



**AQUIND Limited**

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# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

## **Consultation Report – Appendix 1.1S Non-Statutory Consultation – Feedback Analysis Report**

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Ref: 5.1.1S

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**AQUIND Limited**

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WSP

WSP House

70 Chancery Lane

London

WC2A 1AF

+44 20 7314 5000

[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)

(Draft) May 2018

# UK Onshore Consultation Summary

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Proposals for AQUIND Interconnector

Prepared for AQUIND Limited

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## Executive Summary

AQUIND Interconnector is a proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea and underground electric power transmission link between the south of England and Normandy in France with the capacity to transmit up to 2,000 MW of electricity.

The project is being developed and promoted by AQUIND Limited (AQUIND), a UK-registered company with the sole business of developing AQUIND Interconnector.

AQUIND is committed to consulting with the local community, businesses, statutory consultees, landowners, planning authorities, elected representative and third-party groups regarding all elements of its emerging proposals.

Early engagement included pre-application meetings with planning officers at relevant local planning authorities (LPAs), including Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Winchester City Council, together with other relevant bodies such as Hampshire County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

AQUIND has also engaged with stakeholders and landowners affected by its proposals, including members of Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council and Winchester City Council, together with relevant Parish Council, Members of Parliament and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

AQUIND organised three consultation events, at venues strategically located close to key elements of the emerging UK onshore proposals. These took place in Waterlooville, Eastney and Lovedean in January 2018.

To raise awareness for its consultation with local community, AQUIND distribute an invitation leaflet to more than 10,000 residential and businesses addresses in the vicinity of the areas affected by the emerging onshore proposal, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives and representatives of third-party and community interest groups.

A press release was issued to the *Portsmouth News*, *Horndean Post*, *Southern Daily Echo* and *Hampshire Chronicle*, while quarter-page, paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in the *Portsmouth News*, *Hampshire Chronicle*, *Petersfield Post*, *Clanfield Post*, *Horndean Post*, *Bordon Post* and *Southern Daily Echo* – with a combined circulation of more than 70,000.

The consultation events were further publicised through paid-for Facebook advertising – reaching more than 18,000 Facebook users across the South of England.

These consultation events were attended by a total of 239 people.

At the consultation events, feedback forms (including large-print and easy-read versions) were available, together with postage-paid envelopes, for attendees to take away. Attendees were invited to provide feedback on AQUIND's emerging proposals over a four-week period.

The local community could also submit feedback, and speak with the project team, via a number of channels, including a freephone information line – 01962 893 869 – consultation email address –

aquindconsultation@becg.com – UK consultation website – [www.aquindconsultation.co.uk](http://www.aquindconsultation.co.uk) – and freepost address – 'AQUIND CONSULTATION'.

A total of 49 response to the consultation were received by the advertised feedback deadline of Saturday 24 February 2018.

AQUIND has carefully considered all constructive comments submitted as part of the consultation and has fed these into the design process for UK onshore elements of the proposals, including the converter station, cable route and landfall locations, together with the proposed mitigation strategies.

A review of the feedback revealed that:

- 86% found the consultation helpful or somewhat helpful
- 75% strongly agree or agree with the approach to the cable route design
- 68% strongly agree or agree with the aims of AQUIND Interconnector
- 61% strongly agree or agree with the approach to the converter station design
- 55% strongly agree or agree with the approach to the landfall location selection

A full analysis of all the feedback received during AQUIND's consultation with the local community is set out in Section 4 of this document.

AQUIND is committed to engaging with the local community regarding its emerging proposals and will ensure information continues to flow to interested parties.

# 1. Introduction

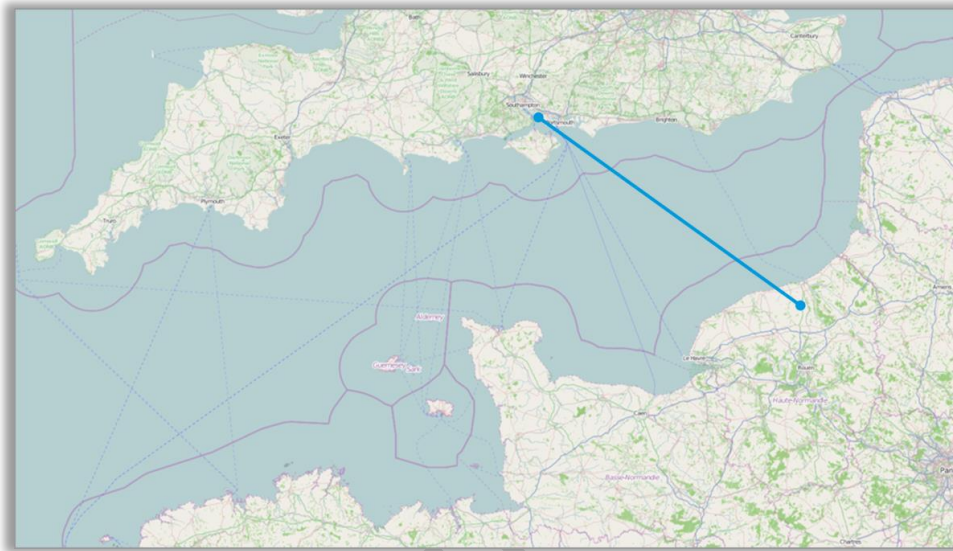
- 1.1 AQUIND Interconnector is a proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea and underground electric power transmission link between the south of England and Normandy in France with the capacity to transmit up to 2,000 MW of electricity.
- 1.2 The project is being developed and promoted by AQUIND Limited (AQUIND), a UK-registered company with the sole business of developing AQUIND Interconnector.
- 1.3 AQUIND Interconnector has been awarded 'Project of Common Interest' (PCI) status in accordance with the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (EU 347/2013) (the "TEN-E Regulations"). The European Commission published its third list of PCI's in November 2017 which included AQUIND Interconnector. This list was confirmed by the European Parliament in March 2018.
- 1.4 AQUIND is committed to consulting with the local community, businesses, statutory consultees, landowners, planning authorities, elected representative and third-party groups regarding both the onshore and offshore elements of its emerging proposals.
- 1.5 This document will provide a chronological account of the consultation activity that has been undertaken within the pre-application stages of the planning application and the activity that AQUIND proposes to undertake post application.
- 1.6 In order to assist with the community consultation and communication, AQUIND appointed Built Environment Communications Group (BECG), a specialist communications consultancy, to form part of its wider project team for the proposed redevelopment.
- 1.7 All feedback received is accounted for and represented within this document.



## 2. Background

### 2.1 Project Overview

- 2.1.1 AQUIND Interconnector is a proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea and underground electric power transmission link between the south of England and Normandy in France with the capacity to transmit up to 2,000 MW of electricity.



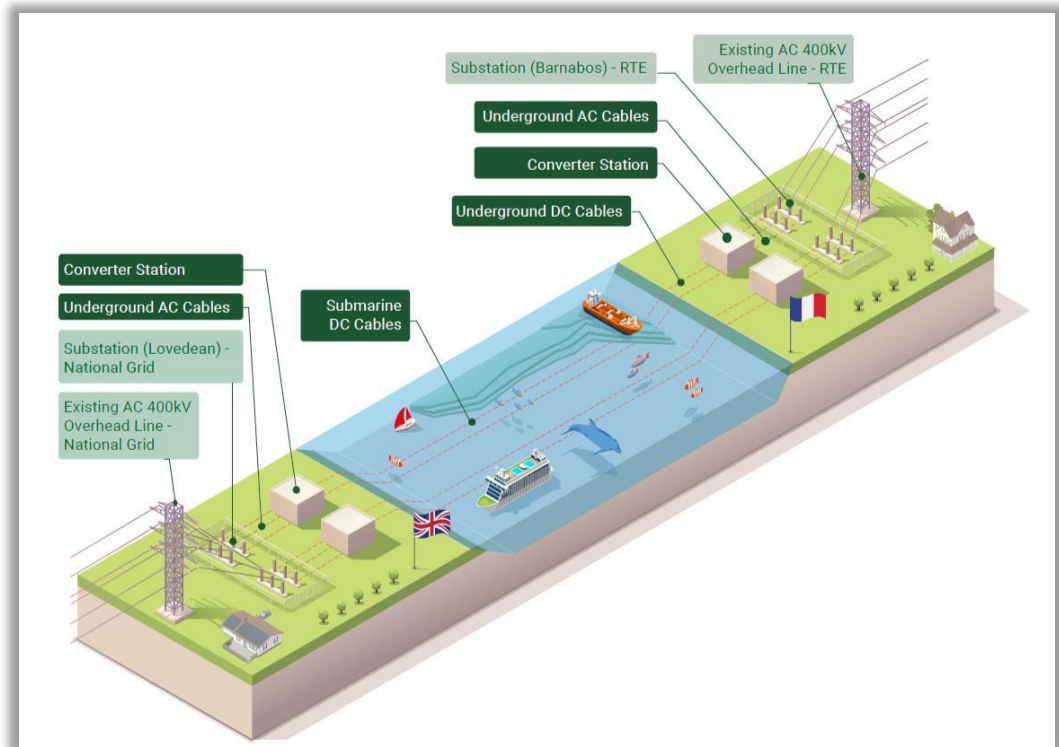
*Figure 1: AQUIND Interconnector between the UK and France – indicative location*

