



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Environmental Statement – Volume 1 – Chapter 1 Introduction

The Planning Act 2008

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

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Document Ref: 6.1.1

PINS Ref: EN020022

AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Environmental Statement – Volume 1 –
Chapter 1 Introduction

PINS REF.: EN020022

DOCUMENT: 6.1.1

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

WSP

WSP House

70 Chancery Lane

London

WC2A 1AF

+44 20 7314 5000

www.wsp.com

DOCUMENT

Document	6.1.1 Environmental Statement – Volume 1 - Chapter 1 Introduction
Revision	001
Document Owner	WSP UK Limited
Prepared By	H. Jenner
Date	18 October 2019
Approved By	U. Stevenson
Date	22 October 2019

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1.	PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	1-1
1.2.	OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT	1-1
1.3.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	1-3
1.4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	1-4
1.5.	ES STRUCTURE	1-6
1.6.	ES COMPLIANCE	1-7
1.7.	OTHER REGULATORY REGIMES	1-8
1.8.	THE EIA PROJECT TEAM	1-8

REFERENCES

TABLES

Table 1.1 – Structure of the ES	1-6
--	------------

PLATES

Plate 1.1 - AQUIND Interconnector illustrative project components	1-2
--	------------

APPENDICES

Appendix 1.1 – Requirements of the EIA Regulations and their location within the ES	
Appendix 1.2 – EIA Project Team and Competence	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1.1.1. This document is an Environmental Statement ('ES') and forms part of an application to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008').
- 1.1.1.2. The application for the DCO is made in respect of the UK elements of AQUIND Interconnector (the 'Application')
- 1.1.1.3. The ES has been prepared on behalf of AQUIND Limited (the 'Applicant') in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'EIA Regulations').

1.2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

- 1.2.1.1. The Applicant is proposing to construct and operate an electricity interconnector between France and the UK known as AQUIND Interconnector ('the Project'). Electricity interconnectors are physical links which allow the transfer of electricity across borders.
- 1.2.1.2. The Project comprises a new marine and onshore HVDC cable transmission link between Normandy in France and Eastney, Hampshire, converter stations in both England and France and infrastructure necessary to facilitate the import and export of electricity between the high voltage alternating current ("HVAC") electricity transmission networks of both countries as well as Fibre-Optic Cables ('FOC') and associated infrastructure necessary for their operation (see Plate 1.1).

