
National Infrastructure Planning
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For the attention of Andrew Mahon

Dear Sir,

Request for further information for an application by Aquind Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Aquind Interconnector Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17.

I'm writing today in relation to The Planning Inspectorate's letter dated 27th October 2020 regarding Aquind Limited's application for a Development Consent Order. In the letter, there was a question regarding National Grid Electricity Systems Operators Limited's scope of activities in relation to the Feasibility Study and subsequent Connections and Infrastructure Options Note (CION).

It is open for parties who are considering connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) to ask for a feasibility study prior to making their connection application. This will help inform applicants of the possible connection terms of their electrical impact/requirements at the point in time when the study is undertaken. With regards to Aquind Interconnector, a feasibility study was commissioned in December 2014 and completed in 2015. This feasibility study assessed the effect of the connection into the GB transmission system in the area being considered by Aquind and the cost benefit analysis of various connection options. The output of this feasibility study was fed into the subsequent CION process.

As part of the connection offer process, interconnector applications will undergo a process referred to as a CION. The CION process is a collaborative process between the operator of the NETS, the owner of the Transmission System (to which the connection is made) any other transmission owner whose transmission system is likely to be affected, and the Interconnector developer (in this instance Aquind).

At the time of this CION process the parties were National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) in its roles as both the system operator and the owner of the transmission system in England and Wales. The role of system operator was separated out from NGET in April 2019 to National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO).

The CION process is designed to identify the most economic and efficient point for the connection between the transmission system and the developer's system. This assessment considers certain qualitative factors such as environmental impacts, local disruption, and consenting. The aforementioned are considered; where possible at this early stage of the connection process in a general way. The environmental, disruption, and consenting information is typically provided by the developer and the relevant Transmission Owner.

Contributing factors to the CION were discussed between NGESO, NGET, and Aquind, this included the South Downs designation as a National Park. The CION process identified the preferred option as being a connection to the existing Lovedean substation. Among the other environmental considerations taken into account in reaching this conclusion are:

- Connection to any of the shortlisted options triggered similar network-wide reinforcement works. However, it was identified that a connection to Lovedean substation required less network reinforcements.
- The forecast connection date at Lovedean substation is 2 years earlier than the forecast connection date for at Bramley substation; the next preferred option.
- The Lovedean connection point is the nearest to the identified landfall locations, resulting in shorter onshore cable routes and consequently less overall disruption to locals and environments.
- The Lovedean Substation is located south of the National Park, hence avoiding the need to pass through it, other options may have required a connection through the National Park.

We trust that this addresses The Planning Inspectorates questions and allows them to continue with the Examination for the Development Consent Order.

If you have any further questions or queries in the please do not hesitate to contact myself or *Alex Curtis* on alex.curtis@nationagrideso.com or [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

JAMES GREENHALGH
HEAD OF ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS