Network Policy Academy #1

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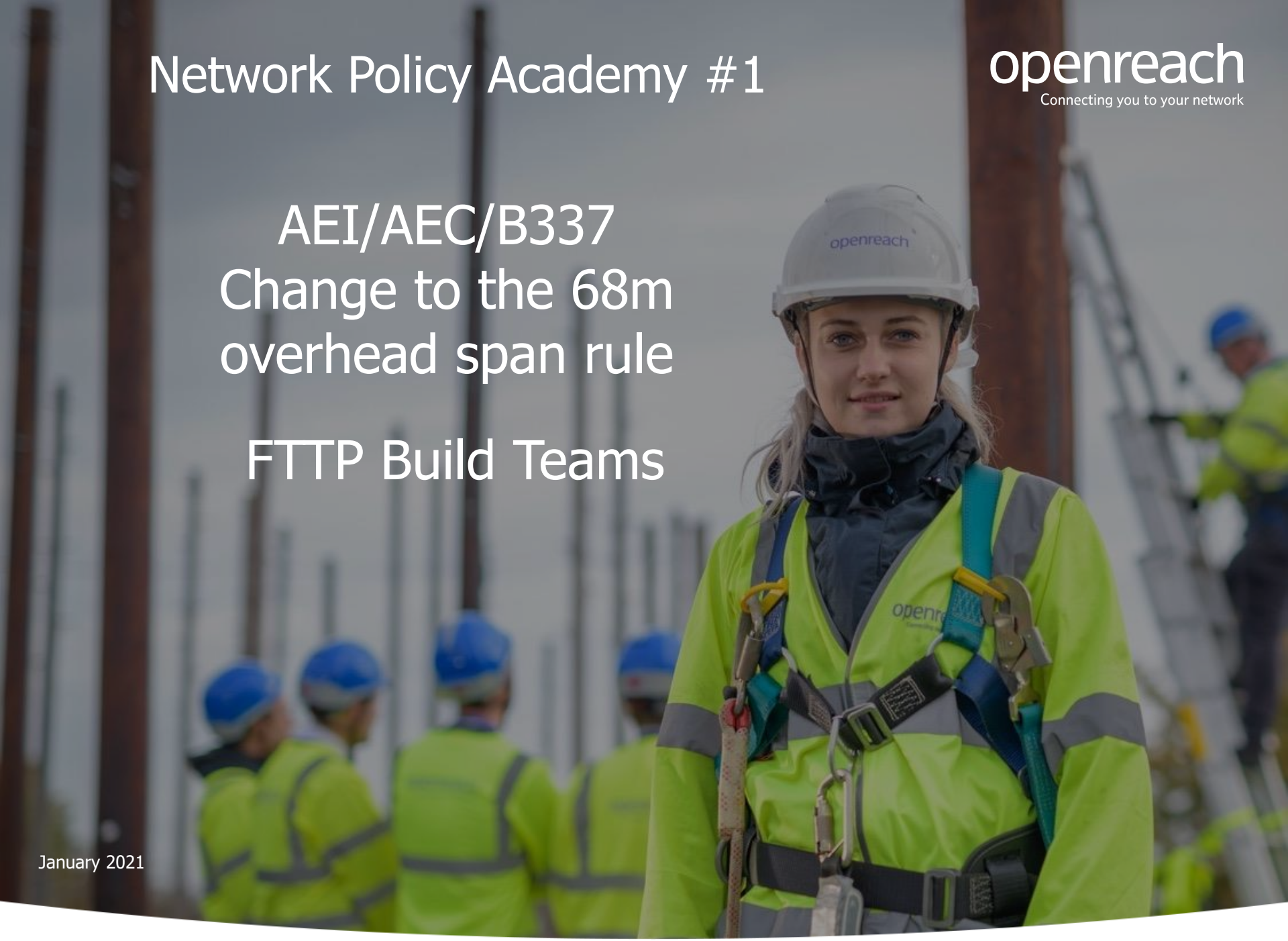
AEI/AEC/B337 Change to the 68m overhead span rule

FTTP Build Teams



January 2021

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The FTTP Plan & Build delivery is increasing in both speed and volume all across the UK

However!

