

Lower Thames Crossing

5.3 Statement of Commonality (Clean version)

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7.0	31 October 2023	Deadline 6
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10.0	15 December 2023	Deadline 9A

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 On 31 October 2022, National Highways (the Applicant) submitted an Application under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for an order to grant development consent for the A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project). On 28 November 2022 the Planning Inspectorate accepted the Application for Detailed Examination.
- 1.1.2 A Statement of Commonality was submitted with the Application to assist the Examining Authority (ExA) in understanding areas of commonality across the Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) which have been prepared between the Applicant and a range of parties.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant notes that procedural decision PD-013-17 within the Rule 6 Letter [\[PD-013\]](#) identifies nine documents which should be submitted at each Examination Deadline or included as a 'nil return'.
- 1.1.4 The Statement of Commonality was identified as one of these documents and as such, it has been submitted at each Examination deadline.
- 1.1.5 The document comprises the Applicant's understanding of the final stakeholders' positions, as set out in the SoCGs submitted by the Applicant to the ExA at Examination Deadline 9A.
- 1.1.6 For more detailed information on the respective stakeholders' positions, in relation to the topics covered in this Statement of Commonality, please refer to the individual SoCGs.

1.2 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1 This document comprises four chapters as described below:
- a. Chapter 1 (this chapter) sets out the purpose and structure of the document.
 - b. Chapter 2 provides an introduction to the drafting of the SoCGs along with a summary of their structure.
 - c. Chapter 3 provides an up-to-date list of the SoCGs and their status.
 - d. Chapter 4 provides a summary table (matrix) which indicates areas of commonality across headings within the SoCGs and presents some high-level commentary.

2 Statements of Common Ground

- 2.1.1 The Applicant has sought SoCGs with a number and range of parties in order to capture their respective positions on material matters relating to the Application.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant has submitted a SoCG with 74 Interested Parties however, Swale Borough Council withdrew from the SoCG process prior to Deadline 9A (notifying the Planning Inspectorate accordingly).
- 2.1.3 Of the remaining 73 SoCGs this document deals with 65, the eight SoCGs not included are those with individual landowners because the matters contained within those are particular to the landowner.
- 2.1.4 A full list of the 65 SoCGs and their status is provided in Chapter 3 where:
- Table 3.1 lists SoCGs submitted with the Application on 31 October 2022.
 - Table 3.2 lists new SoCGs prepared with parties in response to the Rule 6 Letter [[PD-013](#)].
 - Table 3.3 lists additional SoCGs submitted at Deadline 1 with further parties that were not submitted with the Application, or requested in the Rule 6 Letter [[PD-013](#)], but which the Applicant felt would assist the Examining Authority.
 - Table 3.4 lists new SoCGs with further parties that were submitted at Deadline 2.
 - Table 3.5 lists new SoCGs with further parties that were submitted at Deadline 6.
- 2.1.5 To ensure consistency across the SoCGs, a uniform approach has been taken to drafting the SoCGs. Each is generally structured as follows:
- A clear indication of the status of the SoCG.
 - An introduction, setting out the purpose of the document, an overview of the key terminology, and a summary of the movement of Matters where the SoCG is an updated version.
 - A table setting out the characterisation of the positions of the Applicant and of the parties on each Matter, and the status of agreement of the Matter. Across the SoCGs this table is structured by a common list of topics.
 - A summary of engagement undertaken, and information shared in order to draft the position and reach an agreed status of Matters within the SoCG.
 - Where applicable, appendices providing additional information relating to the documents considered within the SoCG, and information on the engagement undertaken.
- 2.1.6 A uniform approach has been taken across the suite of SoCGs to documenting the position on each matter.

3 List and status

- 3.1.1 This Chapter of the document provides a list of the SoCGs and a summary of the final status of each.
- 3.1.2 In accordance with the examination timetable (in the Rule 8(3) and 9 letter [\[PD-049\]](#)), at Examination Deadline 9A, SoCGs are to be submitted as final iterations.
- 3.1.3 The final status of each can be summarised by one of the following:
- a. **Final Agreed SoCG** – a final version of the SoCG that has been signed by both parties or endorsed by email.
 - b. **Final SoCG** – a final version of the SoCG that the Applicant considers is an accurate description based on the engagement that has taken place but is not signed or endorsed.

