

## **ERYC (and LLFA) responses to ISH4 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Action Points.**

### **Action No. 7**

**Converter station access road culvert sizing Paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Outline Drainage Strategy revision 3 [REP2-031] explain watercourses would pass below the proposed permanent access road to the proposed converter station and a suitably sized culvert would need to be provided to maintain existing flows. Would it be useful for the Applicants to commit to an expected minimum design standard? If so, what would this be? (For example, no increased risk of flooding for all storm events up to 1% annual exceedance probability plus an allowance for climate change.)**

LLFA Response: Any proposed culverting of the watercourse shall not reduce the capacity within the watercourse and increase flood risk to any adjacent property or land and also any downstream areas.

### **Action no. 11**

**To comment/ provide an opinion on the assessment of temporary watercourse access crossings and trenched cable crossings method in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 20 [REP1-014] and additional information submitted by the applicants in relation to action point 10.**

LLFA Response: Temporary watercourse crossings should be assessed with the same scope than that of permanent crossings, taking into account both number of crossings and durations

### **Action no. 14**

**Respond to outstanding questions in ExQ1 related to hydrology and flood risk matters.**

LLFA Responses to outstanding questions:

**Can you comment on the details provided in the oCoCP (revision 3) [REP1-025] related to flood management, the drainage strategy, surface water management plan and watercourse crossings including:**

**• If the level of detail is sufficient to frame the necessary mitigation of the potential effects during construction and operation of the projects.**

Response: The main concern would be the watercourses where HDD is not used, and the reinstatements of any watercourses are carried out under supervision. The applicant should demonstrate how reinstatements will be monitored/maintained following the construction phase

**• If there is reasonable certainty of the quality and content of the future detailed CoCP, whether the approval bodies identified in Tables 3-2 and 3-3 of the oCoCP (revision 3) [REP1-025] would be appropriate.**

Response: The LLFA believes these are appropriate

**If the measures listed for temporary culverts in section 6.3.2.6 of the oCoCP (revision 3) [REP1-025] would be appropriate for permanent culverts, as suggested in paragraph 205 of the same document.**

Response: From the details provided this is acceptable, however this can be assessed once further details are provided

**Accommodating drainage features constructed within the Order Limits associated with the export cable corridor.**

**Are you satisfied that ground and surface water treatment and attenuation features could be constructed within the export cable corridor, assuming a worse case that the proposed haul road would be 100% impermeable?**

Response: At the current time we do, however it is difficult to confirm until the full details are submitted.

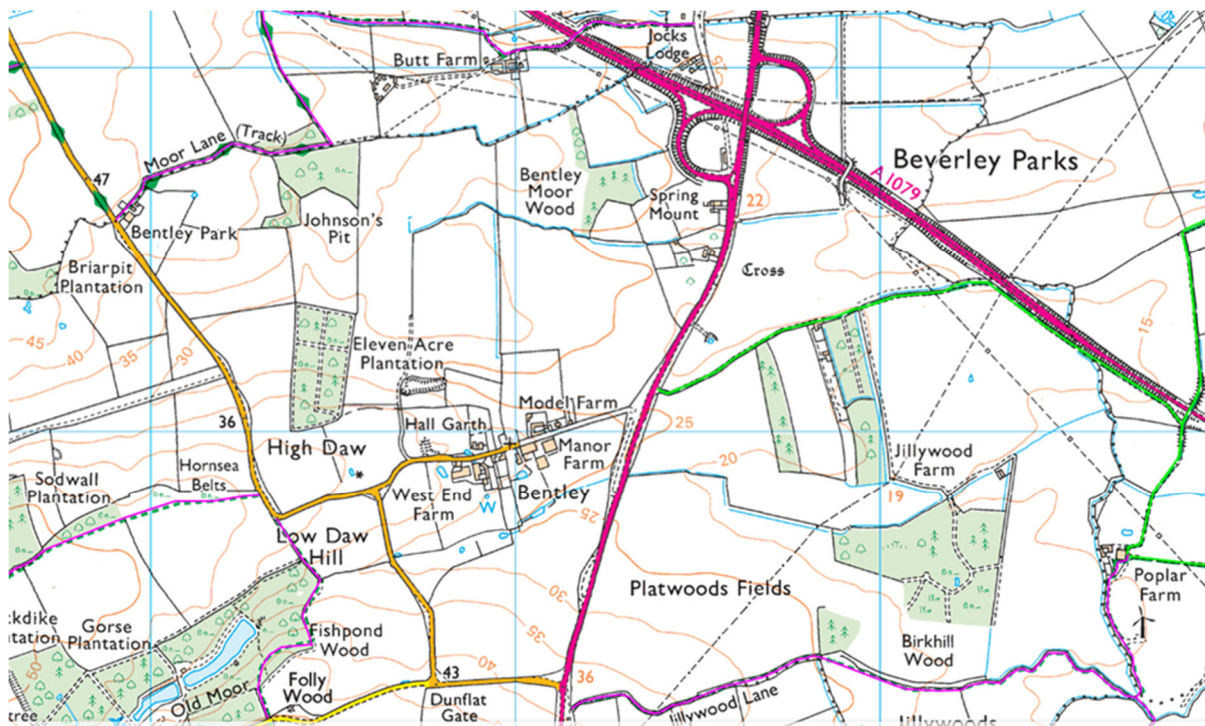
**Converter station access road culvert sizing Paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Outline Drainage Strategy revision 3 [REP2-031] explain watercourses would pass below the proposed permanent access road to the proposed converter station and a suitably sized culvert would need to be provided to maintain existing flows. Would it be useful for the Applicants to commit to an expected minimum design standard? If so, what would this be? (For example, no increased risk of flooding for all storm events up to 1% annual exceedance probability plus an allowance for climate change.)**