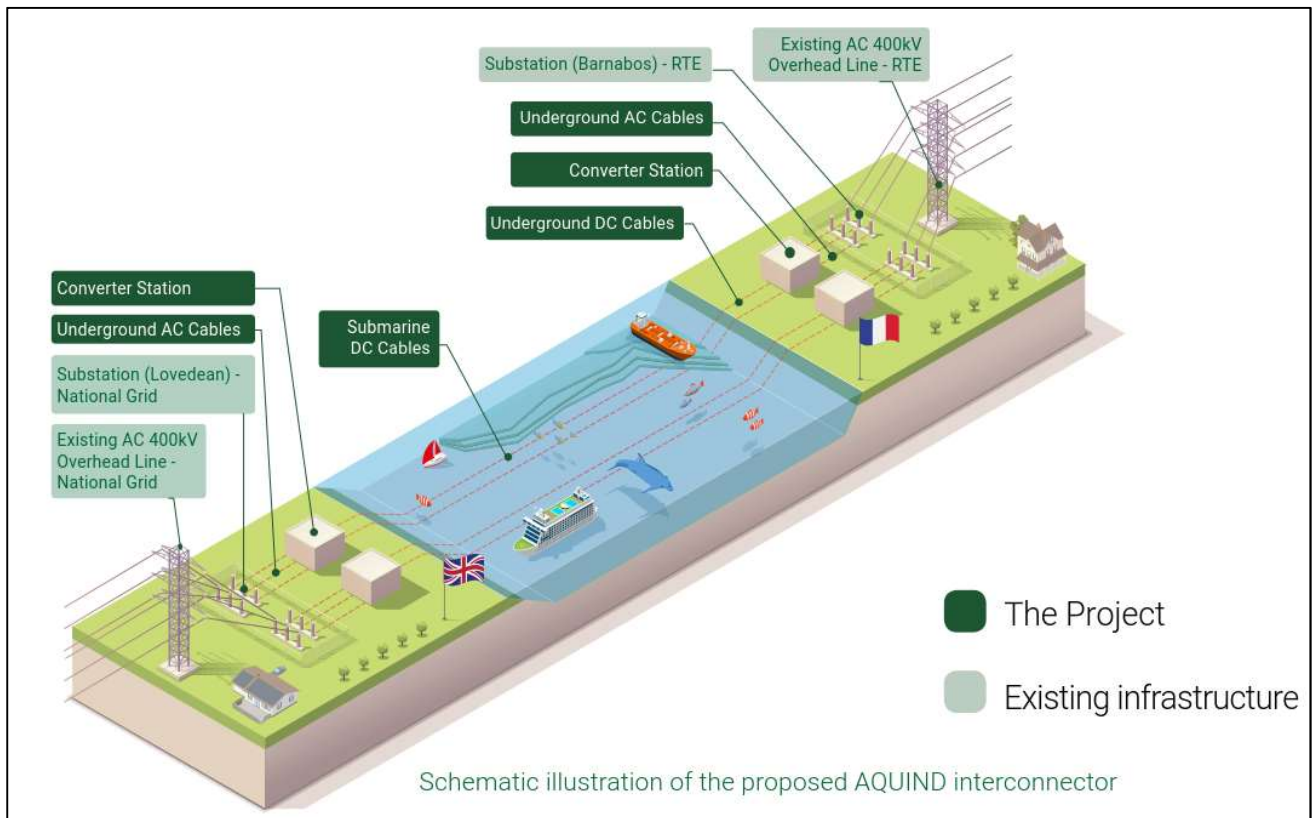


Plate 1.1 - AQUIND Interconnector illustrative project components

- 1.2.1.3. The purpose of the Project is to make a significant contribution towards increasing the cross-border capacity between the UK and France providing a net transmission capacity of 2,000 megawatts ('MW')¹. Greater cross-border transmission capacity improves competition in energy markets, delivers security and flexibility of energy supply in both countries as well as helping to tackle climate change by enabling countries to integrate more renewable energy sources like solar and wind in their electricity supply.
- 1.2.1.4. The wider benefits of the Project are outlined and described in the Needs Case (document reference 5.6).
- 1.2.1.5. The French and UK elements of the Project require different consents and licences within the respective jurisdictions. It should be noted that a separate EIA has been undertaken to inform the French consenting process.

¹ Each circuit will have the export capacity of 1037.5MW and the import capacity of around 1000MW, net of transmission and conversions losses. Such an arrangement provides at least 50% power, as the two circuits are designed to be completely electrically independent, with no overlapping equipment or services. Throughout this Application, the Project's capacity is referred to as 2000MW.

1.3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1.1. The Proposed Development includes that part of the Project located within the UK and the UK Marine Area, for which development consent is sought by the DCO Application. The Proposed Development is broadly comprised of Onshore Components and Marine Components.

1.3.2. ONSHORE COMPONENTS IN UK:

- Works at the existing Lovedean Substation in Hampshire to facilitate the connection of the Project to the National Electricity Transmission System ('NETS');
- Underground high voltage alternating current ('HVAC') Cables, connecting Lovedean Substation to the proposed Converter Station;
- A newly constructed Converter Station comprising a mix of buildings and outdoor electrical and the Telecommunications Buildings;
- Two pairs of underground HVDC Cables, each pair accompanied by a smaller diameter Fibre Optic Cables ('FOC') for data transmission, to run from the Converter Station to the Landfall site in Eastney (near Portsmouth), approximately 20 km in length; and
- Infrastructure to join the Onshore and Marine HVDC Cables together at the Landfall, and two Optical Regeneration Stations ('ORS') (one for each circuit) housed in separate buildings.

