

# Lower Thames Crossing Fact sheet

## Ecology surveys

The Lower Thames Crossing is a proposed new road crossing connecting Kent and Essex. A new crossing is needed to relieve congestion at the existing Dartford crossing and unlock economic growth for the region and the country.

### The importance of ecological surveys

Our countryside is home to some amazing plants, animals and habitats, and many of them are protected by law. Knowing exactly where they are is vital to making sure we protect them.

To do this we need to conduct ecological surveys. These will provide us with vital information about the environment which we can use to inform the project as it progresses.



### Bird surveys

Breeding bird surveys will occur at vantage points along the potential routes. Our specialists will conduct surveys mainly on foot. This is repeated later in the year so that we fully understand where populations of wetland birds are over-wintering. Barn owl surveys of buildings and trees during the day and dusk may also be required.

### Vegetation

These general surveys help us identify and record plant species and areas of key interest. They are carried out on foot before the hay is cut in June.





## Bats

We will inspect trees and buildings for their bat roost potential. This is usually done during the day. We also assess whether bats forage on farmland during the night. The monitoring itself takes place during dusk and dawn from May to September and involves ecologists watching for bats moving to and from buildings and trees.

## Rare invertebrates

Surveys will be carried out to assess areas that provide suitable habitat for invertebrates, including several local wildlife sites. Most surveys are carried out during the day, but if moth traps are required these are operated at night.

## Dormice

Dormice are nocturnal mammals which live in woodlands and hedgerows. They forage on flowers, fruit and insects and hibernate in the winter when food is scarce. Our surveys will involve installing and monitoring nest tubes in hedgerows and woodlands.



## Will you notice our surveyors?

You may see some of our surveyors or their equipment when you're travelling in the area. Our surveys need to be completed at specific times of day (or night) and at different times of year depending on what we're looking for. Our ecologists typically work in pairs on foot and are licensed and practised at carrying out surveys and handling wildlife. Great care is taken so that species are not harmed.

## Contact us

Please contact us if you have any queries and we'll get back to you.

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