

**JSM CONSULTING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS REGARDING  
THE DISCHARGE OF WATER AT RIVER COLNE, MUD WHARF, SLOUGH ROAD**

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**1. Questions raised**

**JSM Consulting replies to Questions raised by Cllr Julie Cook**

**Document - Methods Statement**

**Q: Page 3 of 7 states that they are undertaking vegetation clearance in February 2024.**

*A: Correct, initial plan was for those works to be undertaken in February 2024 to enable works in February 2024. This clearance will now be undertaken directly prior to the works, in June 2024.*

**Q: Can they advise if this happened?**

*A: Not yet, will happen directly prior to works in June 2024.*

**Q: What vegetation is planned to be cleared / was cleared.**

*A: To be cleared - Overhanging branches of one willow tree on peninsula and vegetation clearance for watercourse frame dams to enable open cut excavation through the watercourses & each of the following locations will need 5m of clearance of the river banks (both sides) and watercourse bed vegetation, under ecological supervision as required.*

**Q: NB The document called Stage 2 - vegetation clearance relates to Oct 2018. What, if any document, provides the detail of the current projects planned vegetation clearance.**

*A: 8417 - Environmental Pre-Works Site Assessment – Iver (vegetation clearance section on page 4).*

*River Colne damming method presentation\_27th March 2024 (slide 3) shows;*

- *Reed and bank clearance to be undertaken with digger bucket in advance of the works (5m clearance of banks).*
- *Mature Willow tree on island overhanging branches will be lopped (will be kept to a minimum) to allow clearance for machinery.*

**Document - Further Ecological Survey**

**Q: page 16 notes the potential presence of Otter and that the Island is habitat. Specifically, where in the documents are the management strategies to protect the Otter.**

*A: Please see below.*

**Document - ECO Check (ADAXBXT 69105)**

**Q: 3.1 Page 9 states that a camera survey should be undertaken to check on Water Vole and Otter. When was this survey undertaken and what were the results?**

*A: JSMGp01\_Iver\_WVS\_GLTA ecological document shows the following summary (page 13) that no evidence of water vole was found during either of the two visits. Surveys were undertaken in July and September 2023.*

### 3.1.6 River Colne

The section of the River Colne to be impacted by the proposed works has a braided channel where the Colne Brook meets the River Colne, resulting in a channel that is approximately 50m wide with a central island. The banks of the main river both upstream and downstream of the bridge were shallow and silted with limited suitability for water vole. However, marginal and bankside vegetation provided some cover and foraging opportunities including reed canary grass and reedmace *Typha sp.* Floating pennywort was also noted here. The banks on the island were steeper and more suitable for burrowing, however here, the vegetation was less suitable for water vole limited mainly to nettle and bramble. In addition, the presence of a number of large willows increased the shading within the channel. Here, the banks were exposed to the fast current of the river, further reducing suitability.

Overall, this section of the Colne was considered to offer **suitable but poor habitat for water vole** due to the primarily shallow silted banks. All steeper banks which may have offered more suitable slopes were exposed to the current and lacked vegetative cover. Two visits were conducted here however, **no evidence of water vole was found during either visit.**

Recommendations (page 2 of the same report showed);

Species	Recommendations
Water Vole	N/A
Otter	One week of trail camera monitoring on the Colne, followed by pre-commencement checks of the island.

This camera trap was set out last week (evidence attached). So far no otter footage has been recorded, but we did find some more feeding evidence for otter further down the island away from the works. Another camera was set up there.

**Q: 3.2 Page 7 states that there are "No" Great Crested Newts within 2KM. The Iver Environment Centre has evidence of GC Newts and this has been documented. Therefore, how does this statement reconcile with the findings from the Iver Environment Centre.**

**A: ADAS BXT69105-1696 (01) Iver EcoCheck shows the following on page 7;**

Great Crested Newt	NP	<input type="checkbox"/>	There were no records of Great Crested Newt on Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) within 2 km of the sites. There were no ponds identified within 250 m of any of the sites.
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*Great Crested Newt habitat, when in the water is ponds, rather than flowing rivers. If any Great Crested Newts are located in the vegetation areas set for clearance the mitigation measure proposed for reptiles below will protect them from harm. Further detail on that mitigation measure is provided in the document titled JSMGp01.1 Iver Method Statements Issue 2 (page 8 section 2.2) and summarised below;*

- For the bankside vegetation clearance, a method statement and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) supervision will be required for reptiles. A two-stage cut methodology should be undertaken, with the first cut to the height of 150 mm and left overnight before the second cut to ground level. A competent ecologist should search the area of vegetation clearance prior to the second cut. The second cut should move in the direction of suitable habitat to encourage reptiles to disperse out of the site. If the brash pile at the River Colne crossing requires removal, this should be carefully dismantled under supervision of an ecologist.