- 2.1.2 AQUIND Interconnector supports the European Commission’s aim of creating an integrated European energy market and meeting the EU’s energy policy objectives of affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply. By linking GB and French electricity power grids, AQUIND Interconnector will make energy markets more efficient, improve security of supply and enable greater flexibility. The interconnector will also contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions by helping to integrate more renewable energy sources and, thus, reducing reliance on fossil fuel power generation plants. It will help power grids evolve to adapt to changes in power generation sources and demand trends.

### 2.2 UK Onshore Project Elements

- 2.2.1 AQUIND Interconnector is an electricity interconnector consisting of primarily four high voltage subsea cables and four high voltage underground cables connecting HVDC converter stations in France and the UK. Converter stations transform electricity from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) when transmitting electricity and convert it back to alternating current when receiving electricity. A substation is required to connect the interconnector to the National Grid electricity network in order for the electricity to be transmitted through the grid. The main elements of AQUIND Interconnector can be seen in Figure 2 below.





*Figure 2: The main elements of AQUIND Interconnector*

- 2.2.2 The British electricity grid uses an AC system. Alternating current is an electric current, which reverses direction periodically. In contrast, DC flows in one direction and can be used to transmit electricity efficiently along long distances using high voltage (HV) cables. As it is more efficient to transmit electricity in DC over large distances, AQUIND Interconnector will use HVDC cables, which would link converter stations at Lovedean in the UK and Barnabos in France. Relatively short AC cables will connect the converter stations to substations, which are part of the national transmission systems of Great Britain and France respectively. Fibre optic cables of smaller diameter will be installed together with electric cables.
- 2.2.3 While it is significantly more expensive to install cables underground than via overhead lines, the project will use only underground cables.
- 2.2.4 AQUIND Interconnector will use a more advanced Voltage Source Converter (VSC) technology for the converter stations, which would enable the interconnector to switch the direction of electricity flows very quickly. VSC-based interconnectors can also provide a range of ancillary services to national transmission systems.
- 2.2.5 The main elements of AQUIND Interconnector are described in more detail below. As AQUIND Interconnector cable route and converter stations are currently in the design process, the following information is indicative only.

## 2.3 Landfall Location

- 2.3.1 Landfall locations are where the marine cables come ashore and are connected to terrestrial cables. The landfall locations need to be located very close to the sea shore and include an

underground Transition Joint Bay (TJB). The exact location for the TJB in the UK is still to be determined, however this will be within the vicinity of Eastney, Portsmouth.

## 2.4 Onshore Cables

2.4.1 AQUIND Interconnector will connect the electricity transmission networks of the UK and France via submarine cables from the Eastney area to the northern French coastline, in the vicinity of Dieppe or Pourville-sur-Mer. The project will also include smaller diameter fibre optic data transmission cables, which are used for communication. While it is a considerably more expensive option, AQUIND Interconnector will use only underground cables and will avoid using overhead lines.

## 2.5 High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cables

2.5.1 There will be four DC cables which can be bundled in pairs, with each pair located within a separate trench. The cables will have a copper or aluminium conductor insulated using crosslinked polyethylene (XLPE). XLPE is the leading HV cable technology and has a reduced environmental impact as it does not use oil.

2.5.2 Onshore DC cables will preferably be installed within roads or road verges to reduce environmental impacts and avoid the need to affect private land. The terrestrial DC cables take up a considerably narrower corridor compared to AC cables. Therefore, it is favourable to maximise their usage over AC cables, by locating the converter station as close as possible to the existing National Grid substation at Lovedean

## 2.6 High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Cables

2.6.1 The AC cables will be laid between the new converter station and the existing substation in Lovedean.

2.6.2 The 2000 MW connection can be achieved with two circuits into each substation. Given that each circuit will require one cable (or two) for each conductor phase (total of three phases), at least six (or twelve) AC cables will be required to connect the proposed converter stations to the existing substations. The cable quantity will be confirmed once the converter station location is confirmed.

## 2.7 Fibre Optic (FO) Cables

2.7.1 The AC cables will be laid between the new converter station and the existing substation in Lovedean.

2.7.2 For the offshore elements, the fibre optic will be bundled with each pair of power cables. Onshore, a small diameter duct will be installed between the ducts for electric cables of each pair, in the space that is a gap required by technology. In both cases, the FO does not increase the cable corridor width.

## 2.8 Converter Station

2.8.1 To transmit electricity between the UK and France, a converter station is needed in each country to convert electricity from DC to AC and vice versa. A short length of AC cable will connect the converter station to the existing National Grid substation. It is anticipated that approximately 6 to 9 hectares of land will be required for the converter stations in both the UK and in France. This includes the areas required for the converter station buildings, outdoor

electrical equipment and screening measures. The exact locations of the converter station near Lovedean is still to be confirmed.

- 2.8.2 The interconnector, which has a nominal capacity of 2000 MW, will link the transmission networks of Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). Two independent 1,000 MW symmetrical monopole links are planned; each operating at  $\pm 320$  kV. The interconnector will use the latest Voltage Sourced Converter (VSC) technology, to provide enhanced ancillary services on both AC networks.
- 2.8.3 Voltage Source Technology (VSC) technology has now become the preferred HVDC technology for applications in Europe. VSC is capable of fast power reversal (in milliseconds) and results in reduced power losses in the connected transmission network. VSC also has a smaller site footprint requirement with typically 50-60% of the site area which would be required for an equivalent scheme of the same rating using another technology.
- 2.8.4 The converter stations are typically constructed of steel frame and cladding. Landscaping may be incorporated around the perimeter of the site to help integrate the converter station into the surrounding environment. Given the topography of the area, grading of the land may also be required to level the construction platform.
- 2.8.5 The outdoor equipment located within the converter station will be similar to equipment that is typically found within electrical substations, such as National Grid's adjacent Lovedean substation. The equipment is required to convert the power between AC and DC or vice versa. The equipment to convert power is a system of electronic devices housed within the converter station buildings and has associated infrastructure for cooling and control.
- 2.8.6 The construction of the converter station will be undertaken over a period of approximately three years commencing in Q1 2020 with the converter station fully commissioned in 2022.

