



**AQUIND Limited**

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# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Statement of Common Ground Between  
Aquind Limited and National Grid Electricity  
Transmission Plc

Agreed Draft

The Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, Rule 8(1)(e)

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## DOCUMENT

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

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## 1.1. PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1.1.1. A Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') is a written statement produced as part of the application process for an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') and is prepared jointly by the applicant and another party. A SoCG sets out the matters of agreement between both parties, matters where there is not agreement and matters which are under discussion.

1.1.1.2. In this regard paragraph 58 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's guidance entitled "Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent" (26 March 2015) hereafter referred to as DCLG Guidance) describes a SoCG as follows:

*"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence."*

1.1.1.1. The aim of a SoCG is to assist the Examining Authority to manage the examination of an application for a DCO by providing an understanding of the status of matters at hand and allowing the Examining Authority to focus their questioning. The effective use of SoCG is expected to lead to a more efficient examination process.

1.1.1.2. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start or during an Examination and updated as necessary or as requested during an Examination.

## 1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.2.1.1. AQUIND Limited ('the Applicant') submitted an application for the AQUIND Interconnector Order (the 'Order') pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 'PA2008') to the Secretary of State ('SoS') on 14 November 2019 (the 'Application').

1.2.1.2. The Application seeks development consent for those elements of AQUIND Interconnector (the 'Project') located in the UK and the UK Marine Area (the 'Proposed Development').

1.2.1.3. The Project is a new 2,000 MW subsea and underground High Voltage Direct Current ('HVDC') bi-directional electric power transmission link between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France. By linking the British and French electric power grids it will make energy markets more efficient, improve security of supply and enable greater flexibility as power grids evolve to adapt to different sources of renewable energy and changes in demand trends such as the development of electric vehicles. The Project will have the capacity to transmit up to 16,000,000 MWh of electricity per annum, which equates to approximately 5 % and 3 % of the total consumption of the UK and France respectively.

1.2.1.4. The Proposed Development includes:

- HVDC Marine Cables from the boundary of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone to the UK at Eastney in Portsmouth;
- Jointing of the HVDC Marine Cables and HVDC Onshore Cables;
- HVDC Onshore Cables;
- A Converter Station and associated electrical and telecommunications infrastructure;
- High Voltage Alternating Current ('HVAC') Onshore Cables and associated infrastructure connecting the Converter Station to the Great Britain electrical transmission network, the National Grid, at Lovedean Substation; and
- Smaller diameter Fibre Optic Cables to be installed together with the HVDC and HVAC Cables and associated infrastructure.

### **1.3. THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND AND THE ROLE OF NGET**

1.3.1.1. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant in accordance with the DCLG Guidance and precedent examples of SoCG available on the Planning Inspectorate's ('PINS') website and is considered to represent an accurate representation of discussions with NGET at Deadline 1. Although this revision of the SoCG has been subject to discussion between the Parties it is not a mutually agreed draft as NGET will provide further substantive comments following Deadline 1.

1.3.1.2. NGET is interested in the Proposed Development as the owner of plot 1-27, as shown on the Land Plan (Aquind Interconnector Ltd, 2019), which the Applicant is seeking to acquire for Converter Station Option B(ii) and the licenced owner of electricity transmission assets at Lovedean Substation and the HVAC onshore cables which form part of the Proposed Development.

- 1.3.1.3. The Applicant has entered into a connection agreement for the Proposed Development to connect into the National Grid at Lovedean Substation.
- 1.3.1.4. For the purpose of this SoCG the Applicant and NGET will be jointly referred to as the 'Parties'.

## 2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

- 2.1.1.1. The Parties have been engaged in consultation since the inception of the proposed Scheme. Early correspondence dates back to 2014.
- 2.1.1.2. A summary of recent key planning meetings and correspondence between the Parties can be found in the table below.

**Table 2.1 – Record of Engagement Undertaken to Date**

Date	Form of Contact	Summary
20/05/2019	Meeting	High level planning discussion
21/08/2019	Meeting	Discussion of DCO parameters
10/10/2019	Teleconference	General planning including Works Plans, Converter Station parameters, landscaping, and substation connection works.
07/02/2020	Teleconference	Planning, workstreams, connection works, construction traffic, other connection proposals.
19/03/2020	Teleconference	Planning, optioneering including selection of Lovedean.
03/06/2020	Teleconference	Alignment of disciplines, alternatives, protective provisions, Converter Station Options, Land rights, technical specification update, legal matters.
13/10/2020	Teleconference	Meeting to discuss NGET Written Response at Deadline 1 and actions to agree Statement of Common Ground.
16/10/2020	Teleconference	Meeting to plan submissions at Deadline 2 and Deadline 3.



