

Lower Thames Crossing - the latest plans

What do you think?



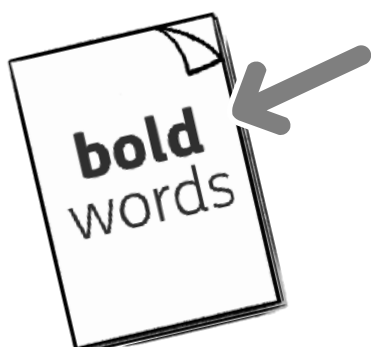
**easy
read**



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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



Highways England is planning to build a new road between Kent, Thurrock, Havering and Essex.



The new road is called the Lower Thames Crossing. It will go through a new tunnel under the River Thames.

Getting it right



We want to make sure that our plans are right for local people.



At each stage of our plans, we have asked people what they think and then made changes after listening to what people said.



This document explains the latest version of the plan. We want to know what you think before we make a final decision.

The Lower Thames Crossing



We have been planning to build a new road and tunnel since 2016.

Why?



We are planning the new road because there is too much traffic on the **Dartford Crossing**.

The **Dartford Crossing** is a bridge and a tunnel across the River Thames between Dartford in Kent and Thurrock in Essex.



With the Lower Thames Crossing we will:

- help people move around in South East England
- help people move from the South East to the rest of England
- make sure that roads in the South East will last into the future
- make the roads safer.



This project

The Lower Thames Crossing will:

- provide work for 22,000 people building the road and tunnel
- offer training for people
- improve some areas for wildlife
- create new green spaces
- replant some woodland
- create new footpaths, cycleways and tracks for horse riding
- build 7 new **green bridges**.



Green bridges allow wildlife, like hedgehogs, to cross the road as well as walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The latest changes - south of the river in Kent



Around the A2/M2

We now plan to put the gas pipeline under Brewers Road and Park Pale instead of through the woodland.



We now won't build over the main gas pipeline. This will be safer for everyone.



We now plan to move the electricity works from Thong Lane to the A226. This means we won't need so many overhead electricity cables.



South of Gravesend

We now plan to put the electricity cable either under or next to the footpath around the A2 Roman Road from Valley Drive to the B262 Hall Road.

The tunnel entrance



We plan to build a drainage pipe from the tunnel entrance to the River Thames. This is just temporary while the building work is taking place.



We now plan to put this in the field behind the houses on Lower Higham Road.



We would use an entrance to the field from Lower Higham Road.



We now plan to make some changes to 3 farmers fields north of Chalk while the tunnel is built.



We want to use these fields for birds that have been disturbed by our building work.

The latest changes - north of the river in Thurrock, Havering and Essex



Tilbury area

Substation Road

We now want to put the new electricity cable underground around Substation Road.



Tilbury Main River

We would now remove 2 drainage pipes on the Tilbury main river and build a larger new pipe.



Two Forts Way

We now plan to change the way vehicles go to a private **wharf** east of Port of Tilbury.

A **wharf** is place where things are taken on and off boats.



This will mean there will only be 1 road crossing on Two Forts Way between Coalhouse Fort and Tilbury Fort.



East Tilbury Jetty

We plan to remove East Tilbury Jetty which is to the east of Port of Tilbury.

Any deliveries would now come through the Port of Tilbury.



Pumping water into the river

We now plan to use less land for a pipe that is pumping water from the building work into the river.



Land for wildlife

We are no longer planning changes to some land that is good for wildlife after suggestions from local people.



The junction between the A13 and A1089

A13 from Baker Street to the Orsett Cock roundabout

We now plan to build an extra lane on the link road.



North of Linford

We now plan to use a new place to put new electricity cables onto pylons.



Stanford Road A1013

We now plan to put cables and pipes along the edges of fields.



A1089 Dock Approach Road

We now want to be able to go on the fields along the Dock Approach Road so that we can get to the overhead electricity cables.



Orsett Showground

We have listened to what people said and changed our plans for the Orsett Showground.



Ron Evans Memorial Fields

We have also listened to what people said and changed our plans for the Ron Evans Memorial Fields.



Instead we now plan to take 2 areas of land next to the Ron Evans Memorial Fields, which will be linked to the Ron Evans Memorial Fields.



