



# Department for Transport

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To: The Applicant, MOPAC, RSPB  
and the Essex Wildlife Trust

12 November 2024

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **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**

#### **Request for comments from the Applicant**

1. The Applicant is requested to set out what further measures could be implemented to reduce the carbon emissions that will result from the scheme as well as details on how these could be secured in the Development Consent Order. The Applicant is invited to update its [latest assessment of the impact on carbon](#) to reflect any further suggested measures. If the Applicant is not able to put forward any additional measures, they are invited to set out the reasons why and how the existing measures will ensure the lowest possible carbon impact.
2. The Applicant is requested to set out what further measures could be delivered as part of the scheme to enhance and improve public transport and active travel opportunities. While not a usual requirement but due to the nature, size and complexity of the scheme, the Applicant is exceptionally encouraged to seek views from Active Travel England to help inform their response on this matter. If the Applicant is not able to put forward any further possible measures, they are invited to explain the reasons why this is the position.
3. The Applicant is requested to set out what further measures could be put in place to minimise disruption to local people during the construction phase of the scheme including how agreed timetables will be met.

#### **Request for comments from the Applicant and Interested Parties regarding Outstanding Agreements**

4. The Applicant provided an [update](#) to the Secretary of State’s consultation letter of the [10 May 2024](#), regarding the continued safe use of the firearms training facilities. The Applicant outlined that a side agreement had been agreed, subject to final legal review and governance approval from MOPAC and RSPB.

5. The Secretary of State invites the **Applicant, MOPAC and RSPB** to provide an update on this agreement, providing written confirmation if this has been agreed. If agreement has not yet been reached to provide an update on when this is likely to be agreed.
6. The Applicant provided an [update](#) to the Secretary of State's consultation letter of the [9 July 2024](#) on two agreements with Essex Wildlife Trust, which had been under discussion during the decision stage.
7. The Secretary of State invites the **Applicant and Essex Wildlife Trust** to provide an update on these two agreements, and if these have been agreed to provide written confirmation of this position. If agreement has not yet been reached to provide an update on when they are likely to be agreed.
8. The Secretary of State invites the **Applicant** to provide an update on any other side agreements that currently remain outstanding.

### **Deadline for Response**

The deadline for response is **26 November 2024**.

Submissions sent by post may be subject to delay therefore your response on the information requested above should be submitted to the Case Team, if possible, by email to [LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team.

Responses will be published as soon as possible after the deadline on the Lower Thames Crossing project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR010032>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the Lower Thames Crossing Application, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit