

- Scheme still not finally fixed
- Almost 29,000 responses to consultation, 60 events with 15,000 visitors
- As HE consider all the responses, they may make changes to the design to improve the scheme
- If HE make significant changes they may carry out further consultation
- Feedback included design of the junctions, impact on local roads, impact of proposed Rest and Service Area, amount of land needed, mitigation, air quality, cost of using the crossing

2019 focus & next steps:

- Ground investigations – extensive programme this year, over 700 exploratory points along the route consisting of over 400 boreholes to map geology, running over the next 18 months
- Outline Business Case to government
- Detailed analysis of consultation responses to give communities a voice in shaping the scheme
- Year of market engagement
- 2027 LTC open for traffic, scheme is designed for 2041 maturity

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT'S COMMENTS

Please bear in mind these slides were presented by Andrew (landscape architect) to the Kent Countryside Access Forum because their remit is to advise on issues of countryside access and PRow and wanted to see what work was being done to protect and enhance the PRow network. **All of this is still work in progress and further engagement and consultation with stakeholders will be needed.**

- This is a public funded project
- There is a wider aspiration for loops to join recreational areas
- New road goes under Thong Lane
- NCR 177 to be diverted north, and then following the existing PRow from Thong village to Gravesend East Junction via a series of bridges / structures / underpasses. HE are exploring the idea of pushing the NCR route south of HS1 trying to utilise the existing PRow networks and potential upgrade of existing routes. **Please note this hasn't been agreed yet, and something HE are keen to engage on**
- Currently developing the alignment to try and limit the amount of land loss, both north and south of the A2
- Similar to above, HE are exploring the idea of rationalising the PRow networks and potentially removing the route from Thong to Gravesend East via a series of structures and looking to send users north over Thong Lane Bridge. **(Again this is currently work in progress)**
- Present Esso Service Station on A2 to be demolished .
- Green Bridges – as shown at consultation there will be two lightweight ones (edged with shrubs) replacing the existing bridges at Thong Lane and Brewers Lane used by all non-motorised transport , and one new heavy weight green bridge (edged with trees) over Thong Lane to be used for farm vehicles and other motorised transport .
- Area north of Clay Lane Woods to Riverview Golf Club potentially becomes open space and meadow land minus the golfing , such land will be owned by HE then given to a management group to maintain. **This hasn't been confirmed yet and HE are still determining the use of the space, whether public open space, habitat creation or other – they are just exploring potential uses.**