

DEADLINE 4 RESPONSE

T FAIRLEY & SONS LTD, ROBERT FAIRLEY LIMITED AND T & R FAIRLEY FARMING PARTNERSHIP (20049328)

Cable laying depth with the onshore cable corridor

Multiple Interested Parties who are farmers in their Relevant Representations and/or subsequent written submissions and during ISH3 have contended that it would be more appropriate within the onshore cable corridor for cables to be buried at a depth of not less than 1.2 metres rather than 0.9 metres as proposed by the Applicant.

a) *For Farming Interested Parties - Explain why you consider a cable depth of 1.2 metres would be necessary;*

The cable must be buried at a minimum of 1.2m deep across agricultural land; our primary concerns if the cable is not laid at this depth relate to drainage and the potential for damage to the cable / new land drains.

Drainage

The construction of the cable corridor will sever many existing land drains and prevent us from being able to access land drains that are currently deeper than the cable.

Land drains will need to be reinstated across these fields following construction of the cable corridor. At any less than 1.2m deep, it is unlikely that there will be sufficient depth to reinstate land drains without them being damaged by normal cultivations.

If the land along the cable corridor is not sufficiently drained, this could prevent us from being able to get on to the land at the optimum time for cultivations/drilling/fertilising etc. Delayed drilling/spraying dates will impact on yields and could result in failed crops. Weeds, such as black grass, are also more frequent and more difficult to manage in poorly drained soils.

Damage to the Cable / New Drains

Crops such as potatoes and sugar beet (both of which have been grown on our farm), are harvested in late autumn/throughout the winter when it can be incredibly wet. It is not uncommon for machinery to sink on some soils up to the axles – we have in the past had to dig out tractors up to a metre deep. If this were to happen over the cable corridor, with the cable at any less than 1.2m deep, and new drains above this, these drains are far more likely to be damaged and the cable could also be damaged.

A cable at any less than 1.2m could therefore prevent us from being able to grow some crops which are currently suitable for our land, resulting in a need to change our rotation and reducing our flexibility and resilience.

We are also concerned that the Applicant has proposed a depth of 1.2m in the Option Agreement Heads of Terms, however is only committing to a depth of 0.9m in this Application.