## 2.9 Key Project Information

- 2.9.1 The table presented below summarises some of the key information about the project.

| Key Project Information                            |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Power Capacity</b>                              | 2000 MW – 2075 MW                              |
| <b>Interconnector Route Length</b>                 | Total route – approx. 245 km                   |
| <b>GB Landfall Location</b>                        | Eastney, Portsmouth                            |
| <b>GB Converter Location</b>                       | Lovedean, north of Waterlooville               |
| <b>French Landfall Location</b>                    | In the vicinity of Dieppe or Pourville-sur-Mer |
| <b>French Converter Location</b>                   | Near existing Barnabos substation, Normandy    |
| <b>Planned Final Investment Decision Date</b>      | Q3-Q4 2019                                     |
| <b>Planned Energisation and Commissioning Date</b> | Pole 1 Q3 2022; Pole 2 Q4 2022                 |
| <b>Planned First Full Year of Operations</b>       | 2023   |

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>HVDC Converter Technology</b> | Voltage Source Converter (VSC) |
| <b>HVDC Cable Technology</b>     | XLPE                           |
| <b>HVDC Operating Voltage</b>    | 320kV                          |

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## 3. Pre-Application Consultation

### 3.1 Pre-application Meetings

3.1.1 From the outset, meetings were sought with planning officers at the relevant local planning authorities regarding the UK onshore elements of AQUIND Interconnector. The following table provides a chronological account of the pre-application meetings held to date:

#### 28.09.2018 - Marine Management Organisation (MMO):

- Matthew Kinmond – Senior Case Officer / Lead Cable Manager
- Craig Loughin – Marine Case Officer

#### 01.02.2017 - Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council

- Gemma McCaart, HCC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC

#### 03.03.2017 - Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC)

- Julie Pinnock, WCC
- Nick Parker, WCC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC

#### 19.04.2017 - Portsmouth City Council

- Ruth Ormella, Development Manager, PCC

#### 10.05.2017 - South Downs National Park Authority

- Nat Belderson (TBC)
- Kelly Porter (TBC)
- Ruth Childs (TBC)

#### 26.06.2017 - Winchester City Council & East Hampshire District Council

- Julie Pinnock, WCC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC

#### 29.06.2017 - Marine Management Organisation:

- Matthew Kinmond, MMO
- Jennifer Ford, MMO

#### 02.08.2017 - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Marine Management Organisation

- Denise Libretto, BEIS
- Keith Vincent, BEIS
- Francesco Marolda, BEIS
- Matthew Kinmond, MMO
- Jennifer Ford, MMO

#### 21.08.2017 - Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council

- Julie Pittock, WCC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC

#### 26.09.2017 - East Hampshire District Council, Winchester City Council and South Downs National Park Authority

- Julia Boschi, EHDC
- Ruth Childs, SDNPA
- Stuart Dunbar Dempsey, WCC

#### 27.10.2017 - Portsmouth City Council

- Alan Banting, PCC

#### 13.02.2018 - Winchester City Council

- Hannah Chapman, SDNPA
- Jon Holmes, EHDC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC
- Alan Banting, PCC
- Lewis Oliver, HBC
- Nick Parker, WCC

#### 14.03.2018 - Pre-Application Meeting

- Hannah Chapman, SDNPA
- Jon Holmes, EHDC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC
- Alan Banting, PCC
- Lewis Oliver, HBC
- Nick Parker, WCC

## 3.2 Meetings with Stakeholders

3.2.1 AQUIND felt it was important to give identified local stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the emerging UK onshore proposals at an early stage.

3.2.2 Therefore, AQUIND distributed an introductory correspondence together with a 12-page information leaflet to the following stakeholders on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017:

#### Hampshire County Council

- Councillor Roy Perry
- Councillor Andrew Gibson
- Councillor Rob Humby
- Councillor Andrew Joy
- Councillor Mel Kendal
- Councillor Marge Harvey
- Councillor David Keast
- Councillor Ann Briggs
- Councillor Patricia Stallard

- Councillor Gary Hughes
- Councillor Keith Mans
- Councillor Peter Edgar
- Councillor Liz Fairhurst
- Councillor Stephen Reid
- Councillor Patricia Stallard

#### **East Hampshire District Council**

- Councillor Julie Butler
- Councillor Angela Glass
- Councillor Richard Millard
- Councillor Sara Schillemore
- Councillor Ingrid Thomas
- Councillor Bill Moulard
- Councillor Ingrid Thomas
- Councillor Glynis Watts
- Councillor Julie Butler
- Councillor Adam Carew
- Councillor Tony Costigan
- Councillor Guy Shepherd
- Councillor Bob Ayer

#### **Winchester City Council**

- Councillor Caroline Brook
- Councillor Caroline Horrill
- Councillor Robert Humby
- Councillor Jan Warwick
- Councillor Caroline Brook
- Councillor Michael Read
- Councillor Patricia Stallard
- Councillor Angela Clear
- Councillor Neil Cutler
- Councillor Therese Evans
- Councillor Laurence Ruffell
- Councillor Steve Miller
- Councillor Guy Ashton
- Councillor Stephen Godfrey
- Councillor Lisa Griffiths
- Councillor Laurence Ruffell
- Councilor Michael Read

#### **Havant Borough Council**

- Councillor Michael Cheshire MBE
- Councillor Anthony Briggs
- Councillor David Guest



- Councillor Tim Pike
- Councillor Michael Wilson
- Councillor Leah Turner
- Councillor Elaine Shimbart
- Councillor Gerald Shimbart
- Councillor Paul Buckley
- Councillor Mike Sceal
- Councillor Peter Wade
- Councillor Gary Kerrin
- Councillor Dianne Lloyd
- Councillor Diana Patrick
- Councillor Gwen Blackett
- Councillor Caren Howard
- Councillor Gary Hughes
- Councillor Michael Wilson
- Councillor Narinder Bains

#### Portsmouth City Council

- Councillor Donna Jones
- Councillor Luke Stubbs
- Councillor Simon Boshier
- Councillor Jennie Brent
- Councillor Luke Stubbs
- Councillor Matthew Winnington
- Councillor Ben Dowling
- Councillor Will Purvis
- Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
- Councillor Darren Sanders
- Councillor Lynne Stagg
- Councillor Alicia Denny
- Councillor Robert New
- Councillor Neill Young
- Councillor Simon Boshier
- Councillor Ken Ellcome
- Councillor Steve Wemyss
- Councillor James Flemming
- Councillor Jennie Brent
- Councillor Ryan Brent
- Councillor Hannah Hockaday
- Councillor Frank Jonas
- Councillor Linda Symes
- Councillor Jim Fleming

#### Denmead Parish Council

- Mr Brendan Gibbs, Parish Clerk

### Hambledon Parish Council

- Ms Joanna Tester, Parish Clerk

### Horndean Parish Council

- Mrs Carla Baverstock-Jones, Parish Clerk

### Media Outlets

- Portsmouth News
- Hampshire Chronicle
- Horndean Post
- Petersfield Post

### Third Party Groups

- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
- National Farmers Union (South East)
- Shaping Portsmouth
- Southern Entrepreneurs
- Solent LEP Office
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Business Alliance
- Horndean Technology College
- University of Portsmouth
- Warrior Preservation Trust
- Sustrans (South)
- Community Energy South
- Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative
- The Southern Coastal Group
- RNLI
- HMNB Portsmouth
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Portsmouth Cultural Trust
- Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Local Government Association (Coastal Issues Special Interest Group)
- Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline
- South England Local Partners
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association
- Lovedean Village Resident's Association
- Havant Borough Residents Alliance
- The Portsmouth Society
- Havant Civic Society
- Rowlands Castle Historical Society
- The Petersfield Society

- Hampshire RoamAbility
- Portsmouth Disability Forum
- Havant Area Disability Access Group
- Hampshire Astronomical Group

#### MPs

- Damian Hinds MP
- Steve Brine MP
- Penny Mordaunt MP
- Stephen Morgan MP
- George Hollingbery MP
- Alan Mak MP

#### Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

- Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Climate Change & Industry
- Richard Harrington MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry & Energy

3.2.3 The introductory correspondence introduced the emerging proposals for AQUIND Interconnector and provided means for local stakeholders to request further information. The 12-page information leaflet included information on the following areas:

- Introduction to AQUIND Interconnector
- About AQUIND Limited
- Why are Interconnectors Needed?
- A Project of Common Interest
- How will AQUIND Interconnector Work?
- Offshore Elements of AQUIND Interconnector
- Onshore Elements of AQUIND Interconnector in the UK
- Converter Station
- Impacts and Mitigation
- Benefits
- The UK Planning Process
- Public Consultation
- Contact details



Figure 3: Pages from AQUIND's information leaflet for stakeholders

3.2.4 A copy of the introductory correspondence to local stakeholder and landowners and the information leaflet is included in the Appendices.

