

From: SCornwell@winchester.gov.uk
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: FW: Aquind Interconnector: Deadline 3 response
Date: 03 November 2020 15:39:42
Attachments: [General Comments.pdf](#)
[Cut down version LIR response table.pdf](#)
[Cut down version ExQ1 response table.pdf](#)

Your Ref reference EN020022

WCC identification No 20025191

Aquind Interconnector Nationally
Significant Infrastructure Project Examination: Deadline 3

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed the response by Winchester City Council to Deadline 3.

The three attachments are:

General Comments

A cut down version of the LIR response table

A cut down version of the EXQ1 Response table.

The last two have been changed from the original pdf documents to word so they could be changed and then back to pdf. Consequently if they have corrupted and the additional column on the RHS is missing please let me know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

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Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: **Aquind Interconnector**

Planning Inspectorate ref: EN020022

WCC identification No 20025191

Deadline 3 response from Winchester City Council

3 November 2020

Context.

Winchester City Council (the Council) continues to engage with the applicant on a range of discussions on some of the core issues relating to the proposal.

The responses now made to the comments from the applicant at Deadline 2 regarding the Council's Local Impact Report and its responses to the first set of questions from the ExA, (both submitted at Deadline 1) are attached as separate documents. For ease of reference both of the original documents has been edited down so they only contain those sections relevant to the WCC position. The Council has not responded to every comment from the applicant but only to those which are considered to be moving the Examination Process onward. Below, the Council has also made a number of comments on other parts of the applicant's submission.

7.7.4 Position Statement in Relation to the Refinement of the Order (REP1-133)

The Council notes the adjustments to the DCO limits at Denmead Meadows as set out in part 3 of the statement.

The Council has a concern relating to the adjustment to the Order Limit at Soake Farm as described in section 3.3.1.6. Plates 1 & 2 show the existing and proposed arrangement. Whilst the area where the cable is to be installed is reduced, section 3.1.1.9 indicates that New Access Rights are to be retained over the purple area and there is a reference to the provision of a haul route at the end of the paragraph. These are now shown as land parcels 3-12a & 3-13a on sheet 3 of the Lands Plan (REP1-011).

The nature and degree of access for monitoring (by foot or vehicle) needs clarifying but the Council would resist the establishment of any haul route from north to south. Such a provision is not compatible with the HDD approach to the installation of the cables in this location which includes two SINC's.

The Council questions is the applicant cannot release the land to the south of Hambledon Road from the proposal. These are land parcels 3-14, 3-15, 3-16 & 3-17

as shown on sheet 3 of the Lands Plan (REP1-011). It is understood that this was originally considered as a location to launch the HDD, but that launch site now appears to be located on land on the north side of the road. If this is the case, then the southern land is no longer needed. If it is to be retained, then a discussion is needed on the way that land will be used and its impact on the close knit features that surround and divide up that ground.

7.7.9 Biodiversity Position Paper Rev 001 (REP1-138)

Definition: when using the term Denmead Meadows this is assumed to refer to the section of ground bounded to the south by Hambledon Road and to the north by Anmore Road.

The Council notes the indication of three types of Priority Habitat existing within the Order Limits. These are:

- Lowland Meadow
- Lowland calcareous habitat
- Hedgerows

The bespoke mitigation at Denmead Meadows is the subject of ongoing discussions. The Council notes the desire of the applicant to seek the agreement of Natural England as a priority. At this time, the Council would make two observations. Firstly if a compound is to be formed on the land at the southern end of the area then its footprint needs to be the subject of a micro siting process to avoid any existing plant clusters. Secondly, notwithstanding the applicant's embedded measures to mitigate harm, there is still a need for some form of compensation for the inevitable damage that results from the activity. All the applicant's proposals seek to limit the degree of harm but a certain level of impact is inevitable. This should be acknowledged and responded to.

All the actions need to be linked into the dDCO. Such is the significance of the sensitivity around the work at Denmead Meadows that a distinct Requirement needs to be considered.

At Lovedean, the Council notes the intention to provide a gain relating to hedgerow and calcareous grassland. An increase in hedgerow of 1.99km and in the area of grassland of 8.63 ha are offered. Regarding the establishment of the lowland calcareous grassland, the Council considers that the applicant needs to expand on exactly how this additional area will be created to the quantity and quality indicated. The existing soils do not appear to be of the type and nature to establish a calcareous grassland. Chapter 17 of the Environmental Statement Soils & Agricultural Land Use (APP-132) refers to the Lovedean area as clay loam (17.5.1.3) with the upper subsoil as clay/heavy clay loam (17.5.1.4). It would appear that significant earthworks and the laying of a more suitable material would be required.

The engineering work to form the level building platform will both expose faces of the underlying chalk to the north, west and east. The work would also provide a surplus of excavated material. However, the excavated chalk will presumably be needed at the southern end to bring the ground level up. It is not envisaged how the soils could be used to increase the levels as they would fail to provide a solid and compacted area on which to build. Accordingly, all the chalk is anticipated being used to establish the level building platform. It is assumed that the chalk is of a quality that is suitable to be used as sub base compacted infill. This appears to only leave the top soil and sub soil as surplus material to be used elsewhere. This would offer a poor medium to establish a calcareous grassland. The applicant is invited to explain how the extensive area of calcareous grassland will be established without imports and whether this issue has been factored into the assessment of the extent and quality of the resultant habitat which appears to be based on forming a habitat of high quality.

With the uncertainty associated with the establishment of the calcareous grassland, it is considered that the applicant should be offering a broader range of enhancement work and not placing so great a reliance on establishing this habitat type at Lovedean. This is particularly valid when it is considered that a large part of the calcareous grassland to be created, is represented by the cut slopes around the compound area. These slopes would be the natural result of the excavation work rather than as a result of a direct intention to establish that type of habitat.

If questions arise over the ability to deliver the successful establishment of the grassland, this must bring into play other measures to broaden the range of habitat and enhance proposals. The Councils is ready to engage in that discussion.

End

3 November 2020