

Lower Thames Crossing: Local Refinement Consultation

Non-Statutory Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Addendum

Introduction:

1. As part of ongoing Project development, discussions with our stakeholders, and feedback from the community impacts consultation, National Highways is proposing a small number of refinements to the Project, and to provide additional environmental compensation and mitigation measures. To enable the public and stakeholders to provide feedback on these proposals, we will deliver a further non-statutory public consultation to be launched in May 2022.
2. Information regarding our consultation proposals can be found below.

Local Refinement Consultation

3. This latest consultation will include:
 - An update following the Community Impacts Consultation covering some of the most common issues raised by the public and stakeholders.
 - Details of the further refinements which we are now proposing to make to the Project following further Project development and the Community Impacts Consultation. These changes include:
 - changes to the design of Tilbury Fields (a new public park on the north bank of the Thames) to make space for the planned Thames Freeport
 - more public open space to the east of the tunnel entrance in Kent, connected to Chalk Park – the proposed new public park overlooking the Thames
 - replacing an existing slip road with a new link from the Orsett Cock roundabout to the A1089 to reduce traffic impacts on some local roads
 - a new footbridge over the A127 and further improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders including better bridleway connections around the A2 junction and the A226
 - further improvements to our landscaping proposals
 - further refinement of utility works to enable the project to be built
 - refinements to the Order Limits, the land needed to build and operate the new road, as a result of proposed changes
 - additional environmental compensation and mitigation
4. Based on the scope of the consultation proposals, supporting information, and the anticipated level of public interest, we are holding a consultation over a period of five and a half weeks.
5. The launch date for the local refinement consultation is at 00.01 on Thursday 12 May 2022, closing at 11.59 pm on 20 June 2022.
6. In line with the statutory consultation SoCC, this latest consultation will build on our previous consultations:
 - Route Consultation (January 2016)
 - Statutory Consultation (October 2018)
 - Supplementary Consultation (January 2020)

- Design Refinement Consultation (July 2020)
 - Community Impacts Consultation (July 2021)
7. Although this consultation is non-statutory, it does include some statutory elements to ensure all statutory requirements of the Planning Act 2008 process are fulfilled. This includes notifying new land interest holders about the consultation in accordance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.
 8. The Local Refinement Consultation non-statutory SoCC Addendum provides an overview of the proposals we will be consulting on, as well as the ways stakeholders and local communities will be able to access, engage with, and provide feedback on the proposals.
 9. This Addendum is part of our ongoing engagement with local authorities, communities and other stakeholders on the Project.

Project overview

10. The Project is a proposal to construct, operate and maintain the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC), a proposed new road connecting, Kent, Thurrock, Havering and Essex via a tunnel beneath the River Thames.
11. The Project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined by the Planning Act 2008. This means that National Highways is required to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate for permission to construct and operate the Project, known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).
12. The proposals also include utility diversions associated with and located across the LTC Project. A small number of these utility diversions qualify as NSIPs in their own right and will form part of the DCO application for the Project.
13. We have all been faced with immense challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At times like these, NSIPs, such as the Lower Thames Crossing, have an important role to play in supporting the UK's economic recovery and future growth. As such, the development of the Project has continued during the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim being to resubmit the DCO application in 2022.
14. The channels available are similar to those used during previous consultations and are outlined below. In addition, this document includes information about how to obtain paper copies of documents, including a response form.
15. In line with earlier consultations, we will continue to ensure that those who have no or limited access to the internet can access, view, understand, and comment on the proposals. This will include the ability to order hard copies of the guide free of charge, and a telephone call-back service for members of the public to ask questions. Further details about our initiatives to ensure everyone has the opportunity to take part in the consultation can be found within this document.
16. The approach set out below puts the health and safety of the public and Project staff first while enabling all stakeholders and the public the opportunity to view, understand and provide feedback on the proposals. If Government guidance changes and evolves, we would look to adjust our approach accordingly.

Consultation Materials

17. All consultation materials, which are described in detail below, will be available on the consultation website at <https://ltcconsultation2022.nationalhighways.co.uk/>. We will also provide key documents such as the guide to local refinement consultation,

response forms and envelopes, at as many deposit locations and information points as possible close to the proposed Project (see the table below for further details). Map books will also be available at deposit locations.