Our teams are increasingly coming across cases where they are unable to install new underground fibre cables economically.

This is mainly due to the where underground duct is damaged beyond economical repair.
or
No duct exists – as existing cable is direct in ground (DIG)

The Solution

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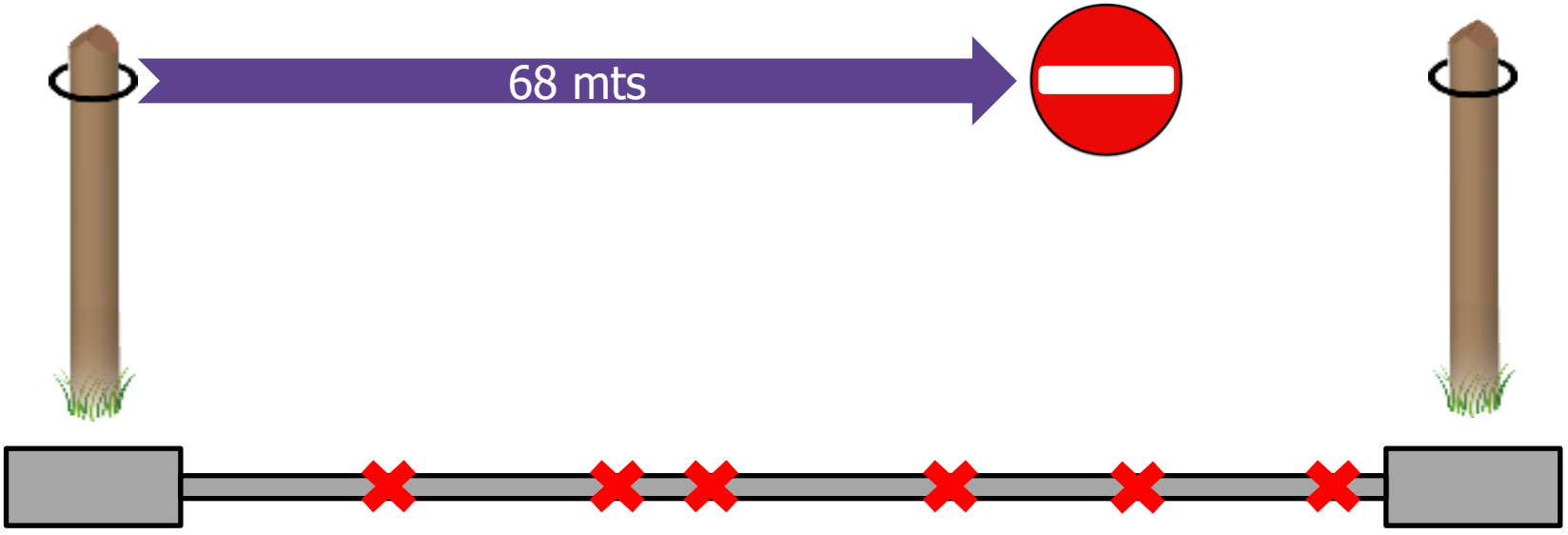
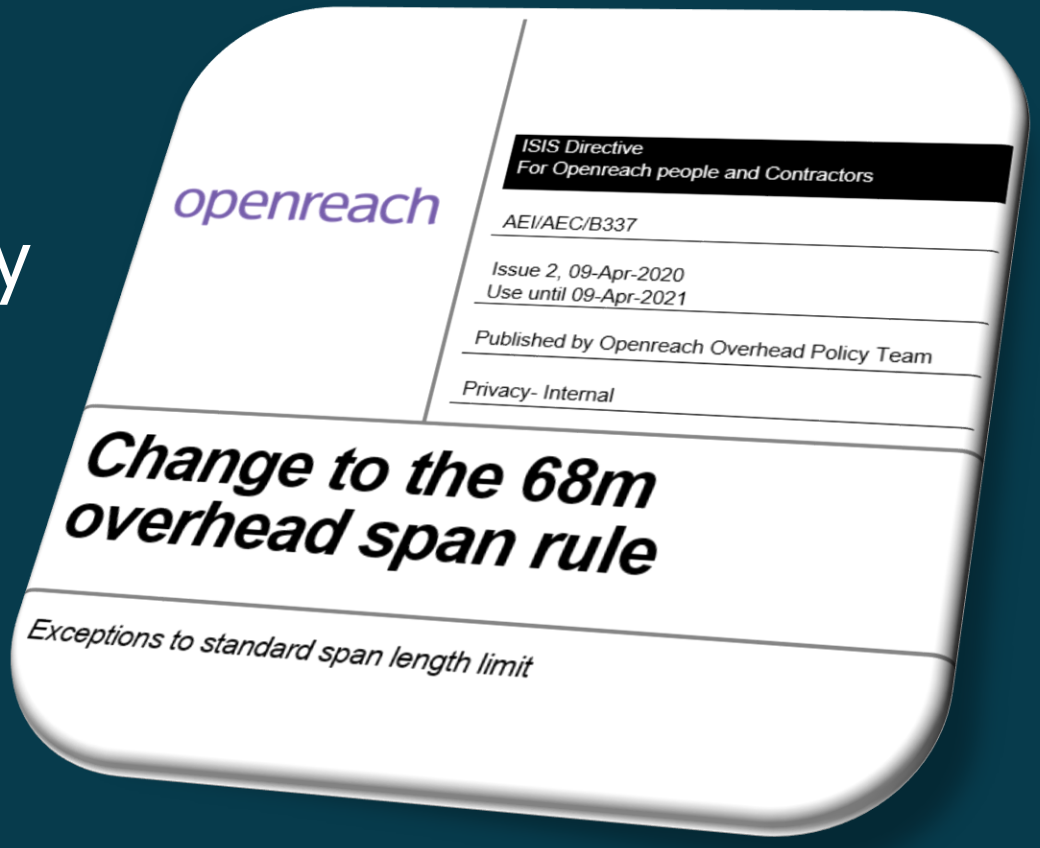
The obvious solution is to span a new overhead fibre cable between existing DP Poles, therefore bypassing the damaged U/G section.
However, sometimes the distance between the DP Poles is greater than the standard 68m span limit