**Q: Also please note,**

**that clearance of vegetation is described as being 5 meters on both sides of the banks - see page 4 of 7 Methods Statement. But no details re what is to be cleared.**

- *A: Scrub, reeds, bramble, nettles and tall ruderals to be removed and over hanging branches on the willow tree on the peninsula.*
- **the legal document provided confers the right to fell trees for the easement, that is in addition to the other works. All felling and other reduction activities need to be set out in advance.**
- *A: Set out above and in the documents referred to above.*
- **Q: When I asked about the Great Crested Newt previously, JSM said (not written answer) that it was part of their existing plans. As a protected species a separate plan is needed, and I believe specific approvals for the actions.**
- *Explained above.*

### **JSM Consulting replies to Questions raised by Cllr Peter Stanhope**

*The cable we are installing is a new 132kV twin circuit electrical cable connection.*

**Q: Location of the cable is shown within the brown lines, are these brown lines the same ones that are on SharePoint?**

*A: Exact width 1.2m and length cable route plan shown attached (& previously submitted) of the excavation and depth 1.2m.*

**Q: Need two metres each side of the hole, how much will they encroach on the Parish land or will the other two metres be the road side?**

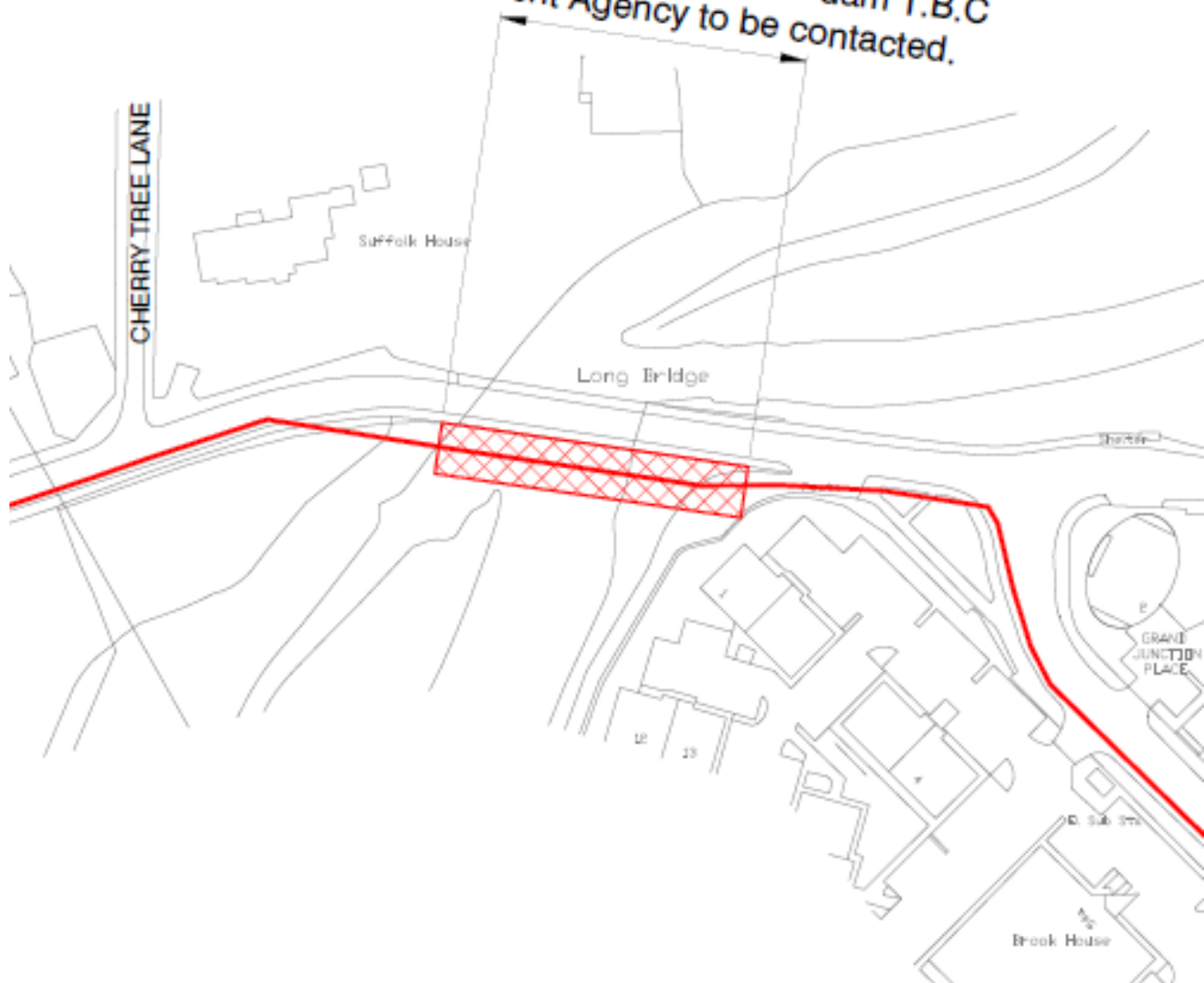
*A: 2m either side of trench is for plant access and working width only.*

