



National Infrastructure Planning
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Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020022

Date: 5 March 2020

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 6

Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project

Notice of appointment of the Examining Authority and date, time and place of the Preliminary Meeting

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of a Panel who will be the Examining Authority (the ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application. I am Andrew Mahon and the other members of the Panel are David Wallis and Stephen Roscoe. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-001050-EN020022%20Notice%20of%20Appointment%20of%20Panel%20of%20Examiners.pdf>.

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when preparing our proposals regarding how to examine this application.

Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting (PM)

This letter is an invitation to the PM to discuss the Examination procedure. It contains a number of important supporting annexes.

Date of meeting: Wednesday 22 April 2020

Seating available from: 09:30

Meeting begins: 10:00

Venue: **The Village Hotel, Lakeshore Drive, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3FR**

Access and parking: There will be a free parking code for delegates to use. However, the car parking at the Village Hotel is managed by a third party and if someone forgets to register their car with the venue, the venue has no power to waive a fine. The Applicant will have representatives in the hotel reception to provide this number for attendees to register their number plate. There is a machine in the hotel entrance or delegates can download the JUSTPARK app and use the code for free parking.

Train: 1 mile from Cosham Train Station; 5 miles from Portsmouth Harbour Mainline Station.

Buses: The following buses have stops nearby: 18, 20, 3, 8.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A**. This has been set following our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. That assessment is set out in **Annex B**. As a result of this assessment we wish to hear at the meeting from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Local Authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft Examination Timetable set out in **Annex C**.

Whilst we are aware that this venue may be some distance from those that have registered their interest in the project, with a linear scheme of this length it is extremely difficult to find a venue to suit all parties. We have sought to host the Preliminary Meeting at a venue has all the necessary facilities for the meeting. However, during the course of the Examination we will give consideration to holding Hearings at different venues along the route of the Proposed Development.

Purpose of the PM

The PM enables views to be put to us about the way in which the application is to be examined. At this stage the Panel is looking at the procedure and not the merits of the application. The merits of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the PM has closed.

The PM provides a useful introduction to the Examination process. We will use it to make Procedural Decisions that will affect everyone participating in the Examination. The meeting provides you with an opportunity to have your say about procedural issues before these decisions are finalised. You will find it useful to attend this meeting if you intend to play an active part in the Examination or if you have questions about procedure. Advice Note 8.3 provides further information, and is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Advice-note-8-3v4.pdf>

Please note that **you are not required to attend the PM in order to participate in the Examination**. If you are an Interested Party, you will still be able to make a Written Representation and comments on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

Further information is given in Advice Note 8.4, which is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-4v3.pdf>

Attendance at the PM

If you wish to attend the PM, please contact the Case Manager, Mr Hefin Jones, using the details set out at the top of this letter, **by no later than Wednesday 1 April 2020**.

If a large number of attendees confirm their attendance it may be necessary to publish a seating plan on the project page of our website around a week before the Preliminary Meeting.

It will help the management of the meeting and benefit everyone if as part of the above confirmation you also:

- tell us whether you wish to speak at the meeting and on which agenda items, listing points you wish to make; and
- notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

We wish to run a fair, efficient and effective meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, we strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group.

If you wish to make any submissions on matters not set out in the agenda, bearing in mind that we will not be considering the merits of the application at this PM, please write to the Case Manager, Mr Hefin Jones, setting out the submissions that you wish to make, **by no later than Wednesday 1 April 2020**. We will try to accommodate reasonable requests and alter the agenda on opening the Preliminary Meeting, but only if we consider this will assist the discussion of the procedure for the Examination.

After the PM

After the PM you will be sent a letter setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. An audio recording and a note of the meeting will also be published on the project webpage: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=overview>.

Interested Parties have the right to request an Open Floor Hearing and those persons affected by any request for Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession of their land or rights may request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Any other Issue Specific Hearings are held at the discretion of the Panel and will be arranged if we feel that

consideration of oral representations would ensure an issue is adequately examined. Our initial suggestion for Issue Specific Hearings is set out in the draft timetable at **Annex C** with the particular topics indicated.

Our Examination will take account of Relevant Representations, Written Representations, responses to our Written Questions and any oral representations made at the meetings and hearings. In addition, we will take account of the application documents, Local Impact Reports, policy and legal considerations, site inspections and any other matters we consider to be relevant and important. All of these will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will make the final decision in this case.

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made some Procedural Decisions which are set out in full at **Annex E**. These include, but are not limited to:

- request for documents which informed the s35 Direction in advance of the Preliminary Meeting;
- requests for Local Impact Reports by Deadline 1;
- requests for Statements of Common Ground;
- requests for regular updated documents during the Examination; and
- the acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Status-faq.pdf>

If your reference number begins with 2002 or AQUI-AFP you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with AQUI-SP you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with AQUI-OP you are in Group C.

If, having read the FAQ document published at the link above, you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Note: Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by e-mail wherever possible as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the Inspectorate as a Government agency. If you have received a postcard but are able to receive communications by e-mail, please confirm this with the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter, by **Deadline 1, Wednesday 6 May 2020**.

Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

Keeping up to date

Up-to-date information about the project and the Examination can be obtained from: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=overview>.

This is the address for the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website, from which the Planning Inspectorate will make copies of all Examination Documents available to the public. As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with this resource. You can register on the project webpage to receive email notifications each time new documents are published.

All Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Award of costs

We also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance 'Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders' which applies to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This guidance is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/>

Management of information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA), and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate, is published at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=overview>.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, we consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Mahon

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Annexes

- A** Agenda for the PM
- B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- C** Draft Examination Timetable
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** Procedural Decisions made by the ExA

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

Date:	Wednesday 22 April 2020
Seating available from:	09:30
Meeting start time:	10:00
Venue:	The Village Hotel, Lakeshore Drive, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3FR

Item 1	Open of the Preliminary Meeting, welcome and introductions
Item 2	The Examining Authority's (ExA) remarks about the Examination process
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex B
Item 4	Draft Examination Timetable – Annex C
Item 5	<p>Deadlines for submission of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on post-application submissions from the Applicant (if relevant); • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs); • Written Representations (WRs); • Local Impact Reports (LIRs); • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1); • Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs); • Notifications relating to any hearings; • Notifications relating to nomination of locations for site inspections; • Procedural requests relating to these items that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting.
Item 6	<p>Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date reserved and arrangements for an ASI to application site and surrounding area; • Date reserved and arrangements for an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO); • Date reserved and arrangements for Open Floor Hearings (OFH); • Date reserved and arrangements for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH); • Date reserved and arrangements for any other ISHs; • Procedural requests relating to these items that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting.
Item 7	Any remaining questions or submissions regarding procedural matters not set out in the agenda that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting.
Item 8	Any other matters
CLOSE OF PRELIMINARY MEETING	

Please note: Please be available from the start and throughout the meeting. The agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will conclude the meeting as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. If there are any additional matters to be dealt with or submissions take a

considerable amount of time the ExA may change the order of the agenda items and may introduce breaks in the proceedings.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of the Principal Issues prepared under s88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). This initial assessment has had regard to consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and of Relevant Representations received in respect of the application.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues.

It should be noted that a number of the Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

It should also be noted that:

- whilst the effects of the proposal on the achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change are not listed as specific Principal Issues; and
- whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principal Issues;

the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these objectives in mind.