Table 3.1 List and status of SoCGs submitted with the Application

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc Ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Barking Power Limited	5.4.3.2 v2	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Basildon Council	5.4.4.1 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Brentwood Borough Council	5.4.4.2 v4	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Cadent Gas Ltd	5.4.3.3 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Cellnex UK Ltd	5.4.3.4 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final
Cobham Parish Council	5.4.5.1 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Dartford Borough Council	5.4.4.3 v4	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	-	Final Agreed
DP World London Gateway	5.4.2.1 v3	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Environment Agency	5.4.1.1 v5	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Northumbrian Water Limited – Trading as Essex and Suffolk Water	5.4.3.6 v2	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Essex County Council	5.4.4.5 v5	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Final Agreed
EXA Infrastructure Services UK Ltd	5.4.3.8 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc Ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Forestry Commission	5.4.1.2 v3	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Forestry England	5.4.5.2 v4	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Final Agreed
Gravesham Borough Council	5.4.4.6 v4	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Health and Safety Executive	5.4.3.9 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Higham Parish Council	5.4.5.3 v4	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Historic England	5.4.1.3 v3	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	-	Final Agreed
High Speed One Ltd	5.4.3.10 v4	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
ITS Technology Group Ltd (NextGen Access)	5.4.3.15 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Kent County Council	5.4.4.7 v5	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Kent Downs AONB Unit	5.4.1.4 v4	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
London Borough of Havering	5.4.4.8 v5	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Marine Management Organisation	5.4.1.5 v3	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Medway Council	5.4.4.10 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Natural England	5.4.1.6 v6	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Final Agreed

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc Ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	5.4.3.14 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final
Openreach Ltd	5.4.3.16 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Port of London Authority	5.4.1.7 v2	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Port of Tilbury London Ltd	5.4.2.2 v2	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	<i>Final version to be submitted at Deadline 10</i>
Royal Mail Group	5.4.3.17 v2	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Shorne Parish Council	5.4.5.4 v4	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Southern Gas Networks PLC	5.4.3.18 v4	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Thames Chase Trust	5.4.5.5 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Thurrock Council	5.4.4.12 v4	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Thurrock Flexible Generation Limited (formerly Thurrock Power Limited)	5.4.2.3 v3	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	5.4.4.13 v5	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Transport for London	5.4.4.11 v5	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Final Agreed
UK Power Networks Ltd	5.4.3.21 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc Ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Verizon UK Ltd	5.4.3.22 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Virgin Media Ltd	5.4.3.23 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Vodafone Ltd	5.4.3.24 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Zayo Group UK Ltd	5.4.3.25 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final

Table 3.2 List and status of new SoCGs requested in the Rule 6 Letter/post Rule 6 letter

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Cuxton Parish Council	9.39 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Dover District Council	9.34 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Emergency Services and Safety Partnership Steering Group (ESSP SG)	9.28 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Essex Police	9.41 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Hutchinson Ports (London Thamesport)	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they do not see a need for a SoCG										
Kent and Medway Economic Partnership	9.36 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Kent Police	9.42 v3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Luddesdown Parish Council	9.50 v2	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Maidstone Borough Council	9.154 v2	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they do not see a need for a SoCG										
Meopham Parish Council	9.40 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Metropolitan Police	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they do not see a need for a SoCG										
NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board	9.151 v2	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	9.121 v2	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
NHS North East London Integrated Care Board	9.44 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board	9.43 v3	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Peel Ports	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they do not see a need for a SoCG										

Interested Party (IP)	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Sevenoaks District Council	9.37 v3	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	-	Final Agreed
Swale Borough Council	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they needed to withdraw from the SoCG process ahead of Deadline 9A										
Trinity House	Interested party has confirmed to the Examining Authority that they do not see a need for a SoCG										

Table 3.3 Further additional SoCGs submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1 to assist the Examining Authority

Interested Party	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Anglian Water Services Limited	9.27 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC	9.30 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
National Gas Transmission PLC	9.31 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Final Agreed
Southern Water Services Ltd	9.32 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed
Thames Water Utilities Ltd	9.33 v2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	-	Final Agreed

Table 3.4 Further additional SoCGs submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2 to assist the Examining Authority

Interested Party	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Global Mutual (c/o Lakeside Centre Limited)	9.51 v2	*	Yes	Yes	No	No	-	-	-	-	Final agreed SoCG * Global Mutual submitted a unilateral SoCG direct to the ExA at Deadline 1, the Applicant has since engaged with Global Mutual and collaborated on a SoCG for Deadline 2 which is the first version submitted by the Applicant

Table 3.5 Further additional SoCGs submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6 to assist the Examining Authority

Interested Party	Our Doc ref/version	DL 1	DL 2	DL 3	DL 4	DL 5	DL 6	DL 7	DL 8	DL 9A	Final Status of the SoCG
Morzine Limited	9.156 v2	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final
Thames Enterprise Park Limited	9.155 v2	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Final

These tables and this document do not include those SoCGs with individual Landowners as set out in 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

