

## **Application by Aquind Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the Aquind Interconnector**

### **Response to Deadline 5 submitted on behalf of Network Rail Infrastructure Limited**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN020022**  
**Reference Number: 20025158**

- 1.1 Network Rail has previously reserved its position to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1 into the draft Development Consent Order on 9 December 2020. Network Rail does not consider it necessary to speak at that hearing session, on the basis that it has set out its position in its various written submissions.
- 1.2 However, the Examining Authority are asked to note that clearance is still pending. As detailed in Network Rail's written representations, clearance is a two stage process by which Network Rail's technical and asset protection engineers review a proposal before determining whether, having regard to the impact on the railway, clearance can be granted for a proposal to proceed. Until the outcome of the clearance process is known Network Rail is unable to comment fully on the impact of the proposals on its operational railway. Network Rail is considering what further information it requires and will be liaising directly with the applicant so that the clearance process can be progressed.
- 1.3 Clearance may be refused where proposals have an unacceptable impact on the safety and/or operation of the railway. In the event that clearance were to be refused Network Rail would submit further information to the Examining Authority setting out in detail its concerns about the proposals.