

Rampion 2 Wind Farm

Statement of Common Ground - AQUIND

July 2024

Rev D

Examination Reference: 8.20

Pursuant to: Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules
2010, Rule (8)(c)

Ecodoc number: 005114196-04

Copyright 2023 RWE Renewables UK

Revision	Date	Status/Reason for issue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
A	December 2023	Initial draft issued to AQUIND	RED	RED	RED
B	February 2024	Second draft	WSP	RED	RED
C	July 2024	Third draft	WSP	RED	RED
D	July 2024	Final draft	WSP	RED	RED

RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited:

Windmill Hill Business Park,

Whitehill Way,

Swindon,

Wiltshire SN5 6PB.

T +44 (0) 8456 720 090

Registered in England and Wales no. 02550622

Registered office:

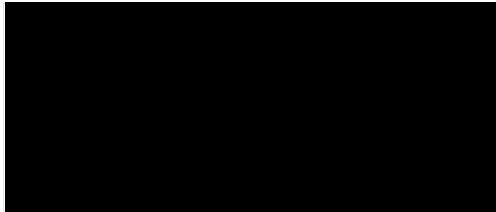
RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited

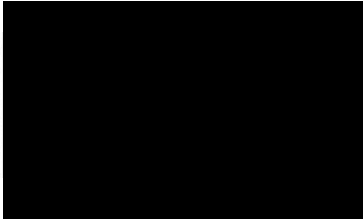
Windmill Hill Business Park

Whitehill Way

Swindon

Signatories

Signed	
Date	09 July 2024
Name	Kirill Glukhovskoy
Position	Director
For	AQUIND Limited

Signed	
Date	
Name	Karen Algate
Position	Senior Consents Manager
For	Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) (the Applicant)

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Approach to SoCG	1
1.3	The Proposed Development	2
2.	AQUIND's Remit	4
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Consultation summary	4
3.	Agreement/Disagreement Log	6
4.	References	24

Tables

Table 2-1	Consultation and Correspondence undertaken with AQUIND	5
Table 3-1	Position status key	6
Table 3-2	Status of discussions related to Other Marine Users	8

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) and AQUIND to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as “Rampion 2” or “the Proposed Development”).
- 1.1.2 The Applicant has chosen to pursue a SoCG with AQUIND, beyond the requirements listed within the Rule 6 letter (issued by the Examining Authority on 14th December 2023, [PD-006], in order to reflect the discussions held between the two parties, and to ensure that concerns are suitably represented within the Statement of Common Ground Process.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG covers all topics where there are areas for agreement and areas for disagreement between the Applicant and AQUIND and covers the topics split by aspect as detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Rampion 2:
- Offshore aspects of the DCO Application including:
 - ▶ Other marine users.
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the ‘*Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent*’ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015 (hereby referred to as ‘DCLG guidance’).
- 1.1.5 Following detailed discussions the Applicant and AQUIND have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document provides the Planning Inspectorate with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicant and AQUIND and will be updated as discussions progress prior to and during the Examination.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been developed during the Examination phase of Rampion 2. AQUIND issued their relevant representations [RR-031] which covers the topics and points of discussion. The SoCG makes reference to other submission documents that set out, in greater detail, the discussions that have taken place between AQUIND and the Applicant.
- 1.2.2 The SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 1: Introduction:** outlines the background and approach to the development of the SoCG and provides an overview of the Proposed Development;
- **Section 2: AQUIND's Remit:** describes the main areas of discussion within the SoCG and a summary of consultation to date;
- **Section 3: Agreement/Disagreement Log:** provides a record of the positions of the Applicant alongside those of AQUIND as related to the topics of discussion and the status of agreement on those positions.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Applicant is developing Rampion 2 located adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Project (referred to as 'Rampion 1') in the English Channel.
- 1.3.2 Rampion 2 will be located between 13km and 26km from the Sussex Coast in the English Channel and the offshore array area will occupy an area of approximately 160km².
- 1.3.3 The key offshore elements of the Proposed Development will be as follows:
- up to 90 offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs) and associated foundations;
 - blade tip of the WTGs will be up to 325m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) and will have a 22m minimum air gap above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS);
 - inter-array cables connecting the WTGs to up to three offshore substations;
 - up to two offshore interconnector export cables between the offshore substations;
 - up to four offshore export cables each in its own trench, will be buried under the seabed within the final cable corridor; and
 - the export cable circuits will be High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC), with a voltage of up to 275kV.
- 1.3.4 The key onshore elements of the Proposed Development will be as follows:
- a single landfall site near Climping, Arun District, connecting offshore and onshore cables using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) installation techniques;
 - buried onshore cables in a single corridor for the maximum route length of up to 38.8km using:
 - trenching and backfilling installation techniques; and
 - trenchless and open cut crossings.