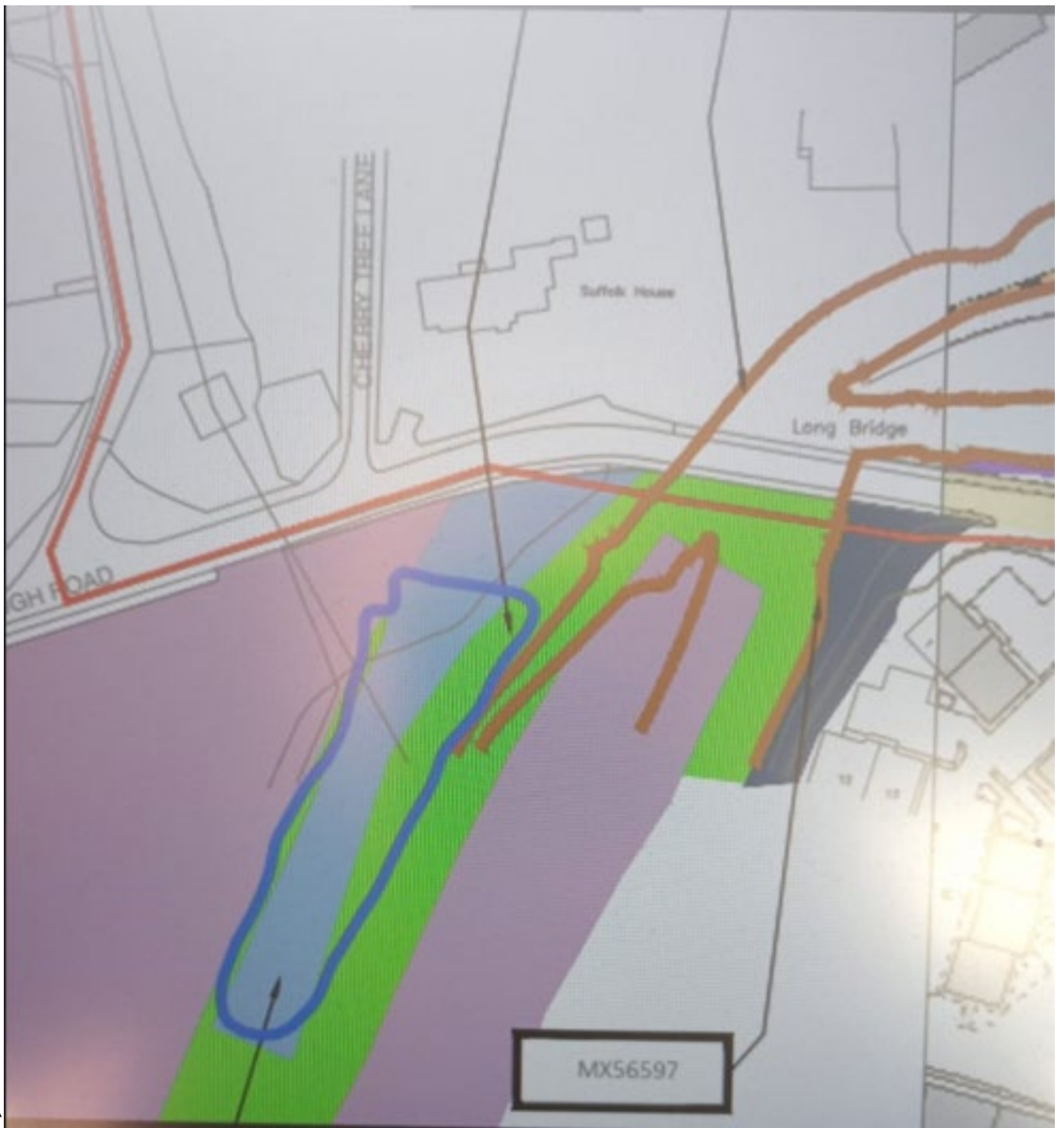
*The public footway belonging to Bucks CC will remain open at all times during the works, no closure will be required.*

### **Q: Proposed Cable Run**

*A: Screenshot of River Colne along Slough Road proposed cable route section and Iver Parish Council land (area highlighted in dark blue below is the preferred area to discharge water to, belonging to the Iver Parish Council (light blue area below) and the Local Authority (unregistered green area below).*

**SED 1**  
(23B40) Long Bridge , St Johns Road over River Colne.  
Managed by Buckinghamshire County Council  
Proposed installation of frame dam T.B.C  
Environment Agency to be contacted.