- Guide to local refinement consultation
- Map Book 1 – General Arrangements
- Map Book 2 – Land Use Plans
- Map Book 3 (Extracts) – Engineering Plans
- Large scale plans
- Local refinement consultation leaflet
- Response Form and Freepost envelope
- Easy Read version of the guide to local refinement consultation

Guide to Local Refinement Consultation

18. The guide to local refinement consultation will present all the information that is being consulted upon in this consultation and provide an overview of the consultation process, including the consultation period, and explain how the public and stakeholders can have their say. It will include:
- **Project overview** – reintroducing the Project including its aims and objectives; reaffirming our commitment to providing benefits for local communities; and an update on the DCO application.
 - **You said, we did** – a brief summary of the feedback received to the Community Impacts consultation and an introduction to some of the changes we are proposing in this consultation.
 - **Changes since the community impacts consultation** – providing more information about the changes we now propose to make to the Project.
 - **Assessment of the impacts of nitrogen deposition and proposals for mitigation and compensation** – This chapter sets out the further work we have undertaken to assess the impacts on the environment of nitrogen deposition from vehicle emissions on sensitive habitats. As well as explaining our assessments, we also set out our proposals for mitigating and compensating for the predicted impacts.
 - **How to have your say** – providing details about the consultation process including the consultation deadline and how the public can provide their feedback.
 - **Find out more** – providing a list of the consultation documents, link to the Project website and the details of public events and videos, locations to review or collect materials and telephone surgeries to provide feedback over the phone.

Map Books

19. We will publish map books for the public and stakeholders. These will include the changes to the Project shown through general arrangements, land use and engineering plans. We will only publish those engineering drawings where the highways design has changed since the community impacts consultation. We will also present large scale plans of the Project.

Response form and Freepost envelope

20. The response form will provide the public and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide their feedback on the proposals presented at the consultation.

Easy Read

21. We are partnering with a member of the UK Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF) to produce an Easy Read version of the guide to local refinement consultation.

Consultation publicity

22. Overview of consultation publicity channels:

Channel	Details
23. Website	<p>All consultation materials will be available to view on a dedicated consultation website at https://ltcconsultation2022.nationalhighways.co.uk/ from consultation launch at 00.01 on 12 May 2022 until 23.59 on 20 June 2022, but the materials will be available on the website for reference after the consultation closes. The website will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) maps 2. Videos explaining the proposed changes 3. A document section with access to the consultation materials 4. Links to find out more information on booking a telephone call-back with optional screen sharing, the events listings (more information below) and other ways to find out more about the consultation <p>The website will meet accessibility guidelines.</p> <p>The website will provide a link to our dedicated online response form, where it will be possible to respond to each of the consultation questions.</p> <p>The consultation will also be promoted on the Lower Thames Crossing project website at www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.</p> <p>Information about the Project presented at previous consultations can be found at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Route consultation (January 2016): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/lower-thames-crossing-consultation/ 2. Statutory Consultation (October 2018): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation/ 3. Supplementary Consultation (January 2020): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation-2020/ 4. Design Refinements Consultation (July 2020): www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation

	<p>5. Community Impacts Consultation (July 2021): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/community-impacts-consultation-2021/</p>
24. Events	<p>An event programme is planned so people can speak to the Project team and access a range of exhibition materials including boards, videos and reference documents and pick up copies of consultation materials.</p> <p>The programme will consist of nine Public Information Events (PIEs), four south of the River Thames and five to the north.</p> <p>The locations and venues are listed below and are based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible to communities who will be affected by the refinements 2. Have the capacity to hold the expected numbers of visitors; and 3. Have the ability to accommodate the event and allow additional planning and layout measures to meet evolving Covid-19 guidance. <p>The proposed venues are:</p> <p>South of the River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Near Blue Bell Hill, Walderslade Woods, Chatham, ME5 9AX • Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, DA12 4LG • Shorne Village Hall, 16 The Street, Shorne, DA12 3EA • Village Hotel - Maidstone, Castle View, Forstal Road, Maidstone, ME14 3AQ <p>North of the River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU • Orsett Hall Hotel, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, RM16 3HS • North Street Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX • East Thurrock Community Association, 77 Corringham Road, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0NU • Tilbury Community Association, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AA
25. Consultation leaflet	<p>A leaflet will be distributed directly to an area including all postcodes within 2km of the route of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and to postcodes in proximity to proposed new areas of compensatory habitat for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition on designated ecological sites. It will include a brief introduction to the Project and consultation, with information about how to learn more about the proposals, and how people can have their say. See Appendix 1 for a map showing the distribution area.</p>
26. Email	<p>Information about the consultation and notifications encouraging people to respond to the consultation will also be sent to an</p>

