

Lower Thames Crossing Web Update 26, 13th July 2018

Highways England (HE) wrote to homeowners and land owners who may be directly affected by the proposed Lower Thames Crossing to inform them about the latest changes to the development boundary.

They are contacting people now to give them as much notice as possible before the consultation starts later this year.

Since the last boundary was published in November 2017 HE have been working to better understand the impact of the scheme design on the environment and local communities. The changes to the boundary are a result of this. HE have identified areas that they think we might need, to manage flood risk and minimise the impact of the scheme on the local people, businesses and environment. Most of the additional land in the development boundary is for environmental mitigation, this is not the project itself getting bigger.

The main reasons for the changes are:

- Environmental mitigation – to help mitigate the impacts of the proposed road. For example, replanting areas of woodland or creating new wildlife habitats.
- Flood compensation – potential areas where we may need to lower the level of the existing land to replace flood zone that will be affected.
- Utility diversions – there are various utilities that we may need to divert, such as overhead electricity pylons and gas pipelines. We have included land for diverting these within the revised development boundary.

Flood compensation land and areas required for utility diversions will be returned to previous use wherever possible once the work has finished. I have included some further information below regarding the changes to the boundary in your area.

The revised boundary is available to view on this page here: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-in-my-area/>

The design of the Lower Thames Crossing will continue to evolve and the boundary will change further. HE are still working on the design of the project and therefore do not yet have certainty on which land they will need on a permanent basis and which land they will need temporarily. HE will be setting out the areas of temporary and permanent land at statutory consultation, planned for later this year, and these will be further refined before they submit their application for development consent.

HE will continue to communicate with homeowners and affected communities about any new information that they need to know.

FAQs

What is the very thin strip north of Chalk and running to the river Thames?

This has been identified as potentially being required to provide a drainage outfall from the road and tunnel to the River Thames.

Why has the boundary west of Shorne and Shorne country park been extended?

Environmental mitigation land and utility diversions – we may need some land to divert utilities.

Why has the village of Thong been surrounded by the new development boundary?

We have identified an area of land to the east of Thong as potentially being required for the diversion of a gas pipeline. At this stage we are uncertain the route the diverted pipeline will take so have included an area of land within which it may be located. This will be refined once we have undertaken further design work with the utility company.

Why has more land been included in the development boundary around Southern Valley Golf Club and south of the A226?

Areas of land in this area have been identified for potential environmental mitigation, and for the diversion of gas, electricity and water supplies. There will also need to be a construction compound around the Southern Portal. We are still continuing to determine where the Southern Portal will be located, once this is known the area will be refined further ahead of Statutory Consultation later this year.

Why has the boundary now been extended to the edge of the residential properties south side of Riverview Park and near Shorne West?

This area is to provide land for environmental mitigation and some of it is for utility diversion.

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