The A13 between Rectory Road and Orsett Cock Roundabout

We have changed our plans to move a gas pipeline so there is less change to the Orsett Showground, and the land being used by Orsett Park Royals Football Club.



Mardyke valley and North Road

Orsett Fen

We have changed our plans for the land to replace Orsett Fen common land.



The Mardyke Crossing

We have changed our plans for how the new road will cross the Mardyke so that there is a good place for water voles to live.



Ockendon Road and Pea Lane

We are no longer changing vegetation around Ockendon Road and Pea Lane.



Mardyke River

We would build a channel and banks around the river near where the new road goes over it.

These will help if the river floods.



Mardyke River near Green Lane

We would need to use less land near Green Lane if there is flooding.

The junction between the new road and the M25



St Mary's Lane

We will make some changes to the electricity substation on St Mary's Lane.



Folkes Lane Woodland

We have changed our plans for planting new trees around Folkes Lane Woodland.



Moor Lane East and Laburnham Gardens

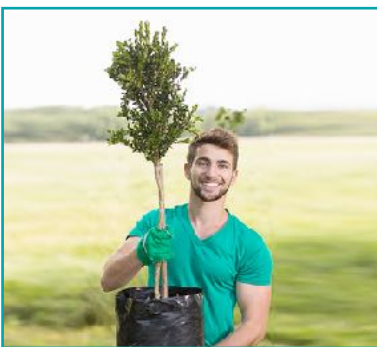
We now don't need to use Moor Lane East and Laburnham Gardens.

Ancient Woodland

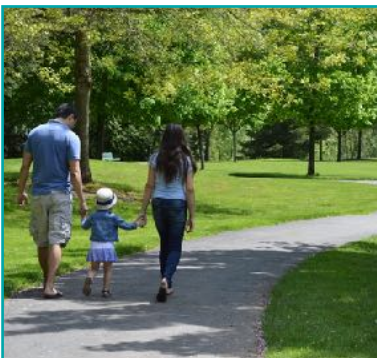


Ancient woodland means areas with trees and shrubs that are hundreds of years old.

We now plan to use only half as much ancient woodland.



For every square metre of ancient woodland we use, we will plant six square meters of new woodland.



Special Category Land

Special Category Land is open space and common land that needs special permission to use.



We have to take some Special Category Land to build the new road and tunnel.



We are replacing this Special Category Land by creating new areas of open and common land.



Shorne Woods Country Park

We will need a small amount of land along the A2 for wildlife.



CycloPark

We now want less land from the CycloPark.



Orsett Fen

We now want to add some land to the existing common land. People would be able to use this new land in the same way as they can use the existing common land.



Thames Chase Community Forest

We are now suggesting a smaller amount of open space and common land just north of Thames Chase Community Forest.



Community woodland

We plan to create a new 100 hectare community woodland next to the new road at Hole Farm.

Spaces for sports and relaxation



Gravesend Golf Centre

We are planning to take part of the Golf Centre for the entrance of the new tunnel.

We plan to build a new golf place at Cascades Leisure Centre.



Linford Allotments

We need this land for electricity cables and other pipelines.



Orsett Park Royals Football Club

We plan to move a gas pipeline so it will be near the football pitches.

New open spaces

We plan to create 2 new areas of parkland on each side of the river, so local people will have good views of the river.

These will be at:

- Tilbury fields
- Chalk Park



Checking how the new road affects the local area



We have looked into how our plans for the new road and tunnel affects:

- local communities
- the wider area
- the environment
- roads.



The environment

We looked at how the new road and tunnel would affect:

- what the countryside looks like
- noise and vibration
- air quality
- people's health



- wildlife
- historical places



- **climate change**

Climate change is big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be. Or having less rain in some places.



- flooding
- the soil.



We looked at ways stop the new road harming the environment so much.

We did this by:

- hiding the new road behind trees and grassy banks
- making sure there isn't too much dust and pollution
- checking that wildlife isn't harmed too much.

Building the new road and tunnel



We think that the plans will be agreed and we will be given permission to start the project in 2023.



The building work should start in 2024.



We expect the new road to open in 2029.

