



Examination period nearly complete

**Planning Inspectorate to start writing
its report and recommendation in June**



Plus

- How the project is progressing
- Local points of view
- Your questions answered





Cllr Matthew Hicks addresses the Examining Authority during the Examination period.

Message from Matthew

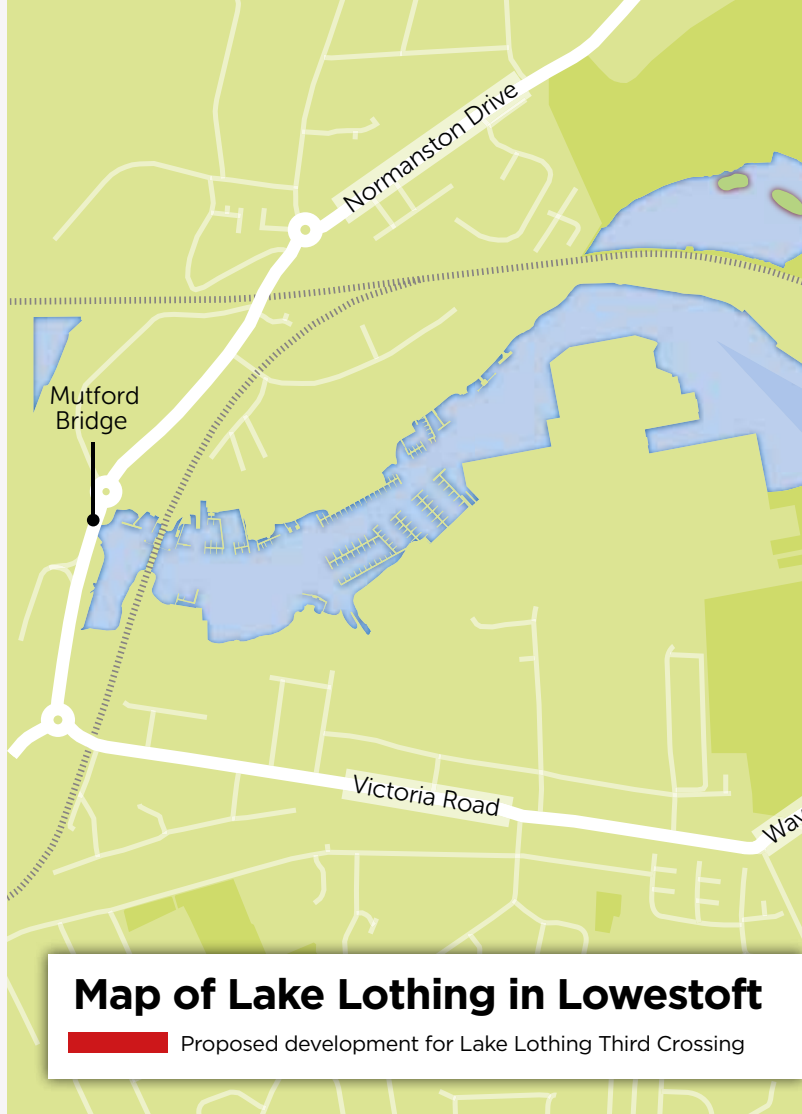
We are now in March, meaning we are halfway through one of the final stages of this crucial project. We are getting ever closer to the first spade going into the ground to make this bridge a reality.

In June, the current Public Examination period will close and by September the Planning Inspectorate will have submitted their report and recommendation to the Secretary of State. This means, all being well, we will hear news from the Secretary of State in December when they will approve the construction of the crossing.

With projects of national importance such as this, they are years in the planning; there is much policy and procedure to follow, which is set out by the government. So from the moment of the first idea to construction being complete, these schemes take a significant amount of time.

December 2019 may feel like a long way away - I certainly haven't thought about my Christmas shopping just yet! But considering that Suffolk County Council submitted the Outline Business Case for the third crossing in December 2015, it really does feel that we are now sprinting down the home straight to the finish line.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Dr Peter Widd, following his unexpected passing in January. Peter was a member of the Planning Inspectorate's Examining



Map of Lake Lothing in Lowestoft

Proposed development for Lake Lothing Third Crossing

Authority for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing, who I met at the start of the Public Examination period last year. On behalf of Suffolk County Council and the Lake Lothing Third Crossing project team, I send my condolences to Peter's family, friends and colleagues.

We continue to look forward to the bridge being open and that reality gets closer every week.

Councillor Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council

The application process - the remaining steps

COMPLETED

-  **Jul 2018** **Pre-Consultation**
-  **Aug 2018** **Acceptance**
-  **Sep 2018** **Pre-Examination**

NEXT

-  **Examination**
Dec 2018 to Jun 2019

Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views of the project. You can request to speak at one of the hearings. The Planning Inspectorate has 6 months to complete the Examination.



A local point of view

"The Lowestoft Town Council can't be more pleased that our long-awaited bridge is becoming a reality. Lowestoft has been talking about a third crossing for about 125 years, since the first mention of a need for another bridge was mentioned in the newspaper and frankly, it can't come soon enough for us. This bridge will not only open up the town, it will open up opportunities for our families, our businesses and our future."