Consequently the policy on maximum span length was changed:-(subject to strict criteria)



The New Policy



Where the New Policy Rules apply

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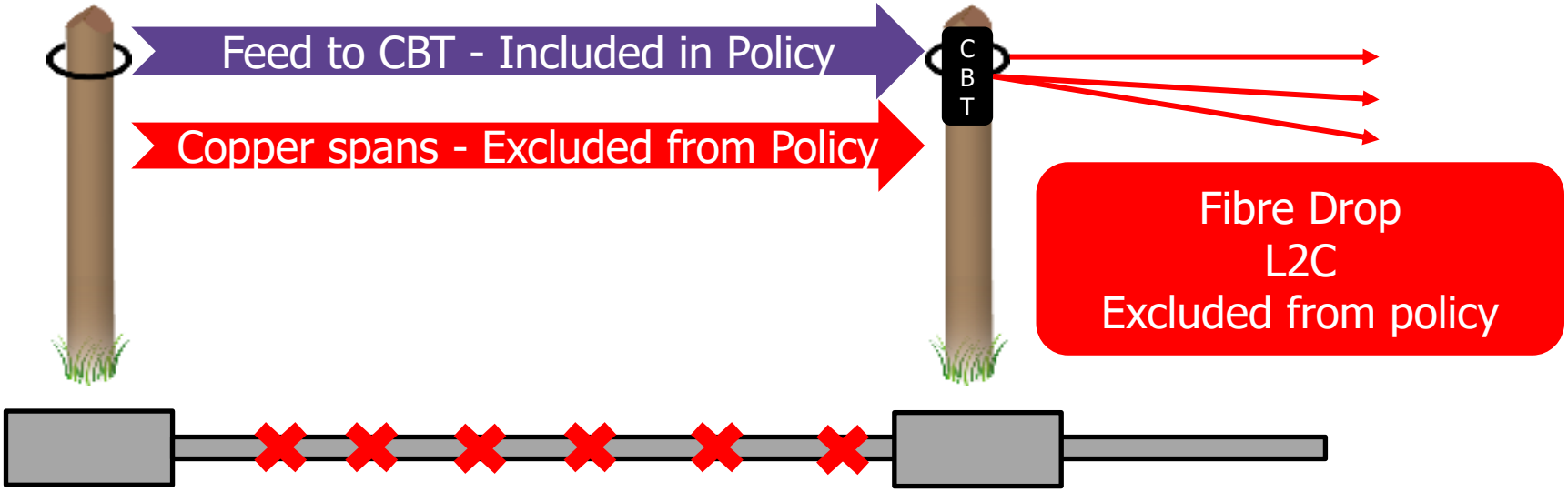
The new policy rules apply to Fibre cables **feeding** CBTs

