

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Aquind Interconnector  
**Date:** 03 December 2019 12:06:55

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Dear Sir or Madam,

It has been brought to our attention that under Section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 the New Forest National Park Authority should have been consulted at the pre-application stage on the Aquind Interconnector Project. This is on the basis that the majority of the New Forest National Park is within the county of Hampshire – the host upper tier county council for the Aquind application.

Under Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995, relevant bodies are required to have regard to the two statutory National Park purposes in making decisions that could affect National Parks. This legal duty of regard recognises that the delivery of the Park purposes relies on a range of bodies and organisations, not just the respective National Park Authorities. It is understood that due to an administrative error the New Forest National Park Authority was not formally consulted on the Aquind Interconnector proposals as they were developed.

The Authority has now been provided with access to the consultation materials and has reviewed the relevant information. This comprises the information made available as part of the statutory consultation on the proposals undertaken between February – April 2019, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. At its nearest point, the Aquind Interconnector proposals are located approximately 12 miles from the New Forest National Park (Calshot Spit). The New Forest National Park benefits from the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty (paragraph 172, NPPG, 2019) and therefore its landscape should be given the highest value and sensitivity in assessing development proposals. Given the significant distance between the New Forest National Park and the proposed Aquind Interconnector route and Converter Station, the National Park Authority is of the view that the proposals will not impact on the National Park. Having reviewed the consultation information, we do not consider that there will be any landscape impacts. In addition, protected coastal habitats (such as the Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA) that cover the coastline of the New Forest National Park also extend to include the area of the proposed Aquind Interconnector off-shore cable route and have therefore been considered as part of the application submitted.

In conclusion, having reviewed the consultation material the National Park Authority can confirm that we are of the view that the proposals will not impact on the New Forest National Park. If you have any queries regarding the Authority's position please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

David Illsley BA (Hons) MA MRTPI  
Policy & Conservation Manager  
Tel: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Policy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 November 2019 08:53  
**To:** Aquind Interconnector <aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Aquind Interconnector

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Application by Aquind Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Aquind Interconnector - Adequacy of consultation request**

Thank you for consulting the New Forest National Park Authority regarding the adequacy of consultation undertaken as part of the application for the Aquind Interconnector. The proposed site of the interconnector is approximately 12 miles from the New Forest National Park at its nearest point (Calshot Spit).

It is noted that under Sections 42 and 43 of the *Planning Act 2008* the applicant for the Aquind Interconnector is not required to consult the New Forest National Park Authority as part of the development proposal (as the NFNPA is not a relevant 'local authority' for purposes of section 42(1)(b)).

As set out in the Consultation Statement and related appendices submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, the New Forest National Park Authority has not been formally consulted as part of this process and therefore we do not have any representations to make on the adequacy of the consultation undertaken.

Regards

Policy Team  
New Forest National Park Authority