



Our Ref:LTC/NTT/PDA

[REDACTED]
National Highways
LTC Compound
Pilgrims Lane
Grays
Essex RM16 5UZ

26 January 2026

Dear Ms Hunt

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS LOWER THAMES CROSSING RESPONSE TO THE RULE 6 LETTER

This letter is National Highways' Lower Thames Crossing's (NH LTC) formal response to the Rule 6 letter in respect of the Development Consent Order application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (the Applicant) for consent for the Norwich to Tilbury project (NTT).

As set out in NH LTC's relevant representation (RR-2215), this response is being submitted by NH in its capacity as the promoter of the Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO), which was granted consent on 25 March 2025 (the LTC DCO). The LTC DCO gives NH powers to construct the A122 Lower Thames Crossing which would connect to the A2 and M2 in Kent to the A13 in Thurrock and junction 29 of the M25 in the London Borough of Havering. It would be approximately 14.3 miles long, with 2.6 miles of this in two tunnels under the Thames – making them the longest road tunnels in the UK. The tunnels would be located to the east of the village of Chalk on the south side of the Thames, and to the west of East Tilbury on the north side. The Applicant's proposals directly impact the powers granted to NH in the LTC DCO.

NH, in its capacity as a statutory consultee in the planning process as Strategic Highways Authority appointed under the provisions on the Infrastructure Act 2015 with responsibility for operating, maintaining and improving the Strategic Road Network (SRN) is also participating in the examination but is not providing a response to the Rule 6 letter. NH has adopted an approach of dual representations given the discrete nature of its interests in relation to NTT, and it will engage throughout the DCO examination process in the same way, i.e. with parallel, coordinated representations.

Request to be heard orally at Preliminary Meeting

Following receipt of the Rule 6 letter dated 13 January 2025 (the Rule 6 letter), National Highways writes to request attendance and to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting on Tuesday 10 February 2025.

NH LTC has made its submissions on the examination procedure, and the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues below. It is noted that the Examining Authority has requested Interested Parties explain “why... points need to be made orally rather than in writing”. NH LTC considers that a chance to respond orally to any queries that the Examining Authority may have in relation to its submissions would be beneficial to the efficient running of the preliminary meeting. In accordance with the request in Annex B of the Rule 6 letter, National Highways can confirm that our representatives have completed the Event Participation Form and that they intend to attend and speak at the Preliminary Hearing.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

As set out in detail in NH LTC’s relevant representation [RR-2215], NH LTC has concerns relating to the impacts of the Applicant’s project on the LTC DCO, both during construction and operation. NH LTC notes that the principal issues identified by the Examining Authority at Annex C to the Rule 6 letter contain a number of broad topic areas. In particular, NH LTC notes that one of the principal issues is listed as, “interactions and coordination with other nationally significant infrastructure projects and major planning applications”. Whilst this inclusion is welcomed, the topic is listed as falling under a broader heading of “cumulative effects”. NH LTC considers that looking at the interactions and coordination with the LTC solely in relation to cumulative effects is insufficient, and it wishes to highlight the following matters in particular for specific consideration by the Examining Authority:

- Compatibility between the Applicant’s project and the LTC;
- Overlap of land powers;
- Construction effects; and
- Operational effects.

Requests to be heard orally at CAH and ISH1

NH LTC also confirms that it proposes to attend and be heard orally at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on 11 February and the Issue Specific Hearing 1 on 13 February. NH LTC welcomes the advanced publication of hearing agendas and requests that hearing agendas for future hearings are also shared at least ten (10) working days prior to hearings, and considers this a reasonable amount of notice to allow it to prepare for hearings and allocate personnel for attendance at hearings.

Examination timetable

NH LTC notes that a number of Deadlines involve the submission of Statements of Common Ground, or other submissions which require engagement between the Applicant and NH LTC. NH LTC therefore politely requests that the Applicant is clear about the timescales and programmes associated with such submissions to allow the Examining Authority to have the information it has requested.

National Highways has no further comments on the Rule 6 letter, and confirms that it will use reasonable endeavours to meet the Deadlines set out therein.

Yours sincerely



**Project Director for the Roads North of the Thames
Lower Thames Crossing**