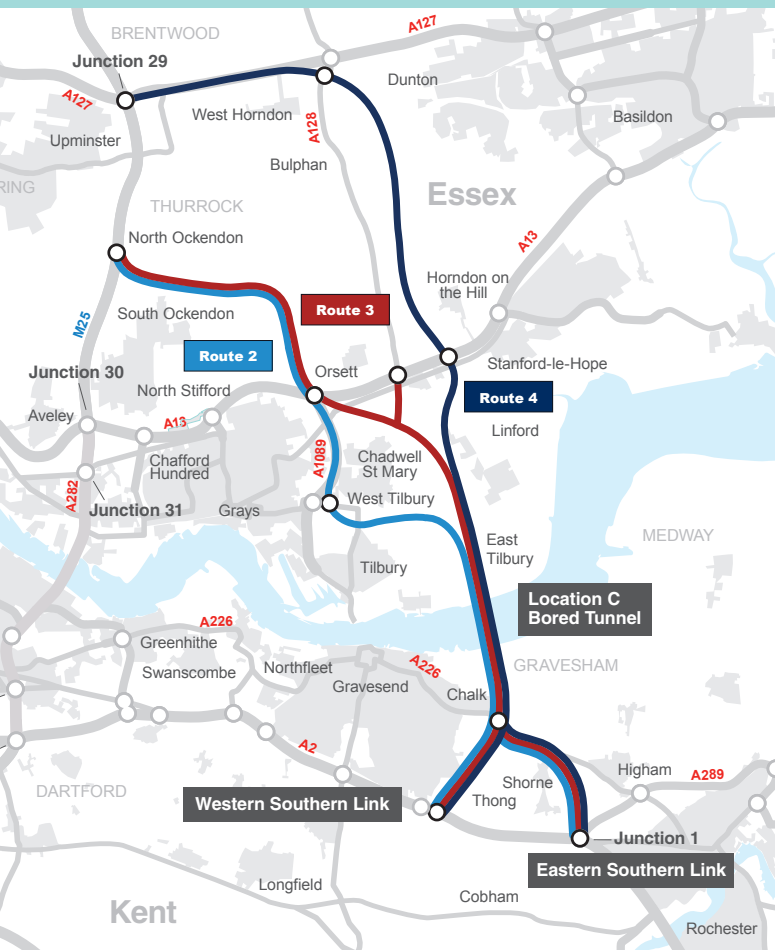


# Lower Thames Crossing Fact sheet

## Water, air, noise and vibration



We have extensively considered the impact of the route options and mapped environmental constraints as part of the appraisal process. We have engaged early with statutory environmental bodies including the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and the Marine Management Organisation to obtain their views. We have also obtained air quality monitoring information from local authorities to help inform the appraisal of route options.

### Water resources

There are a number of water resources that are used for a variety of purposes and could be affected by the new crossing. These include the River Thames, the Mardyke, chalk aquifers (that are important for domestic water supply) and the Medway Canal. Whilst there are flood defences alongside the River Thames there are also large areas of floodplain. Routes 2, 3 and 4 could potentially affect areas of floodplain and affect both surface and groundwater quality.

Once a preferred route has been decided by the Government, and more detailed design has been carried out, we would assess the effects of the new crossing on flood risk. We would also look at the effects of the preferred route on all water resources and how these effects could be managed as part of the design process.

Highways England is consulting on proposals for a new road crossing of the River Thames connecting Kent and Essex. There are three route options north of the river in Essex and two south of the river in Kent. Your views will help us to inform the Government prior to its decision, expected later this year, on the preferred route and crossing.

## Air quality

There are existing designated Air Quality Management Areas north and south of the river, including areas in Dartford and Thurrock. These are areas where air quality standards have been or are likely to be breached. The area of the existing Dartford Crossing currently has poor air quality and we have taken this into account during the appraisal process.

For those living immediately next to the proposed route there could be a limited impact on air quality but it is predicted to be well within European Union (EU) limits. Our proposed scheme would improve air quality for the areas near the Dartford Crossing which currently experience pollution exceeding the EU limits.

After the preferred route is decided, we would carry out further air quality monitoring and modelling to assess the effect on both people and sensitive biodiversity sites.

## Noise and vibration

A number of Noise Important Areas have been identified both north and south of the river. These represent locations that are affected by major noise sources such as roads and railways, for example along the M25, A2 and A282. Residential areas including Dartford and Gravesend could be affected by changes in noise and vibration.

All route options that are being considered would provide some noise reduction for the residents close to the existing crossing. After a preferred route is decided by the Government, we would carry out baseline surveys and more detailed modelling of the changing traffic flows to allow us to understand where

changes in noise levels are predicted. We would use this information in developing the design of the new crossing route to minimise noise and vibration effects on communities.

The next development phase of work would give us the opportunity as we develop more detailed design to explore methods to minimise the noise impacts on the surrounding area, such as low noise surfacing or noise barriers. We would also look at ways of managing noise during construction.

## Future consultation

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, a new Lower Thames Crossing is subject to a statutory Development Consent Order process. This means there will be further opportunities for you to have your say on more detailed aspects of the scheme.

## For more information

### Visit our website

**[www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk](http://www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk)**

Access consultation materials and provide your views on our proposals.

### Join us at one of our events

Members of our team will be on hand to answer your questions.

### Phone us

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000.

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