

# **Lower Thames Crossing**

9.92 Final Agreed Statement of Common Ground between (1) National Highways and (2) Melville Mott & Family (Clean version)

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Volume 9

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#### **Revision history**

Version	Date	Submitted at
1.0	19 September 2023	Deadline 4
2.0	15 December 2023	Deadline 9A

## Status of the Statement of Common Ground

This is the Final Agreed Statement of Common Ground between (1) National Highways (the Applicant) and (2) Melville Mott & Family.

Both parties have reached agreement on the position of the status of all 17 matters. Of the 17 matters contained within, two matters are agreed, six are agreed in principle and nine are not agreed, leaving no matters outstanding.

#### On behalf of the Applicant

Name	
Position	
Organisation	National Highways
Signature	

#### On behalf of Melville Mott & Family

Name	
Position	
Organisation	Holland Land & Property Limited
Signature	

# **Lower Thames Crossing**

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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 parties named below, and where agreement has not been reached.
- 1.1.3 This version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 9A.

#### 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) Melville Mott & Family which includes:



- 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 Melville Mott & Family own extensive areas of land affected by the Project. The majority of this land is farmed by the family under arable crops. There are further interests, rights and assets that would be impacted by the Project including extensive areas of land licensed and/or leased to Ingrebourne Valley Ltd (IVL) for pulverised fly ash (PFA) extraction and subsequent landfilling and restoration operations. See Section 2.2: Notes below.
- 1.2.4 The parties acknowledge that the Project will have a significant effect on the Mott family's current land use and business and their future business and other proposed alternative land uses during construction and post construction as a consequence of the area of land-take proposed as a proportion of the Mott family's ownership total area.

## 1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the final position on matters table in Section 2 of this SoCG, "Matter Not Agreed" indicates agreement on the matter could not be reached, "Matter

Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved and "Matter Agreed\*" indicates a matter that is agreed in principal but where further discussion may take place during the detailed design stage of the Project to finalise detail, or is subject to contract (between Melville Mott & Family and the Applicant).

## 1.4 Overview of previous engagement

- 1.4.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence undertaken between the two parties in relation to the Project is outlined in Annex B of the Statement of Reasons [**Document Reference 4.1 (8)**].
- 1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and correspondence undertaken between (1) the Applicant and (2) Melville Mott & Family in relation to the matters addressed in this SoCG.

## 2 Matters

#### 2.1 Final Position on Matters

- 2.1.1 Table 2.1 details the matters which have been agreed, or not agreed between (1) the Applicant and (2) Melville Mott & Family.
- 2.1.2 It is acknowledged there are some matters where further discussion may take place during the detailed design stage of the Project to finalise detail, or is subject to contract (between Melville Mott & Family and the Applicant), but the matter is agreed in principle. Matters to which this applies have an asterisk (\*) next to them.
- 2.1.3 At Deadline 9A there are 17 matters, two of which are agreed, six are agreed in principle and nine that are not agreed.
- 2.1.4 This is the final Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and Melville Mott & Family.

**Table 2.1 Final position on Matters** 

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status			
Land and comp	and and compulsory acquisition							
Ecological Mitigation Land (Generally)	2.1.1	The landowner objects to the permanent acquisition of land for ecological mitigation purposes.  The proposed SSSI designation is not a given position and remains the subject of further engagement between Natural England and stakeholders. The Applicant's Project should therefore fully recognise that SSSI designation is not in place and that it should not assume this in reaching its own mitigation conclusions or indeed in seeking	As detailed in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 8: Terrestrial Biodiversity and the Habitats Regulations Assessment – Screening Report and Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment, the Project would result in significant effects on a number of ecological receptors including Low Street Pit Local Wildlife Site, great crested newts, reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates, and bird assemblages associated with the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar and Special Protection Area.	ES Chapter 8: Terrestrial Biodiversity [Document Reference 6.1 ES Chapter 8 (2)] Habitats Regulations Assessment –Screening Report and Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment [APP-487]	Matter Not Agreed			