3.2.5 The following table provides a chronological account of the stakeholder meetings held to date:

**02.08.2017 - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Marine Management Organisation:**

- Denise Libretto, BEIS
- Keith Vincent, BEIS

- Francesco Marolda, BEIS
- Matthew Kinmond, MMO
- Jennifer Ford, MMO

#### **03.01.2018 - East Hampshire District Council**

- Cllr Guy Shepherd, EHDC
- Cllr Lynn Evans, EHDC
- Cllr Sara Schillemore, EHDC
- Cllr David Evans, EHDC
- Julia Mansi, EHDC
- Jon Holmes, EHDC
- Nick Parker, WCC

#### **03.01.2018 - Parish Council Presentation**

- Denmead Parish Council

#### **09.01.2018 - Winchester City Council**

- Cllr Caroline Brook, WCC

#### **15.01.2018 - Portsmouth City Council**

- Cllr Donna Jones, PCC
- Tristan Samuels, PCC
- Dan O'Hara, CEO of Victory Energy Supply Ltd
- Andrew Waggott, Energy Services Team Manager

#### **16.01.2018 - Parliamentary Reception for MPs**

- George Hollingberry MP & Researcher (Rupert), Meon Valley
- Alan Mak MP, Havant
- Damian Hinds MP's Researcher, East Hampshire

#### **14.02.2018 - Havant Borough Council**

- Cllr Michael Cheshire MBE, HBC

#### **05.03.2018 - Parish Council Presentation**

- Hambledon Parish Council

#### **09.03.2018 - Havant Jobs, Apprenticeships and Careers Fair (organised by Alan Mak MP)**

### **3.3 Public Consultation Events**

3.3.1 AQUIND held three public exhibitions to display its proposals for AQUIND Interconnector:

### Public Consultation Event 1

- Wednesday 24 January 2018
- 2 – 8 pm
- Waterlooville Community Centre, 10 Maurepas Way, Waterlooville, PO7 7AY

### Public Consultation Event 2

- Friday 26 January 2018
- 2 – 8 pm
- Milton Village Community Hall, 182 Milton Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 8PR

### Public Exhibition 3

- Saturday 27 January 2018
- 2 – 8 pm
- Lovedean Village Hall, 160 Lovedean Lane, Waterlooville, PO8 9SF

3.3.2 The consultation venues selected were chosen due to their close proximity to land potentially affected by the UK onshore elements of AQUIND Interconnector, while the date and timings of the events were intended to encourage maximum participation from the local community.

3.3.3 The purpose of the public exhibition was to give the local community the opportunity to view AQUIND's emerging proposals, speak with the project team and provide their feedback.

3.3.4 The consultation events were attended by a total of 239 individuals.



*Figure 4: The first consultation event at Waterlooville Community Centre (24.01.2018)*





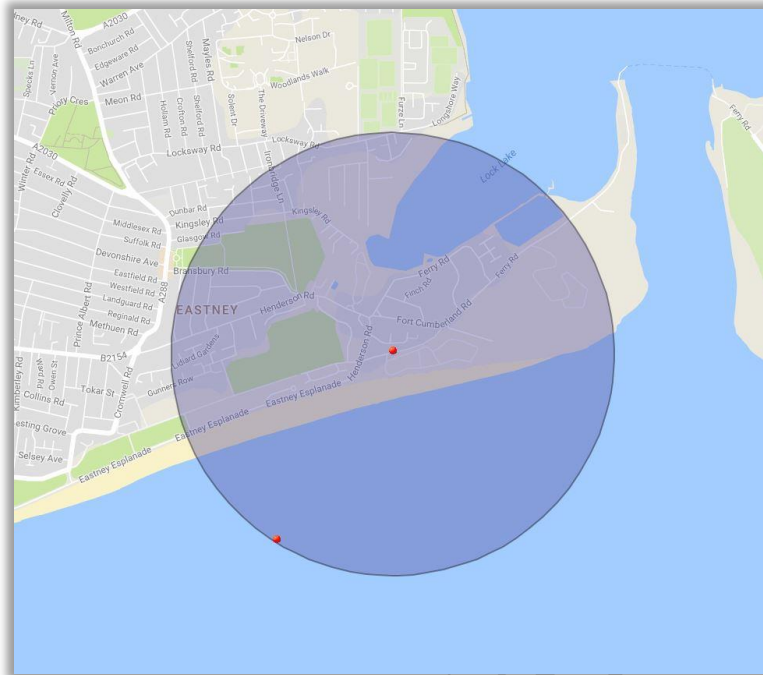
*Figure 5: The second consultation event at Milton Village Community Hall (26.01.2018)*



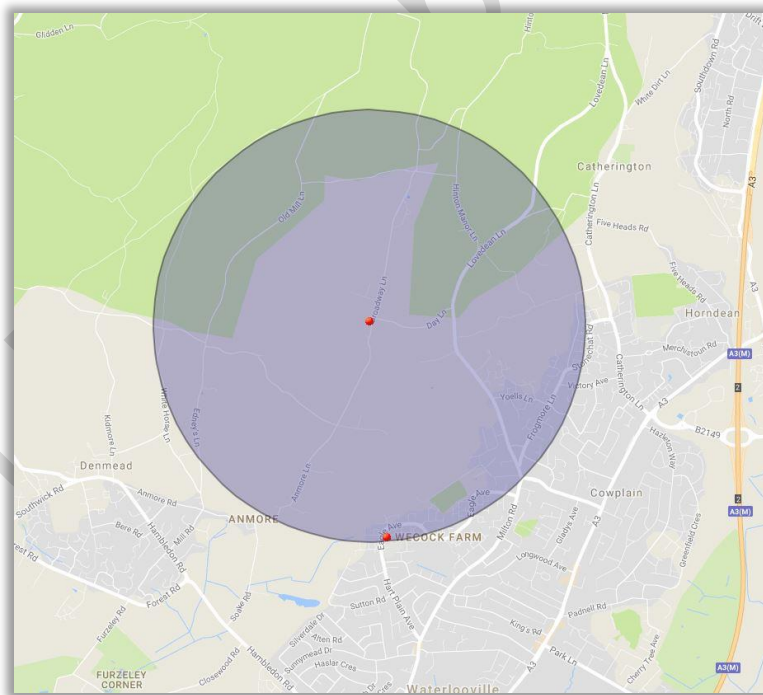
*Figure 6: The third consultation event at Lovedean Village Hall (27.01.2018)*

- 3.3.5 A 2-page invitation newsletter was distributed to 10,013 households and businesses in the local area advising them of the proposals. The invitations were sent to those homes and businesses thought to be most affected by the proposals and were distributed on the Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The following maps illustrate the distribution area:

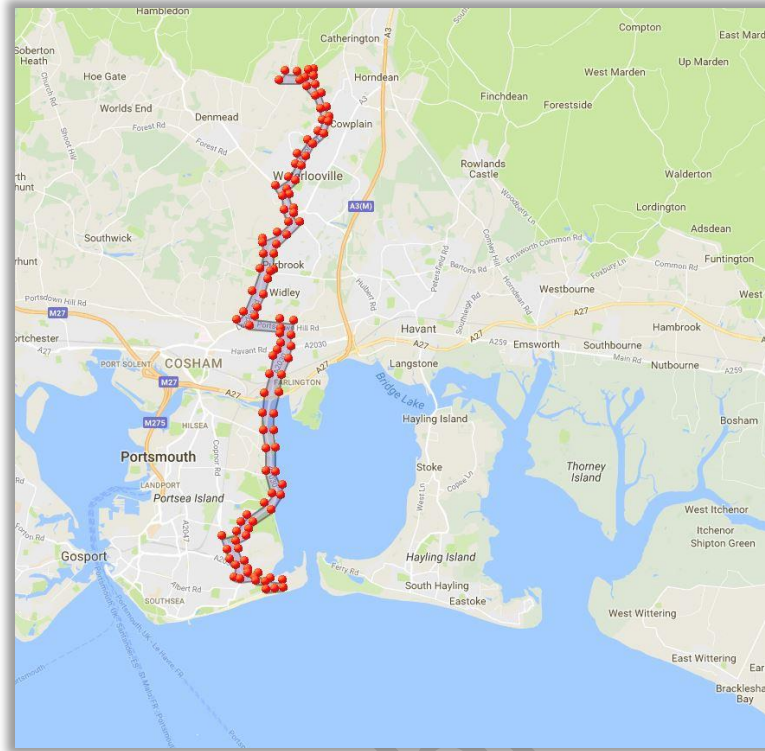




**Figure 7: The distribution area at Eastney (vicinity of the landing point)**



**Figure 8: The distribution area at Lovdean (vicinity of the potential converter station locations)**



*Figure 9: The distribution along the proposed underground cable route (100m either side)*

3.3.6 The A4 invitation newsletter contained the following:

- Introduction to AQUIND Interconnector
- Details about the consultation events
- Information about AQUIND
- Overview of the proposals
- Information the need for interconnectors
- Benefits of AQUIND Interconnector

3.3.7 The invitation also displayed details of AQUIND’s freephone information line number, consultation email address, the project’s dedicated website address and the consultation freepost facility to allow people to request further information.