1.3.3. MARINE COMPONENTS IN THE UK:

- Two pairs of subsea HVDC Cables, each pair accompanied by a smaller diameter FOC for data transmission, within the Marine Cable Corridor from Landfall at Eastney to the UK/France Exclusive Economic Zone ('EEZ') Boundary Line (approximately 109 km in length).

1.3.3.1. A full description of the Proposed Development is detailed in Chapter 3 (Description of the Proposed Development) of the ES Volume 1 (document reference 6.1.3).

1.3.3.2. On 19 June 2018, the Applicant sought a direction from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the 'SoS') under section 35 of the PA 2008 that the Proposed Development be treated as development for which development consent is required.

1.3.3.3. On 30 July 2018, the SoS, being satisfied that the relevant legal requirements were met and of the view that the Proposed Development is by itself nationally significant, issued a direction pursuant section 35 of the PA 2008 confirming that the Proposed Development, together with any development associated with it, is to be treated as development for which development consent is required (the 'Direction').

- 1.3.3.4. The Direction also further directed that the Overarching National Policy Statement ('NPS') for Energy (EN-1) has effect in relation to an application for development consent under the Direction in a manner equivalent to its application to development consent for the construction and extension of a generating station within section 14(a) of the Act of a similar capacity as the Project so far as the impacts described in EN-1 are relevant to the Proposed Development.

1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 1.4.1.1. Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is a systematic process to identify, predict and evaluate the environmental effects of a proposed project. The purpose of an EIA is to ensure that the likely significant environmental effects of a project are understood and properly taken into account when decision makers consider the application for that development. The EIA identifies the likely significant effects on the environment (negative and positive) arising in connection with a project.
- 1.4.1.2. The EIA process also provides an opportunity to identify where measures are required to avoid or reduce environmental effects, which can be addressed through design or as 'mitigation measures'.
- 1.4.1.3. Schedules 1 and 2 of the EIA Regulations set out the types of development for which an EIA is required to be undertaken. The Proposed Development is not development of a type listed within either of these schedules. However, due to the potential for significant environmental effects to arise in connection with the Proposed Development, the Applicant has opted to voluntarily undertake an EIA and provide an ES in support of DCO Application for the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.1.4. The key steps of the EIA process followed by the Applicant are presented below:
- **Scoping:** Scoping is the process whereby an Applicant can request a formal scoping opinion from PINS on the content of the ES/extent of info to be considered. An EIA Scoping Report is used to consult on the scope of the EIA including the impacts to be assessed and the assessment methodology. A Scoping Report and scoping opinion request were submitted to PINS on 29 October 2018 in line with the EIA Regulations. A Scoping Opinion was received from PINS on 7 December 2018;
 - **Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'):** A publicly available report, establishing the baseline data and carrying out a preliminary evaluation of potential impact of the development proposal was published on 27 February 2019, with Public Consultation on the proposals for the Proposed Development and the PEIR taking place between 27 February and 29 April 2019; and

- **Environmental Statement and Submission:** Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects and mitigation measures for the Proposed Development are reported in the ES. The ES is formally submitted to the SoS as part of the DCO Application (this is the current stage of the EIA process).

1.4.1.5. Further details of the scope of the EIA and general methodology applied in the EIA process are provided in Chapter 4 (EIA Methodology) of the ES Volume 1 (document reference 6.1.4). Further information on the evolution of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 2 (Consideration of Alternatives) of the ES Volume 1 (document reference 6.1.2).

1.5. ES STRUCTURE

1.5.1.1. The ES is presented in 4 volumes as shown in Table 1.1, comprising the Main Text, the Figures and supporting Technical Appendices and the Non-Technical Summary ('NTS').