- a new onshore substation, proposed near Cowfold, Horsham District, which will connect to an extension to the existing National Grid Bolney substation, Mid Sussex, via buried onshore cables; and
- extension to and additional infrastructure at the existing National Grid Bolney substation, Mid Sussex District to connect Rampion 2 to the national grid electrical network.

1.3.5 A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the **ES [APP-045]**.

2. AQUIND's Remit

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 AQUIND is the developer that is promoting the AQUIND Interconnector, a proposed submarine and terrestrial power cable and high voltage direct current converter station which is to link the electricity grids France and England when constructed.

2.1.2 The SoCG covers topics of the DCO Application of relevance to AQUIND, comprising:

- Offshore aspects of the DCO Application including:
 - ▶ Other marine users.

2.2 Consultation summary

2.2.1 **Table 2-1** in this Section briefly summarises the consultation that the Applicant has undertaken with AQUIND including both statutory and non-statutory engagement during the pre-application and post-application phases.

Table 2-1 Consultation and Correspondence undertaken with AQUIND

Date and type	Description of consultation
17 August 2021 Project update meeting	Rampion 2 and AQUIND projects updates and discussion on potential interaction between both projects
16 November 2023 Project update meeting	Rampion 2 and AQUIND projects updates and discussion on potential interaction between both projects
15 February 2024	Page Turn meeting to discuss Rev A of the Statement of Common Ground, and propose position on discussion matters now responses have been provided to initial concerns
4 March 2024	Legal discussion on initial Rampion 2 and AQUIND redline boundary comparison including co-operation agreement precedent.
20 May 2024	Outline discussion for co-operation agreement between Rampion 2 and AQUIND.
6 June 2024	Further legal discussions between both parties pertained to specific clauses within the co-operation agreement, specifically Proximity and Crossing Agreements.
12 June 2024	Call outlining outstanding issues of the Cooperation Agreement between both parties.
27 June 2024	Technical team call to understand the project specific challenges regarding the separation zone and resulting proximity agreement.

3. Agreement/Disagreement Log

- 3.1.1 The following sections of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the Applicant and AQUIND for each relevant component of the DCO Application identified in **paragraph 2.1.2**. The tables below detail the positions of the Applicant alongside those of AQUIND and whether the matter is agreed or not agreed.
- 3.1.2 In order to easily identify whether a matter is ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or an ‘ongoing point of discussion’, the agreements logs in the tables below are colour coded to represent the status of the position according to the criteria in **Table 3-1** below.

Table 3-1 Position status key

Position Status	Colour Code
The matter is agreed between the parties	Agreed
The matter is neither ‘agreed’ or ‘not agreed’ and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Ongoing point of discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or AQUIND is not considered to result in a material outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed - No material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or AQUIND is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed - material impact

- 3.1.3 The overview of the status of discussion on all of the themes presented in the Agreement/Disagreement log has been reported throughout the Examination via the Statements of Commonality **[APP-8.31]**. The current position of the stakeholder is reported against the current position of the Applicant. Where agreement is reached, this indicates that the stakeholder and Applicant mutually support the position stated by the Applicant. The date of agreement is noted and the SOCG tables capture how the issue reached the ‘position status’, as in Table 3-1 above.
- 3.1.4 The Applicant and Aquind have agreed that the submitted SOCG at Deadline 5 is up to date. While the status of matters has been finalised as far as possible, some

of the SOCG still report matters as being in the process of discussion. With relevant materials being submitted into Examination at Deadline 5 these need to be considered to close matters and enable the final SOCG to be submitted at Deadline 6.