Figure 10: The invitation to AQUIND's consultation events

3.3.8 A copy of the invitation newsletter can be found in the Appendices.

3.3.9 Copies of the exhibition invitation were also issued to the consultation venues, to be displayed on notice boards within the venue (where possible).



Figure 11: A notice board in Milton Village Community Hall displaying an invitation to AQUIND's consultation events





*Figure 12: A notice board outside Lovedean Village Hall displaying an invitation to AQUIND's consultation events*

3.3.10 An invitation was also issued to the following local stakeholders on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 inviting them to attend 30-minute preview sessions prior to the main public consultation events:

#### **Hampshire County Council**

- Councillor Roy Perry
- Councillor Andrew Gibson
- Councillor Rob Humby
- Councillor Andrew Joy
- Councillor Mel Kendal
- Councillor Marge Harvey
- Councillor David Keast
- Councillor Ann Briggs
- Councillor Patricia Stallard
- Councillor Gary Hughes
- Councillor Keith Mans
- Councillor Peter Edgar
- Councillor Liz Fairhurst
- Councillor Stephen Reid
- Councillor Patricia Stallard

#### **East Hampshire District Council**

- Councillor Julie Butler
- Councillor Angela Glass
- Councillor Richard Millard
- Councillor Sara Schillemore
- Councillor Ingrid Thomas
- Councillor Bill Moulard
- Councillor Ingrid Thomas
- Councillor Glynis Watts
- Councillor Julie Butler

- Councillor Adam Carew
- Councillor Tony Costigan
- Councillor Guy Shepherd
- Councillor Bob Ayer

#### **Winchester City Council**

- Councillor Caroline Brook
- Councillor Caroline Horrill
- Councillor Robert Humby
- Councillor Jan Warwick
- Councillor Caroline Brook
- Councillor Michael Read
- Councillor Patricia Stallard
- Councillor Angela Clear
- Councillor Neil Cutler
- Councillor Therese Evans
- Councillor Laurence Ruffell
- Councillor Steve Miller
- Councillor Guy Ashton
- Councillor Stephen Godfrey
- Councillor Lisa Griffiths
- Councillor Laurence Ruffell
- Councillor Michael Read

#### **Havant Borough Council**

- Councillor Michael Cheshire MBE
- Councillor Anthony Briggs
- Councillor David Guest
- Councillor Tim Pike
- Councillor Michael Wilson
- Councillor Leah Turner
- Councillor Elaine Shimbart
- Councillor Gerald Shimbart
- Councillor Paul Buckley
- Councillor Mike Sceal
- Councillor Peter Wade
- Councillor Gary Kerrin
- Councillor Dianne Lloyd
- Councillor Diana Patrick
- Councillor Gwen Blackett
- Councillor Caren Howard
- Councillor Gary Hughes
- Councillor Michael Wilson
- Councillor Narinder Bains

#### **Portsmouth City Council**

- Councillor Donna Jones
- Councillor Luke Stubbs
- Councillor Simon Boshier
- Councillor Jennie Brent
- Councillor Luke Stubbs
- Councillor Matthew Winnington
- Councillor Ben Dowling
- Councillor Will Purvis
- Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
- Councillor Darren Sanders
- Councillor Lynne Stagg
- Councillor Alicia Denny
- Councillor Robert New
- Councillor Neill Young
- Councillor Simon Boshier
- Councillor Ken Ellcome
- Councillor Steve Wemyss
- Councillor James Flemming
- Councillor Jennie Brent
- Councillor Ryan Brent
- Councillor Hannah Hockaday
- Councillor Frank Jonas
- Councillor Linda Symes
- Councillor Jim Fleming

#### Denmead Parish Council

- Mr Brendan Gibbs, Parish Clerk

#### Hambledon Parish Council

- Ms Joanna Tester, Parish Clerk

#### Horndean Parish Council

- Mrs Carla Baverstock-Jones, Parish Clerk

#### Media Outlets

- Portsmouth News
- Hampshire Chronicle
- Horndean Post
- Petersfield Post

#### Third Party Groups

- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
- National Farmers Union (South East)
- Shaping Portsmouth
- Southern Entrepreneurs
- Solent LEP Office
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Business Alliance
- Horndean Technology College
- University of Portsmouth
- Warrior Preservation Trust
- Sustrans (South)
- Community Energy South
- Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative
- The Southern Coastal Group
- RNLi
- HMNB Portsmouth
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Portsmouth Cultural Trust
- Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Local Government Association (Coastal Issues Special Interest Group)
- Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline
- South England Local Partners
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association
- Lovedean Village Resident's Association
- Havant Borough Residents Alliance
- The Portsmouth Society
- Havant Civic Society
- Rowlands Castle Historical Society
- The Petersfield Society
- Hampshire RoamAbility
- Portsmouth Disability Forum
- Havant Area Disability Access Group
- Hampshire Astronomical Group

#### MPs

- Damian Hinds MP
- Steve Brine MP
- Penny Mordaunt MP
- Stephen Morgan MP
- George Hollingbery MP
- Alan Mak MP

#### Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

- Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Climate Change & Industry
- Richard Harrington MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry & Energy

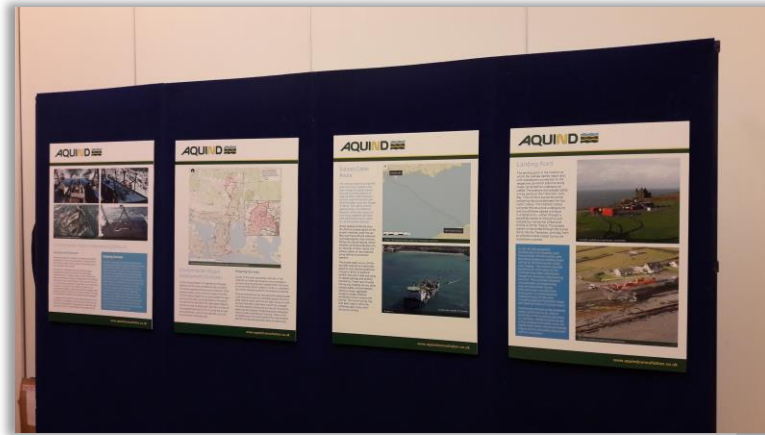


### 3.4 Exhibition Display

3.4.1 The exhibition displayed details about the proposal ahead of submitting a planning application, which included information about:

- Information about AQUIND
- Overview of the proposals
- Benefits of the proposals
- Proposed UK onshore cable route
- Proposed subsea cable route
- Proposed UK landfall location
- Proposed converter station location
- Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Onshore impacts & mitigation measures
- AQUIND Feedback & contact information
- Project timescales





*Figures 13, 14, 15: The display boards from AQUIND's consultation events*

Copies of the exhibition display boards can be found in the Appendices.

3.4.2 The following materials were also available:

- Copies of the display boards
- Copies of the invitation newsletter
- Feedback forms
- A visitor's book, for registering attendance
- Freepost envelopes for the feedback forms
- A ballot box to deposit completed feedback forms
- An A4 copy of the newspaper advertisement placed
- A copy of the consultation area
- Copies of plans which illustrated details about the proposed development
- Pens and pads of paper
- Direction signs to lead attendees into the venue
- An opportunity to request further information

3.4.3 Feedback forms could either be filled in at the venue or posted back by using the supplied postage paid envelopes. These were then collated and the feedback analysed.

3.4.4 A copy of the feedback form is included within the Appendices.

3.4.5 Representatives of the project team were available to answer questions throughout the exhibition including two representatives from AQUIND, four Engineering Consultants from WSP, four communications consultants from BECG, two Renewable Energy Consultants from Natural Power, two Planners from WSP, two Environmental Consultants from WSP and one Land Representative from GVA.