**DEADLINE: 9A** 

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		to put mitigation proposals in place that seek to meet SSSI objectives which in their own right may go beyond that which is absolutely necessary for the Applicant's Project.  The objection relates to all land to be permanently acquired, including the 35 ha (approx.) at Coalhouse Point (Plot 19-09) and 21.6 ha (approx.) west of Princess Margaret Road (Plots 19-01 and 22-40).	Much of this area also forms part of Natural England's Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) scoping study which is considering notifying a North Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI. Measures are required to mitigate these significant effects and these land parcels provide suitable sites for necessary habitat creation to both mitigate the loss of habitats supporting the ecological receptors and designated site listed above, and align with Natural England's SSSI study.		
Ecological Mitigation Land (Alternative land proposals)	2.1.2	To minimize the impact of the Project on the Mott / Mulberry Strategic development land and Masterplan (Phase 2), the landowner has proposed alternative land parcels for ecological mitigation which are owned by him and currently lie outside the Order Limit as submitted at Deadline 3 REP3-168 and REP3-174. See 2.2.7 in 'Notes' below for Plan 5 (Appendix A) showing existing and alternative ecological mitigation land areas.	The Applicant has formally considered the landowner's suggestions of alternative locations for ecological mitigation land and is continuing to do so in a positive and constructive manner. See Section 2.2: Notes – paragraph 2.2.7 and Plan 5 (Appendix A) for more details.	N/A	Matter Not Agreed

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
Ecological Mitigation Land (Long term Management)	2.1.3	LTC to consider ownership arrangements post LTC along with management prescriptions and possible management agreement (e.g. s253 agreement under Highways Act 1980).  The Applicant has been asked to provide a draft agreement and management prescriptions for each field parcel / mitigation use.  The landowner has farmed the land for three generations and in respect of the management skills required, we consider is well placed to meet these requirements. The landowner is prepared to enter into management agreements for the term required by the Project.  Further to discussions with National Highways in November 2023, we understand that the policy position now is that s.253 agreements are not to be offered to landowners except in exceptional circumstances.  If this is now the case, in order to mitigate against the loss of freehold land for these purposes which also has the effect of removing the option for	The Applicant is currently considering matters relating to long-term management of ecological mitigation land; however, detailed management prescriptions and arrangements will not be known until the detailed design phase as undertaken by the Contractor.  More generally, essential ecological mitigation is the Applicant's responsibility to maintain in perpetuity and therefore requires permanent acquisition. The Applicant has, by exception on other projects, agreed alternative delivery/ownership routes such as s253 agreements (Highways Act 1980). However, in practice these have often led to non-conforming implementation and/or maintenance issues which required the Applicant to exercise step-in rights. The Applicant to exercise step-in rights. The Applicant's policy is increasingly to use such avenues only in exceptional circumstances. The Applicant's preference is to engage a 'competent authority' (for example a local authority or similar body) who has an established track record of maintaining such habitats. This is considered the most economical and robust approach to secure compliance with long-term management obligations in perpetuity.	Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3 [REP6-087]	Matter Not Agreed

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		landowners to use that land for their own mitigation purposes in connection with future development on their retained land, the landowner has proposed to the Applicant that they would be willing to discuss a long term lease with NH whereby they are permitted under that lease to sub-let or enter into management agreements with an appropriate authority(ies) to carry out the mitigation management work but under which the landowner would reserve the right to use the same land for mitigation purposes where this is not in conflict with National Highways mitigation works.	In terms of compliance risk, it is preferable for the Applicant to contract with an organisation rather than an individual in cases of non-performance or default.  See also paragraph 3.6.2 of the Applicant's Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3.		
Coalhouse Point (Access Track to National Grid compound)	2.1.4	Order Limits as drawn required >90% of Land Registry title EX721479 (Plot 19-09) but would have left the landowner with two narrow strips of unfarmable land. One strip adjoined the river Thames (including a flood bund) and (2) an access track down the eastern boundary to the National Grid gas compound.  The strip along the river Thames has since been resolved and the landowner is still considering the	The Order Limits have been extended to include the foreshore strip.  The Applicant is open to further discussions regarding the acquisition of the land comprising the National Grid access track once the landowner clarifies its position.	Sheet 19 of Land Plans (Volume B) [Document Reference 2.2 (8)]	Matter Agreed*