Principal Issue	Brief Amplification To include but not necessarily limited to:
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the construction of the Proposed Development and the associated changes to traffic movements would affect air quality along the construction route and possible alternative driving routes along the A3 and A2047, and the consequent impacts on local residents and air quality improvement strategies.
Compulsory Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Compulsory Acquisition of the land and rights sought under the dDCO satisfies the conditions set out in the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). • Whether the Temporary Possession powers sought are justified and proportionate. • Whether alternatives, in relation to individual plots and the route for the Proposed Development and especially the extent of Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession, have been sufficiently taken into account.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effect of the Proposed Development on the assets and activities of Statutory Undertakers, including Protective Provisions in the dDCO and the tests in the PA2008. • The need for the consent of the appropriate Crown Authority for the interests sought in Crown land. • The effect of the Proposed Development on special category land in terms of the PA2008. • The likely availability of funds to implement the Proposed Development.
Draft Development Consent Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of the Applicant’s dDCO including its scope, provisions, Requirements, Protective Provisions and the Deemed Marine Licence.
Flood Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the accuracy of the presented Flood Risk Assessments, including whether there would be any increase in the risk of flooding (including offsite flooding) as a result of the Proposed Development.
Habitats and Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary and permanent impacts on species and habitats, including noise, visual and other disturbance, with particular reference to European and other protected sites and species. Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring, management and compensatory measures and their effectiveness. • The nature conservation impacts associated with the loss of trees and hedgerows.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets and their visual and functional settings, and on buried and marine archaeology.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity, including the settings of protected landscapes. • The effects of temporary and permanent lighting on the landscape and visual amenity. • The extent to which the design of permanent structures should be controlled and secured through the DCO.
Marine Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of submitted information in relation to dredging and disposal of sediment, and the potential need for the designation of a new disposal site. • Accuracy of sediment contaminant data set out in the Environmental Statement. • Risk to herring spawning and the potential need for mitigation measures to be secured through the Deemed Marine Licence.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of construction noise on sensitive receptors along the cable installation route and at construction sites, including residents and community receptors, and wildlife communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of operational noise at the converter station. • Adequacy of the underwater noise assessment.
Onshore Water Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling of contamination risks during construction, and whether there is sufficient information presented to ensure that the risk to the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development is effectively mitigated.
Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Proposed Development complies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Policy Statement EN-1, Overarching National Policy for Energy and National Policy Statement EN-5 Electricity Networks Infrastructure; ○ The Marine Policy Statement September 2011; and ○ Policies of Local Development Plans and the extent to which they are relevant and important.
Scope of the Environment Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of assessment of environmental effects of the alternatives that were considered in the Environmental Statement. • Justification for assumptions made in relation to siting of buildings, cable routing and installation, and in undertaking and reporting the EIA. How assumptions used in the EIA could be secured through the DCO. • Approach to EIA, including the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' and the 'design principles', whether worst-case parameters have been used throughout the EIA, and whether all necessary parameters are captured in the dDCO. • The approach to, and scope of, cumulative and in-combination assessments in the EIA and HRA. • Consideration of indirect effects on the qualifying features of European sites, including any displacement of recreational activities from construction areas to more sensitive land.
Socio-Economic Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the Proposed Development would result in any socio-economic benefits in terms of the national, regional or local economy. • The extent to which the Proposed Development would result in any adverse socio-economic effects on the national or local economy, including disruption of businesses, tourism and events, local maritime and port activities, fisheries and other enterprises. • The effects of the Proposed Development on human health, including consideration of EMF, contamination, air quality, noise and vibration. • The extent to which the Proposed Development would affect the availability and usability of public rights of way, allotments, sports fields and other open spaces. • The temporary impact of construction activities on access to community facilities and residential properties.

Shipping and Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent to which the Proposed Development would impact on navigation, shipping, fisheries, trade, recreational boating and other offshore operations and activities.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The effect of the Proposed Development on traffic flows, delays, volumes and circulation in both the local and wider context.• The effect of the Proposed Development on public transport.• The effect of the Proposed Development on road safety, cyclists and pedestrian amenity.
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of the Proposed Development on protected and other important trees, and the implications of Portsmouth City Council's policy not to subject trees within its guardianship to TPOs.

Draft Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Matters	Due Dates
<p>Preliminary Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday 22 April 2020</p>
<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable <p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1) 	<p>As soon as practicable after the Preliminary Meeting</p>
<p>Deadline 1</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically; • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA; • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH); • Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH); • Notification of wish to attend the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI); • Submission by Interested Parties (IPs) of suggested locations / sites for the ExA to include as part of the ASI including the issues to be observed there, information on whether the site can be accessed on public land and reasoning for each nominated site; • Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI; • Responses to Relevant Representations; • Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities. 	<p>Wednesday 6 May 2020</p>
<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Hearings & ASI to be held during the week commencing 15 June 2020 (if required). 	<p>Monday 18 May 2020</p>

<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA’s Written Questions; • Written Representations (WRs); • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; • Comments on LIR(s); • Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA (see Annex E); • Initial Statement of Commonality for SoCG (see Annex E); • An updated Guide to the Application; • The Compulsory Acquisition Schedule; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO (see Annex E); • Comments on the Applicant’s draft ASI itinerary; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules¹. 	<p>Wednesday 20 May 2020</p>
<p>Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)</p>	<p>Monday 15 June 2020 (18:00)</p>
<p>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)</p> <p>ISH1 into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Development Consent Order. 	<p>Tuesday 16 June 2020 (10:00)</p>
<p>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)</p>	<p>Tuesday 16 June 2020 (14:00)</p>
<p>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)</p> <p>ISH2 into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and Traffic; • Environmental Matters. 	<p>Wednesday 17 June 2020 (10:00)</p>
<p>Accompanied Site Inspection</p>	<p>Thursday 18 June 2020</p>
<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p>	<p>Wednesday 24 June 2020</p>

