

3 April 2024



Essex
Wildlife Trust

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To whom it may concern,

**Re, Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) Seeking Development Consent for the
Proposed Lower Thames Crossing Scheme (“the Proposed Development”)**

Further to your letter dated the 28 March 2024.

Under outstanding agreements; Essex Wildlife Trust. *The Secretary of State therefore requests that **the Applicant and Essex Wildlife Trust** provide an update on their discussions and if an agreement has been reached.*

To confirm, Essex Wildlife Trust continues to be committed to deliver both the offsite mitigation for reintroduction of water voles and the installation and monitoring of barn owl nest boxes.

The legal agreement covering the reintroduction of water voles is very close to signing by both parties and is in the final stages of revision by solicitors acting for the respective parties. We have every confidence that the contract will be finalised very soon and signed off by the Essex Wildlife Trust CEO and Board of Trustees.

The barn owl nest box project is finalised with a revised budget, and we await the drafting of a MoU by the applicant to cover this work.

We are in regular contact with the applicants Ecology Lead and communication remains very positive.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards


Mark Iley

Head of Landscape & River Recovery

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