	<p>extensive database of individuals, businesses, interest groups and organisations. This will also include respondents to previous consultations who have opted in to be contacted by email. All email data is held and used in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation. Details are available at: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/privacy-notice/</p>
27. Social media	<p>The consultation will be promoted through a combination of posts via the Lower Thames Crossing Twitter account (@lowerthames), Facebook page (@lowerthames), and LinkedIn page (www.linkedin.com/company/lowerthamescrossing/)</p> <p>Consultation responses submitted through social media will not be considered.</p>
28. Third-party channels	<p>We will also reach out to key stakeholders, community groups and representatives to encourage them to share information about the consultation on their websites and social media channels, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn as well as being advertised in relevant newsletters.</p>
29. Non-statutory notices	<p>The consultation is being carried out on a non-statutory basis and, as such, there is no legal obligation to publish notices advertising the consultation.</p> <p>However, as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting the consultation widely, and following best practice, non-statutory notices will be published in local and national newspapers and online. If available, we will publish the notice in the following publications; New Shopper Bromley, Essex Chronicle, Kent Messenger, Thurrock Gazette, Romford Recorder, London Gazette, Fishing News, Lloyds List and The Times.</p>
30. Media	<p>Press activities will be carried out to encourage the media to provide editorial coverage of the consultation.</p>
31. Advertising	<p>Advertisements promoting the consultation and how to find out more will be placed in several local newspapers on or near the route of the Lower Thames Crossing.</p> <p>The consultation will also be advertised on Facebook, targeting people who live or travel near the proposed route.</p>
32. Videos	<p>We will publish short introductory videos and two longer videos at the start of the consultation period on the consultation website and Project YouTube channel. The longer videos will provide detailed information on updates and proposed changes in the local area, with one focussed on Kent, and the other on Thurrock, Essex and Havering.</p>
33. Telephone Call Back service with optional	<p>There will be a telephone consultation service in place during the consultation period.</p> <p>This will allow people who are not able or comfortable attending a physical event to speak directly to a member of the Project team.</p>

<p>screen-sharing service</p>	<p>The telephone services will be available on days when there are no physical events and will be scheduled for afternoons, evenings and weekends to give people flexibility on when to request a call-back.</p> <p>The public will be able to request a call back within a three-hour window via the consultation website or by calling the National Highways' Contact Centre.</p> <p>A screen-sharing call back service will be offered to enable members of the Project team to share their screen to help in understanding the consultation materials.</p>
<p>34. Responses over the phone</p>	<p>Additional support will be offered to help the public provide their response to the consultation over the phone.</p> <p>When the consultation launches, people will be able to book an appointment to provide their response over the phone by calling 0300 123 5000 or through the consultation website.</p>
<p>35. Ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>In addition to the various consultation activities, we will endeavour to offer meetings and conference calls to discuss the proposals with local authorities and parish councils in the affected areas.</p>
<p>36. Community and stakeholder briefings</p>	<p>We will also reach out to and encourage community representatives and stakeholder groups in the affected areas to take part in the consultation and get in touch through one of our consultation channels to ask the team any questions.</p>
<p>37. Ad hoc meetings</p>	<p>Where resources permit, representatives of the Project will attend online meetings and conference calls if invited by community groups, businesses and interest groups to discuss the Project.</p> <p>These meetings can be requested by contacting the Project via email or telephone.</p>
<p>38. Deposit locations and information points</p>	<p>We will work closely with local authorities, community groups and representatives to try to ensure deposit locations and information points are available.</p> <p>The deposit locations will include hard copies of the full suite of consultation documentation.</p> <p>Information points will hold the guide to local refinement consultation, paper copies of the consultation response form and Freepost return envelopes.</p> <p>Following a similar approach to the Design Refinement consultation and Community Impacts Consultation, we propose to have deposit locations and information points distributed appropriately around the Project. See Appendix 2 for deposit locations and information points.</p>