- 2.1.1.3. Note that other meetings where the agenda and discussion relates solely to engineering matters or land rights are not summarised.

# 3. SUMMARY OF TOPICS COVERED BY THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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## 3.1. TOPICS COVERED IN THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

3.1.1.1. The following topics discussed between the Applicant and National Grid are commented on further in this SoCG:

- Development Consent Order
- Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions

3.1.1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, matters not covered in this SoCG have not been discussed between the parties as they have not been raised by the National Grid.

## 4. CURRENT POSITION

### 4.1. DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Table 4.1 - Development Consent Order

Ref.	Description of matter	Current Position	RAG
<b>Development Consent Order</b>			
NGET4.1.1	Grid Connection Works	It has been discussed and agreed that all associated works to connect the Interconnector and Converter Station to Lovedean Substation (including works within the existing Lovedean Substation site) would be included within the DCO for the Proposed Development and those works are provided for within Works No.1 at Schedule 1 to the draft DCO. .	On-going
NGET4.1.2	Converter Station Options	The Parties have engaged in discussions relating to the eastwards shift of the Converter Station (Option B(ii)) (Aquind Interconnector Ltd, 2019) onto NGET land. It is agreed that NGET has no objection to the principle of this micro-siting subject to completion of the associated land agreement (pending).	On-going
NGET4.1.3	Landscaping at Lovedean Substation	<p>The parties have discussed the implications of the Proposed Development on the landscaping associated with the existing Lovedean substation (Aquind Interconnector Ltd, 2019).</p> <p>It is accepted that Converter Station Option B(ii) would result in a loss of existing mitigation planting at the Lovedean substation.</p> <p>It is considered that the Converter Station and landscaping proposed in connection with it would be appropriate with regards to continued screening of the existing Lovedean substation.</p> <p>A plan identifying the indicative landscape proposals in connection with Option B(ii) for the Converter Station has been provided to NGET for consideration.</p>	On-going
NGET4.1.4	AC cables and connection bays	<p>The principle of the routing of the AC cables from the Converter Station to Lovedean substation has been agreed, connecting at two connection bays within the Lovedean substation.</p> <p>It is agreed that NGET will build, own and operate the AC connection bays and the 400kV AC cables from the sealing end in the substation to the sealing end in the Converter Station, to be completed via a transfer of the benefit of part of the Order. It is on this basis that Article 7 (7)(b) of the draft DCO (APP-019) provides for the benefit of the Order in so far as it relates to Work No. 1 to be able to be transferred to National Grid.</p>	Agreed
NGET4.1.5	Work Order	Only Work No. 1 – substation connection works, and Work No. 2 – works to construct the Converter Station and associated equipment (covering the AC cables) as described at Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (APP-019) are relevant to NGET. It is agreed that other Works (included within the draft DCO) are not the subject of this Statement of Common Ground.	Agreed

## 4.2. LAND AND PROPERTY AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS

Table 4.2 - Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions

Ref.	Description of matter	Current Position	RAG
<b>Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions</b>			
NGET4.2.1	Land Agreements	Discussions are ongoing between the Applicant and NGET on completion of the Heads of Terms and associated land agreements.	On-gong
NGET4.2.2	Protective Provisions	The parties are currently discussing the appropriate form of protective provisions required. Whilst those discussions are ongoing, it is anticipated that a form of protective provisions acceptable to both parties will be agreed prior to the end of the examination.	On-going

## 5. SIGNATURES

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Ref.	National Grid	Aquind (the Applicant)
Signature		
Printed Name		
Title		
On behalf of	National Grid	Aquind Limited
Date		

## REFERENCES

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- Aquind Interconnector Ltd. (2019, December 12). *2.2 Land Plans*. Retrieved from National Infrastructure Planning: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000461-2.2%20Land%20Plans.pdf>
- Aquind Interconnector Ltd. (2019, December 12). *2.6 Converter Station and Telecommunications Buildings Parameter Plans*. Retrieved from National Infrastructure Planning: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000465-2.6%20Converter%20Station%20and%20Telecommunications%20Buildings%20Parameter%20Plans.pdf>
- Aquind Interconnector Ltd. (2019, December 12). *6.2.15.48 Environmental Statement - Volume 2 - Figure 15.48 Indicative Landscape Mitigation Plan Option B(i) (north)*. Retrieved from National Infrastructure Planning: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000734-6.2.15.48%20ES%20-%20Vol%202%20-%20Figure%2015.48%20Indicative%20Landscape%20Mitigation%20Plan%20Option%20B\(i\)%20\(north\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000734-6.2.15.48%20ES%20-%20Vol%202%20-%20Figure%2015.48%20Indicative%20Landscape%20Mitigation%20Plan%20Option%20B(i)%20(north).pdf)

