



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.3J
Presentation to Natural England 13
February 2019

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Ref: 5.1.3J

PINS Ref.: EN020022

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DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

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NATURAL ENGLAND
13th February 2019



AGENDA

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Project update
 - Project description
 - Timelines
- ❖ HRA
 - General approach to HRA
 - Marine Mammals
 - Ornithology (marine)
 - Fish and Shellfish
 - Benthic habitat
 - Next steps
- ❖ MCZ assessment
- ❖ AoB



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1. INTRODUCTIONS



INTRODUCTIONS:

Who we are...

- ❖ AQUIND Team:
 - Ross Hodson - Senior Project Manager (Natural Power; NP)
 - Sarah Lister - Senior Project Manager (NP)
 - Emily Nelson - Senior Environmental Consultant - Ornithology (NP)
 - Kate Grellier - Senior Environmental Consultant - Marine Mammals (NP)
 - Stuart McCallum - Senior Environmental Consultant - Marine Ecology (NP)
 - Giles Alcock - Senior Environmental Consultant - Natural Fish (NP)
 - Ian Ellis - Associate Director, Ecology (WSP)
- ❖ Natural England
 - Richard Morgan - Marine Lead Advisor
 - Alex Fawcett
 - Zara Zluiddin



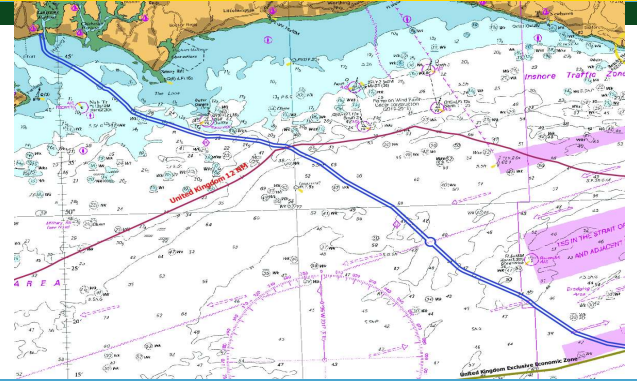

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**2. AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR:
UPDATE ON PROGRESS**



CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

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CURRENT STATUS UK: KEY MILESTONES SO FAR

Key Milestones (re-cap)

- ❖ **June 2016** – AQUIND signed a connection agreement with National Grid in respect of connecting to the UK National Grid via Lovedean Substation, East Hampshire in 2022.
- ❖ **Sept 2016** – AQUIND obtained a licence to operate an interconnector in the UK from Ofgem.
- ❖ **January 2018** – First Phase of public consultation to share information and gain initial feedback on the emerging proposals
- ❖ **March 2018** PCI (Project of Common Interest) status was approved by the European Parliament.
- ❖ **February 2018** – Submission of requests for Scoping Opinions from LPAs and MMO – TCPA and ML consent route.
- ❖ **April – June 2018** – Receipt of Scoping Opinions.
- ❖ **June 2018** – AQUIND submit s35 Application to BEIS to seek a Direction on NSIP status
- ❖ **30 July 2018** – SoS issues Direction confirming AQUIND Interconnector is an NSIP project and will be considered under 2008 Planning Act (DCO Process)
- ❖ **October 2018** – Submission of requests for Scoping Opinions from SoS.
- ❖ **December 2019** – Receipt of PINS Scoping Opinions.
- ❖ **February 2019** – Commence Section 42 consultation on Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).



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PROJECT UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019:

- ❖ A significant amount of design and feasibility work has already been undertaken by the project team to date.
- ❖ Cable Burial Risk Assessment is ongoing and further work is being undertaken to refine the cable route within the cable corridor as well as construction sequencing works.
- ❖ Project Description is presented within the PEIR;
 - Project description is broadly similar to that presented within scoping but also includes dredging of sandwaves and large ripples as part of seabed preparation works. This method also includes deposit of dredged material along the marine cable corridor.
 - Consultation with Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has identified requirement to characterise disposal site within marine cable corridor redline boundary - Disposal licence required (it will be included within deemed marine licence).
 - Current ongoing works include constraints mapping to identify environmental and engineering constraints for disposal (e.g. do not dispose on incompatible habitats, high density shipping lanes etc.) AQUIND will then consult on this mapping exercise to agree approach to identifying disposal locations.
 - Partrac to undertake sediment plume modelling to identify the fate of dredge arisings within the disposal locations identified through the mapping exercise.
- ❖ Meetings and engagement with Statutory Consultees have and will continue to take place.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FURTHER DETAIL

- ❖ Basic overview
 - Approx 109 km cable corridor with 4 cables in 2 bundles of 2
 - Includes seabed prep including pre-lay grapnel run, boulder removal (plough / grab) and sand wave removal (using Mass flow Excavator and / or trailer suction hopper dredger)
 - Installation using ploughs, trenchers, jetting tools
 - Cable protection where optimal burial not met – currently predicting 10% of route plus 10% contingency
 - Also protection at cable crossing and possible temporary protection at HDD pits
 - HDD landfall works at Eastney – only current option
 - Either onshore to offshore, offshore to on, or combination
 - HDD marine entry / exit is at approx. KP1 - 1.6
 - Excavation of 1 large or 4 smaller pits' approx. 60 m x 15 m & approx. 2700 m³
 - Distance from Solent Maritime SAC is approx. 250 m at closest point
 - Dredge deposit
 - Scoping and PIER currently has up to 1.7 million m³ but this is being refined and might be reduced by about 50%
 - Disposal modelling is being undertaken but is not available at PIER stage but for the purpose of assessment and HRA to date we have assumed (based on Prelim outputs):
 - 10 km sediment plume from point of discharge
 - Plume will exceed background levels of SSC but reduce below background within days to a few weeks
 - Significant deposition of sediment beneath discharge point and out to 10s of metres