Response: Any proposed culverting of the watercourse shall not reduce the capacity within the watercourse and increase flood risk to any adjacent property or land and also any downstream areas.

Action no. 22

**Provide details of the prevalence of ash in woodlands that have been identified as providing screening which would reduce the effects from converter stations (see [REP1-050] ISH2.9.7), what are the current rates of ash die back for those areas of woodland and whether this would affect the conclusions of the ES.**

ERYC Response:



### **Birkhill Wood**

The northeast section of Birkhill Wood is broadleaved woodland, dominated by early mature sycamore with some oak. Birkhill Plantation to the south and west is mainly coniferous species (Leyland cypress, Norway spruce and larch present) with occasional silver birch, sycamore and oak to boundaries. Ash die-back will have negligible effect on screening.

### **Jillywood Plantation**

Mixed plantation woodland to east. Pine (dominant) and ash to west. Die-back looks evident in upper canopy. Ash not present at high densities, die-back will have negligible effect on screening.

### **Risby Park**

Several parcels of woodland including mixed deciduous and coniferous and coniferous plantation blocks. Ash present occasionally in broadleaved woodland and is exhibiting die-back. Sycamore abundant. Oak present as boundary features. Ash die-back will have negligible effect on screening.

### **Johnson's Pit**

Predominantly sycamore, birch and oak so will not be impacted by die-back

### **Eleven Acre Plantation**

Mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland. Coniferous block to the north and broadleaved to the south. Sycamore dominant with oak. Numerous ash hedgerow standards in the wider area showing signs of die-back

## **Bentley Moor Wood**

Applicant's arboricultural assessment details "Larch, Oak, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Beech, Silver Birch, Ash. Semi-early mature plantation consisting mostly of sycamore (dominant), the remaining species occasional to rarely present." Ash die-back will have negligible effect on screening.

Action no. 30

**Consider whether a visualisation should be provided which would show the proposed access road from the scheduled monument near to Butt Farm.**

ERYC Response:

A visualisation would be helpful at this point because it would inform not only effects upon the scheduled monument but also provide more information on the access road approach to the convertor station. However, the difficulty is that, until the swathe of land demarcated for underground cables is refined to a distinct corridor (such as only below the access road) it will not be known what landscape mitigation measures are available, beyond the hedge line already indicated on the Indicative Landscape Plan. This is because tree planting may or may not be possible in this area, subject to proximity to the underground cable corridor. It would be helpful for the applicant to define when a more refined design is likely to become available in this area to inform further review.