Councillor Alice Taylor
Lowestoft Town Council (Independent)



"Lowestoft Rising believes the new third crossing will be a pivotal moment for the town, not only to prove wrong those who said it will never happen, but also to unite the town. It will spread traffic flow more evenly, giving businesses and the community a chance to grow as we see faster travel and a more connected town."



We want young people to be involved in learning about the construction of the crossing. They should take pride and ownership of it and of the surrounding areas that will also benefit from redevelopment.

You cannot underestimate the difference this project will make to the town and the people in it."

Phil Aves
Lowestoft Rising, Partnership Change Manager

Recommendation Jun to Sep 2019

The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the relevant Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the Examination.



Decision Sep to Dec 2019

The relevant Secretary of State has three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.



Post-decision Dec 2019 to Jan 2020

Once a decision has been issued by the relevant Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court.

Your questions answered

“Is the bridge ever going to get built? I haven’t seen a spade go in the ground yet.”

This project has been identified as being nationally important, and that means it requires a lot of time and paperwork! Before any of the building work can begin, the project needs to be examined and approved by the Government. So far, this process has taken around five years, but the good news is that we are in the final stages. The current examination period is due to finish in June 2019, with a final decision due in December 2019.



The first on-site works have begun

The Lake Lothing Third Crossing project has now progressed from visualisations of the structure, to a point where early site works can commence.

Final design work of the bridge has been going on behind the scenes, from maximising its structural efficiency, to working out how this unique structure will be made and installed. This will require some big construction machinery arriving on the banks of Lake Lothing which you will not be able to miss!

We have begun site surveys, which cover a range of aspects required to bring this project to life. These include preparations for CCTV, the use of ground-penetrating radar and topographical work which looks at the area’s physical features. The contracts for these surveys have been let to two East Anglian

In the meantime, work continues behind the scenes to ensure that construction will be ready to go.

“I’ve heard that some residential properties on the north side of Lake Lothing will be demolished or acquired?”

We’re pleased to reassure anyone, that we do not plan to demolish or acquire any residential property to the north of the lake.

Do you have a question or concern about the Lake Lothing Third Crossing project which you’d like answered? Email the team:

LakeLothing3rdCrossing@suffolk.gov.uk

based companies: Survey Solutions and Industrial Water Jetting Systems (IWJS).



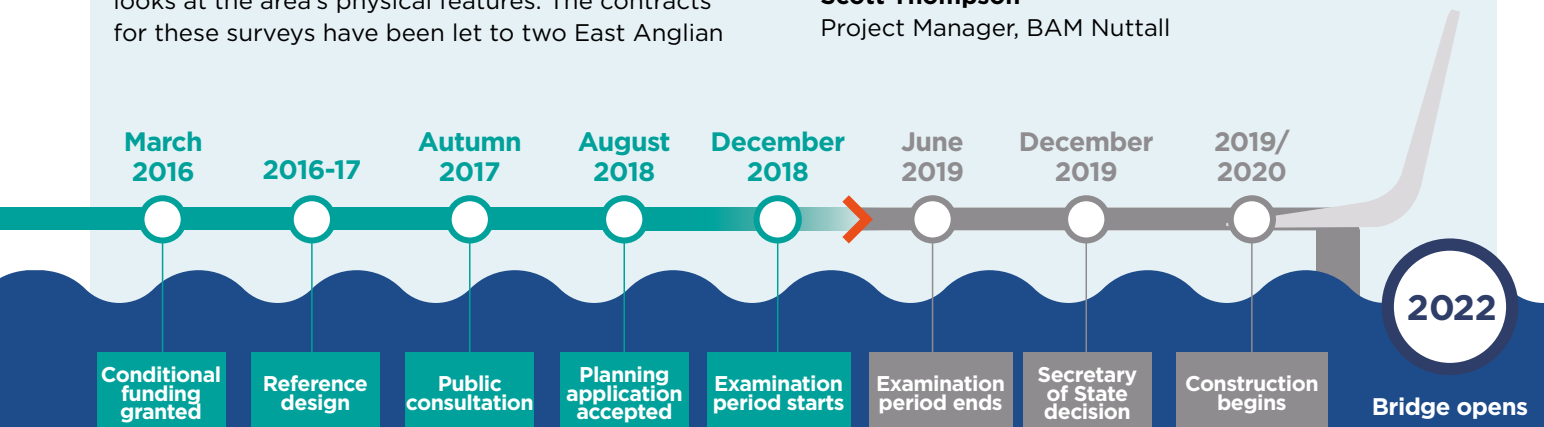
We are planning some exciting experiences using augmented reality to give you an idea of how the future Lowestoft skyline will look. This is similar to virtual reality and displays a computer-generated model of the bridge over the existing, real-life landscape.

We are also planning workshops with local schools and a ‘Meet the Team’ event in late Spring to invite local suppliers, subcontractors and businesses to meet us, discuss the project and explore ways in which we can all work together.

Lowestoft will soon start to see and feel the roots of the bridge project developing. I look forward to seeing you on site in the near future!

Scott Thompson

Project Manager, BAM Nuttall



FIND OUT MORE

Email: lakelothing3rdcrossing@suffolk.gov.uk

Web: www.suffolk.gov.uk/lakelothing3rdcrossing

Call: 0345 606 6171 (open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm)



Suffolk
County Council

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