¹ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written summaries of oral submissions put at any Hearings held during the week commencing 15 June 2020; • Any post Hearing notes requested at the previous Hearings; • Comments on responses to the ExA's Written Questions; • Comments on WRs; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 2; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	
<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required). 	<p>Friday 10 July 2020</p>
<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's FWQ (if published); • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 3; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	<p>Friday 31 July 2020</p>
<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Hearings & ASI to be held during the week commencing 7 September 2020. 	<p>Monday 10 August 2020</p>
<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExA's FWQ (if published); 	<p>Friday 21 August 2020</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 4; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	
<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (if required); • Any Further Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); • Open Floor Hearing 2 (if required); • A further Accompanied Site Inspection (if required). 	<p>Week Commencing 7 September 2020</p>
<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written summaries of oral submissions put at any Hearings held during the week commencing 7 September 2020; • Any post Hearing notes requested at the previous Hearings; • Finalised Statements of Common Ground; • Finalised Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 5; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	<p>Wednesday 16 September 2020</p>
<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required); • The ExA's dDCO (if required); • Any requests for information under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	<p>Thursday 24 September 2020</p>

<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the RIES (if required); • Comments on the ExA's dDCO (if required); • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 6; • An updated Guide to the Application; • Updated Book of Reference; • Updated Statement of Reasons; • Signed and dated s106 Agreement (if required); • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • A finalised Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	<p>Thursday 15 October 2020</p>
<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months.</p>	<p>Thursday 22 October 2020</p>

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the Examination and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project webpage. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet the obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>.

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published at the above location.

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations.

Electronic deposit locations

Local authority	Library/ address	Opening hours
Hampshire County Council	Winchester Discovery Centre Jewry Street Winchester SO23 8SB	Monday: 09:00-19:00 Tuesday: 09:00-19:00 Wednesday: 09:00-19:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: 11:00-15:00
Portsmouth City Council	North End Library Gladys Avenue Northend Portsmouth PO2 9AX	Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-18:00 Wednesday: 09:30-18:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:30 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED
Portsmouth City Council	Cosham Library Spur Road	Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-18:00

	Cosham Portsmouth PO6 3EB	Wednesday: 09:30-17:00 Thursday: 09:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED
Portsmouth City Council	Milton Beddow Library Milton Road Milton Portsmouth PO4 8PR	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 09:30-18:00 Thursday: 09:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED
Portsmouth City Council	Alderman Lacey Library Tangier Road Copnor Portsmouth PO3 6HU	Monday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-18:00 Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-17:00 Friday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED
Hampshire County Council	Waterlooville Library The Precinct Waterlooville PO7 7DT	Monday: 09:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00 Wednesday: 09:00-17:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED
Portsmouth City Council	Central Library Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2DX	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 9:30-18:00 Wednesday: 9:30-18:00 Thursday: 9:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED
Hampshire County Council	Horndean Library 12 Fiveheads Road Horndean PO8 9NW	Monday: 14:00-17:00 Tuesday: CLOSED Wednesday: 10:00-13:00 then 14:00-17:00 Thursday: 14:00-17:00 Friday: 14:00-19:00 Saturday: CLOSED Sunday: CLOSED
Hampshire County Council	Petersfield Library 27 The Square, Petersfield GU32 3HH	Monday: 09:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00

		<p>Wednesday: 09:00-19:00 Thursday: 09:00-17:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
Hampshire County Council	Havant Library Havant Meridian Centre Havant PO9 1UN 0300 555 1387	<p>Monday: 09:30-17:30 Tuesday: 09:30-17:30 Wednesday: 09:30-13:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:30 Friday: 09:30-17:30 Saturday: 09:30-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
Printing costs	Black and white	Colour
Winchester Discovery Centre	Single-sided: A3-10p / A4 - 20p	Single-sided: A4-40p / A3 - 80p
Central Library	Single-sided: A4 - 10p / A3 - 20p	Single-sided: A4 - £1 / A3 - £1.50

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made the following Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the PA2008:

1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex B**, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex C** therefore provides a deadline for submission of SoCGs. This is **Deadline 2** on **20 May 2020**.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. The reasons for the differences and interpretation of the implications of a difference can then be expanded in the evidence.

Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties and submitted by the Applicant.

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the Applicant and:

- Portsmouth City Council
- Winchester City Council
- Hampshire County Council (LPA and Highways separate)
- East Hampshire District Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- Havant Borough Council
- Portsmouth City Council Highway Authority
- Hampshire County Council Highway Authority
- Highways England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
- Natural England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- Marine and Coastguard Agency
- Sport England
- East Solent Coastal Partnership
- Trinity House
- ESP Utilities Group Ltd
- GTC Infrastructure Ltd (GTC Electricity)
- GTC Infrastructure Ltd (GTC Gas)

- National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- Portsmouth Water Ltd
- SGN-Southern Gas Networks PLC
- Southern Water Services Ltd – Sewer
- SSE PLC (Gas)
- SSE PLC (High Voltage)
- SSE PLC (Low Voltage)
- RWE Renewables UK Limited
- National Grid Gas plc
- West Waterlooville Development Ltd / Grainger PLC
- Any other appropriate party.

In addition to the above, the ExA requests a multilateral SoCG to be progressed dealing with the provisions of the draft Development Consent Order. Signatories should include all persons/organisations named in the Order.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by Deadline 2, or in so far as any local authority position represents an officer level view only, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2, with a view to agreeing it by Deadline 3. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination.

The content of SoCGs is necessary to help inform the ExA as to the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings in June 2020, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

2. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations)

The Examination must include a process that provides sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to meet the statutory duties as the competent authority under the Habitats Regulations relating to European protected sites. The ExA notes that the Applicant has submitted matrices which summarise the likely significant effects and the implications for the integrity of the European sites assessed. However, the footnotes for these matrices do not include any references to the location of the supporting evidence. In order to inform the ExA's Report and Recommendation to the Secretary of State, the Applicant is requested to provide revised matrices which include footnotes that cross-refer to the relevant application documents. The Applicant should also ensure that the designated features listed in the matrices match those for which the site has been designated.

Templates for these matrices are available to download from the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Advice-note-10-HRA.pdf>

The date by which the completed matrices must be received from the Applicant will be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting.

3. Local Impact Reports

The ExA requests Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from all host Local Authorities and welcomes LIRs from any other Authorities who may wish to submit one. All LIRs are to be submitted into the Examination no later than by **Deadline 1** on **6 May 2020**.

4. Guide to the Application

The ExA requests that, at each Deadline, the Applicant provides an updated Guide to the Application document to provide a list of the most up-to-date documents before the Examination. A final version must be submitted before the close of the Examination

5. Compulsory Acquisition

The ExA requests that at each deadline (from Deadline 2), the Applicant provides an updated document which provides the most up-to-date information regarding agreements with Affected Persons in respect of Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession. A final version must be submitted by **Deadline 7** on **15 October 2020**.

6. Statement of Commonality for SoCG

The ExA requests that at each deadline (from Deadline 2), the Applicant provides an updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG, setting out the status of each SoCG and the commonality between SoCGs.

7. Schedule of changes to the DCO

The ExA requests that, whenever changes are made to the content of the draft Development Consent Order, the Applicant provides a tabulated schedule of amendments setting out what the changes are and the reasons underpinning them.

8. S35 Direction documents

The ExA requests the Applicant to disclose all documents submitted to and received from the Secretary of State (SoS) in seeking the direction under s35 of PA2008, including the additional information provided in response to the SoS's requests. These should be provided by no later than 2 weeks prior to the Preliminary Meeting.

9. Acceptance of Additional Submissions

Following the acceptance of the application, the Applicant submitted correspondence on 15 November 2019 to the Planning Inspectorate in the form of errata sheets seeking amendments to the application submission. These errata related to misfiled or mislaid correspondence within the Consultation Report (Document 5.1) and its appendices, and to corrections with regard to the referencing of tables and figures within the Environmental Statement. The

ExA has made the procedural decision to accept these amended and updated documents into the application.

Following the close of the deadline for receipt of Relevant Representations on 19 February 2020, late Relevant Representations were received from Mr Ray Willis and Mr Neil Hawkins. In addition, a further three submissions were made by Ms Sally Carter, Mr Martin Lock and Ms Karen Griffiths, but not in the prescribed form. These documents have been accepted for inclusion at the discretion of the ExA, with the authors of these invited to the Preliminary Meeting with the status of 'Other Persons' as defined by PA2008.