It excludes the following

- Fibre cables beyond the CBT i.e L2C house-end feeds
- Creation of new copper span situations greater than 68metres
- Where it is economical viable to repair/provide duct



Where the New Policy Rules apply

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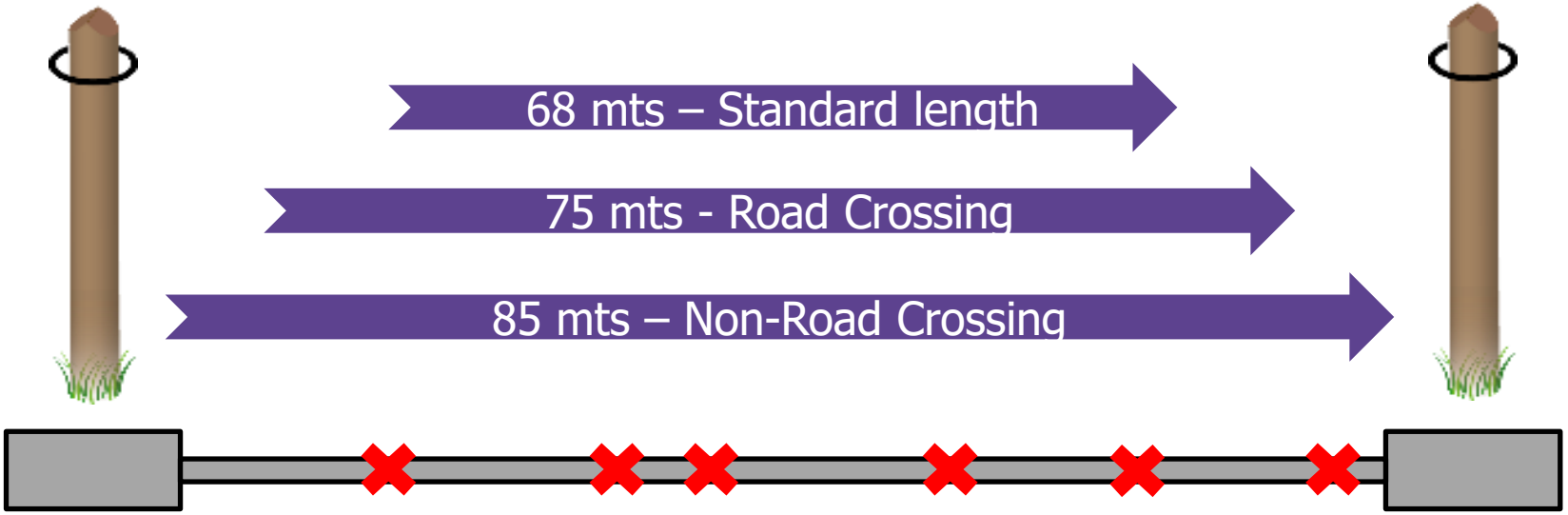
Where scenarios are encountered that meet the policy criteria and use of an overhead alternative is required, but not possible as the distance between poles are greater than 68m.
The exceptional span lengths shown below may be utilised.

