

Dear Inspector,

In the Examining Authority's Written Questions the Woodland Trust has had two questions directed its way. Below I have provided a response to these questions and their reference number.

COD 1.1

The Trust has been asked to explain whether it has any remaining concerns on the reliance on HDD or other trenchless technology. While we are satisfied that crossings will be undertaken at a depth of 6m and that this should not result in any impacts on the soil profile or other features of the ancient woodland, we do have some remaining concerns. Where such methods are used under ancient woodland, the Trust would have concerns with respect to maintenance of underground cables and pipelines where faults or malfunctions might occur. In such instances, would the applicant be able to fix or repair any faults without having to dig up the ancient woodland or disturb the features for which it is considered important, namely the ancient woodland soils?

TE 1.31

The Trust has also been invited to comment on the applicant's proposed hedge notching technique. The Trust does not have any comments to provide on this technique and there is no ongoing area of disagreement or concern regarding this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment. The Trust does not have any further comments to make at this stage.