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		access track to the National Grid compound.			
Residential Property Blight	2.1.5	The values of the residential properties: 'Goshems Farmhouse', 'Norrsken' and 'Pleasant View Bungalow' as owned by Melville Mott & Family may be negatively impacted by the scheme and compensation sought.	The Applicant agrees that these properties may qualify as potential Part 1 Land Compensation Act 1973 claims post construction. Quantum of compensation will not be known until the impacts of the road 'in operation' are known. Any payments will be assessed in accordance with the Compensation Code.	N/A	Matter Agreed
Tilbury Fields (1) Access to ecological mitigation land and wharf	2.1.6	Concerned that access to retained land west of the LTC alignment, including (i) s106 ecological mitigation land for the IVL land restoration works, (ii) access to Plot 16-44 to be provided as it will be severed which potentially includes a new wharf location, all of which will be lost, both during and after construction works.	Access through Plots 20-45, 20-58, 20-62, 23-68, 16-36 and 16-37 both during construction and for permanent access track post construction is now secured under SACR-006 in the Stakeholder Actions and Commitments Register. This commits the Applicant to providing access to Land Registry Title EX298754 and therefore covers both the s.106 ecological mitigation land and Plot 16-44.	Sheet 16 of Land Plans (Volume B) [Document Reference 2.2 (8)] Stakeholder Actions and Commitments Register [Document Reference 7.21 (7)]	Matter Agreed*
Tilbury Fields (2) Thurrock Power Solar option	2.1.7	The landowner requires a SACR commitment reserving the right to install cables, service media and the like on land to permanently acquired by National Highways for the purposes of serving any solar scheme on the landowners retained land. We have indicated	The Applicant to explore future ownership and management arrangements further, including that relating to Thurrock Power and land to be returned where Rendezvous Point (RVP) is located (which is already subject to a solar option agreement	N/A	Matter Not Agreed

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		on the attached plan the land on which this may be required but would be subject to agreed design / routing. Note this would not affect the main LTC alignment  See Plan 3 (Appendix A) and Plan 4 where the shaded blue land is retained land on which solar may be placed and which is part of Thurrock Power's option land and the land shaded yellow is the general zone where we would need a route for services to connect.	between the landowner and Thurrock Power). See Plans 3 and 4 annexed hereto (Appendix A) showing the land under option to Thurrock Power for solar purposes. Any easements will be subject to Project approval and at the time of writing these have not been approved.		
North Portal (1) Emergency vehicle access track west of alignment	2.1.8	The landowner requests that the DCO shall not confer any rights to third parties to use the access track (Plot 20-45) other than strictly for the purposes for use as an emergency vehicle route to the northern portal building and the associated Rendezvous Point (RVP) as part of the LTC and no other third-party use save the Melville Mott & Family and their authorised users. If the track is permanently acquired by NH a restrictive covenant would be requested on the registered title for the benefit of Melville Mott & Family and their retained land -	Matters remain under discussion.		Matter Not Agreed