In all cases, normal **D**ropwires **I**n **L**ine **O**f **R**oute rules apply.
NB: These new rules are not intended as a general replacement of the standard maximum span length, which remains at 68m.



Non-Road Crossing Spans

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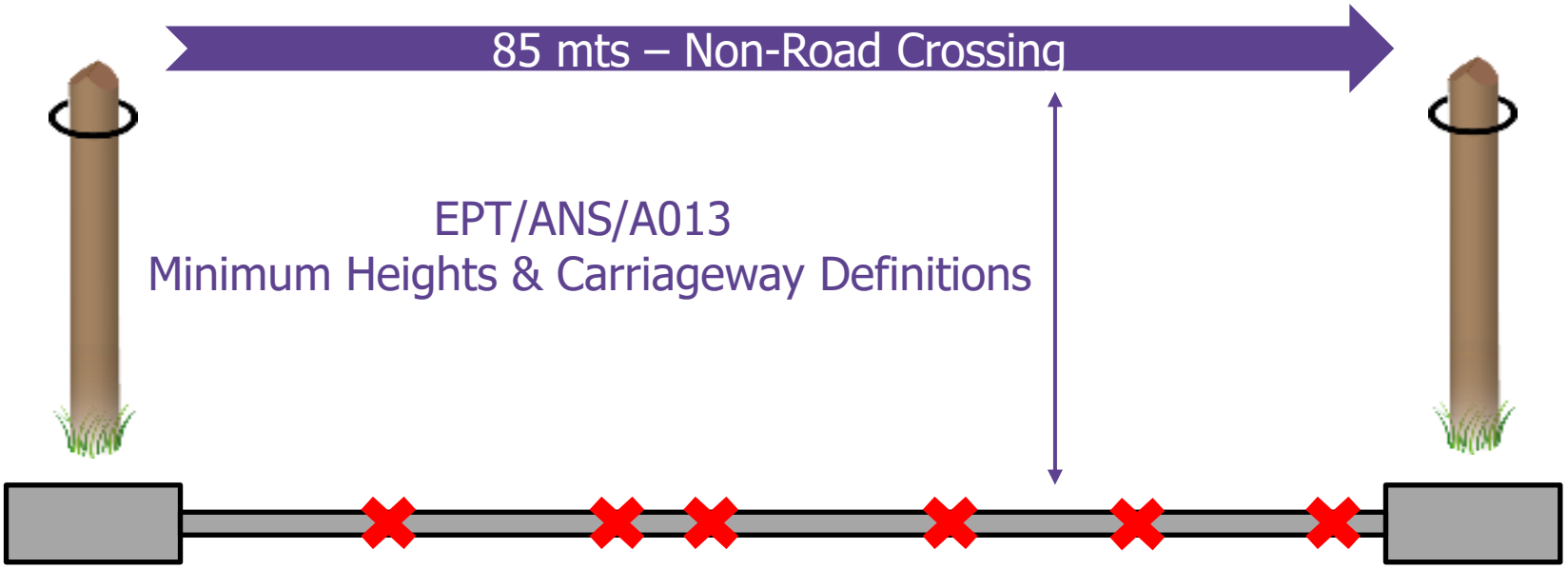
Pole to Pole Spans of up to 85m permitted, providing that all standard minimum height clearances are achievable/provided.
Please refer to EPT/ANS/A013



