



**AQUIND Limited**

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# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.3F  
Presentation to MMO September 2018

The Planning Act 2008

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

Document Ref: 5.1.3F

PINS Ref.: EN020022

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Presentation to MMO September 2018

**PINS REF.: EN020022**

**DOCUMENT: 5.1.3F**

**DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

WSP

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**MMO MEETING**  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2018



**AGENDA**

- 1) Introductions
- 2) AQUIND Interconnector Proposals: Update on Progress (WSP)
- 3) Update on DCO Process following s35 Direction (WSP)
- 4) Summary of DCO Process (WSP)
- 5) Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (WSP and Natural Power)
- 6) Changes to the Project since Scoping (Natural Power)
- 7) Items for Discussion (All)

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**1. INTRODUCTIONS**



**INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Who we are...**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ AQUIND Team:</li> <li>♦ Marine Management Organisation (MMO)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kirill Glukhovskoy – AQUIND Managing Director</li> <li>Chris Lomax – WSP Engineering Team</li> <li>Will Bridges – WSP Planning Team</li> <li>Cassie Fountain – WSP Planning Team</li> <li>Jess Moran – WSP EIA Team</li> <li>Ross Hodson – Natural Power Marine EIA Team</li> <li>Sarah Lister – Natural Power Marine EIA Team</li> <li>Mark Qureshi</li> <li>Jennifer Ford</li> <li>Matthew Kinmond</li> </ul> |
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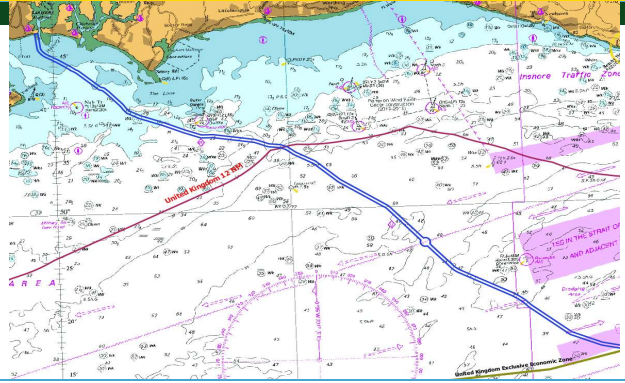
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**2. AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR:  
UPDATE ON PROGRESS**



**ROUTE OVERVIEW**



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## CURRENT STATUS UK: KEY MILESTONES SO FAR

### Key Milestones up to January 2018 (re-cap)

- ❖ **June 2016** – AQUIND signed a connection agreement with National Grid in respect of connecting to the UK National Grid via Lovedean Substation, East Hampshire in 2022
- ❖ **July 2017** – Benthic ecology surveys commence
- ❖ **Sept 2016** – AQUIND obtained a licence to operate an interconnector in the UK from Ofgem
- ❖ **During 2017** – AQUIND held initial discussions with relevant Local Planning Authorities (HCC, WCC, EHDC, HBC, PCC and SDNPA)
- ❖ **Sept 2017** – AQUIND applied for regulatory approval to the UK and French energy regulators.
- ❖ **Nov 2017** – AQUIND included in the list of projects as part of the Ten-Year Network Development Plan by the European Network Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and granted PCI (Project of Common Interest) status, which was approved by the European Parliament in March 2018.
- ❖ **Nov 2017** – Geophysical survey of marine cable corridor commences
- ❖ **January 2018** – First Phase of public consultation to share information and gain initial feedback on the emerging proposals



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## CURRENT STATUS UK: KEY MILESTONES SO FAR

- February 2018 onwards** – AQUIND team review of responses to public consultation in January 2018
- February 2018** – Submission of requests for Scoping Opinions from LPAs and MMO
- March 2018** – Marine geophysical survey complete
- April – June 2018** – Receipt of Scoping Opinions
- April 2018 ongoing** – AQUIND team review of Scoping Opinions and implications for project, and identification and progressing additional assessments/investigations/surveys required to inform preparation of ES.
- June 2018** – AQUIND submit s35 Application to BEIS to seek a Direction on NSIP status
- June – August 2018** – marine geotechnical survey undertaken.
- 30 July 2018** – SoS issues Direction confirming AQUIND Interconnector is an NSIP project and will be considered under 2008 Planning Act (DCO Process)
- September 2018** – Fisheries consultation events to be undertaken.
- September 2018 – January 2019** – Focussed stakeholder engagement (esp. HRA and Shipping and Navigation) and preparation of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEIR).
- November 2018** – Integrated Marine Survey Report finalised.



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## STATUS OF UK DESIGN AT AUGUST 2018:

- ❖ A significant amount of design and feasibility work has already been undertaken by the project team to date. The objective of the ongoing work is to seek to identify the refined route within the surveyed corridor for the development which minimises impact.
- ❖ The team is undertaking further detailed assessments to refine the detail of the application. This work is on-going.
- ❖ The Scoping Process (with LPAs and MMO) has facilitated formal engagement with Statutory Consultees and identified the issues to be addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- ❖ Meetings and engagement with Statutory Consultees have taken place and this process is ongoing.
- ❖ The design of the project will continue to evolve over the next few months, and will be the subject of consultation in January/February 2019.



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## DCO PROGRAMME ANTICIPATED FROM AUGUST 2018

### High-Level Anticipated DCO Programme

- ❖ **Q3 2018** – Ongoing technical surveys to inform the EIA process, refine design of project, including selection of site for converter station, and to identify and prepare details of suitable mitigation measures.
- ❖ **Q3-Q4 2018** – Preparation for Formal Consultation in Q1 2019, S. 42 continued liaison with MMO
- ❖ **Q1 2019** – Formal consultation to seek feedback on refined design/details to form part of DCO Application.
- ❖ **Q3 2019** – Submission of Development Consent Order Application including Deemed Marine Licence.



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## DCO PLANNING STRATEGY

- ❖ On 30 July 2018, the Secretary of State for BEIS issued a Direction confirming that AQUIND Interconnector was an NSIP.
- ❖ AQUIND Interconnector (UK section) comprises three main elements: marine cable, terrestrial cables and a converter station, all of which will now be included within a single DCO application, processed by PINS and determined by SoS (BEIS).
- ❖ The DCO application will include full details for the cable route, and parameters in accordance with the 'Rochdale Envelope' for the converter station. Details for the converter station are to be 'conditioned' by the Requirements listed in the DCO. Requirements will be submitted to relevant LPAs, for consideration and discharge.
- ❖ Other consents may also be required to enable implementation (e.g. Traffic Regulation Orders for works in the highway; temporary or permanent footpath diversion; Compulsory Acquisition of Land via CPO; European Protected Species Licences for works affecting protected species etc.) Where the Planning Act 2008 allows, these will be included in the DCO. If certain consents cannot be included, they will be progressed separately.



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### THE DCO APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NSIPS

An NSIP is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

- NSIPs don't require Planning Permission - they require **Development Consent**.
- They are administered by the **Planning Inspectorate**, and the process is set out in the **Planning Act 2008**. The process has **stages and timescales**, which are statutory.
- Applications for Development Consent are decided by the **Secretary of State**, the elected minister with responsibility for the area of policy.
- As part of the process, the applicant must undertake pre-application consultation.

**The application process**

Pre-application	Acceptance	Pre-examination	Examination	Decision	Post-Decision
Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project or on the internet. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult the public and technical bodies. This is the best time to influence the proposal and talk directly to the developer.	The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.	You can now register as an Interested Party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case if you have registered. The Examining Authority will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.	You can send in your representations in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. You can comment on other interested parties' representations. The Examining Authority has 6 months to carry out the Examination.	A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be received by the Examining Authority within 3 months of the examination closing. The Secretary of State then has a further 3 months to issue a decision on the proposal.	There is the opportunity for legal challenge. And once registered: Make representations to the Examination, in writing and at hearings. Respond to questions from the Examining Authority. Comment on representations from other parties. Attend Site-Visit.

**Additional Information:**

- If the application is submitted and accepted, there will be an examination, which will be led by an Examining Authority.
- You can Respond to the applicant's pre-application consultation. Register to participate in the Examination.