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		preventing use of the access track for any other purposes. The landowner made Written Representations to the ExA on the retention of the freehold of this access track under Deadline 1.			
North Portal (2) Location of Rendezvous Point (RVP)	2.1.9	Principle of RVP accepted by the landowner but exact location is not agreed. The landowner would prefer it located to the north of the drainage ditch in Plot 20-54 which is due to be returned to the landowner.  See 2.2.6 in Notes and Plan 2.4 (Appendix A) below showing the current proposed location of the RVP and the alternative location proposed by the landowner.  The landowner is happy to meet with the ESSPSG to discuss alternative locations.	Permanent land-take area currently remains as required as a Rendezvous Point for emergency vehicles. The Applicant remains in conversation with the Emergency Services and Safety Partners Steering Group (ESSPSG) on this Rendezvous Point. See Plan 4 in Appendix A for more details. Alternative locations are being discussed but none has yet been agreed and so the DCO remains as drafted.	N/A	Matter Not Agreed
Northern Tunnel Entrance Compound compound Access through Construction Compound CA5	2.1.1	Construction Compound CA5 impacts the Mulberry Strategic Land (Phase 2) development proposals. The date the land will be returned to the landowner and hence available for development is important.	SACR-019 now commits the Contractor at the detailed design stage, to use all reasonable endeavours to provide the landowner with controlled access through the north-east corner of compound CA5 to the land south of Station Road.	Stakeholder Actions and Commitments Register [Document Reference 7.21 (7)]	Matter Agreed*

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
		The Applicant has informally agreed to leave a 'corridor' to the east of Compound CA5 through Plots 22-02, 22-12, 22-17, 22-18, 22-26 to enable the landowner access to develop land to south of Station Road. This would mitigate a delay to the phasing of development to the south of Station Road.	However, access cannot be guaranteed at this stage.		
Goshems Farm & Ingrebourne Valley Ltd PFA / Infill & Restoration Operations	2.1.1	Compensation for any loss of revenue from Ingrebourne Valley Ltd's (IVL's) operations to be agreed as per the Compensation Code as and when the impacts of the project are known.  See Plan 1 (Appendix A)	The Applicant confirms that compensation for all permanent and temporary land-take, including any royalties foregone from IVL's PFA extraction/land-fill restoration operations will be assessed at time of entry/notice served with compensation being paid in accordance with the Compensation Code. See Plan 1 in Appendix A for more details.	N/A	Matter Agreed
Walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) routes (1) (including Station Road & track at Bucklands Farm)	2.1.1	Routes of new WCH's and the upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways and / or cycle paths is not agreed and objected to, including where they impact development opportunities.  See Notes 2.2.4 and also Plan 2 (Appendix A) - Mulberry Strategic Land 'Masterplan' (Phase 2).	As well as reconnecting walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) routes severed by the proposed new road, in accordance with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) HD 42/17 a Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Assessment was carried out. This explored the existing public right of way (PRoW) network, national and local policies, local demographics and consultation	Project Design Report Part E: Design for Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders [APP-512]	Matter Not Agreed

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
			feedback to determine where there might be strategic opportunities for enhancement. Please see the Project Design Report Part E: Design for Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders for details and rationale of the rights of way linkages.		
			The Applicant will continue discussions with the landowner in respect of new and upgraded rights of way proposed over his land. See Plan 2 in Appendix A for more details.		
WCH routes (2)	2.1.1	Compulsory purchase of freehold title for new WCH's is deemed unnecessary by the landowner and is objected to. Without prejudice to this objection, there exists a statutory procedure for the dedication of new rights of way under the Highways Act 1980 without taking freehold ownership).	The Applicant's legal advice is that the permanent acquisition of the freehold of the land is required where <i>new</i> PRoWs are being created. This advice is based upon the Secretary of State's comments in making a decision on the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester DCO project which referred to permanent acquisition for new PRoWs as being 'best practice' and in line with Government guidance (Circular 02/97) and to do otherwise would be 'unprecedented'.	Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3 [REP6-087]	Matter Not Agreed
			See also paragraph 3.6.10 of Post- event submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3.		