## 3.5 Media Relations and Advertising

3.5.1 To ensure the wider community was aware of the public exhibition a detailed press release was issued to the *Portsmouth News* (circulation: 34,960), *Horndean Post* (circulation: 6,574), *Southern Daily Echo* (circulation: 14,491) and *Hampshire Chronicle* (circulation: 7,973) on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The press release contained the following information:

- An overview of the proposals

- A background to AQUIND
- Details of the public exhibitions
- AQUIND contact information including the freephone information line and the website address
- Details of engagement with landowners and stakeholders

3.5.2 A copy of the pre-exhibition press release is included in the Appendices.

3.5.3 In addition to the press release, AQUIND placed quarter-page paid-for adverts in the *Portsmouth News*, *Horndean Post*, *Petersfield Post*, *Clanfield Post* and *Bordon Post*. The advertisement contained the following information:

- An overview of the proposals
- A background to AQUIND
- Details of the public exhibitions
- AQUIND contact information including the freephone information line and the website address
- Potential benefits of the proposals



Figure 16: The pre-exhibition newspaper advert

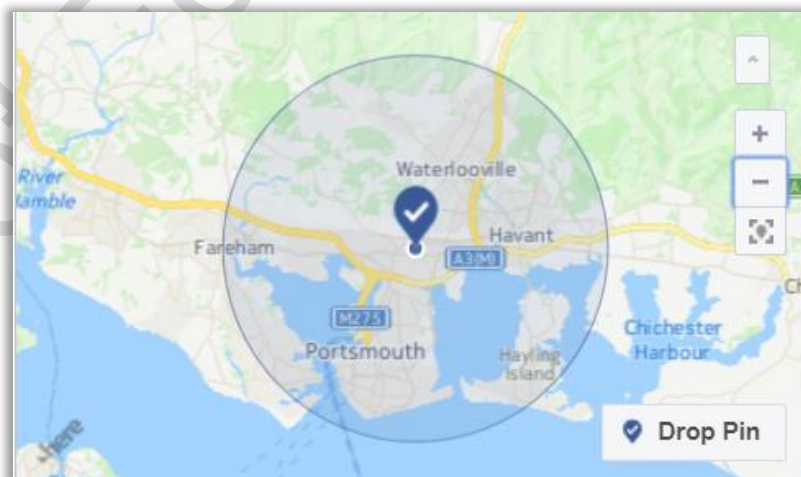
3.5.4 A copy of the newspaper advert is included in the Appendices.

### 3.6 Social Media Advertising

- 3.6.1 To raise further awareness for its planned consultation with the local community and encourage feedback, AQUIND placed an advert on the Facebook homepage of approximately 300,000 individuals living within the area potentially affected by the UK onshore proposals.
- 3.6.2 The advert directed users to the dedicated UK consultation website where they could find more information on the public exhibitions and the wider project.
- 3.6.3 The advert ran for 31 days from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018, reaching 56,494 people and directing 778 users to the UK consultation website.
- 3.6.4 Following the conclusion of the public consultation events, the contents of the advert were changed on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to provide individuals with information on how they could submit feedback.



*Figure 17: A copy of the Facebook advert*

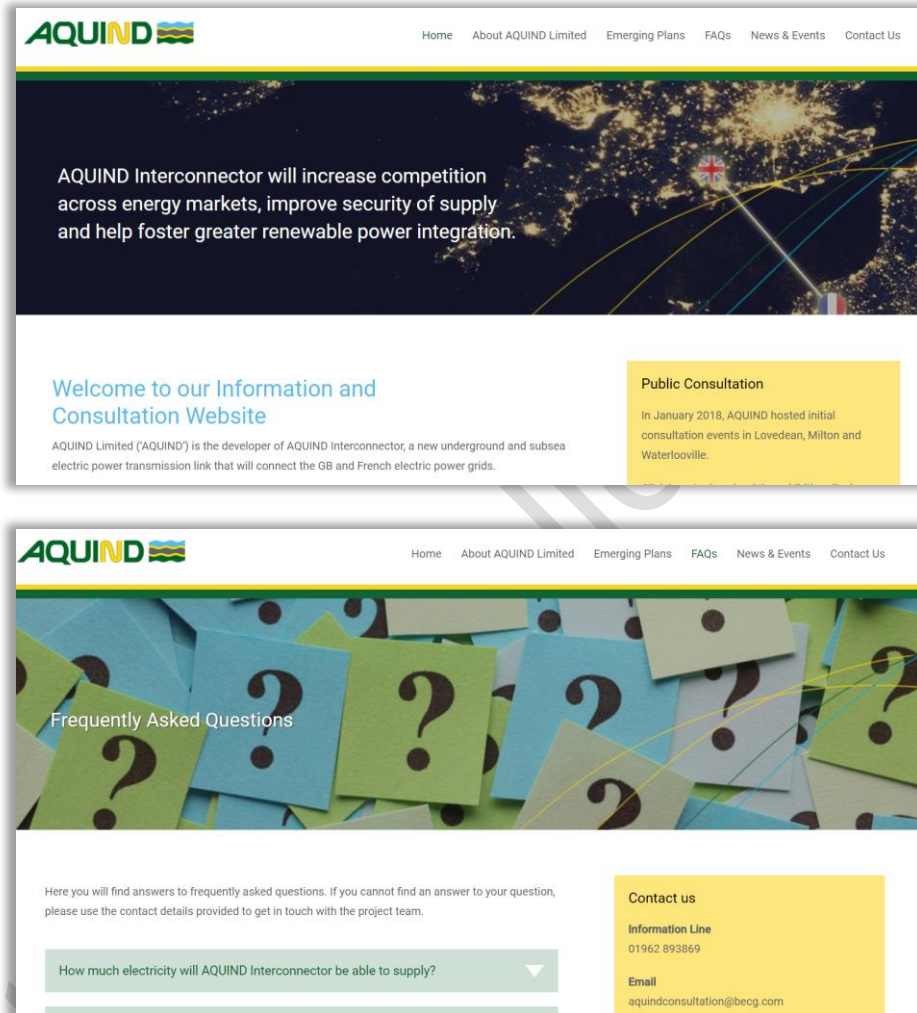


*Figure 18: A copy of the distribution area of the Facebook advert*

- 3.6.5 A copy of the Facebook advert is included in the Appendices.

### 3.7 Dedicated Website

3.7.1 A website was set up displaying information about the proposals and is being updated throughout the public consultation and planning process. The website is hosted at [www.aquindconsultation.co.uk](http://www.aquindconsultation.co.uk)



Figures 19, 20: Screenshots from the UK consultation website for AQUIND Interconnector

3.7.2 The website address was printed on the newsletter, exhibition feedback forms and relevant correspondence.

3.7.3 The website includes:

- Information about the emerging proposals
- Information about AQUIND
- FAQs
- News and events
- Information about the public consultation
- Project timeline
- Information on the Project of Common Interest designation



- An online feedback form
- Consultation contact details
- Consultation display boards (download)
- Information leaflet (download)
- Non-Technical Summary (download)

3.7.4 The website home page has been viewed a total of 2,528 times throughout the consultation process.

### 3.8 Freepost and 0800 Comment Facility

3.8.1 During the consultation, access to a freephone telephone enquiry line was offered to those who wished to find out more about the proposals, or to register their comments via the telephone.

3.8.2 The telephone number used (01962 893 869) was in operation Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 5:30pm. Outside of these hours a message facility was available for voicemails to be left and responded to at the earliest opportunity to ensure information was readily available and queries or concerns addressed.

3.8.3 Information was given to callers where possible and if questions were of a technical nature, these were passed on to project team members.

3.8.4 A freepost response service ('AQUIND CONSULTATION') was also in operation throughout the consultation period to enable respondents to submit written representations.

## 4. Summary of Feedback

4.0.1 At the consultation events, feedback forms (including large-print and easy-read versions) were available, together with postage-paid envelopes, for attendees to take away. Attendees were invited to provide feedback AQUIND’s emerging proposals over a four-week period.