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### DCO APPLICATION TIMESCALE FOR NSIPS

- ❖ **Pre-Application Stage** - No specific Time Limit in Regulations
- ❖ **Submission and Acceptance** – This process should take 28 days.
- ❖ **Pre-Examination** – This process should take around 3 months.
- ❖ **Examination** – This process should take no more than 6 months.
- ❖ **Decision** – This process should take no more than 6 months. This includes no more than 3 months for PINS to prepare their report to the SoS, and then no more than 3 months for SoS to issue a Decision.
- ❖ **Post Decision** – There is no specific time period for the overall post-decision period.

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### CONSULTATION

**Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**  
A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how the consultation will be carried out and must be agreed with the LPA in advance and published in local newspapers.

**Consultation Documentation**

- ❖ Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
  - o This is issued as part of the consultation documentation to inform responses.
  - o Can take different forms from similar to EIA Scoping through to a draft Environmental Statement.
- ❖ Non-Technical Summary
- ❖ Overarching Consultation Document

**Consideration by project team of consultation responses to inform final proposal.**

A **Consultation Report** will be prepared and submitted with the application which will include:

- o an account of the statutory consultation, publicity, deadlines set, and community consultation activities undertaken by the applicant at the pre-application stage under s42, s47 and s48
- o A summary of the relevant responses to the separate strands of consultation; and
- o The account taken of responses in developing the application from proposed to final form, as required by s49(2).

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### SOCC- INFORMAL SOCC CONSULTATION

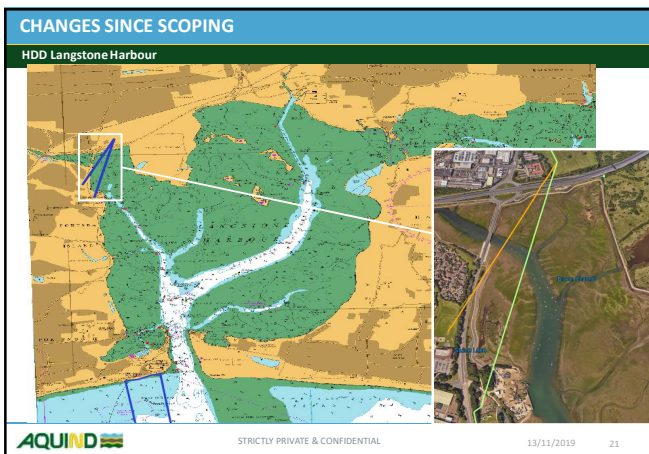
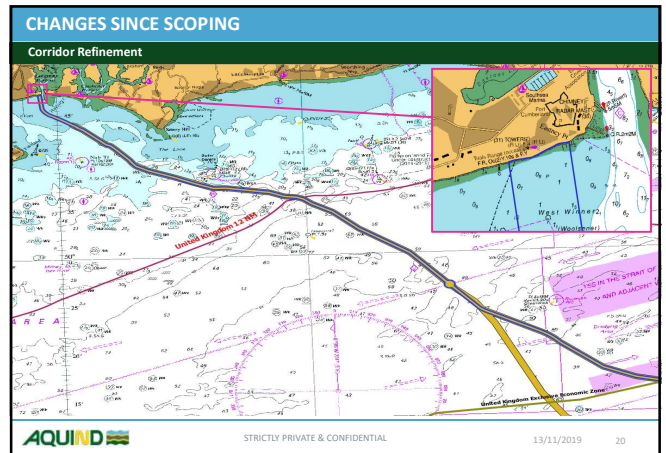
**The Informal Process of Agreeing the SoCC**

- ❖ Before undertaking the formal process outlined above, developers are encouraged to consult 'informally' with host LPAs on the content of the SoCC. This includes the MMO.
- ❖ We would welcome any informal comments you have on the SoCC.
- ❖ The SoCC activity will also be supported both on and offline by other consultation requirements outlined in the Act such as Section 48 notices.

