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Your Reference:  
TR010032

Interested Party  
Reference Number:  
20035779

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing Scheme (“the Proposed Development”)**

Thank you for your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding a further consultation seeking comments from the Applicant, Natural England and other interested parties. Kent County Council (KCC) notes the specific request for us, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, to comment on the replies from the Applicant and the Environment Agency on the wording of the proposed Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirement.

Relevant KCC officers have reviewed the responses received by the Secretary of State in response to the proposed wording outlined in your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and as the issue relates to the West Tilbury Main River we would defer to Lead Local Flood Authorities north of the Thames for detailed comments. However, KCC notes that National Highways’ position is that they do not consider the additional requirement to be necessary. KCC are mindful to agree given the Protective Provisions and processes (as set out in the Water Framework Directive) that are already in place and/or proposed. The Environment Agency’s letter from 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 also supports this, as it mentions there are different methods in the draft Development Consent Order that give them protection.

Should the Secretary of State insist on any additional requirements then we would have no objection to the alternative wording proposed by National Highways within table B.1 of Annex B of their response letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Yours faithfully,

**Simon Jones**  
Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport