Parish Councils and Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

Yours faithfully



Katie Miller
Planning Manager, Kent Downs AONB Unit

Enhancing landscapes and life in the Kent Downs

The Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) promotes and co-ordinates the conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs AONB. Funding is provided by DEFRA, Kent County Council and the local authorities of Ashford, Bromley, Canterbury, Dover, Gravesham, Medway, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale and Tonbridge & Malling. Other organisations represented on the JAC include Natural England, the Environment Agency, Country Land and Business Association, National Farmers Union, Kent Association of Parish Councils and Action with Communities in Rural Kent.