4 sections

The are 4 sections to the new road.



Section A includes:

- digging up a large area of land north of the A2/M2 for the new road



- building a new junction between the new road and the A2/M2

- making changes to the junction between the A2/M2 and Gravesend East



- building new green bridges at Thong Lane and Brewers Road

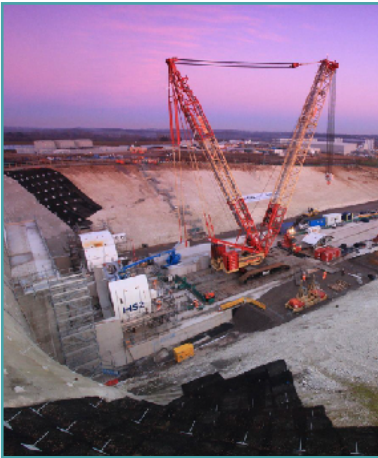


- work on other local roads including Halfpence Lane



- removing Cobham service station.

Section B includes:



- creating 2 large **compounds** north and south of Thames for the tunnel boring machines to be built

A **compound** is a base for people working on the new road and tunnel. It will have some temporary buildings, equipment and vehicles.



- digging a smaller tunnel south of Thames so we can strengthen the land

- dig a large space north of the Thames so we can start to dig the tunnel



- preparing the tunnel for roads
- removing all the earth from the tunnel



- making the entrances to the tunnels look good.

Section C includes:



- building a new bridge over the Tilbury Loop railway line



- building new bridges over the new road for the Muckingford Road, Brentwood Road and Hoford Road



- building the new road from the new bridge at Tilbury to its junction with the A13.

The A13 junction includes:



- building a new road underneath the junction between the A13 and the A1089 Dock Approach Road



- some changes to the bridge carrying Rectory Road over the A13



- changing A1013 Stanford Road so we can build 3 new bridges



- building a new bridge at Orsett Heath viaduct over Baker Street and the A1089 Dock Approach Road



- building a new bridge at Baker Street



- moving Heath Road by around 250 metres further to the south



- moving the Gammonfields traveller site to a place nearby



- moving Stifford Clays Road and building 2 new bridges to carry the road over the new road



- moving Green Lane and building a new green bridge



- building new roads to connect the new Lower Thames Crossing road to the A13.

Section D includes:



Ockendon link:

- building a road to connect the A13 with the M25



- building two new bridges in the Mardyke area



- building a new bridge to carry North Road over the new Lower Thames Crossing road



Where the new road joins the M25:

- building temporary slip roads between our works and the M25



- building a way for the part of the new road to go underneath the M25



- building a new bridge to carry Ockendon Road over the new road.



Widening the M25:

- widening the M25



- widening St Mary's Lane and Shoeburyness railway line bridge



- adding another lane to the M25 at junction 29.

When the work has finished



The new road will be the A122.

The A122 will be 23km long. 4.25km of it will be in a tunnel under the Thames.



There will be a new junction with the A2 near Gravesend.



There will be a junction with the A13 and A1089 at Thurrock.



There will be a new junction with the M25 between junctions 29 and 30.

The new road - A122

Most of the road will have 3 lanes in either direction.

Like other A roads, it won't have hard shoulders.

There will be a charge for using the crossing.



Traffic



We have looked at the traffic that we would expect:

- if we didn't build the new road
- if we do build the new road.



If we build the new road and tunnel, there will be a lot less traffic over the Dartford Crossing, especially at busy times.



Local roads

The local roads around the South East of England can be very busy.

The new road and tunnel will help traffic to flow better across most of the area.

The environment



We worked with many partners to look at how the new road would affect the local environment.



We worked out what we needed to do so that the new road would not be too bad for the environment.

We have included all these things in the plans.



Noise and vibration

We expect noise and vibration from traffic to reduce with the new road in some places.

This is because:

- there will be less traffic using the Dartford Tunnel Crossing
- the new road has been designed so there will be less problems with noise and vibration.





Flooding

We have thought about flooding as we have designed the new road and tunnel.



We have included ways for rainwater to flow away safely.

In places we have built up the sides of rivers so they don't flood. We have also set aside some land in places which can be used for flood waters.



