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Reference: The Examining Authority's third round of written questions and requests for information (ExQ3)

Dear Christopher Butler,

The Woodland Trust would like to take the opportunity to respond to the questions posed by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the **HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline** consent order application. The Trust's responses are as follows:

Q3.2.1:

- **For the avoidance of direct impacts upon an existing slurry tank at New Bridge Farm referred to in DL4 submissions notes that two options of the Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline indicative alignment have been considered separately. Both require the same extension of the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary to the North-West and West, towards the Ancient Woodland south of Holywell Road. The two proposed design options being:**
- **PS02a – Removal of the slurry tank at New Bridge Farm and the pipeline would be constructed outside of the 15m Ancient Woodland buffer within the indicative alignment of the Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline.**
- **PS02b – Retention of the slurry tank at New Bridge Farm in its current location with the pipeline being constructed further North-West and West than the indicative alignment of the Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline. It would remain outside of the Ancient Woodland itself, but work would be required within 15m of the Ancient Woodland.**

IPs

- **Please make whatever comments you consider necessary.**

The Woodland Trust will always advocate for the provision of larger buffer zones to protect ancient woodland habitats from the impacts of development. However, we do not generally support or specifically advocate for alternative development options given the potential for impact to other habitats and wider considerations outside of our remit.

With respect to both options posed, we would like to raise that our position as outlined in our written representation regarding buffer zone recommendations of 30 metres to all ancient woodland remains.

Q3.2.2:

- **Having regard to the alternatives possible to reduce impacts on veteran trees at Backford Brook referred to in the Applicant's responses to DL4. The ExA notes:-**

- ***Option 1 crosses Backford Brook and the nearby veteran trees via a trenchless crossing. This would require a minimum of 75 metres trenchless crossing length to avoid the veteran trees and 120 metres to avoid all trees and maintain a safe distance from the nearby existing buried utilities. To reduce construction and maintenance risks, trenchless crossings should be minimised in quantity and length, as such they should only be used where no practical alternative engineering solution exists.***
- ***Option 2 extends the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary to the North which would increase the pipeline corridor width to reduce impacts on veteran trees west of Backford Brook. Further tree surveys of this area were undertaken in January 2023 and the indicative alignment of the Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline has been realigned to aid the avoidance of the removal of veteran trees at this location, subject to detailed design. This option avoids four veteran trees in comparison to Revision A of the ES and is considered the Applicant's preferred option presently.***

IPs

- **Please make whatever comments you consider necessary.**

We have no specific comments to make on the proposed options, as outlined for the reasons above. However, we would advise that our general position is that all veteran specimens should be retained and afforded buffer zones in line with Natural England/Forestry Commission's standing advice.

We hope that the following is sufficient to answer the Examining Authority's questions, however, please do not hesitate to get in touch if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Moses
Campaigner – Woods Under Threat
Woods Under Threat Team