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## 6. CHANGES SINCE SCOPING

- ### CHANGES SINCE SCOPING
- Dredging of Sand Waves and Large Ripples
- ❖ Sediment plume modelling to inform dredging and disposal activities.
  - ❖ Dredging terminology?
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- ### KEY ACTIONS TAKEN FROM SCOPING
- ❖ Water Quality – Water Framework Directive Assessment scoped in and to be undertaken in accordance with EA guidance.
  - ❖ Contaminated Sediments – Now scoped in and reporting on samples collected. Consultation with and approach to be agreed with Cefas.
  - ❖ Marine Mammals – scope in assessment on noise from geotechnical investigations, seabed preparation, route clearance and cable lay and burial? Information to be used from public domain in relation to noise.
  - ❖ Marine Mammals – Vessel noise - scope out?
  - ❖ UXO surveys and operations – the EPS/HRA risk assessment for UXO survey works and any licence requirement for further investigative or works on UXO removal will be undertaken separately to the DCO application.
  - ❖ EMF – scoped in for elasmobranchs and marine mammals. Has mitigation been considered should the sediment cover of 0.6 m and/or cable trench depth of >0.9 m not be achieved?
  - ❖ Fish and Shellfish – Cefas – chemical contamination from accidental spills to be scoped in. MMOS view?
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## 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIONS





ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- ❖ Approach for moving forward (seeking advice about re-scoping from PINs proposed, comprehensive consultation will be key). Is there anything that MMO would require in particular?
- ❖ Discussions on licensable activities within 12 nm and licensable activities beyond 12 nm; MMO advice and definition of inshore cable corridor and offshore cable corridor.
- ❖ IP EIA Regulations 2017 – approach to population and human health, biodiversity, material assets, air quality, disasters and accidents; signposting for these topics.
- ❖ Approach to cumulative projects/plans – see slides 26 and 27, used MMO Marine map and PINs and PCC
- ❖ Approach to transboundary effects to inform PINs meeting
- ❖ Approach to Decommissioning
- ❖ Habitat Regulations Assessment - MMO Competent Authority previously. Do we need to agree approach with them; not full evidence plan approach, more abbreviated approach. Proposed that we keep you informed of mitigation that falls out from this process rather than expect your engagement throughout the whole process?
- ❖ Deemed Marine licence drafting – process, standard conditions, recent interconnector licence and use as a basis?
- ❖ DCO fees and charges
- ❖ Next Steps (PINs meeting tomorrow) and AOB

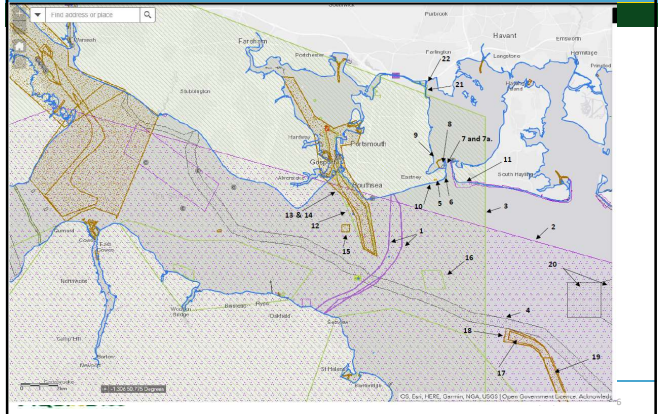


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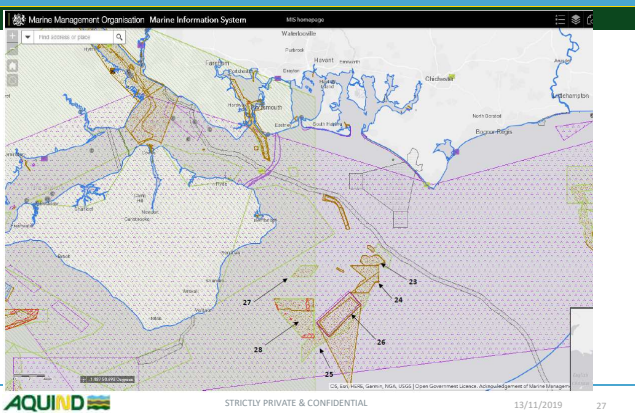
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CUMULATIVE PROJECTS/PLANS



CUMULATIVE PROJECTS/PLANS



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