4 Commonality

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 This Chapter of the document provides a summary of the material matters covered in each SoCG and demonstrates where there is commonality in the matters being discussed with parties.
- 4.1.2 Table 4.2 shows (a) the headings covered by the SoCGs running along the top, and (b) the parties running down the side.
- 4.1.3 Within the matrix in the table, the colour coding represents (a) whether matters under the headings are broadly agreed, under discussion, or not agreed, or (b) whether the heading has not been a material matter in engagement. This is represented by colour coding as set out in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Commonality colour coding

Matters under the heading broadly agreed	
Matters under the headings broadly not agreed	
Matters under the headings broadly under discussion	
No matters raised at this point	

- 4.1.4 Table 4.2 has had a primary purpose to assist the Examining Authority in understanding the headings which were under discussion or not agreed, particularly such headings where the position was shared across more than one Interested Party. The categorisation and colour coding in the matrix is intended to represent the broad position per heading (it is not absolute).
- 4.1.5 At Examination Deadline 9A, where a party has raised multiple matters under the same heading, the colour coding has been assigned to the status with >51%. Where there was an equal split, the ‘broadly not agreed’ status has been used.
- 4.1.6 It should also be noted that where colour coding in Table 4.2 shows some headings as ‘broadly not agreed’, the number of matters agreed with that Interested Party for that heading could in fact be greater in number than with other Interested Parties where the same heading is designated as ‘broadly agreed’. For a more detailed view of the status of matters, see the individual SoCGs.
- 4.1.7 At Examination Deadline 9A, as all* SoCGs are final, Table 4.2 now presents the final positions reached with the Interested Parties, in accordance with the interpretation to be employed as set out in 4.1.3 to 4.1.5.
- 4.1.8 *The Port of Tilbury London Limited SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 9A and so the positions presented in Table 4.2 represent the latest draft SoCG being discussed between the parties as of 14 December 2024. The Final SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 10.

Table 4.2 Statement of Commonality

		DCO and consents	Need for the project	Planning statement/policy	Route selection, modal alternatives & assessment of reasonable alternatives	Consultation and engagement	Land and compulsory acquisition	Design – road, tunnels, utilities	Construction	Operation & maintenance	Charging	Traffic and economics	Wider network impacts	Sustainability	Socio-economics	EIA methodology	Air quality	Cultural heritage	Landscape and visual	Terrestrial biodiversity	Marine biodiversity	Geology & soils	Material assets and waste	Noise and vibration	Population and human health	Road drainage and the water environment	Climate	Cumulative effects	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Nitrogen deposition	Protective provisions		
Statutory Environmental Bodies	Environment Agency																																
	Forestry Commission																																
	Historic England																																
	Kent Downs AONB Unit																																
	Marine Management Organisation																																
	Natural England																																
	Port of London Authority																																
Business & Industry	DP World London Gateway																																
	Global Mutual (c.o Lakeside Centre Limited)																																
	Kent & Medway Economic Partnership																																
	Morzine Ltd																																
	Port of Tilbury London Limited																																
	Thames Enterprise Park Ltd																																
	Thurrock Flexible Generation Ltd (TFG) (formally known as Thurrock Power Limited - Statera Energy)																																
Statutory Undertakers, Utility Owners, and Regulators	Anglian Water																																
	Barking Power Limited																																
	Cadent Gas Ltd																																
	Cellnex Ku Ltd																																
	Emergency Services and Safety Partnership Steering Group (ESSP SG)																																
	Essex Police																																
	Essex and Suffolk Water																																
	EXA Infrastructure Services UK Ltd																																
	Health and Safety Executive																																
	HS1 Limited																																
	Kent Police																																
	National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC																																
	National Gas Transmission PLC																																
	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd																																
	ITS Technology Group (NextGen Access)																																
NHS Kent & Medway ICB																																	
NHS Mid and South Essex ICB																																	