## 2. Information from resolution agreed on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The following resolution was passed at the Open Spaces & Highways meeting on Wednesday 29th May 2024:

A motion was raised that the Parish Council goes back to contractor and require certain documentation to be provided to us within 14 days and from there a decision can be made and if the documentation is not provided that the decision of the Parish Council is not to grant permission. It was proposed that clarification around the Great Crested Newt & Otter habitation was vital, Environmental Agency reports, a draft Easement documentation, A tree and Vegetation Plan, draft licences around the use of the Siltbuster on our land, a commitment that the Parish Councils legal costs be covered and an accurate plan of the cable route be provided. The Officer pointed out that a Motion was tabled and a vote on it was required at that point. The motion was seconded and after a vote it was **RESOLVED** to move that Motion as a decision of the Committee.

### **Great Crested Newt & Otter habitation**

*Details on pages 1&2 of this document*

### Environmental Agency reports

. None provided to date other than the EA response received yesterday regarding the water treatment. **EA permit document name; Final Signed Permit RB3150GG**

### Draft Easement documentation

Proposed compensation offer provided by Laura Wilson of CLM on 20th May 2024. **Document title Eclipse-LEG-D010 Rev 1 - Eclipse Cable Easement Template**

### A tree and Vegetation Plan

Detail provided in yesterday's email sent at 16:24 and referring to documents that explain the vegetation clearance required.

**Document titles 8417 - Environmental Pre-Works Site Assessment – Iver (vegetation clearance section on page 4).**

**River Colne\_damming method presentation\_27th March 2024 (slide 3) shows;**

- Reed and bank clearance to be undertaken with digger bucket in advance of the works (5m clearance of banks).
- Mature Willow tree on island overhanging branches will be lopped (will be kept to a minimum) to allow clearance for machinery.

Draft licences around the use of the Siltbuster on our land

Use of the silt buster is part of the Environment Agency permit application, but has not been submitted to you, to date. **EA permit document name; Final Signed Permit RB3150GG**

### Soil Test Results (new information)

Soil test result from Iver Parish Council land. **Document title 38425 - RIVER COLNE** with correspondence explaining results, **document title FW 2438425 - RIVER COLNE \_5th June 2024**

### Commitment that the Parish Councils legal costs be covered

This will be established week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June as the contact is currently absent.

### **Accurate plan of the cable run be provided**

*Previously provided and confirmed on pages 3&4 of this document.*



### **3. Index of all documentation received from JSM Consulting which can be found in the Council's SharePoint**

1. 8417 - Environmental Pre-Works Site Assessment – Iver
2. 38331 - RIVER COLNE
3. 38425 - RIVER COLNE
4. ADAS BXT69105-1696 (01) Iver EcoCheck
5. COLNE DAMS SET UP Aug 23
6. Eclipse-LEG-D010 Rev 1 - Eclipse Cable Easement Template
7. Environmental Briefing\_EMP Brief\_Iver\_River Colne along Slough Road
8. Final Signed Permit RB3150GG
9. Fish Rescue Method Statement\_River Colne, Slough Road
10. Flood Risk Assessment Matrix\_River Colne along Slough Road
11. FW 2438425 - RIVER COLNE \_5th June 2024
12. Iver info source screenshots
13. JSM\_Method Statement\_River Colne along Slough Road
14. JSMGp01.1 Iver Method Statements Issue 2
15. JSMGp01\_Iver\_WVS\_GLTA
16. JSM-RL-JSM-23-0597
17. River Colne\_damming method presentation Mar 2024
18. River Colne\_damming method presentation\_20th May 2024
19. STAGE 1 Enabling
20. STAGE 2 veg clearance
21. STAGE 3 Dam Deployment
22. STAGE 4 Pumping regime
23. STAGE 5 sleeve installation Artist impression
24. STAGE 6&7 bank & flow restoration

There is also a folder of communications between JSM Consulting and The Ivers Parish Council.

**Jeremy Day**  
**Deputy Clerk – Open Spaces & Highways**  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2024