



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Letter of No Impediment

The Planning Act 2008

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

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Document Ref: 6.7

PINS Ref.: EN020022

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Letter of No Impediment

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DOCUMENT: 6.7

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

WSP

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Date: 04 November 2019
Our ref: PSS 5268 – Aquind Interconnector
(NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECT)



Sarah Ive
WSP UK Limited
PO Box 240
Leeds
LS11 1ED

Sent by e-mail only

Dear Sarah

DRAFT MITIGATION LICENCE APPLICATION STATUS: INITIAL DRAFT APPLICATION

LEGISLATION: THE PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992 (as amended)

NSIP: Aquind Interconnector – Land to the west of Lovedean Substation.

SPECIES: Badger (*Meles meles*).

Thank you for your subsequent draft badger mitigation licence application in association with the above NSIP site, received in this office on the 28th October 2019. As stated in our published guidance, once Natural England is content that the draft licence application is of the required standard, we will issue a 'letter of no impediment'. This is designed to provide the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State with confidence that the competent licensing authority sees no impediment to issuing a licence in future, based on information assessed to date in respect of these proposals.

Assessment

Following our assessment of the resubmitted draft application documents, I can now confirm that, on the basis of the information and proposals provided, Natural England sees no impediment to a licence being issued, should the DCO be granted.

However, please note the following issues have been identified within the current draft of the method statement that will need to be addressed before the licence application is formally submitted. Our wildlife adviser, Dagmar Lewis, discussed this matter with Sarah Ive via e-mail correspondence on the 30th October 2019 where it was confirmed that the necessary amendments would be made. Please do ensure that the Method Statement is revised to include these changes prior to formal submission. For clarity these include:

Please ensure that all Figures that show locations of badger setts are correctly annotated with the name/reference of the setts. Figure 2 dated 22/8/19, Survey data, shows the locations of the outlier setts but not the references given in the Method Statement text.

Please note that licences will only be issued between 1st July and 30th of November in any given year. Please consider this when planning the various phases of the development.

If the project is delayed for any reason or the route changed, then up-dated surveys will need to be provided with any licence application to record any new setts or changes to original setts.

Next Steps

Should the DCO be granted then the mitigation licence application must be formally submitted to Natural England. At this stage any modifications to the timings of the proposed works, e.g. due to ecological requirements of the species concerned, must be made and agreed with Natural England before a licence is granted. Please note that there will be no charge for the formal licence application determination, should the DCO be granted, or the granting of any licence.

If other minor changes to the application are subsequently necessary, e.g. amendments to the work schedule/s then these should be outlined in a covering letter and must be reflected in the formal submission of the licence application. These changes must be agreed by Natural England before a licence can be granted. If changes are made to proposals or timings which do not enable us to meet reach a 'satisfied' decision, we will issue correspondence outlining why the proposals are not acceptable and what further information is required. These issues will need to be addressed before any licence can be granted.

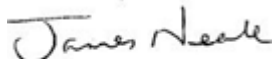
Full details of Natural England's licensing process with regards to NSIP's can be found at the following link:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/wml-g36_tcm6-28566.pdf

As stated in the above guidance note, I should also be grateful if an open dialogue can be maintained with yourselves regarding the progression of the DCO application so that, should the Order be granted, we will be in a position to assess the final submission of the application in a timely fashion and avoid any unnecessary delay in issuing the licence.

I hope the above has been helpful. However, should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



James Neale
Team Leader
Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service (DT1)
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E-mail: James.Neale@naturalengland.org.uk

Annex - Guidance for providing further information or formally submitting the licence application.

Important note: when submitting your formal application please mark all correspondence 'FOR THE ATTENTION OF DAGMAR LEWIS, DT1 NEWLS).

Submitting Documents.

Documents must be sent to the Customer Services Wildlife Licensing (postal and email address at the top of this letter).

Changes to Documents –Reasoned Statement/Method Statement.

Changes must be identified using one or more of the following methods:

- underline new text/strikeout deleted text;
- use different font colour;
- block-coloured text, or all the above.

Method Statement

When submitting a revised Method Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively three paper copies. The method statement should be submitted in its entirety including all figures, appendices, supporting documents. Sections of this document form part of the licence; please do not send the amended sections in isolation.

