

Lower Thames Crossing

National Highways
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

The Planning Inspectorate

c/o QUADIENT
60 Buckingham Drive
Slough
SL1 4PN

By E-mail

Dear Sirs and Madam,

National Highways' (Lower Thames Crossing Project) Deadline 1 response in respect of the Norwich to Tilbury Project

As with previous submissions, this letter constitutes one of two Deadline 1 responses being submitted by National Highways (NH) in respect of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by National Grid (the Applicant) for the Norwich to Tilbury Project (NTT). This Deadline 1 response is being submitted by NH in its capacity as the promoter of the Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order, 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.

A separate Deadline 1 response is being submitted by NH in its capacity as a statutory consultee in the planning process, as Strategic Highways Authority.

This response comprises:

- this covering letter;

- a summary of oral representations made at the Preliminary Meeting, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, and the Issue Specific 1 Hearing held on 10th, 11th and 13th February 2026 respectively, and
- the LTC team's written representation.

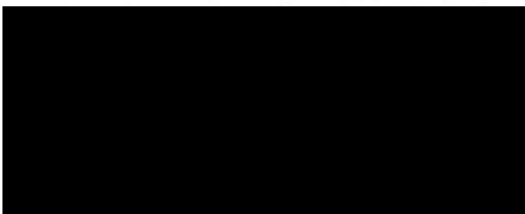
In order to avoid repetition, the written representation cross refers directly to the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and the NH LTC team which it is understood is being submitted at Deadline 1 by the Applicant. Should the Statement of Common Ground not be submitted, the NH LTC team reserves the right to submit a further response setting out its concerns in full. The written representation has been drafted to highlight the key areas of concern to allow the Examining Authority to pose questions of the Applicant that result in clarity surrounding these issues.

Should it assist the Examining Authority, the NH LTC team will respond to any written questions that the panel may have and is willing to attend an appropriate hearing to detail the impacts of the Authorised Development on the LTC DCO.

Additionally, in accordance with the Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter [PD-011], NH LTC requests to be heard at any relevant future compulsory acquisition hearing.

The NH LTC team continues to review the DCO application to understand impacts in detail and reserves to right to expand its representation as the examination process unfolds.

Yours sincerely



Lower Thames Crossing Roads North Project Director (Delivery)