



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.4J

Statutory Consultation - Comments made by
Local Authorities on SoCC and Applicant's
Response during Informal Consultation on
SoCC

The Planning Act 2008

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

Document Ref: 5.1.4J

PINS Ref.: EN020022

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DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

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ID	Comment	Response
Havant Borough Council		
1	<p><i>In terms of local residents associations, we consider that the following should be consulted, due to the recent GDPR changes we are feel that it would not be appropriate to give you the full contact details, as we do not have the relevant consent to transmit information. However, contact details can be easily found by searching the internet. The relevant contacts are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Purbrook and Widley Residents Association</i> • <i>Waterlooville Area Community Association</i> • <i>Waterlooville Business Association</i> • <i>Stakes Residents Association</i> • <i>Waterlooville & District Residents Association</i> • <i>Wecock Residents Association</i> 	<p>These groups will receive an invitation to AQUIND's formal consultation.</p>
East Hampshire District Council		
2	<p><i>The importance of pinning down which option/site for the Interconnector will be the subject of the consultation (I understand this will be the case).</i></p>	<p>This has been noted as part of the preparation for the formal consultation and as per 7.4.1:</p> <p><i>'At the formal consultation, AQUIND will present the preferred approach to the Proposed Development, including information on the onshore and marine elements of their proposals such as the landing point location, the proposed underground cable route and the options presented, the proposed converter station location and options presented including design and the proposed mitigation strategies.'</i></p>
3	<p><i>Formal consultation to run for 13 rather than 6 weeks – there is the potential for Committee consideration which may need a little additional flexibility (our Planning Committee meet on a 3 week cycle).</i></p>	<p>In response to the feedback received, the proposed formal consultation period has been extended from 6 to 8 weeks. This well-exceeds the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The formal consultation will be well-publicised in advance and, as per 7.3, AQUIND will endeavour to accommodate council and community briefings where possible:</p> <p>'Council and community briefings – <i>Local authorities, parish councils and community groups located in areas potentially affected by the Proposed Development will be offered briefings during the consultation period and the project team will seek to accommodate all bodies which request a briefing.'</i></p>

4	<p><i>The Primary Consultation Zone for the Interconnector should not be as arbitrary as 500m and there should be direct consultation with a wider area of the Interconnector site – within EHDC this should capture most of Lovedean as there is a strong sense of community in that settlement and that is the community potentially most affected, but also Denmead within the Winchester DC area. I would suggest a map is provided to agree the extent of the PCZ.</i></p>	<p>The methodology for determining the PCZ was informed by the informal consultation held in January 2018 which the project team felt worked effectively in terms of raising awareness. The approach has been refined accordingly to the development of the Red Line Boundary for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In response to this feedback, however, the PCZ has been extended in the Lovedean / Denmead area.</p> <p>PCZ maps are included in Appendix 2.</p>
5	<p><i>For meaningful appreciation of the impact of the Interconnector, there should be some reasonably accurate graphic representation of the scale/form of the development and the extent of the site itself and any associated mitigation.</i></p>	<p>This has been noted as part of the preparation for the formal consultation and as per 7.4.1:</p> <p><i>'At the formal consultation, AQUIND will present the preferred approach to the Proposed Development, including information on the onshore and marine elements of their proposals such as the landing point location, the proposed underground cable route and the options presented, the proposed converter station location and options presented including design and the proposed mitigation strategies.'</i></p>
South Downs National Park Authority		
6	<p><i>No public exhibition or deposit locations within the SDNP have been selected, although we note that Horndean and Lovedean have been selected which are reasonably near/accessible for National Park residents.</i></p>	<p>As noted, public exhibitions are proposed to take place at Lovedean Village and Denmead Community Centre (following feedback from WCC), while Hordean Library will be utilised as a deposit location – all of which are within close proximity of SDNPA.</p>
7	<p><i>The PCZ of 500m around the converter station is very limited and may not extend to neighbouring properties within the National Park. The SDNPA would wish to be satisfied that surrounding properties/landowners within the SDNPA are aware.</i></p>	<p>In response to this feedback, the PCZ has been extended in the Lovedean / Denmead area. PCZ maps are included in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Further, as per 7.2.3:</p> <p><i>'In addition, a wide range of measures will be employed to ensure that the local community outside of the PCZ are also made aware of the formal consultation – including via the consultation website, local newspaper advertisements and social media advertising.'</i></p>

8	<i>The SDNPA would welcome confirmation on which Parish Councils are to be consulted.</i>	AQUIND is proposing to formally consult with Denmead Parish Council, Hambledon Parish Council and Hordean Parish Council.
9	<i>Section 7.3- have you considered including site notices within the methods of consultation around the converter station – e.g. to notify walkers on surrounding public rights of way?</i>	This is a requirement of the Planning Act 2008. See 7.3.1: <i>‘Statutory notices – Statutory notices will be published in local and national newspapers giving details about the consultation in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act. Site notices will also be placed at key locations in the area affected by the Proposed Development, including in the vicinity of the converter station and landing point locations and at intervals along the indicative underground cable route’</i>
10	<i>Section 7.2.4- have you considered including interest groups such as the Ramblers and South Downs Society?</i>	Both groups will receive an invitation to the formal consultation.
Winchester City Council		
11	<i>WCC emphasised the urgent need to pin down the final location of the site due to the uncertainties that this leads to at the Council and local level.</i>	This has been noted as part of the preparation for the formal consultation and as per 7.4.1: <i>‘At the formal consultation, AQUIND will present the preferred approach to the Proposed Development, including information on the onshore and marine elements of their proposals such as the landing point location, the proposed underground cable route and the options presented, the proposed converter station location and options presented including design and the proposed mitigation strategies.’</i>
12	<i>Formal consultation should run for 13 weeks (and not 6) as we will be considering the application as a major and the nature of the proposal is likely to trigger Committee consideration.</i>	In response to the feedback received, the proposed formal consultation period has been extended from 6 to 8 weeks. This well-exceeds the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. The formal consultation will be well-publicised in advance and, as per 7.3, AQUIND will endeavour to accommodate council and community briefings where possible: <i>‘Council and community briefings – Local authorities, parish councils and community groups located in areas potentially affected by the Proposed Development will be offered briefings during the consultation period and the project team will seek to accommodate all bodies which request a briefing.’</i>

13	<i>A more sophisticated method to define the Primary Consultation Zone to accommodate communities that are further away from the site but still directly affected i.e. Denmead. Provide a map showing the PCZ.</i>	<p>The methodology for determining the PCZ was informed by the informal consultation held in January 2018 which AQUIND felt worked effectively in terms of raising awareness. The approach has been refined accordingly to the development of the Red Line Boundary for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In response to this feedback, the PCZ has been extended in the Lovedean / Denmead area.</p> <p>PCZ maps are included in Appendix 2.</p>
14	<i>Emphasised that the level of design detail should be well developed at the consultation stage to provide a well informed understanding of the scheme and the necessary mitigation measures.</i>	<p>This has been noted as part of the preparation for the formal consultation and as per 7.4.1:</p> <p><i>'At the formal consultation, AQUIND will present the preferred approach to the Proposed Development, including information on the onshore and marine elements of their proposals such as the landing point location, the proposed underground cable route and the options presented, the proposed converter station location and options presented including design and the proposed mitigation strategies.'</i></p>
15	<i>Added Denmead Village hall to the public exhibition venues.</i>	This venue has been added.
16	<i>Added WCC Council offices to the list of deposit locations.</i>	This deposit location has been added.
17	<i>Emphasised need to keep Local MP's fully informed.</i>	AQUIND is engaging closely with the relevant MPs for the Proposed Development and is hosting a Parliamentary drop-in event in January to which the MPs for Portsmouth South, Portsmouth North, Havant and Meon Valley have been invited. These MPs will also receive an invitation to the formal consultation.
Hampshire County Council		
18	<i>Are you able to confirm within the document that land owner consultation is undertaken separately, for clarity for all readers.</i>	<p>See 7.2.7:</p> <p><i>'In addition to the consultation with the local community AQUIND will at the same time undertake consultation with a wide range of statutory consultees in accordance with Section 42 of the 2008 Act, including the host and neighbouring local authorities, statutory bodies, persons with</i></p>

		<i>an interest in the land that might be affected by the Proposed Development and marine users.'</i>
19	<i>We are not able to comment on the consultation zone until a plan is available. I note this is to be included as an appendix. We will want to review this plan to ensure there are not any residents who should be consulted that are left out due to proximity from the development.</i>	See Appendix 2.
20	<i>It would be beneficial to include examples of the documents intended to be circulated for the formal consultation of this document so we are able to review its contents.</i>	As the production of consultation materials is currently ongoing, this may not be possible in advance of the formal consultation period.
21	<i>We discussed how are stats companies being consulted. Could you confirm this please although I appreciate this is outside the scope of this document.</i>	As part of the formal consultation process the Applicant is required to consult with "prescribe consultees" identified within The Infrastructure Planning (Prescribed Consultees and Interested Parties etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. All identified prescribed consultees will be notified of the consultation exercise and their feedback will be sought.
22	<i>I understand the district councils will provide lists of relevant community groups.</i>	Havant Borough Council and South Downs National Park Authority have provided a list of groups whom they wish to see consulted and these groups will receive an invitation to the formal consultation.
23	<i>We discussed my concern regarding the extent of public consultation events and whether these were sufficient. I have particular concern regarding venues which relate to the cable routing along the highway which is primarily in Havant, of which there is only 1 event. I have sought comment from our County Councillor on this and am waiting a response. I trust HBC may have also commented. Regarding the highway impact of the Lovedean site itself I note there is again only 1 event. There are obviously wider impacts of the work and I trust WCC and EHBC have commented on the suitability of the proposed consultation numbers.</i>	<p>The draft SoCC includes a number of public exhibitions at venues located within the administrative area of Havant Borough Council (Waterlooville Community Centre, Phoenix Community Centre and The Acorn Community Centre), while one further venue (Drayton Centre) is also in close proximity to the Council's southern boundary.</p> <p>As noted, WCC suggested that Denmead Community Centre be added as a venue for a public exhibition and this has been actioned accordingly.</p> <p>The consultation materials will also be made available at number of deposit locations in Havant (Waterlooville Library and Havant Borough Council) to enable consultation responses to be made by the public at those locations.</p>
24	<i>He was content with the use of Waterlooville Library and also expressed that Havant Plaza should be utilised to be able to view document and display</i>	Both venues have been added as deposit location.