The climate

The weather all around the world is changing because of pollution caused by burning oil and coal.



More road vehicles will only increase this pollution until most people are using electric cars.



The changes to the weather will lead to worse storms and flooding.



We are helping to make things better by planting a lot of trees which will soak up the pollution and water.

The look of the countryside

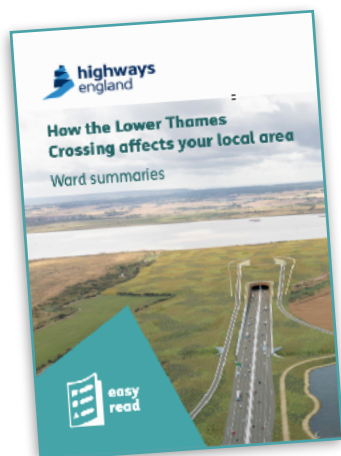


We wanted the new road and tunnel not to affect the look of the countryside too much.

On the south of the river we lowered the road down so that you can't see it from a distance.

We are planting trees and grassy banks to hide the road in other places.

How the new road will affect your local area



We have written a separate document that explains how the new road will affect each of the local areas.

There is an Easy Read version of this document.

You said, we did



This is the fourth set of plans that we have written.

Each time we wrote new plans, we asked people what they thought.



We listened to what people said and made changes to make the plans better.



You can see how we have changed the plans to create these new plans in a separate document called 'You said, we did'.

There is an Easy Read version of this document.

What do you think?



We want to know what you think about these new plans.

Please tell us by:



- filling in our online questionnaire. You can find this at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/ltcconsultation



- Writing to us at:
FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION

That's all you have to put on the envelope. You don't need a stamp.



- Email:
ltc.consultation@traverse.ltd



We need to know what you think by 11.59pm on Wednesday, 8 September 2021.

Have your say

Come and talk to us about these plans at one of these events.



Kent and Gravesham

Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong lane, Gravesend DA12 4LG



- Thursday 22 July 2pm to 8pm and



- Friday 3 September 2pm to 8pm



Chalk Parish Hall car park, Pirrip Close, Gravesend, DA12 2ND



- Wednesday 4 August 12noon to 5pm



Shorne Woods Country Park, Brewers Road, Shorne DA12 3HX



- Sunday 8 August 10am to 4pm



Gravesend Town Centre, King Street, Gravesend DA12 2XX



- Saturday 14 August 10am to 4pm and
- Saturday 21 August 10am to 4pm



Thurrock, Essex and Havering
The Civic, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU



- Saturday 24 July 12noon to 6pm



Orsett Hall Hotel, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, RM16 3HS



- Monday 26 July 2pm to 8pm



East Tilbury Village Hall, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, RM18 8RB



- Thursday 29 July 2pm to 8pm and



- Thursday 26 August 2pm to 8pm



The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Ln, Upminster, RM14 2QH



- Saturday 31 July 12 noon to 6pm



Linford Methodist Church, East Tilbury Road, Linford, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0QQ



- Friday 6 August 2pm to 8pm and



- Tuesday 24 August 2pm to 8pm



Brandon Groves Community Club, Brandon Groves Av, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 6TD



- Wednesday 1 September 2pm to 8pm



Thames Chase Community Forest Centre, Broadfields Farm, Pike Ln, Upminster, RM14 3NS



- Friday 13 August 11am to 3pm



Grays Town Centre, High Street, RM17 6NP



- Saturday 7 August 10am to 4pm



Webinars

A webinar is a discussion online. Members of our project will explain our proposals. You can ask questions. There will be live captioning and a sign Language interpreter.

Webinar to talk about the work south of the River Thames



- Wednesday 28 July 7pm to 8pm



- Thursday 2 September 7pm to 8pm

Webinar to talk about the work north of the River Thames up to the A13



- Monday 2 August 7pm to 8pm and



- Wednesday 25 August 7pm to 8pm

Webinar to talk about the work north of the A13



- Tuesday 10 August 7pm to 8pm and



- Tuesday 17 August 7pm to 8pm

For more information

If you need more information please contact us by:



- email:
info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk



- phone: 0300 123 5000



- website:
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/ltcconsultation

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