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
WCH routes (3)	2.1.1	Notwithstanding WCH (2) above, the landowner agrees to the Applicant investigating future ownership arrangements and dedication as a public rights of way (PRoWs).  The landowners' solicitors have been sent preliminary instructions and a fee quote for the Applicant's approval is awaited.	Draft Heads of Terms for a tri-partite agreement have been issued and will be progressed if agreement can be reached.  See also paragraph 3.6.10 of Postevent submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3.	Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments, for CAH3 [REP6-087]	Matter Agreed*
Special Category Land Tilbury Green (Drovers Road) Replacement Common Land	2.1.1	Permanent land take for replacement common land to the west of Bucklands Farm and the replacement trackway (Plots 20-70 and 23-117) are both objected to. The Applicant has been asked to investigate alternative options.	The Applicant's position on the acquisition of land at Tilbury Green is set out in Section 7.2 of the Statement of Reasons and paragraphs D5.34 to D.5.46 and Plate D.5 and D.6 of Planning Statement Appendix D: Open Space.	Statement of Reasons [Document Reference 4.1 (8)] Planning Statement Appendix D: Open Space [REP7-136]	Matter Not Agreed
Coalhouse Battery Land at Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury	2.1.1	The landowner objects to loss of access (Plot 22-92) and frontage (Plot 22-93) off Princess Margaret Road to Coalhouse Battery as a consequence of permanent land take boundaries	The land is required for environmental mitigation works and also a new permissive path between existing footpath FP147 and Princess Margaret Road.  SACR-005 of the Stakeholder and Actions Commitment Register secures a landowner's access rights during construction as follows: 'Where access to a significant area of a landowner's farmland is severed by construction works, the Contractor shall ensure that the farmer is	Stakeholder and Actions Commitment Register [Document Reference 7.21 (7)]	Matter Agreed*

Topic	Item No.	Melville Mott & Family Comment	The Applicant's Response	Application Document Reference	Status
			provided with controlled access to their retained land.'		
			Permanent rights of access to be retained by being specifically excluded from the General Vesting Declaration GVD.		
Land west of Princess Margaret Road (Plots 19-45 & 19-47)	2.1.1	The landowner objects to the permanent acquisition of these plots which would sever access to land not within the Order Limits.	Comments as for access rights in item 2.1.17 above.	N/A	Matter Agreed*

Note: There is no 2.1.16 in this table and there are 17 matters.

#### 2.2 Notes

- 2.2.1 The Mott family ownership at East Tilbury is shown edged red on the attached Plate 2.1 (Appendix A) and amounts to approximately 631.83 acres (255.70ha).
- 2.2.2 The extent of land-take (permanent, temporary possession and temporary possession with permanent rights) by the Project is overlaid on Plate 2.1 (Appendix A) and shown shaded yellow and amounts to approximately 477.03 acres (193.05ha).
- 2.2.3 The extent of existing land restoration and PFA extraction operations (as referenced under item 2.1.1.11 above) is shown as hatched black on Plate 2.1 (Appendix A).
- 2.2.4 The Mulberry Phase 2 Development area over the land in Mott family ownership (as referenced under item 2.1.12 above) is annexed as Plate 2.2 (Appendix A).
- 2.2.5 The Thurrock Power Solar Option area over the land in Mott family ownership (as referenced under item 2.1.7 above) is annexed as Plate 2.3 (Appendix A).
- 2.2.6 The current and alternative RVP locations plan (as referenced under item 2.1.9 above) is annexed as Plate 2.4 (Appendix A).
- 2.2.7 The current and alternative ecological mitigation land (as referenced under item 2.1.2 above) is annexed as Plate 2.5 (Appendix A) and includes an overlay of the Mulberry Phase 2 Development Area (hatched black) for context.

# **Appendix A Documents considered within this Statement of Common Ground**

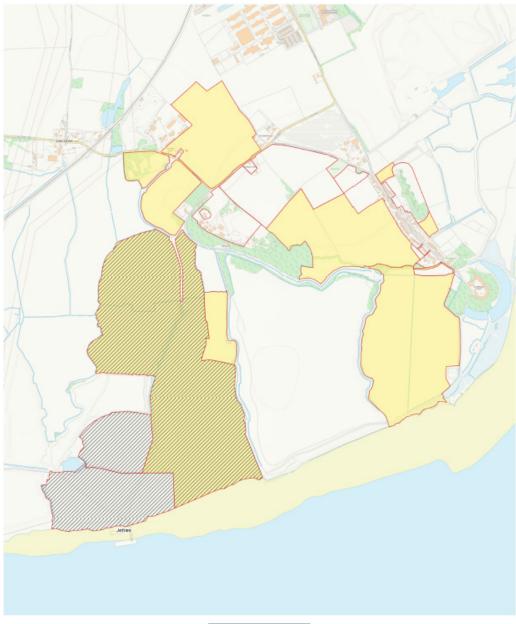
A.1.1 A summary of the documents which have been considered in the development of this SoCG outside of the DCO application documents is provided below:

Plate 2.1

Plan 1

Mott - Land at East Tilbury -LTC Statement of Common Ground



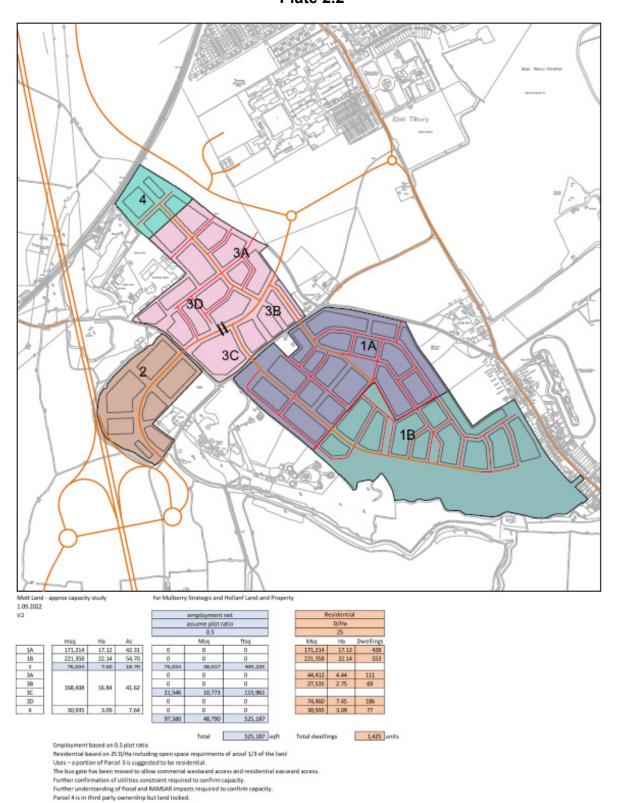


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Plate 2.2

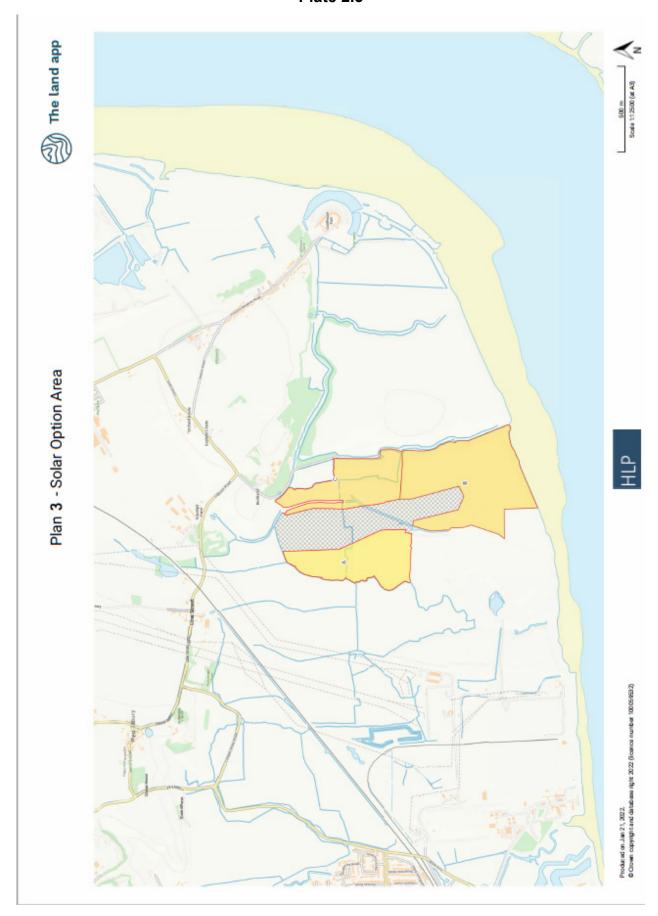


# Mott Land Capacity Study

21-M015 - 0078 209-2022



Plate 2.3



Plan 4

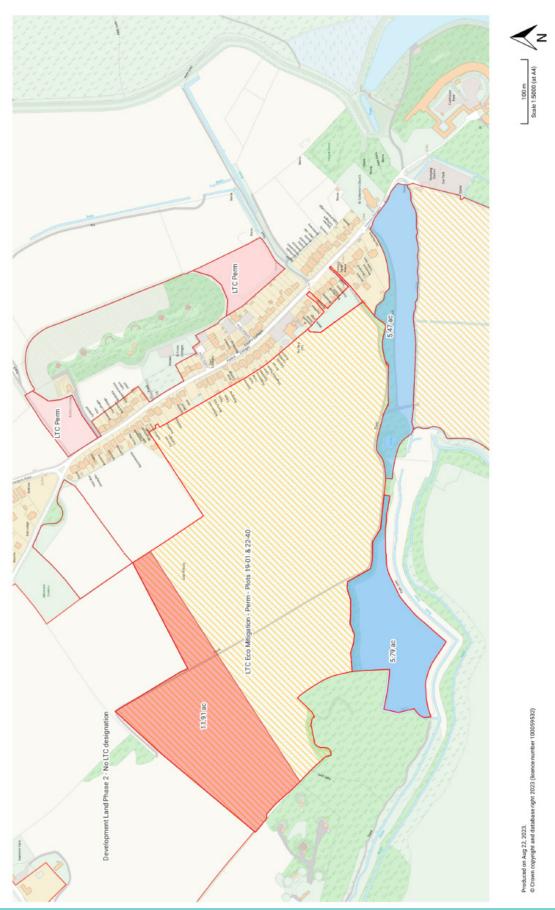


Plate 2.4 Work No. CAS Alternative RVP location Description automatically generated A computer screen shot of a map

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR010032 Examination Document Ref: TR010032/EXAM/9.92 DATE: December 2023 DEADLINE: 9A

Plate 2.5





# **Appendix B Glossary**

Term	Abbreviation	Explanation
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges	DMRB	A comprehensive manual which contains requirements, advice and other published documents relating to works on motorway and all-purpose trunk roads for which one of the Overseeing Organisations (National Highways, Transport Scotland, the Welsh Government or the Department for Regional Development (Northern Ireland)) is the highway authority. For the A122 Lower Thames Crossing, the Overseeing Organisation is National Highways.
Development Consent Order	DCO	Means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
Emergency Services and Safety Partnership Group	ESSPG	The group of Emergency Services and Local Councils that formed the regular engagement group
Environmental Statement	ES	A document produced to support an application for development consent that is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which sets out the likely impacts on the environment arising from the proposed development.
Public Right of Way	PRoW	A right possessed by the public to pass along routes over land at all times. Although the land may be owned by a private individual, the public may still gain access across that land along a specific route. The mode of transport allowed differs according to the type of Public Right of Way, which can consist of footpaths, bridleways and open and restricted byways.
Rendezvous Point	RVP	Used at locations (e.g. stations or airports) that would typically require the attendance of several or more emergency services vehicles and personnel in the event of a significant incident.
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A conservation designation denoting an area of particular ecological or geological importance.
Statement of Common Ground	SoCG	A Statement of Common Ground is a written statement containing factual information about the proposal which is the subject of the appeal that the appellant reasonably considers will not be disputed by the local planning authority.
Walkers, cyclists and horse riders	WCH	Walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

# Appendix C List of engagement activities

C.1.1 A detailed record of all engagement between (1) the Applicant and (2) Melville Mott & Family in relation to the matters addressed in this SoCG is available in Annex B of the Statement of Reasons [**Document Reference 4.1 (8)**].

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