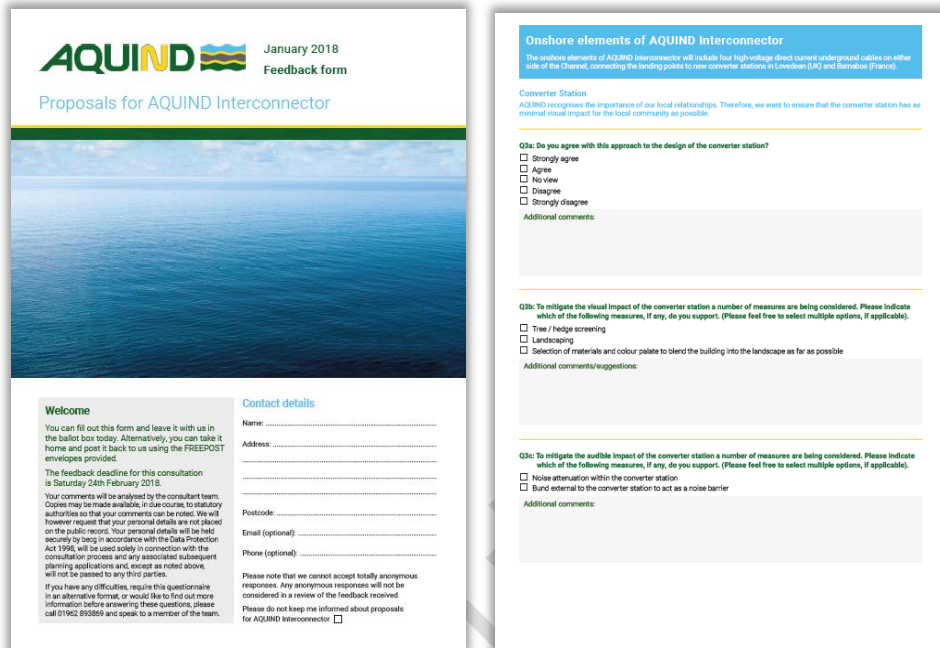


Figure 21: Pages from the consultation feedback form

4.0.2 A copy of the feedback form provided at the public exhibition can be found in the Appendices.



Figure 22: Large-print and easy-read materials from the consultation events



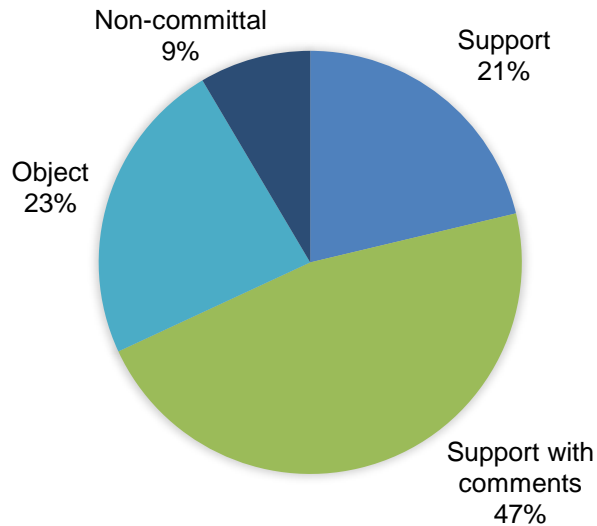


*Figure 23: A ballot box for attendees to deposit completed feedback forms*

- 4.0.3 The local community could also submit feedback, and speak with the project team, via a number of channels, including a freephone information line – 01962 893 869 – consultation email address – [aquindconsultation@becg.com](mailto:aquindconsultation@becg.com) – UK consultation website – [www.aquindconsultation.co.uk](http://www.aquindconsultation.co.uk) – and freepost address – ‘AQUIND CONSULTATION’.
- 4.0.4 A total of 49 response to the consultation were received by the advertised feedback deadline of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## 4.1 Feedback Overview

| Total no. of responses | Support | Support with comments | Object | Non-committal |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------|---------------|
| 49                     | 10      | 22                    | 11     | 4             |
| -                      | 21%     | 47%                   | 23%    | 9%            |



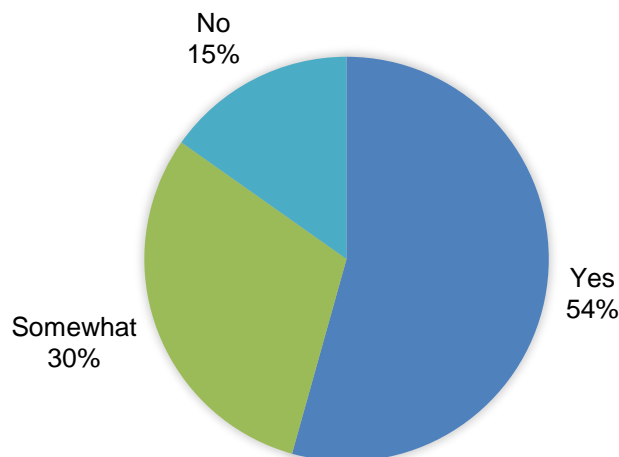
*Figure 21: Graph illustrating a summary of the response to AQUIND's emerging proposals*

## 4.2 Response to Questions

**Q1 | If you have attended a public exhibition, did you find this event helpful in answering any questions or concerns you may have had?**

85% of respondents found the exhibitions to be either very or somewhat helpful in answering any questions they had about the project. 15% did not find the exhibition helpful.

The majority of respondents live in either East Hampshire (41%) or Portsmouth (35%) local authorities. 95% attended the exhibitions in the capacity of a local resident, whilst 55% were informed of the consultation events by the invitation leaflet issued by AQUIND.

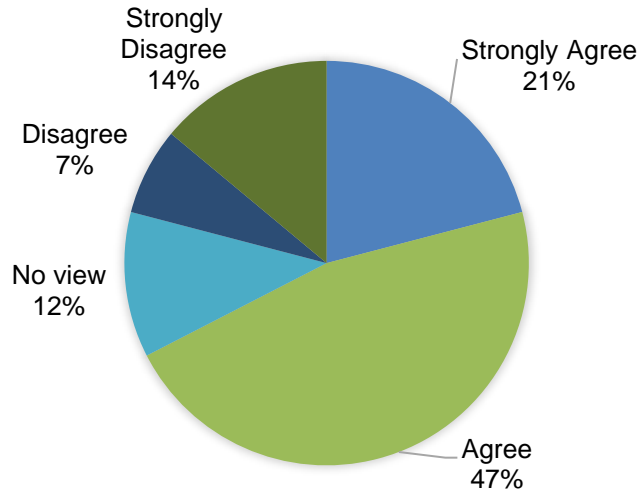


*Figure 22: Graph illustrating responses to Question 1*

**Q2 | To what extent do you agree with the aims of the AQUIND Interconnector project?**

67% agreed or strongly agreed with the aims of the project, whilst a further 12% had no view. 21% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this question.

The underground cable route was the aspect of the project that gained most attention, with 66% expressing an interest in this. 57% were curious about the environmental considerations and 49% were interested in the converter station.

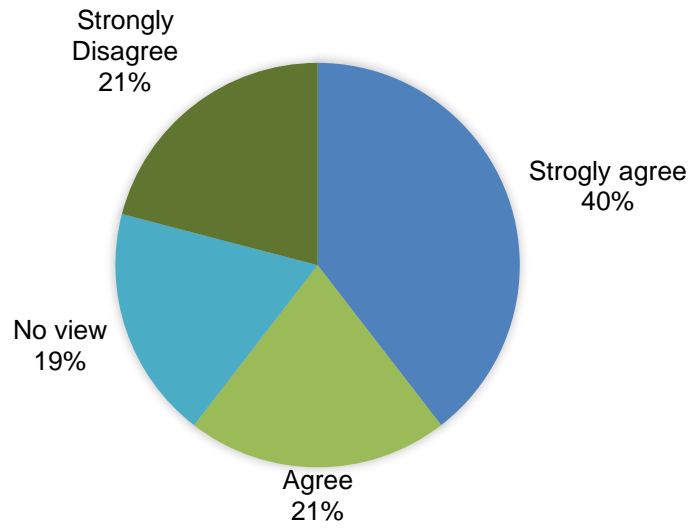


*Figure 23: Graph illustrating responses to Question 2*

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**Q3 | Do you agree with the approach to the design of the converter station?**

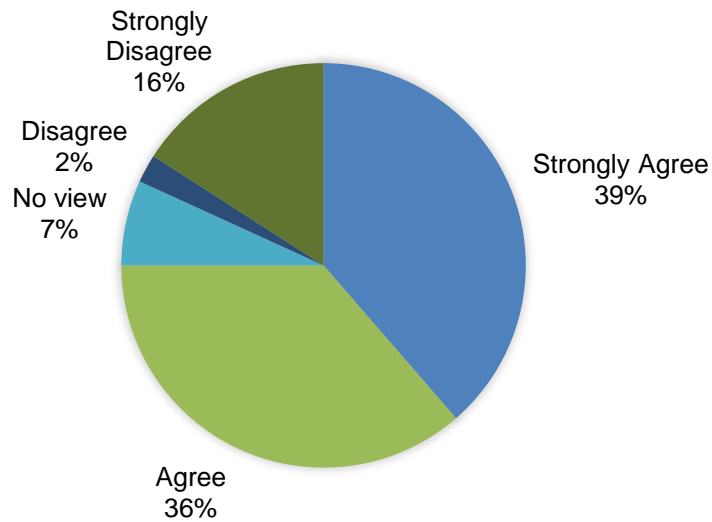
60% agreed or strongly agreed with the converter station design, 19% expressed no view and 21% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposals.