	<i>information. He also stressed the need for as much advertisement as possible to ensure a meaningful response.</i>	Regarding the advertising of the formal consultation, see 7.2.3: <i>'In addition, a wide range of measures will be employed to ensure that the local community outside of the PCZ are also made aware of the formal consultation – including via the consultation website, local newspaper advertisements and social media advertising.'</i>
25	<i>At this stage I have no further comments but it may be beneficial to clarify to me and all the planning authorities all comments you have received through this informal consultation and what action you have taken on each.</i>	As per this document.
Portsmouth City Council		
26	<i>We would like to know whether further communications in relation to establishing property interests can be undertaken after the formal consultation exercise has taken place so that there is an opportunity for the public to be better informed before they receive any more correspondence.</i>	AQUIND is required to show due diligence with respect to identifying all those with interests in land potentially affected by the proposal so that they may consult with those persons as part of the formal consultation exercise. As such, this exercise must be carried out prior to the formal consultation.
27	<i>In relation to the Primary Consultation Zone ("PCZ") being 100 metres around the indicative cable corridor, we would prefer it if formal consultation were to involve a less arbitrary approach. In some cases this approach may split streets and Electoral Wards. We think you should consider an approach that avoids a split along these lines and would be happy to liaise with you further regarding a draft PCZ plan, which we will need to see in any case as this is currently missing from your Appendix 2.</i>	The use of administrative boundaries can cause issues since they have little regard to the Proposed Development and hence any levels of impact. This can mean that a person who is more likely to be impacted upon receives less communications than someone who is less likely to be impacted upon. Hence, using a PCZ boundary that directly relates to the Proposed Development is the best way of targeting communications. Further, as per 7.2.3: <i>'In addition, a wide range of measures will be employed to ensure that the local community outside of the PCZ are also made aware of the formal consultation – including via the consultation website, local newspaper advertisements and social media advertising.'</i> PCZ maps are set out in Appendix 2.
28	<i>We would suggest that you need more public exhibition events in community areas, which PCC Members can draw their Residents' attention to. In addition, we do not think that only three deposit locations are sufficient. Can we suggest additional deposit locations at the Central Library and Cosham Library, and it would also be helpful to have agreement that you will provide</i>	The number of public exhibitions has been increased from seven to nine, while the number of deposit locations has increased from three to 10, with Portsmouth Central Library and Cosham Library having been added as deposit locations.

	<i>some answers to FAQs which we will use to brief PCC staff at these locations.</i>	AQUIND will endeavour to provide all deposit locations with an FAQ document to assist with dealing with enquiries from members of the public.
29	You make several references to Social Media in the statement, but at paragraph 7.3 this refers only to Facebook. Will you consider using other Social Media platforms please, such as Twitter, so that information can be shared more widely?	<p>7.3.1 explains that, in terms of the use of social media in raising awareness for the formal consultation:</p> <p><i>'Social media – The public exhibitions will be advertised on Facebook through a series of adverts targeted at Facebook users within the area affected by the proposed development'</i></p> <p>DCO applications tend to veer away from using social media as a primary communications channel since it can muddy the waters as to how consultation feedback is being gathered.</p> <p>However, in terms of online channels of communication, the formal consultation details will also be widely shared via the consultation website. As per 7.3.1:</p> <p><i>'Consultation website – All consultation materials will be available on the consultation website at www.aquindconsultation.co.uk. Consultees will be able to submit their feedback in hard copy by post or via an online form. Information about all exhibitions will also be made available online'</i></p> <p>In addition, AQUIND would also be extremely happy for any local authorities, parish council and other bodies to promote the formal consultation details via existing communication channels.</p>
30	We will also need to see Appendix 1, being the indicative location of the interconnector which is currently missing from the SOCC. If this is just the location of the Interconnector building itself we suggest that you need a further plan, or plans, showing the indicative location of where the cable makes landfall and proposed route corridor through Portsmouth and beyond.	See Appendix 1.
31	There are also one or two typos/referencing errors to pick up. In your table of contents there is a typo at 6, "Consultation". On page 4, I suggest in the final bullet this should read "Eastney, Portsmouth".	We will continue to proof the SoCC prior to its publication.

