AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.3L Presentation to Commercial Fishermen March – April 2019

The Planning Act 2008

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

Document Ref: 5.1.3L

PINS Ref.: EN020022

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DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

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AQUIND

INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

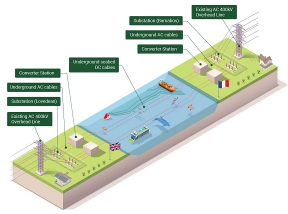
Linking UK and France

Commercial Fisheries Stakeholder Meetings

PROJECT INFORMATION

AQUIND Interconnector

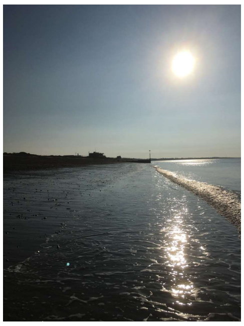
- ‘AQUIND Interconnector’ is a proposed cross channel cable that would connect the electricity grids of the UK and France.
- This High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) would have a capacity of 2,000 MW, and transmit up to 16,000,000 MWh of electricity each year.
- The interconnector will support 5% of Britain's energy consumption.
- The project will incorporate marine (subsea) and onshore (underground) cables, as well as substations on land.



THE ROUTE

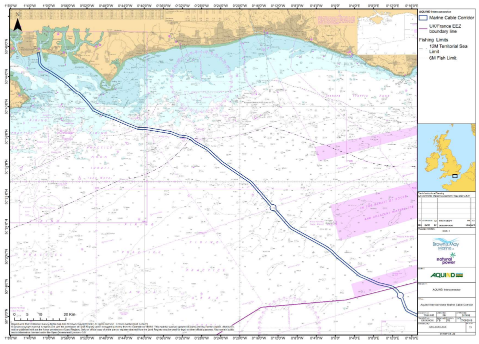
Marine cable corridor

- The marine element of the cable route will be approximately 190 km (109km in UK waters).
- It will comprise four 140 mm high-voltage marine cables (2 bundles of 2).
- The bundled cables will be 50 m apart
- In the UK, the proposed landing point is at Eastney, near Portsmouth.
- On the French side, the interconnector’s landing point will be in Pourville (Normandy).
- The route has changed, since the initial fisheries meetings due to input from fishermen and geophysical/geotechnical survey results.



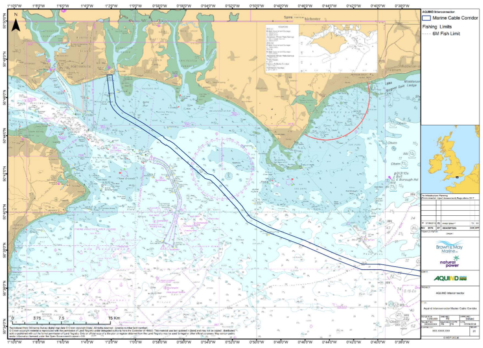
CABLE CORRIDOR

UK waters



CABLE CORRIDOR

UK Inshore Area



MARINE APPLICATION PROCESS

Update

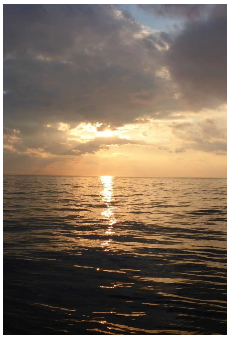
- The project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- Aquind is now preparing an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which covers marine and onshore in one application.
- This will include a Deemed Marine Licence (DML).
- An Environmental Impact Assessment for marine works is being carried out.
- **The Preliminary Environmental Information report (PEIR) has been submitted**
- **Aquind are asking for your opinion on this.**

PROJECT TIMELINES

Update

Indicative timelines for marine elements of application (UK):

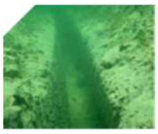
- Public consultation on Preliminary Environmental information – Q1-Q2 2019;
- DCO submission – Q3 2019;
- Anticipated DCO Decision – Q4 2020;
- Earliest start of seabed preparation works – Q2 2021;
- Earliest start of installation of marine works – Q4 2021;
- Installation works up to 2 year 3 months – Q4 2021 to Q4 2023.
- This is the worse case scenario, installation will occur in section, however we don't have information on this as yet.

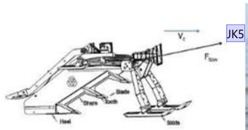


INSTALLATION OF CABLES

Potential technical methods

- Where possible, the marine cables will be buried in trenches under the seabed or, where trenches cannot be excavated, the subsea cables will be protected.
- Methods of cable installation may include:
  - Plough
  - Jet Trenching
  - Mechanical Trenching
  - Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)





INSTALLATION OF CABLES

- The type of vessel will be decided as a result of the scientific campaigns.
- Example vessel types include:

Cable Lay Barge

Cable lay vessel

INSTALLATION

Cable installation

- Majority of cable will be buried to a depth is between 0.6 and 5.1 m below the seabed
- An estimated worst case of 7% of the cable will be unable to be buried.
  - Non burial protection will be used e.g. concrete mattressing
  - This will occur in rocky areas and at cable crossings
- HDD will be used to drill under the intertidal area with break out at c1 km from the shore
- Dredging will be required where there are sandwaves and large ripples along ~ 7% of the route. All disposal will be within the route corridor, but outside the Solent.

