

Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex, RM17 6SL

Development Management

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Sent by email to:
Lowerthamescrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Date: 23 April 2024

Dear Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

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”)

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2024 inviting comments from Interested Parties on a number of matters relating to the Lower Thames Crossing scheme. Thurrock Council apologise for the delay in responding to this further consultation and trust that these comments will be taken into consideration.

The Council has reviewed the proposed requirement in relation to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and recognises that responsibility for water quality and the WFD sits with the Environment Agency (EA). In terms of the design of culverts and more specifically the design of the culverting of the West Tilbury Main River within Thurrock, this Council supports the comments of the EA in their letter dated 9 April 2024; namely:

“...measures such as reducing the length (from 83 to 46 metres), the removal of three culverts elsewhere, natural channel be through culvert, mammal ledge, habitat improvements (tree planting) at the exits and general freshwater habitat enhancements will help to offset the culvert installation.”

The Council also notes that the EA is satisfied that the draft Development Consent Order secures good practice culvert design, via commitments contained within the Code of Construction Practice. As the EA consider they have sufficient oversight of the design of the West Tilbury main culvert during the detailed design phase (if the Secretary of state decides to allow it), this Council is content to raise no further comments.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Faulkner
Interim Head of Planning Delivery