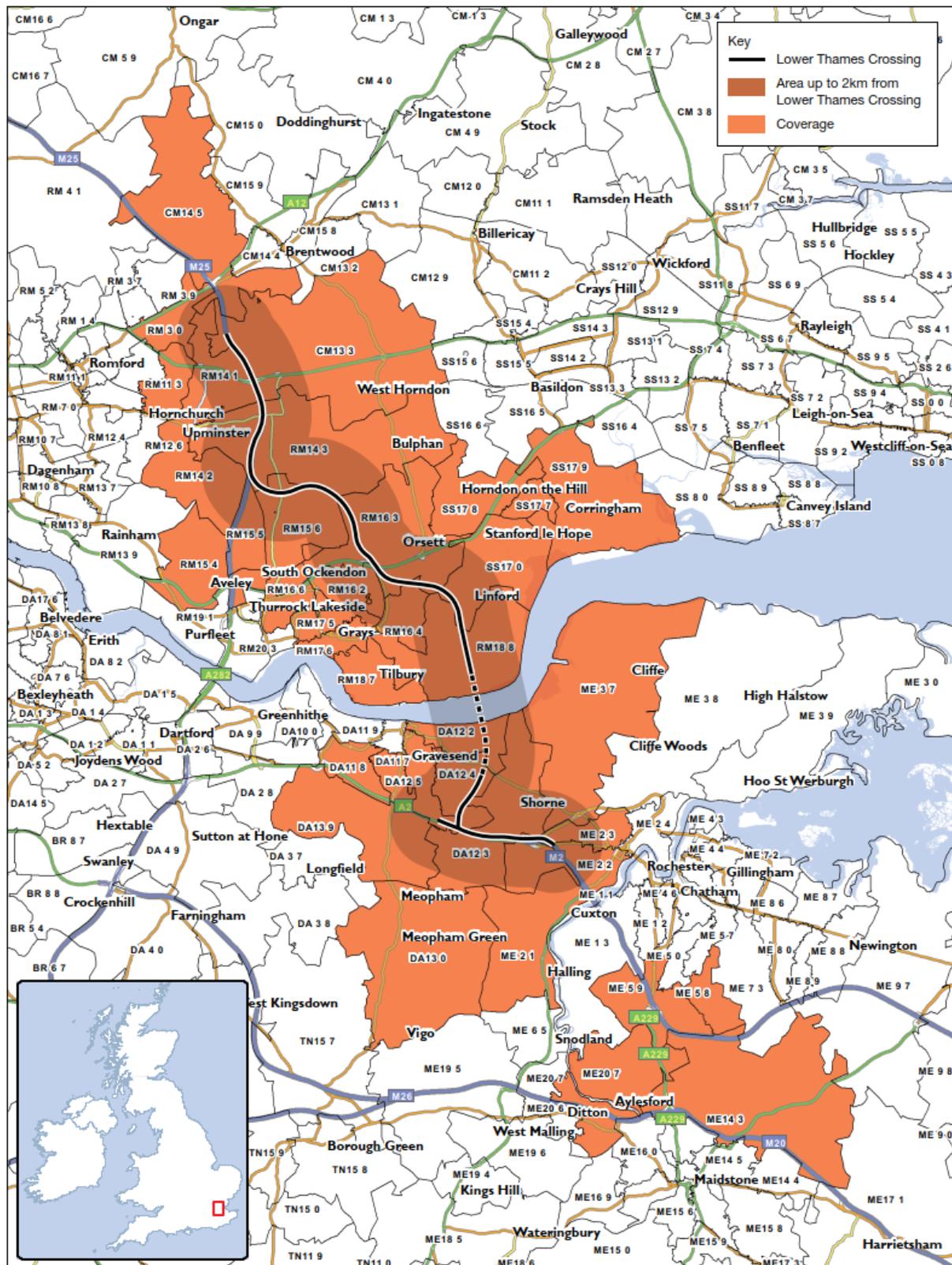
<p>39. Copies of consultation documents on request</p>	<p>For those with limited or no access to the internet, a printed copy of the guide to local refinement consultation, response form, Freepost return envelope and set of plans is available to the public to order free of charge (one pack per household). Requests will be taken before the consultation starts, and delivery times may vary.</p> <p>Documents from all consultations to date will be available and free to download online through the following links:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Route consultation (January 2016): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/lower-thames-crossing-consultation/ 2. Statutory consultation (October 2018): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation/ 3. Supplementary consultation (January 2020): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation-2020/ 4. Design Refinement consultation (July 2020): www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/design-consultation 5. Community Impacts Consultation (July 2021): https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/community-impacts-consultation-2021/ <p>Information on how to order the consultation materials will be included in the promotional leaflet and on the consultation website.</p>
<p>40. Alternative formats</p>	<p>In the same way as previous consultations, an Easy Read version of the guide to local refinement consultation will be produced and a Braille version will be available on demand.</p> <p>Arrangements are also being made to hold British Sign Language (BSL) online sessions, explaining the Project and supporting those in the affected communities with hearing difficulties to respond to the consultation.</p>
<p>41. Customer contact centre</p>	<p>The National Highways' customer contact centre will be able to provide information about the consultation to members of the public. The phone number is 0300 123 5000.</p> <p>We will also brief local authority customer contact centres, so they can provide the public with information about the consultation as well.</p>
<p>42. Hard-to-reach populations</p>	<p>We will continue to work closely with local authorities, community groups and representatives to identify relevant stakeholders who cannot access digital resources, to ensure they are being notified of the consultation and that the opportunity to take part is genuinely provided for these groups.</p> <p>Alongside this and the advertisement campaign, we are undertaking several activities to ensure those with limited or no access to the internet are notified of the consultation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issuing information leaflets to an area including all postcodes within 2km of the route of the proposed Lower Thames