		DCO and consents	Need for the project	Planning statement/policy	Route selection, modal alternatives & assessment of reasonable alternatives	Consultation and engagement	Land and compulsory acquisition	Design – road, tunnels, utilities	Construction	Operation & maintenance	Charging	Traffic and economics	Wider network impacts	Sustainability	Socio-economics	EIA methodology	Air quality	Cultural heritage	Landscape and visual	Terrestrial biodiversity	Marine biodiversity	Geology & soils	Material assets and waste	Noise and vibration	Population and human health	Road drainage and the water environment	Climate	Cumulative effects	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Nitrogen deposition	Protective provisions													
NHS North East London ICB	NHS North East London ICB																																											
	North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board	North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board																																										
		Openreach Ltd	Openreach Ltd																																									
			Royal Mail Group	Royal Mail Group																																								
				Southern Gas Networks plc	Southern Gas Networks plc																																							
					Southern Water Services Ltd	Southern Water Services Ltd																																						
						Thames Water Services Ltd	Thames Water Services Ltd																																					
							UK Power Networks Ltd	UK Power Networks Ltd																																				
								Verizon UK Ltd	Verizon UK Ltd																																			
									Virgin Media Ltd	Virgin Media Ltd																																		
										Vodafone Ltd	Vodafone Ltd																																	
Zayo Group UK Ltd											Zayo Group UK Ltd																																	
	Local Authorities and Transport Bodies										Basildon Council																																	
		Brentwood Borough Council									Brentwood Borough Council																																	
			Dartford Borough Council								Dartford Borough Council																																	
				Dover Borough Council							Dover Borough Council																																	
					Essex County Council						Essex County Council																																	
						Gravesham Borough Council					Gravesham Borough Council																																	
							Kent County Council				Kent County Council																																	
								London Borough of Havering			London Borough of Havering																																	
									Maidstone Borough Council		Maidstone Borough Council																																	
										Medway Council	Medway Council																																	
Thurrock Borough Council											Thurrock Borough Council																																	
											Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council																																
												Transport for London	Transport for London																															
													Sevenoaks District Council	Sevenoaks District Council																														
	Community & Parish													Cobham Parish Council																														
		Cuxton Parish Council												Cuxton Parish Council																														
			Forestry England											Forestry England																														
				Higham Parish Council										Higham Parish Council																														
					Luddesdown Parish Council									Luddesdown Parish Council																														
						Meopham Parish Council								Meopham Parish Council																														
							Shorne Parish Council							Shorne Parish Council																														
								Thames Chase Trust						Thames Chase Trust																														

4.2 Commentary at Examination Deadline 9A

- 4.2.1 The top 10 headings where matters are either **all or broadly all agreed** are:
- a. **Cumulative effects** – matters raised by two parties, 100% of matters agreed.
 - b. **Marine Biodiversity** – matters raised by four parties, 100% of matters agreed.
 - c. **Road Drainage and the Water** – matters raised by 11 parties, 91% of matters agreed.
 - d. **Cultural Heritage** – matters raised by nine parties, 89% of matters agreed.
 - e. **Material Assets and Waste** – matters raised by seven parties, 86% of matters agreed.
 - f. **Protective Provisions** – matters raised by 22 parties, 77% of matters agreed.
 - g. **Geological and Soils** – matters raised by four parties, 75% of matters agreed and **Need for the Project** – matters raised by 20 parties, 75% of matters agreed
 - h. **DCO and Consents** – matters raised by 34 parties, 74% of matters agreed.
 - i. **Protective Provisions** – matters raised by 22 parties, 77% of matters agreed.
 - j. **Consultation and Engagement** – matters raised by 22 parties, 73% of matters agreed
- 4.2.2 The top 10 headings where matters are **broadly not agreed** are:
- a. **Wider Network Impacts** – matters raised by 23 parties, with 87% of matters not agreed.
 - b. **Traffic and Economics** – matters raised by 25 parties, 84% of matters are not agreed.
 - c. **Climate** – matters raised by six parties, 83% of matters are not agreed.
 - d. **Socio Economics** – matters raised by six parties, 83%, of matters are not agreed.
 - e. **EIA Methodology**– matters raised by seven parties, 71% of matters are not agreed.
 - f. **Noise and Vibration** – matters raised by 10 parties, 60% of matters are not agreed.

- g. **Planning Statement/Policy** – matters raised by eleven parties, 55% of matters are not agreed.
- h. **Air Quality** – matters raised by 16 parties, 50% of matters are not agreed.
- i. **Charging** – matters raised by 12 parties, 50% of matters are not agreed.
- j. **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** – matters raised by two parties, 50% of matters are not agreed.

4.2.3 At DL9A:

- a. 21 SoCGs have all (238) matters agreed.
- b. 56% (1,165) of all matters are agreed.
- c. 42% (874) of all matters are not agreed.
- d. 2% (45) of all matters remain under discussion as they are points of detail to be discussed at either the detailed design or construction phases or are subject to a separate agreement.

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.
Application Document	-	In the context of the Project, a document submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the application for development consent.
Development Consent Order	DCO	Means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
Development Consent Order application	DCO application	The Project Application Documents, collectively known as the 'DCO application'.
Examining Authority	ExA	The Examining Authority is appointed by the Secretary of State to examine an application for a Development Consent Order and make a recommendation.
National Highways	-	A UK government-owned company with responsibility for managing the motorways and major roads in England. Formerly known as Highways England.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	NSIP	Major infrastructure developments in England and Wales, such as proposals for power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports and airport extensions, major road projects etc that require a development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
Planning Act 2008	-	The primary legislation that establishes the legal framework for applying for, examining and determining Development Consent Order applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
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.

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