*Figure 24: Graph illustrating responses to Question 3*

**Q4 | Do you agree with the underground cable route?**

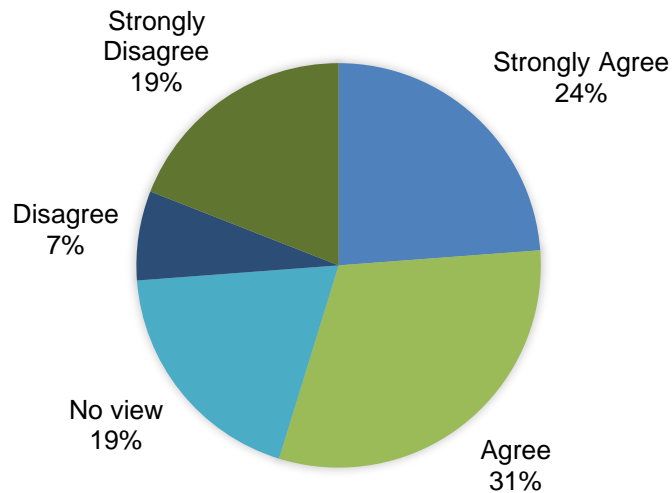
A 75% majority approved of the approach to the underground cable route, 18% disapproved and 7% gave no view. Many of those who disagreed voiced their opposition to the current underground cable route, with only one individual stating a preference for overhead lines.



*Figure 25: Graph illustrating responses to Question 4*

**Q5 | Do you agree with the approach to the landfall location?**

55% agreed or strongly agreed with this question, with 19% expressing no view and 26% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. A small number of respondents proposed alternative landfall locations, whilst others raised more general queries regarding the construction impact.



*Figure 26: Graph illustrating responses to Question 4*

**Q6 | Are there any specific factors you suggest we should consider to minimise impacts on the natural or historic environments, or other marine users?**

The vast majority of responses to this question were suggestions from the local community, including advice to consult with local wildlife organisations, comply with all relevant regulations and to carry out surveys to be aware of any shipwrecks and associated ordnance. A small number of concerns were raised regarding the environmental impact of the project.

**Q7 | Do you have any other comments or questions with regard to AQUIND Interconnector?**

Most respondents used this question to either ask specific questions about the project, including how and why Lovedean was chosen for the proposed converter station location. Others requested that AQUIND continues their efforts to engage with the community as the project moved forwards, whilst others requested that sections of the cable route should be reconsidered.



## 4.3 Key Themes

4.3.1 Below is a top-line breakdown of all comments received from the feedback forms, postcards, emails, telephone and website feedback.

| Comment   | Total |
|---|-------|
| Traffic concerns  | 14    |
| Prefer converter station Option B                           | 9     |
| Converter station noise concerns                            | 8     |
| Environmental concerns                                      | 8     |
| Reconsider cable route                                      | 7     |
| Visual impact of converter station                          | 6     |
| Disagree with converter station location                    | 6     |
| Bury converter station underground                          | 6     |
| No local benefits   | 5     |
| Converter station is too tall                               | 5     |
| Misleading converter station illustrations                  | 4     |
| Support for project   | 4     |
| Will not lower energy prices                                | 4     |
| Praised consultation team                                   | 3     |
| Use industrial location for converter station               | 3     |
| Sink converter station into the ground                      | 3     |
| Continue to update community                                | 3     |
| Prefer Soake Road route option                              | 3     |
| Reconsider landfall location                                | 3     |
| Use brownfield site for converter station                   | 3     |
| Expressed an interest in job opportunities                  | 2     |
| Route cable via Langstone Harbour                           | 2     |
| Asked about anti-terrorist precautions                      | 2     |
| Requested site visit  | 2     |
| Compensate homeowners for loss of property value            | 2     |
| Use Fraser Ranges as landfall location                      | 2     |
| Requested construction management plan                      | 2     |
| Are any other converter station locations being considered? | 2     |
| AQUIND and ANESCO should be a joint project                 | 2     |
| Questioned health impact of electromagnetic radiation       | 2     |
| Questioned local benefits                                   | 2     |
| Construction traffic concerns                               | 2     |
| Questioned feedback process                                 | 2     |
| Avoid traffic disruption                                    | 1     |
| Appreciated community consultation                          | 1     |
| Compete roadworks near schools in holiday time              | 1     |
| Exhibition terminology was excessively technical            | 1     |
| Need more consultation events                               | 1     |
| Hold exhibitions closer to the route                        | 1     |
| Complete a full EIA   | 1     |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Be aware of shipwrecks & unexploded ordnance                           | 1 |
| Requested to view consultation feedback                                | 1 |
| Mount converter station on sound insulating bases                      | 1 |
| Cancel out sound by generating same frequency in opposite direction    | 1 |
| Protect against anchor strikes   | 1 |
| Questioned the impact of Brexit  | 1 |
| Screen converter station with mature trees/hedges                      | 1 |
| Route cable across agricultural land to minimise traffic disruption    | 1 |
| Install cable in sections to minimise disruption                       | 1 |
| Reinstate roads, footpaths and rights of way                           | 1 |
| Critical of consultation   | 1 |
| Clarify exact landfall location  | 1 |
| Maps were unclear  | 1 |
| Consult with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust                  | 1 |
| UK should focus on domestic renewable power sources                    | 1 |
| Connect into National Grid at Eastleigh                                | 1 |
| Damage tourist trade   | 1 |
| No converter station plan  | 1 |
| Converter station will be unpopular with Lovedean residents            | 1 |
| Route cable through Milton estate                                      | 1 |
| Agree with underground cabling   | 1 |
| Concerned at ANESCO application  | 1 |
| Worried about cable leaks  | 1 |
| Analyse impact on water table  | 1 |
| Clarify cable route  | 1 |
| Pleased with project website   | 1 |
| Utilise existing ducts   | 1 |
| How was the final converter station location decided?                  | 1 |
| Provide artists impressions of converter station                       | 1 |
| Which converter station option is cheaper?                             | 1 |
| Why Lovedean?  | 1 |
| Negative impact on house prices  | 1 |
| Requested a list of optioneering constraints                           | 1 |
| Believes that cost has taken priority over environmental factors       | 1 |
| Share landfall site with IFA2  | 1 |
| Use high specification soundproofing                                   | 1 |
| Is another converter station location north-west of Option B possible? | 1 |
| Requested project timescales   | 1 |
| Cost will determine cable route  | 1 |
| Underground cabling causes more disruption than overhead lines         | 1 |
| Do not build on green belt land  | 1 |
| Project will be overbudget   | 1 |
| Project will not be completed on time                                  | 1 |
| Object to project  | 1 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Threatened legal action if approved                                  | 1 |
| Disagree with renewable energy claims                                | 1 |
| Route cable down Ironbridge Road                                     | 1 |
| Suggested local benefits   | 1 |
| Lovedean Village Association will not reflect views of all residents | 1 |
| Enquired about cable inspection points                               | 1 |
| Will fibre-optic cables be available for other utilities to use?     | 1 |
| Feedback form was extremely long                                     | 1 |

Not For Publication

## 5. Appendices

5.1.1 The following appendices are available on request:

- Copy of the introductory correspondence to local stakeholders and landowners
- Copy of the Information Leaflet
- Copy of the exhibition invitation newsletter
- Copy of the stakeholder letter of invitation to the exhibition
- Copy of the pre-exhibition press release
- Copy of the pre-exhibition press advert
- Copy of the post-exhibition press release
- Copy of the exhibition boards
- Copy of the feedback form
- Copy of the feedback analysis
- Copy of the register of exhibition feedback comments
- Copy of the feedback summary
- Copy of the Facebook advert