Table 3-2 Status of discussions related to Other Marine Users

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD01	Lack of consideration of AQUIND Interconnector	There is a lack of consideration of AQUIND Interconnector, including as part of the Alternatives (ref: APP-044 6.2.3 Environmental Statement - Volume 2 Chapter 3 Alternatives) and Proposed Development (ref: APP-045 6.2.4 Environmental Statement - Volume 2 Chapter 4 The Proposed Development) Environmental	The AQUIND Interconnector has been considered throughout the Environmental Statement in relevant sections of the assessments, predominantly the cumulative effects assessment. This includes: Volume 2 Chapters 6 -11 [APP-047 to APP-052] and Chapters 16 – 17 [APP-057 to APP-058] , and Chapters 20, 28 [APP-061, APP-069] .	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		Statement (ES) Chapters.	<p>Chapter 3: Alternatives, of the ES [APP-044] and Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, of the ES [APP-045] are primarily concerned with providing a description of the Proposed Development and a description of the reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Development studied by the Applicant. However, the AQUIND Interconnector</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD02	Spatial overlap	There is no reference to or consideration of the spatial overlap between the two projects.	<p>is considered in Chapter 3: Alternatives (Paragraphs 3.34 and 3.14.19) and in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development (Paragraphs 4.3.67).</p> <p>The AQUIND Interconnector has been considered as a receptor in Chapter 7 Other Marine Users of the ES [APP-048] due to the spatial overlap between the two projects, which has been appropriately</p>	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD03	Proximity agreements, cable crossings and disposal sites	There is no genuine consideration of the proximity agreements and cable crossings required, and RED propose to designate a disposal site which spatially overlaps one of the AQUIND registered disposal sites and which has the potential to give rise to impacts which are not assessed.	noted within the chapter. The Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) for cable crossings has been presented in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development , of the ES [APP-045]. The MDS considers the presence of the AQUIND Interconnector and its potential overlap with the Proposed Development, and has informed the relevant assessments in the	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>With regard to the co-operation agreement which is being discussed and negotiated, there are material outstanding issues in relation to safe separation distances and the impacts of safety zones that are required to be agreed to settle the agreement. At the current time AQUIND does not expect to reach agreement on these points as the position of</p>	<p>Environmental Statement (as detailed in AQD01).</p> <p>The Applicant is engaging with AQUIND to settle the terms of a Co-operation Agreement, which makes provision for Proximity Agreements and cable crossings at project interface and considering all phases of both projects (i.e., construction, operations and decommissioning), including the</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>the Applicant is unacceptable, as detailed in recent submission [AS-015]. AQUIND nonetheless remains willing to discuss matters with the Applicant for in the event a safe and acceptable position can be agreed by them, and has also submitted protective provisions to be included in the Rampion 2 DCO in any event [AS-019].</p>	<p>proposed disposal sites. There is one outstanding issue to settle relating to separation distances of respective assets.</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD04	Assessment of impacts on AQUIND (Other Marine Users Chapter)	The assessment of AQUIND Interconnector (as a receptor) in Chapter 7: Other Marine Users [APP-048] does not adequately consider the full range of impacts. Where impacts on AQUIND interconnector are assessed, they are often undervalued or do not include consideration of the full extent of impacts to AQUIND.	The impacts on the AQUIND Interconnector are appropriately considered within Chapter 7: Other Marine Users , of the ES [APP-048] , including the following sections: Section 7.6 Paragraph 7.6.53 - justification for the low impact of the use of safety zones during construction. Section 7.9 - Impacts from	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
			<p>construction vessel activity.</p> <p>Section 7.9 - Paragraph 7.9.20 et seq. impacts on the AQUIND A disposal site.</p> <p>Section 7.9 - Paragraph 7.9.28. impacts on the AQUIND Interconnector during construction phase.</p> <p>Section 7.10 - Impacts on the AQUIND Interconnector during operational phase.</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD05	Impact mitigation (Other Marine Users Chapter)	The Other Marine Users Chapter also relies on mitigation which is either not adequately defined or developed (e.g., reference to cable crossings and proximity agreements but without required engagement or consideration), or that may result in impacts to AQUIND Interconnector itself (e.g., reliance on	Section 7.12 - Cumulative impacts. The Applicant is engaging with AQUIND to discuss the required agreements for both projects to co-exist considering all phases of both projects (i.e., construction, operations, and decommissioning). Embedded mitigation measures have been adequately	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>Safety Zones will restrict access to AQUIND Interconnector during construction and operation).</p> <p>With regard to the co-operation agreement which is being discussed and negotiated, there are material outstanding issues in relation to safe separation distances and the impacts of safety zones that are required to be agreed to</p>	<p>defined in Table 7-13 of Chapter 7: Other Marine Users of the ES [APP-048]. Additionally, Section 7.9 Paragraph 7.9.91 states <i>"The Applicant commits to ongoing consultation with the relevant companies in order to identify the appropriate mitigation which will be agreed through commercial agreement prior to consent to address safety concerns."</i></p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>settle the agreement. At the current time AQUIND does not expect to reach agreement on these points as the position of the Applicant is unacceptable, as detailed in recent submission [AS-015]. AQUIND nonetheless remains willing to discuss matters with the Applicant for in the event a safe and acceptable position can be agreed by them, and has also submitted</p>				

