

East Hampshire District Council



Aquind Ltd

## Aquind Interconnector Project

Application for a Development Consent Order

**Ref: EN020022**

## **Deadline Seven C Comments**

15 February 2021

## **East Hampshire District Council : Deadline Seven C comments**

### **1.0 Day Lane Technical Note** Doc Ref: 7.9.29

1.1 Hampshire County Council will lead in the response to The Day Lane Technical Note and the management of construction traffic. EHDC however, is not concerned about the landscape impacts of the proposed passing bays in principle; designing in passing bays is preferable to HGV's habitually driving over verges causing potentially greater visual or ecological impact. That said, landscape harm could arise through damage or loss to trees, particularly the trees in the approximate location of passing bay 'b'. EHDC would highlight the importance of retaining trees and protecting their root zones, but note this would be secured through a s.278 process. Similarly, any issues regarding the ordinary water course on the northern side of Day Lane where passing bays 'a' and 'd' are proposed should be safeguarded through the s.278 agreement. We would not want to see poorly constructed passing bays that quickly become potholed, which could result in visual harm to the character of the rural road.

### **2.0 Examining Authority's schedule of changes to dDCO**

2.1 EHDC welcome the change to Schedule 3 (3) to allow 9 weeks for the discharging authority to deter.

### **3.0 Comments on the Aquind dDCO**

3.1 Article 9: Defence to proceedings to statutory nuisance.

EHDC continues to object to the inclusion of this Article and requests that the ExA delete it. The area at the Converter Station is rural with a high level of tranquillity with a number of noise sensitive receptors in close proximity that may be affected by both the construction phase and the operational phase. EHDC (and Havant BC) endorse the comments from Portsmouth CC on the matter in their commentary on the dDCO dated 11 February 2021. The use of such an Article on other NSIPs cannot in itself be an argument to apply it here and similarly it is not agreed that the Article should be included simply because the project is a nationally significant project. The validity of the Noise Management Plan is questionable if a noise nuisance is occurring but there lacks appropriate means to redress any such nuisance.

3.2 Requirement 27 Employment and Skills Strategy

Whilst only a small part of the development is within the EHDC area, the Horndean area of East Hampshire is a very close community to the Converter Station and will be affected by the construction of the development. It is therefore requested that the Requirement includes 'and East Hampshire District Council' after in 'consultation with Portsmouth City Council'.

3.3 Additional Requirement

The recent French decision to not issue a permit for the part of the development in France highlights the need for a Grampian style Requirement to ensure no works in the UK commence until such time as all approvals for the French part of the development are obtained.