	<p>Crossing and to postcodes in proximity to proposed new areas of compensatory habitat for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition on designated ecological sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publishing notices in local and national newspapers before consultation launch. • the initiatives introduced by the Project as part of the Design Refinement Consultation and the Community Impacts Consultation such as the ordering of consultation materials free of charge and a telephone service, available on days when there are no physical events to ensure the consultation is accessible to everyone, will be continued. <p>An Easy Read version of the guide to local refinement consultation will be produced, as well as a Braille version on demand and British Sign Language translation on the longer videos.</p> <p>We will consider any requests for material in other formats as they arise and look at providing the best solution to ensure consultees can engage with our materials.</p> <p>We are open to any suggestions on how we might improve our approach especially on how to engage with 'hard-to-reach' groups.</p>
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How to respond

43. The public and stakeholders will be able to respond to the consultation using the following methods:
- **Online:** Fill in the online survey at:
<https://ltcconsultation2022.nationalhighways.co.uk/>
 - **Post:** Post a response form or comments to **FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION**. The Freepost address is the only text needed on the envelope, and no stamp is required.
 - **Email:** Send comments to: LTC.CONULTATION@TRAVERSE.LTD
 - **Telephone:** We are offering additional support to help consultees to provide feedback over the phone. It will be possible to call us on 0300 123 5000 weekdays between 9am and 5pm to book an appointment.

Appendix 1: Leaflet distribution area including all postcodes within 2km of the route of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and to postcodes in proximity to proposed new areas of compensatory habitat for the potential impacts of nitrogen deposition on designated ecological sites



Appendix 2 – Deposit locations and information points

Brentwood

Deposit location

- Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood CM14 4BP

Havering

Deposit location

- Romford Central Library, St Edwards Way, Romford RM1 3AR

Information points

- Harold Hill Library, 19A Farnham Road, Harold Hill RM3 8ED
- Upminster Library, 26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2BB

Dartford

Information point

- Dartford Central Library & Museum, Central Park, Market Street, Dartford, DA1 1EU

Gravesham

Deposit location

- Gravesend Library, Windmill St, Gravesend DA12 1BE

Information points

- Coldharbour Library, Coldharbour Rd, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 8AE
- Higham Library, Villa Rd, Higham, Rochester ME3 7BS
- Meopham Library, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend DA13 0AH
- Riverview Park Library, The Alma, Leander Drive, Gravesend, DA12 4NG
- Shorne Woods Visitor Centre, Brewers Road, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HD

Medway

Deposit Location

- Cuxton Library, Bush Road, Cuxton, Rochester, ME2 1EY

Information point

- Strood Community Hub, 133 High Street, Strood, Rochester, ME2 4TJ

Maidstone

Deposit Location

- Kent History & Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ

Tonbridge and Malling

Deposit location

- Snodland Library 15 – 17 High Street, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5DA

Information point

- Larkfield Library, Martin Square, Aylesford ME20 6QW

Thurrock

Deposit locations

- Chadwell St Mary Library, Brentwood Rd, Chadwell St Mary, Grays RM16 4JP
- Grays Library, Orsett Rd, Grays RM17 5DX

Information points

- Belhus Library, South Ockendon Centre, Derry Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 5DX
- Corringham Library, St Johns Way, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 7LJ
- East Tilbury Library, Princess Ave, East Tilbury, Tilbury RM18 8ST
- Stanford-Le-Hope Library, 26 High St, Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0HG
- Tilbury Library, part of Tilbury Hub, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AD