

**THE WOOLWICH & DISTRICT ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**  
(A conservation and local history society)  
Founded in 1895 by William Thomas Vincent

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Thames Gateway Bridge Public Inquiry  
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27 May, 2005

Dear Sir

**Thames Gateway Bridge Inquiry**

1. We opposed the former East London River Crossing Bridge, and we oppose the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge, for the same reasons of damage to the local historic environment, and damage to health by increased car and road transport in the area, and damage to people's health by pollution resulting in the increase in road traffic activity.
2. We believe that, if built, the local area of the Bridge will suffer increased amounts of traffic, and will lead to the building of new "feeder" roads, such as the former proposed motorway through Oxleas Wood linking to the A2 and eventually to the A20.
3. Locally in the area increased traffic flows and possible widening of Knee Hill will damage the peaceful environment and fabric of Lesnes Abbey excavated by our Society in 1911/12, and the open spaces of Lesnes Abbey woods will become polluted, and partly lost.
4. The now proposed road to the A2016 was discredited by the Department of Transport at the E.L.R.C. Inquiry when it was proposed as an alternative route to E.L.R.C. by an objector.
5. This will not be a local crossing as stated by its proposers. Proposed differential tolls for non-local traffic may be against European legislation on competition. Since the proposals have been called-in by the Secretary of State this rather suggests that this local crossing is of national significance.
6. This whole project is against government guide-lines which stress the importance of decreasing road traffic; and promoting public transport. Increased road traffic as well as being polluting, is increasing global warming with its disastrous consequences.

7. We consider that the effects of the approved Dockland Light Railway coming from Beckton to Woolwich on which construction has already started, the Crossrail Project extending from beneath Woolwich and emerging at Abbey Wood, and the Guided Public Transport Route along the South of the river from Greenwich to Thamesmead will provide important public transport links, and that these three public transport routes have not been fully taken into account in the proposal for the need for the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge, complementing the existing rail and bus links from Thamesmead. The Woolwich Free Ferry, an historic river crossing, is an important feature of existing cross-river links for cars, lorries and people, and the Greenwich and Woolwich foot tunnels provide additional pedestrian access across the river.

8. Local roads leading to the Bridge such as Plumstead High Street, Woolwich, Plumstead Common, Wickham Lane, Eltham, Brampton Road and Long Lane, will all become "rat-runs".

9. Environmental damage to nature habitats and open spaces of Tripcock Park, and wild life sites along the river.

10. Environmental pollution caused to the inhabitants of Gallions Reach Village and adjacent areas by twenty four hour noise and fumes from the Bridge traffic will cause severe environmental distress to them inhabiting the new housing developments, making it impossible for them to enjoy their gardens in peace. They already have low-flying City Airport planes flying over them incessantly.

The above represents an outline of the Woolwich & District Antiquarian Society's evidence and issues it wishes to raise. The Society may, however, provide supplementary evidence on issues to be raised at the Inquiry at a later date.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Daly

On behalf of the Conservation Sub-Committee  
Woolwich & District Antiquarian Society