

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project - Secretary of State Consultation - Unique Reference: 20025080
Date: 16 December 2021 17:11:15
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Sir,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you on this matter. I trust that the following comments will still be of assistance to you.

As set out in our submission at Deadline 8 (letter dated 1 March 2021) [EN020022-003789-DL8 Hampshire County Council.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#) it remained the position of the County Council, as Local Highway Authority, that the scheme itself provides no highway benefit to the general public and considerable disruption to the network during construction works. Therefore, it advised that the Examining Authority would need to determine whether there are wider deliverable benefits to the scheme which enable a positive recommendation to be made to the Secretary of State for approval.

In this context, the County Council note the Examining Authority's request for comment from interested parties of the applicant's submission of further information on the consideration of alternatives, dated 18 November 2021 ([EN020022-004284-Applicant's Response to the Third Information Request.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)). In particular, the applicant's further explanation on the reasons and timings relating to the discounting of the Mannington Substation from further consideration and analysis. From reviewing the applicant's response, the County Council would suggest that there are matters arising that require careful consideration by the Examining Authority. The initial Feasibility Study for route options was undertaken by NGET between Dec 2014 and January 2016 with Mannington Substation discounted from further consideration. At this time, the decision appears to have taken on the basis of concerns over the in-combination potential impact (of the Aquind scheme and Navitus Bay together) on National Grid network which would have required reinforcements that would have increased environmental impacts and led to increased costs (see para 2.6).

The Secretary of State decision to refuse permission for the Navitus Bay scheme was in September 2015, and it is noted that the Applicant made an effort to contact NGET on 14 October 2015 with no obvious, or recorded further efforts to contact from the Applicant after this date. Whilst the Applicant repeats in paragraph 2.18 that NGET identified that Mannington Substation was not preferable to the Lovedean Station on the basis of the need to reinforce the National Grid network, limited weight can be given to this without further clarification from the Applicant as to whether such reinforcement was needed with Navitus Bay no longer being taken forward.

It is noted that these events occurred a considerable period of time ago and well before the application was submitted. Whether the Applicant has been reasonable in their approach and in discounting alternatives based on a reasonable assessment of options and facts as they presented themselves will need to be carefully considered. On a matter of factual accuracy, the Applicant appears to suggest in paragraph 2.19 that landfall locations to provide a grid connection to Mannington Substation would be on the 'Jurassic Coast'. This is incorrect – the area commonly referred to as the Jurassic Coast is some miles to the west of such potential locations.

The County Council trusts that the above is of some further assistance to the ExA in weighing up the merits of this proposal.

Many thanks,

Laura McCulloch MRTPI MCIHT
Strategic Manager - Planning

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Economy Transport and Environment
E11 Court West
The Castle
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8UD

Please note that I do not work on a Monday.

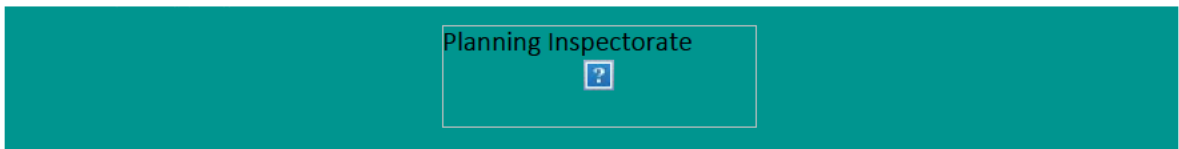


From: NI Mail Distribution <ni.mail.distribution@notifications.service.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 December 2021 11:08

To: Guymer, Tim [REDACTED]

Subject: AQUIND Interconnector – EN020022



Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Secretary of State Consultation

Unique Reference: 20025080

On 4 November 2021, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy issued a request for further information to the Applicant. The Applicant provided its response on 18 November 2021.

The Secretary of State now invites comments from Interested Parties on the information submitted by the Applicant. The Secretary of State would, in particular, like to request responses from specific parties on certain topics, details of which are set out in the letter linked below:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN020022-004292>

Comments should be submitted by email only to:

aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 15 December 2021.

Responses will be published on the AQUIND Interconnector project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=overview> as soon as possible after 15 December 2021.

If these links do not open automatically, please copy and paste them into your browser. Alternatively, the documents have been published to the 'documents' tab on the project page of our website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>

Yours faithfully,

AQUIND Interconnector Case Team

National Infrastructure Planning

The Planning Inspectorate

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol

BS1 6PN

Helpline: 0303 444 5000

Email: aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Web: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk (National Infrastructure Planning)

Twitter: @PINSgov