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TIMELINES MOVING FORWARD

- ❖ **Q1 2019** – Submission of Section 42 consultation documentation incl. PEIR. AQUIND also holding public consultation events.
- ❖ **Q1 – Q3 2019** – HRA and MCZ assessment works ongoing.
- ❖ **Q2 2019** – Receive feedback from Section 42 consultation process.
- ❖ **Q1 – Q3 2019** – Ongoing consultation and review of assessments.
- ❖ **Q3 2019** – Submission of Development Consent Order Application including Deemed Marine Licence.



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GENERAL APPROACH TO HRA

- ❖ Process
 - not following evidence plan process but seek agreement from NE (and EA / JNCC) in pre app
 - Follow PINS advice note 10 and stepwise HRA process
- ❖ Evidence base and use of updated/interactive advice packages
 - Seek confirmation from NE on most up to date advice packages in evidence base
 - Confirm approach to using online advice packages based upon recent MMO advice on Blyth Demo
 - Use advice on operations at screening stage
 - For medium / high risk and Sensitive and insufficient evidence
 - Use advice supplementary advice for any taken through to AA
 - This allows identification of attributes, targets etc to allow consideration of effects to favourable conservation status and whether effects site integrity



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Fish and Shellfish

What's covered

- River Itchen
 - 28 km distant
 - Atlantic Salmon (not Primary)
- River Avon
 - 51 km distant
 - Sea Lamprey (Primary)
 - Atlantic Salmon (Primary)
- Plymouth Sound and Estuaries
 - 229 km distant
 - Allis Shad (not Primary)

Key considerations

- Salmon
 - Disposal outwith WFD waterbodies
 - No barrier to adult migration expected due to sediment plume
 - No impacts on seaward migration of smolts expected
- Sea Lamprey
 - As above
- Allis Shad
 - Site very distant, very limited connectivity, no impacts predicted.



Credit: Environment Agency

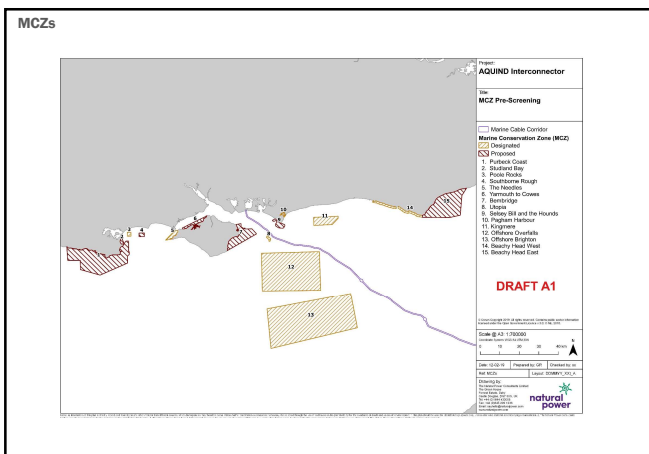
Benthic habitats

What's covered

- Solent Maritime
 - Overlap with route
 - Estuaries, Spartina swards, Atlantic Salt meadows (Primary)
 - Sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, coastal lagoons, salicornia habitat, (Not primary)
- South Wight Maritime
 - 3 km distance
 - Reefs, sea caves (Primary)
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons
 - 5 km distant
 - Coastal Lagoons (Primary)

Key considerations


- HDD avoids Solent Maritime by c. 250m
 - no direct impacts
- Disposal outwith WFD waterbodies
 - limited to no interaction with disposal plume expected (modelling to confirm).
- Other activities (dredging, cable installation)
 - Limited plume extent.
- Interaction considered possible with Solent Maritime and South Wight Maritime (reefs).
 - Sea caves likely too far distant to be affected as located on south-west and south-east of Isle of Wight.
- Coastal lagoons highly limited in connectivity due to isolation from main water body
 - no impacts expected.



MCZ Connectivity

What's covered

- MCZs
 - Offshore Overfalls (1 km)
 - Utopia (1 km)
 - Offshore Brighton (9 km)
 - Pagham Harbour (10 km)
 - Kingmere (11 km)
 - Beachy Head West (35 km)
 - The Needles (35 km)
 - Poole Rocks (59 km)
- pMCZs
 - Bembridge (4 km)
 - Selsey Bill and the Hounds (4 km)
 - Yarmouth to Cowes (20 km)
 - Beachy Head East (45 km)
 - Southbourne Rough (55 km)
 - Purbeck Coast (63 km)
 - Studland Bay (64 km)
- Dropped MCZ's being excluded?
 - Norris to Ryde and Fareham Creek (both < 10km)



Credit: South Oakley

MCZ Feature Sensitivity

- Key Considerations
 - No direct impacts
 - Indirect (sediment) impacts:
 - Short lived (days/weeks).
 - Limited extent
 - Limited magnitude (slightly elevated above background storm levels)
 - limited number of events
- Key features where sensitivity exists
 - Oyster beds
 - Short Snouted seahorse
 - Maerl beds
 - Seagrass beds
 - Rock/boulder habitats and communities
 - Lagoonal species
 - Black bream spawning
- No sensitivity predicted with sedimentary features.



4. MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE ASSESSMENT





5. AOB
Flotation pits



THANK YOU!