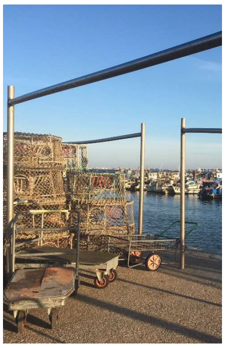
WHAT WILL BE ASSESSED

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Commercial fisheries assessment

Installation (and decommissioning) and operation:

- Complete/Temporary loss or restricted access to established fishing grounds
- Complete/Temporary displacement of fishing activity into other areas;
- Interference to normal fishing activities
- Navigational safety issues for fishing vessels
- Temporary increases/Increased steaming times
- Obstacles on the seabed after installation/maintenance



FISHING RECEPTORS

	Fleet
UK	Local inshore fleet - fleet • Potters (lobster / crab / whelk and cuttlefish traps), • Netters, • Demersal trawlers, • Longliners • Scallop and clam dredgers
	Scallop dredgers (over 15m)
	Seine netters (Anglo-Dutch)
	Pelagic trawlers (Anglo-Dutch)
	Beam trawlers
French	Demersal trawlers
	Pelagic trawlers
	Scallop dredgers
	Static gear
Belgium	Demersal trawlers
	Seine netters & scallop dredgers
Netherlands	Seine netters
	Pelagic trawlers

- Natural Fish and shellfish:

Installation (and decommissioning):
  - Temporary habitat disturbance
  - Temporary increase in suspended sediments
  - Noise and vibration.
- Operation:
  - Electro-magnetic field (EMF) effects
  - Permanent habitat loss.
- Other assessment:
  - Fish and shellfish
  - Benthic ecology;
  - Navigation and shipping and other marine user;
  - Marine archaeology;
  - Water quality;
  - And many other…

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WHAT WILL BE ASSESSED

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Commercial Fish Chapter

https://aquindconsultation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/02/AQUIND-PEIR-Ch_12_Commercial_Fisheries.pdf
- Commercial fish baseline report

https://aquindconsultation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/02/Appendix-12.1-Commercial-Fisheries-Baseline-Report.pdf
- There are lots of figures for commercial fisheries – is the link to the figures list

https://aquindconsultation.co.uk/peirvol2/ with 12.1 – 12.34 being the relevant ones (particularly 12.17 – 12.23)
- Fish and Shellfish Chapter

https://aquindconsultation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/02/AQUIND-PEIR-Ch_9-Fish-and-Shellfish.pdf

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SURVEYS

Marine Survey

Marine surveys carried out:
- Intertidal surveys – July 2017;
- Benthic surveys – (Drop Down Video and Grabs) - July 2017 – March 2018;
- Geophysical survey – November 2017 – March 2018;
- Geotechnical survey – June – August 2018;

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OTHER STUDIES

- Contaminated sediment analysis;
- Sediment plume modelling;
- Geophysical interpretation for archaeology and benthic habitats;
- Water Framework Directive assessment
- Habitat Regulation Assessment
- Large literature review for fish, which includes:
  - Commercial fish landings
  - Spawning grounds location
  - Migratory fish
  - Protected areas and species
  - Studies from IFCAs, CEFAS, aggregate sites, marine plans, strategic assessment etc.
- Consultation with fishermen.

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ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF)

- The cables to be installed are HVDC and not HVAC.
- DC cables emit much lower magnetic fields than AC.
- The marine cable will be buried for the majority of the marine cable corridor which will further reduce the magnetic field at the surface of the seabed.
- It is predicted that at 1m burial depth the EMF will be less than the earth's natural magnetic field of 50 micro-Tesla.

Cable Depth (m)	Magnetic Field at Seabed Level (micro-Tesla)
1	42
2	11
3	5
4	3
5	2
6	1

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WHY ARE WE HERE?

Information on commercial fishing

- Aquind would like to discuss the development with fisheries stakeholders and look to gather feedback on the preferred way forward in term of consultation and information dissemination.
- Aquind are keen to understand their concerns about the development, both in terms of route and also the proposed installation methodology.
- Are there mitigation measures that fishermen would like to suggest to Aquind for consideration?

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GET IN TOUCH

To find out more about AQUIND Interconnector, please visit http://aquind.co.uk
or to look at the PEIR documents the consultation website at
https://aquindconsultation.co.uk
or
https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs

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