

My representation to your DCO process concerns the proposed route of the LTC North of the River Thames, specifically the Northernmost 2 Miles where the LTC is planned to connect with the M25.

The proposed route takes a significant deviation from its predominantly Northerly direction, sweeping sharply Westwards to cut a devastating swathe through the Thames Chase Community Forest. Despite many requests for an explanation, Highways England has never been able to explain to me, their reasons for this choice of route.

The Thames Chase Forest is over 30 years old, it was planted by volunteers in the late 80's/early 90's to mitigate the negative impacts of the then-new M25. I am appalled at the prospect of a forest planted to absorb the effects of ONE Motorway, facing destruction to make way for another! What a cruel irony. Those thousands of saplings have now reached significant and impressive maturity, performing exactly the task for which they were intended, absorbing both vehicle CO2 emissions and the noise pollution that the M25 creates.

I wish to register my objection, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed cull of mature and healthy trees, the destruction of precious wildlife habitats, and the loss to the community of this priceless access to nature.

How on earth can such a course of action be acceptable in today's enlightened times? Climate Change is real and visible, it's caused by Mankind's obsession with burning fossil fuels and it's happening NOW! How thoroughly disgusting and immoral it is of these Motorway planners, to propose the destruction of woodlands at a time when we can all see that our Planet is under unprecedented stress. WE ALL NEED TREES!

I am aware that replacement planting of new trees in other locations, is included in the proposals, but when the current trees are bulldozed and burned (yes they DO still do this, I've witnessed it recently during the M25 J28 works) the carbon that those trees have absorbed over the last 30 years will be released into the atmosphere.

I find the whole idea abhorrent, unnecessary, and immoral.

I am completely against the LTC in it's current form, it has always been presented to us as essential to reduce congestion at the Dartford Crossing, but if this were true it would not terminate South of the River at the A2, it would progress onward to link back with the M25. Anti-clockwise traffic on the M25 would still have to sit in queues to get to J2 before heading East on the A2 to access the proposed new tunnels!

In my opinion, the whole Lower Thames Crossing as currently proposed, is not fit for purpose.