



Meeting note

Project name	Lower Thames Crossing
File reference	TR010032
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	29 September 2022
Meeting with	National Highways
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Pre-submission Meeting
Circulation	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.

Submission

The Applicant confirmed that the expected submission date is Friday 28 October 2022.

The Inspectorate confirmed that a pre-submission letter would be sent to the Applicant. This includes a request for the GIS shapefile, which needs to be submitted to the Inspectorate a minimum of 10 working days before the submission date. The Inspectorate will also request a local authority contact list which needs to include all A, B, C and D authorities. The Electronic Index will also need to be filled out and returned to the Inspectorate at least a week before the submission date.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant that any submissions after 5pm are treated as received the next working day.

The Applicant confirmed that SharePoint will be used to submit the submission documents. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should email the Inspectorate once the documents are uploaded and that no amendments to documents or additions should be made once they have been submitted to the Inspectorate.

Confirmation of the Acceptance fee will be sent to the Applicant. The Applicant confirmed that they are planning to submit the fee well in advance of submission. The Inspectorate confirmed that if the fee is delayed, the Acceptance period will not start until the funds are received.

The Applicant confirmed that they would like the submission documents to be published at submission. The document count is between 400 and 450 depending on how many files need

to be split to meet the 50mb maximum file size. The Applicant will confirm the total document count with the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would take some time for this number of documents to be checked and published.

The Applicant queried whether the Electronic Index can be amended if large documents need to be split for submission. The Inspectorate agreed to check and confirm. The Inspectorate requested searchable versions of any PDF files submitted to help with navigation during the acceptance review.

The Inspectorate confirmed that redaction will be required for sensitive information, such as locations of protected species. The Inspectorate will redact this information but requests that the Applicant confirms the location of information that requires redaction.

The Applicant advised that the Regulation 5(5) responses be prepared in advance, in the event that the Inspectorate requires this information during the acceptance period, as a very short timescale will be given.

The Applicant advised that local authorities have requested access to a viewer tool that the Applicant has been using to visualise the site. While the Applicant sees the benefit to the local authorities, there are concerns about whether this is appropriate. The Inspectorate confirmed that there are concerns regarding versions of the tool that may differ from what is submitted or discussed during Examination, if the project is Accepted.

While the Applicant could clearly inform the local authorities that the tool should only be for general guidance and not be referred to during the Examination, the Inspectorate is concerned that it may cause confusion and complicate the Examination process.