

The DCO is for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing (“the Project”), which is a new road connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the River Thames. The Project’s main proposals include:

- Approximately 14.5 miles (23km) of new road, with a maximum speed limit of 70mph, connecting to the existing road network from the A2/M2 to the M25;
- Two new tunnels, one southbound and one northbound;
- Improvements to the M25, A2 and A13, where the Lower Thames Crossing connects to the road network;
- New structures and changes to existing ones (including bridges, buildings, tunnel entrances, viaducts, and utilities such as electricity pylons) along the length of the new road; and
- A free-flow charging system, where drivers do not need to stop but pay remotely, similar to that at the Dartford Crossing.

Summary of Proposed Provisions

Since the Application was accepted for examination, the Applicant has identified that “Additional Land” within the meaning of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (“the 2010 Regulations”) is required to accommodate certain changes to the Project.

As required by the 2010 Regulations, the Applicant has submitted the Proposed Provisions to the Examining Authority appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State to consider the Application and the Examining Authority has now made procedural decisions accepting these Proposed Provisions as part of the Application. Details of the Proposed Provisions are set out below.

Proposed Provision One

- An initial notification of a proposed change to the application was submitted to the Examining Authority on 16 March 2023 [Additional Submission AS-083] which is also found at https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002039-230316_Applicant_Notification_of_Proposed_Changes.pdf
- The notification included details of three proposed changes, one of which required “Additional Land” (referred to as Change MRC03 in the notification of change dated 16 March 2023) within the meaning of the 2010 Regulations. That change is referred to as Proposed Provision One in this notice.
- This change relates to Work No. MUT6 (shown on sheets 23 and 24 2.6 Works Plans (Volume C) Utilities [Additional Submission AS-030] [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-001905-2.6%20Works%20Plans%20\(Volume%20C\)%20Utilities%20\(Sheets%2021%20to%20249\)_v2.0_clean.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-001905-2.6%20Works%20Plans%20(Volume%20C)%20Utilities%20(Sheets%2021%20to%20249)_v2.0_clean.pdf)
- The change involves the relocation of the temporary Linford bore pipeline (Work No. MUT6) 250m further west of the residents at East Tilbury. The realigned pipeline would remain within the existing Order Limits and the redesign has considered the working room needed for National Grid Electricity Transmission to construct, operate and maintain Work No. OH4 (the ZJ Route) in its proposed alignment. This change is shown on 2.6 Works Plans (Volume C) Utilities v4.0 [Additional Submission REP4-042] which is found at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003899-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.6%20Works%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20Utilities_v4.0_clean.pdf
- Summary of Proposed Provision One: Proposed Provision One comprises a change to the land use designation west of Linford, (previously identified as Plot 23-96 and shaded green on the land plans, sheet 23 [Additional Submission REP1-011] which is also found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002562-National%20Highways%20-%20Applicant%E2%80%99s%20submission%20of%20documents%206.pdf> . The Applicant has amended the proposed use for some of the agricultural land in this location in connection with the operation and maintenance of diverted overhead power lines. The land use changes from temporary possession only to temporary possession and the permanent acquisition of rights as shown on sheet 23 of the updated land plans [Additional Submission REP4-014] which are available at [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003782-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.2%20Land%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20\(sheet%2021%20to%20249\)_v5.0_clean.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003782-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.2%20Land%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20(sheet%2021%20to%20249)_v5.0_clean.pdf)
- The Applicant carried out the minor refinement consultation in respect of Proposed Provision One between 17 May and 19 June 2023. There is further detail about this in the ‘minor refinement consultation booklet’ which is available at <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/lc/minor-refinement-consultation-2023/>
- Following the conclusion of the minor refinement consultation, the Applicant submitted a Change Application to the Planning Inspectorate on 2 August 2023, which included details of Proposed Provision One in the form of an extract of the Book of Reference, accompanied by a land plan identifying the additional land, a Statement of Reasons as to why the additional land is required and details of how the acquisition would be funded. Proposed Provision One was also accompanied by a revised draft DCO, a report setting out responses to the consultation and how these were considered and a number of additional documents set out in Table 6.2 of the Change Application. These documents are available to view under the ‘documents’ tab of the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing>
- This Change Application is also available on the Planning Inspectorate website [Additional Submission CR1-002] which is also found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003173-10.4%20Change%20Application%20August%202023.pdf>. The relevant maps of the land are included in Plates 6.3 and 6.4 on pages 25 and 26 of the Change Application.
- On 29 August 2023, the Examining Authority made a Procedural Decision [PD-031] accepting Proposed Provision One as part of the Application. This can be found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003623-20230824%20-%20PD33-35%20-%20APPROVED.pdf>

The Examining Authority also published a checklist setting out how the requirements of regulation 5 of the 2010 Regulations had been complied with [PD-032]. This can be found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003624-20230824%20-%20Provision%20Checklist%20for%20PD35%20-%20APPROVED.pdf>.

Proposed Provision Two

- An initial notification of the two proposed changes to the Application (known as changes EC01 and EC02) was submitted to the Examining Authority and published by the Planning Inspectorate on 14 July 2023 [Additional Submission CR2-002] which is also found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002448-10.2%20Second%20notification%20of%20Proposed%20Changes.pdf>. Together, these changes constitute Proposed Provision Two.

Summary of Change EC01

- This change relates to a request made by the network utility supplier to realign Work No. G5 (shown on Sheet 28, Works Plans Volume C: Utilities [Additional Submission REP3-041]) (which is also found at: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003493-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.6%20Works%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20Utilities%20\(sheet%2021%20to%20249\)_v3.0_clean.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003493-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.6%20Works%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20Utilities%20(sheet%2021%20to%20249)_v3.0_clean.pdf)) east of Brentwood Road to reflect wider network operational changes and support the safe and timely delivery of utilities works. The proposal would require the modification of a 100m section of the high-pressure gas pipeline, moving the alignment up to a maximum of 13 metres east where required, further away from Brentwood Road, in the south-western corner of the Orsett Golf Club. These proposals are shown on sheet 28 of Additional Submissions - 10.31 Extract from Works Plans Volume C (Sheets 21 to 49) Utilities (Clean version) [Additional submission CR2-010] which are also found on [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003699-10.31%20Extract%20from%20Works%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20\(sheet%2021%20to%20249\)%20Utilities_clean.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003699-10.31%20Extract%20from%20Works%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20(sheet%2021%20to%20249)%20Utilities_clean.pdf)
- The proposed realignment requires a change to the land designation affecting land plot 28-130 (refer to Sheet 28 of Land Plans Volume C [Additional Submission REP3-013] which is also found at: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003589-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.2%20Land%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20\(sheet%2021%20to%20249\)_v4.0_clean.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-003589-National%20Highways%20-%20Other-%202.2%20Land%20Plans%20Volume%20C%20(sheet%2021%20to%20249)_v4.0_clean.pdf)) The land previously designated as ‘temporary possession of land and permanent rights’ is increased