Table 1.1 – Structure of the ES

ES Volume	Content	
ES Volume 1 Main Text	Chapter 1	Introduction
	Chapter 2	Consideration of Alternatives
	Chapter 3	Description of the Proposed Development
	Chapter 4	EIA Methodology
	Chapter 5	Consultation
	Chapters 6 to 14	<p>Marine Topic-specific Environmental Impact Assessments. The topics covered are:</p> <p>Chapter 6 – Physical Processes</p> <p>Chapter 7 – Marine Water and Sediment Quality</p> <p>Chapter 8 – Intertidal and Benthic Habitats</p> <p>Chapter 9 – Fish and Shellfish</p> <p>Chapter 10 – Marine Mammals and Basking Sharks</p> <p>Chapter 11 – Marine Ornithology</p> <p>Chapter 12 – Commercial Fisheries</p> <p>Chapter 13 – Shipping, Navigation and Other Marine Users</p> <p>Chapter 14 – Marine Archaeology</p>
	Chapter 15 to 28	<p>Onshore Topic-specific Environmental Impact Assessments. The topics covered are:</p> <p>Chapter 15 – Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Chapter 16 – Onshore Ecology</p> <p>Chapter 17 – Soils and Agricultural Land Use</p> <p>Chapter 18 – Ground Conditions</p> <p>Chapter 19 – Groundwater</p> <p>Chapter 20 – Surface Water Resources and Flood Risk</p>

	Chapter 21 – Heritage and Archaeology
	Chapter 22 – Traffic and Transport
	Chapter 23 – Air Quality
	Chapter 24 – Noise and Vibration
	Chapter 25 – Socio-economics
	Chapter 26 – Human Health
	Chapter 27 – Waste and Material Resources
	Chapter 28 – Carbon and Climate Change
Chapter 29	Cumulative Effects
Chapter 30	Summary and Conclusions
ES Volume 2 Figures	
ES Volume 3 Technical Appendices	
ES Volume 4 Non-Technical Summary	

1.6. ES COMPLIANCE

- 1.6.1.1. The ES has been produced in accordance with Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations, including all necessary information in order to satisfy Regulation 14(2)(a)-(f), which specifies what environmental information must be included in an ES.
- 1.6.1.2. Appendix 1.1 (Requirements of the EIA Regulations and their location within the ES) of the ES Volume 3 (document reference 6.3.1.1) provides a summary of where the information required by the EIA Regulations to be included within an environmental statement can be found in the ES.

1.7. OTHER REGULATORY REGIMES

1.7.1.1. The EIA process has been co-ordinated with those undertaken for the purposes of other regulatory environmental studies, namely:

- Water Framework Directive (Appendix 20.2 and Appendix 7.1 of the ES Volume 3 (document references 6.3.20.2 and 6.3.7.1));
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (document reference 6.8.1 – 6.8.3);
- Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 20.4 of the ES Volume 3 (document reference 6.3.20.4)); and
- Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Appendix 8.5 of the ES Volume 3 (document reference 6.3.8.5)).

1.8. THE EIA PROJECT TEAM

1.8.1.1. In accordance with Regulation 14(4)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant has ensured that the EIA was undertaken and the ES prepared by experienced and competent experts.

1.8.1.2. Appendix 1.2 (EIA Project Team and Competence) of the ES Volume 3 (document reference 6.3.1.2) to the ES provides the statement from the Applicant outlining the EIA Team, their associated roles and relevant expertise. The stated EIA Team members were responsible for the scope, content and assessment of likely significant effects of their respective technical chapters (where relevant).

1.8.1.3. WSP was responsible for coordination and management of the EIA process, compilation and review of the ES. Natural Power were responsible for the coordination, management and review of the Marine Components. WSP and Natural Power are registered under the EIA Quality Mark operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ('IEMA') which recognises our commitment to excellence in EIA activities.

REFERENCES

Department of Energy and Climate Change. (2011). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

HM Government. (2008). Planning Act.

Planning Inspectorate. (2016). Advice note six: Preparation and submission of application documents.