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD06	Cumulative impact assessment	<p>protective provisions to be included in the Rampion 2 DCO in any event [AS-019].</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment is not sufficient to identify all potential impacts on AQUIND Interconnector and in-combination with it.</p> <p>With regard to the co-operation agreement which is being discussed and negotiated,</p>	<p>The AQUIND Interconnector has been considered in the cumulative effects assessment of all assessments where the AQUIND Interconnector is relevant. This includes:</p> <p>Volume 2 of the ES Chapters 6 -11 [APP-047 to APP-052] and Chapters 16 –</p>	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>there are material outstanding issues in relation to safe separation distances and the impacts of safety zones that are required to be agreed to settle the agreement. At the current time AQUIND does not expect to reach agreement on these points as the position of the Applicant is unacceptable, as detailed in recent submission [AS-015]. AQUIND</p>	<p>17 [APP-057 to APP-058], and Chapters 20, 28 [APP-061, APP-069].</p> <p>The Applicant will seek proximity agreements prior to consent with the operators of the AQUIND and Rampion 1 disposal sites to reduce the potential conflicts on the operability of any of the projects that will arise by the overlap between the project areas. Pipeline</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>nonetheless remains willing to discuss matters with the Applicant for in the event a safe and acceptable position can be agreed by them, and has also submitted protective provisions to be included in the Rampion 2 DCO in any event [AS-019].</p>	<p>and cable proximity agreements and crossings are common across the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS), and there are established mechanisms for controlling the level of impact to both Parties. Crossing agreements will be secured to ensure access to an active cable for inspection and maintenance activities. Provision for these arrangements is</p>			

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
AQD07	Protective provisions	There are not adequate provisions in the draft DCO to provide protections for AQUIND Interconnector. It is necessary to include protective provisions within the DCO for the OWF for the benefit of AQUIND Interconnector, in the interest of ensuring both	made in the draft Co-operation Agreement under discussion. The Protective Provisions submitted by Aquind include a definition of 'Proximity Agreement' that risk sterilisation of 1000m of the Rampion 2 limits. The Applicant has proposed amendments to remedy this, to allow both projects to proceed safely and without	Ongoing point of discussion		

Reference Number	Point of Discussion	AQUIND's Position	Applicant's Position	Current Status	Date of Agreement	Comments/notes
		<p>projects can be delivered without giving rise to unacceptable impacts.</p> <p>AQUIND has submitted protective provisions for inclusion in the Rampion 2 DCO in any event [AS-019].</p>	<p>compromise to the proposed layout of the Rampion 2 wind farm. The drafting remains under discussion. The Applicant's amended Protective Provisions are at Annex 2 to the Supplementary Technical Note</p>			

4. References

Rampion 2 DCO Project Glossary:

[1.7 Rampion 2 Application Document Tracker \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

Environment Agency. (2023a). *Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances*. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances#:~:text=An%20allowance%20based%20on%20the%2070th%20percentile%20i>, [Accessed 22 November 2023].

Environment Agency. (2023b). *Risk of Flooding from Surface Water*. [Online]. Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/rofsw> [Accessed 22 November 2023].

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>, [Accessed 22 November 2023].

The Planning Inspectorate (2023a). Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project Information. [Online]. Available at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117> [Accessed 28 November 2023].

The Planning Inspectorate (2023b). *Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Examination Library*. [Online]. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000419-Rampion%20Exam%20Library.pdf> [Accessed 18 November 2023].