Road Crossing Spans

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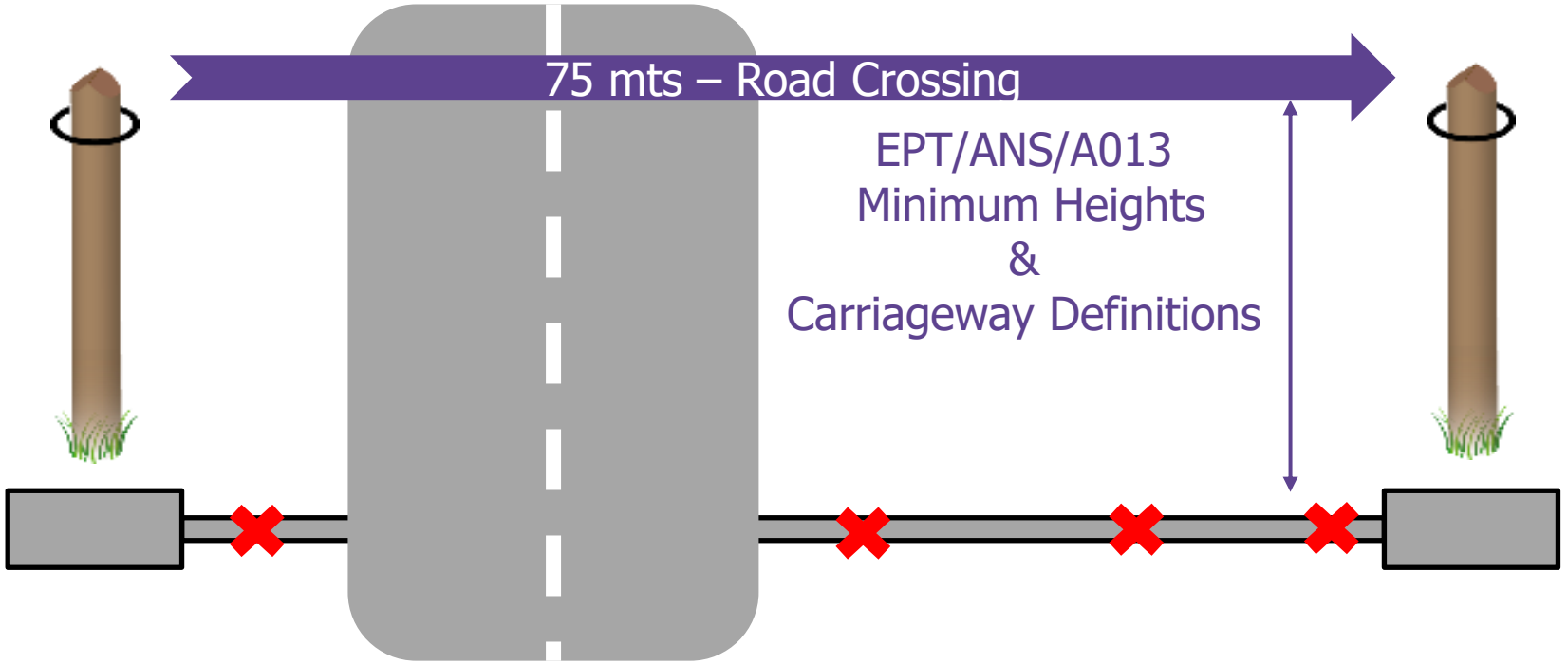
Pole to Pole spans of up to 75m are permitted, where a minimum wire install height of 6.5m is achievable/provided

Once in-life, the normal BAU pre-climb check measurement (5.2m) applies to all wires off the Pole, irrespective of span length.

Where the above criteria cannot be met, then an additional carrier pole should be considered/provided.



Further Guidance

Further Guidance

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AEI/AEC/B337 - Change to the 68m overhead span rule

EPT/ANS/A013 - Minimum Heights & Carriageway Definitions

Or contact

Glen Barford - Overhead Network Policy and Standards Specialist

Wesley Grantham - Electrical Protection & Overhead Professional

All documents available from the Policy & Build APP

The Quiz

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Now it's time to test your knowledge
Click on the button below
or go to
https://www.formwize.openreach.co.uk/run/survey3.cfm?idx=505d04080b0c010f