



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Lower Thames Crossing Project
<b>File reference</b>	TR010022
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	28 June 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Highways
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

#### ***Programme Update***

The Applicant provided a programme update and indicated that application re-submission was still anticipated in Autumn 2022.

#### ***Local Refinement Consultation***

Following the close of the Local Refinement Consultation on 20 June 2022, the Applicant reported that it had received over 2200 responses. A campaign by the Woodland Trust contributed a considerable amount to that number.

The Inspectorate queried the level at which the Applicant is ensuring landowner engagement. The Applicant advised that they believe they are heavily involved with landowners.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant is using a statement of common ground to try to address Local Authority concerns. The Applicant advised that they are moving from an issue and response process to a statement of common ground process. The Inspectorate advised that this may be a beneficial change to ensure effective collaboration.

The Applicant advised that they had identified new bodies through diligent inquiry, feedback from PINS and as a result of changes to the Order Limits.

The Inspectorate advised to keep public engagement on the project at a basic level. The Inspectorate advised that it can be difficult for members of the public to fully understand a

project after several rounds of consultation, especially after changes to the proposed development.

### ***Special Category Land***

The development requires permanent acquisition of some Special Category Land (SCL). The project includes 13 areas of SCL within the Order Limits. SCL is only included for critical road and utility works. The Applicant advised that they are providing replacement land for seven sites for which SCL is being permanently acquired.

### ***Specific Issues***

The Applicant advised that nitrogen deposition piece was a novel issue, and they are working closely with landowners and people with interests in the land. Some landowners are concerned, and others are proposing other plots of land they want taking as a result. Those who have an interest in the issue would have understood the technicality of the issue, but a wider audience may not understand to the same degree.

The Applicant advised that feedback received during previous consultation suggested that local communities wanted more information as to how the project would directly affect them. Local communities also raised concerns that the plans for control of the works and mitigation of local impacts were limited in detail.

The Applicant subsequently engaged with local authorities highlighting areas such as,

- Operational and construction effects
- Defining local impacts at a ward scale
- Additional control plans

The Inspectorate advised that it appears that the Local Authorities are concerned about the effects on their local road networks and therefore it would be important to include these authorities in future discussions.