



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.1.1.1. This document has been prepared in order to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the position on the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and relevant statutory consultees and other parties in relation to the AQUIND Interconnector project.

1.1.1.2. The Rule 6 Letter dated 3 July 2020 [PD-010] requires the submission of SoCGs requested by the ExA and a Statement of Commonality for SoCG at Deadline 1 (which was duly submitted on 6 October 2020) with updates at each subsequent deadline up to the submission of finalised SoCGs at Deadline 8 on 1 March 2021.

1.1.1.3. The original (now superseded) Rule 6 Letter dated 5 March 2020 [PD-005] stated that:

“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”

1.1.1.4. The 5 March letter sets out the SoCGs requested by the ExA (as listed in Section 2 of this report).

1.1.1.5. The positions of the parties as recorded within the majority of the SoCGs continue to develop over the course of the Examination period. This report provides a summary of the position reached on each of the SoCGs at Deadline 6 (23 December 2020). The report also identifies where there are matters that are common to multiple stakeholders.

1.2. STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

1.2.1.1. The remainder of this report is as follows:

- Section 2 explains the purpose and structure of each SoCG document and provides a list of SoCGs prepared.
- Section 3 sets out the status of each SoCG at Deadline 6.

- Section 4 identifies where commonality exists between SoCGs with different parties and summarises the principle outstanding matters that are subject to further ongoing discussions.

2. STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

2.1. STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 2.1.1.1. The purpose and possible content of SoCGs is set out in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government’s guidance entitled “Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent” (26 March 2015). Paragraph 58 of that guidance explains the basic function of SoCGs:
- “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.”*
- 2.1.1.2. Each of the individual SoCGs includes a) an introduction to the SoCG and stakeholder, b) a record of the consultation undertaken to date c) a summary of the topics covered by the SoCG, d) tables setting out the matters relevant to that stakeholder and their status (i.e. agreed, ongoing or not agreed) and e) sign off sheet.
- 2.1.1.3. The onshore SoCGs and marine SoCGs adopt a slightly different format for the tables. The onshore SoCGs include a single table with a RAG column for the status of each matter and the marine SoCGs include different tables for agreed, ongoing and not agreed matters. The result is ultimately the same.
- 2.1.1.4. Three final signed SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 1 namely with Eastleigh Borough Council, the Environment Agency (on marine matters) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The latter has been withdrawn and resubmitted in draft at Deadline 6 in order to accommodate further advice from the MCA submitted at Deadline 4 (REP4-039 and REP4-040).
- 2.1.1.5. The remaining SoCGs include matters that are outstanding and subject to further discussion between AQUIND and that stakeholder. The drafts submitted at Deadline 1 either represented mutually agreed draft documents or have been prepared by the Applicant and are considered to accurately reflect the positions of the parties at that point in time.
- 2.1.1.6. At Deadline 2, only one updated SoCG was submitted, namely with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). At Deadline 3, an updated SoCG for South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) was submitted. These provided updates to discussions held with those stakeholders at that time.

- 2.1.1.7. At Deadline 4, the Applicant sought to provide the ExA with a suite of SoCGs to provide a comprehensive update on the progress of discussions. Updated draft SoCGs were therefore submitted for all stakeholders except the SDNPA and Southern Gas Networks PLC (SGN).
- 2.1.1.8. Further updated drafts were issued at Deadline 5 for Hampshire County Council (HCC) East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), SDNPA, Natural England (onshore) and Historic England.
- 2.1.1.9. At Deadline 6 updated drafts are submitted for the following parties:
- Portsmouth City Council (PCC);
 - Natural England (onshore);
 - Natural England (marine) / JNCC;
 - Historic England;
 - Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
 - Sport England;
 - NGET;
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).
- 2.1.1.10. Where updates have not been submitted at Deadline 6, discussions between the parties are either subject to further discussions in order to reach agreed positions or agreed positions have been reached on all matters (including for Portsmouth Water and the Environment Agency onshore) and a finalised SoCG will be issued at Deadline 7 following final review and governance.
- 2.1.1.11. Further details on the matters that remain ongoing for each stakeholder are set out at Section 4.2.

2.2. LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 2.2.1.1. The original Rule 6 letter [PD-005] provided a list of SoCGs requested by the Planning Inspectorate to be prepared between the Applicant and relevant stakeholders. Table 2.1 provides a list of SoCGs that are currently being progressed. It also identifies where parties on the list have either progressed combined SoCGs with other parties or where a SoCG was requested but may not be necessary.
- 2.2.1.2. Where an SoCG party was identified in the 5 March letter but an SoCG is not being progressed this is explained in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 - List of SoCGs

SoCG party as listed in the original Rule 6 letter	Position at 30 November 2020 (Deadline 5)	Doc reference
Portsmouth City Council	Single SoCG being progressed with Portsmouth City Council in all relevant capacities, and which also covers matters on behalf of East Coast Solent Partnership.	7.5.3
Winchester City Council	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.4
Hampshire County Council (LPA and Highways separate)	Single SoCG being progressed with Hampshire County Council in all relevant capacities (Hampshire County Council are not an LPA).	7.5.5
East Hampshire District Council	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.6
Eastleigh Borough Council	Final signed SoCG submitted at Deadline 1.	7.5.9
South Downs National Park Authority	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.7
Havant Borough Council	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.8
Portsmouth City Council Highway Authority	Single SoCG being progressed with Portsmouth City Council in all relevant capacities.	7.5.3
Hampshire County Council Highway Authority	Single SoCG being progressed with Hampshire County Council in all relevant capacities.	7.5.5
Highways England	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.10

SoCG party as listed in the original Rule 6 letter	Position at 30 November 2020 (Deadline 5)	Doc reference
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Discussions ongoing though considered SoCG likely to be unnecessary, with position to be confirmed via correspondence in due course.	n/a
Natural England	Separate SoCGs being progressed with Natural England in relation to onshore and marine matters. The Natural England SoCG relating to marine matters is a joint SoCG with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.	7.5.11 / 7.5.12
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Joint SoCG being progressed with Natural England (marine).	7.5.12
Historic England	SoCG being progressed (which covers both onshore and marine matters).	7.5.13
Environment Agency	Separate SoCGs being progressed with Environment Agency for onshore and marine matters. Final signed SoCG for marine matters submitted at Deadline 1.	7.5.14/ 7.5.15
Marine Management Organisation	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.16
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Final signed SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 though withdrawn and updated draft issued at Deadline 6.	7.5.17
Sport England	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.18
East Solent Coastal Partnership	Joint SoCG being progressed (with Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth City Council Highway Authority)	7.5.3
Trinity House	SoCG not being progressed. Email confirmation from Trinity House on 21 April that SoCG not necessary.	n/a
ESP Utilities Group Ltd	No SoCG currently being progressed. Not likely to be required subject to agreeing protective provisions. Discussions between the parties ongoing though consider no impediment to protective provisions being agreed.	n/a
GTC Infrastructure Ltd (GTC Electricity)	No SoCG currently being progressed. Not likely to be required subject to agreeing protective provisions. Discussions between the parties ongoing though consider no impediment to protective provisions being agreed.	n/a
GTC Infrastructure Ltd (GTC Gas)		

SoCG party as listed in the original Rule 6 letter	Position at 30 November 2020 (Deadline 5)	Doc reference
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.19
Portsmouth Water Ltd	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.20
Southern Gas Networks PLC	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.22
Southern Water Services Ltd – Sewer	No SoCG currently being progressed. Not likely to be required subject to agreeing protective provisions. Discussions between the parties ongoing but consider no impediment to protective provisions being agreed.	n/a
SSE PLC (Gas)	Not believed to be any SSE gas assets affected and in ongoing discussions with SSE to confirm.	n/a
SSE PLC (High Voltage)	No SoCG currently being progressed. Not likely to be required subject to agreeing protective provisions. Discussions between the parties ongoing but consider no impediment to protective provisions being agreed.	n/a
SSE PLC (Low Voltage)	No SoCG currently being progressed. Not likely to be required subject to agreeing protective provisions. Discussions between the parties ongoing but consider no impediment to protective provisions being agreed.	n/a
RWE Renewables UK Limited	SoCG not being progressed. Email confirmation received from RWE that SoCG not required.	n/a
National Grid Gas plc	No National Grid Gas assets affected. This is therefore not relevant.	n/a
West Waterlooville Development Ltd / Grainger PLC	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.21

2.2.1.5. The Applicant is also progressing discussions with other utilities operators not listed on the original Rule 6 letter (including CityFiber Holdings Ltd, Openreach, Virgin Media and Vodafone) to agree positions on protective provisions in relation to their assets.

3. STATUS OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

3.1. SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

3.1.1.1. This section provides an update of the current status of each SoCG at each examination deadline, up to the submission of finalised SoCGs by no later than Deadline 8. Where SoCGs are finalised sooner they will be signed and submitted at the earliest possible deadline.

3.1.1.2. Table 3.1 identifies the high-level status of each of the SoCGs currently being progressed (and tracks the status at each deadline). The status of each SoCG have been categorised as follows:

- **Stakeholder discussions** – where the Applicant and the party are in discussions and an SoCG is proposed though no SoCG currently drafted¹.
- **SoCG in draft** – where a SoCG has been drafted (with matters recorded as agreed, ongoing and not agreed) and subject to further discussions to resolve ‘ongoing items.
- **Final signed SoCG** – where all matters have been progressed as either agreed or not agreed positions (or potentially where ongoing matters will not be concluded during the examination).

3.1.1.3. Further detail is provided where useful to provide additional context to the high level status. Some draft SoCGs have, for example, been confirmed as mutually agreed drafts prepared by both parties to reflect the status of discussions. Others have been drafted by the Applicant to seek to accurately reflect the matters discussed but have either not received specific comment by the other party or have not been ratified as a mutually agreed draft SoCG. Where this is the case, these SoCG have been submitted to provide an update on discussions with the caveat that further discussions are planned to resolve any outstanding issues.

¹ Note that at Deadline 6 this status does not apply to any stakeholders. All are either in discussions but no SoCG proposed, SoCG in draft or final signed SoCGs prepared.

Table 3.1 - Status of SoCGs at Deadline 4

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
7.5.3	Portsmouth City Council / East Coast Solent Partnership	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Latest draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND discussed at meeting held with PCC on 4 August 2020 (following issue of two previous drafts by AQUIND in March and July 2020). No formal comments on draft SoCG provided by PCC though the Applicant considers the draft to represent an accurate reflection of the status of matters discussed to date.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Focus on reviewing the Local Impact Report and Written Questions. Further schedule of meetings to be agreed between the Parties with the aim of submitting an updated draft of SoCG at Deadline 3.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3, but further monthly meetings to discuss topics including the Statement of Common Ground are in progress with one held on 26 October. Potential updated SoCG at Deadline 4.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated draft issued at Deadline 4. An updated draft SoCG was prepared by the Applicant which is considered to represent an accurate reflection of discussion up to Deadline 4. Whilst it has not received direct input from PCC this draft was issued to PCC by the Applicant (on 16 November 2020) with the aim of achieving a further progressed, mutually agreed, draft at Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>An updated draft will be issued following Deadline 5, to a) reflect feedback to be provided by PCC on the previous draft and b) seek to consolidate the SoCG to focus on the key areas of discussion. This draft will then be agreed between the Parties and submitted at Deadline 6 or beforehand at the discretion of the ExA.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated draft SoCGs are submitted at Deadline 6 by both the Applicant and PCC following various video calls between the parties since Deadline 5. The intention is for these to be consolidated for further submission.</p> <p>Latest Draft = the separate updated draft SoCGs submitted at Deadline 6</p>
7.5.4	Winchester City Council	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>A series of meetings held between the Applicant and WCC with a draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND based on list of key issues prepared by WCC. The draft SoCG has been subject to review an input by WCC (most recently on 1 October 2020) and confirmed as mutually agreed Deadline 1 draft (email correspondence 2 October 2020).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. A series of meetings being scheduled between the Applicant and WCC later in October / November - in relation to design, carbon and transport and the Draft DCO - with updated versions of the SoCG to be submitted at Deadlines 3 and/or 4</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Meetings have been held regarding design and air quality, with further meetings scheduled for November. Likely to submit an updated SoCG at Deadline 4.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated draft issued at Deadline 4 which has been mutually agreed by the Parties for submission (confirmed by email exchange 16 November). This provides an update in relation to air quality and noise matters only. Further meetings have been held in relation to transport, carbon, cable installation and the draft DCO and a further updated SoCG will be</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>An updated draft will be issued following Deadline 5. Extensive discussions between the Parties have been progressed between Deadline 4 and Deadline 5 (including on ecology, transport, landscape and heritage). This included a design meeting on 25 November so additional time is being taken to update the SoCG to reflect the matters</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No updated draft at Deadline 6. Whilst it was the intention to issue an updated draft after Deadline 5, discussions are ongoing between the parties in order to seek to agree positions on the various ongoing matters of discussion. The Applicant has issued proposed actions to WCC in order to move each of these ongoing matters forward.</p>

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
				following these discussions.		submitted at Deadline 5 capturing discussions in relation to these topics and all other ongoing matters.	discussed. Submission of an updated draft will be submitted shortly after Deadline 5 (at the discretion of the ExA).	Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-010]
7.5.5	Hampshire County Council	Onshore	SoCG in draft An initial draft SoCG has been issued and discussed in early discussions prior to the completion of HCC's Local Impact Report. Minor comments from HCC received on 1 October 2020 though the SoCG will be updated further following Deadline 1 to reflect ongoing discussions (including HCC review of the supplementary Transport Assessment).	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 though discussions between the Parties progressing (including a meeting held on 15 th October) with the intention to progress a revised draft for Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Meetings have been held to discuss the SoCG and surface water flooding/infiltration rates. SoCG to be updated and submitted following further meetings scheduled for early November to discuss the Supplementary TA, FTMS and CTMP.	SoCG in draft Updated draft issued at Deadline 4 following meetings in relation to flood risk, the CTMP and FTMS and on protective provisions. Further meetings are scheduled for the latter part of November for Public Rights of Way, with an additional update expected at Deadline 5 or 6.	SoCG in draft An mutually agreed updated draft (agreed between the Parties on 30 th Nov) is issued at Deadline 5 to reflect further discussions in relation to highways, arboriculture, landscaping, infiltration, the Supplementary Transport Assessment, the FTMS and FCTMP. A further update is likely to be submitted at Deadline 6 to report on further progress on outstanding matters.	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide an update on further discussions since Deadline 5. A meeting between the parties was held on 17 December in relation to the effects of the scheme on the Public Right of Way network . Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission
7.5.6	East Hampshire District Council	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings have been held between the Applicant and EHDC with a draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and subject to review an input by EHDC. Confirmed as mutually agreed Deadline 1 draft (via email correspondence 2 October 2020).	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Further discussions on ongoing matters to be convened where necessary with updates to the SoCG to reflect progress at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Joint meeting with WCC regarding air quality held and a meeting to discuss written representations and the outstanding points in the SOCG is scheduled for early November. Following this an updated SoCG will likely be submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 which was mutually agreed by the Parties for submission (confirmed by email exchange 11-13 November 2020). This update reflects discussions in relation to the outstanding matters in the SoCG and specifically in	SoCG in draft A mutually agreed updated draft SoCG submitted (agreed between the Parties on 26 th Nov) to reflect agreement being reached for matters in relation to the draft DCO. An updated draft finalising the last outstanding matter is anticipated at Deadline 6.	SoCG in draft No update issued at Deadline 6. There remains only a single outstanding matter between the parties (namely EHDC 4.10.9). Latest Draft = Deadline 5 submission [REP5-025]

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
						relation to air quality and noise.		
7.5.7	South Downs National Park Authority	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>A series of meetings held between the Applicant and SDNPA with a draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and subject to review an input by SDNPA. Confirmed as mutually agreed Deadline 1 draft following discussions on 2 October 2020).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. SDNPA will be involved in further meetings relating to design following Deadline 2 with updates to the SoCG to reflect progress at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated draft submitted at Deadline 3 following a meeting on 30 October, to reflect discussions had in relation to the draft DCO, planning obligations and outstanding points in the SoCG. Further engagement organised for November.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the draft submitted at Deadline 3 issued at Deadline 4 though a meeting is scheduled between the parties for later in November to discuss the outstanding matters in the SoCG and on planning obligations.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>A mutually agreed updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5 (as confirmed by email on 30th Nov) to reflect progress in relation to landscape and visual amenity matters, the OOCEMP and the draft DCO. Additional matters are still outstanding, so an updated draft is also anticipated at Deadline 6.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update issued at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on outstanding matters.</p> <p>Latest Draft = Deadline 5 submission [REP5-026]</p>
7.5.8	Havant Borough Council	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>A series of meetings held between the Applicant and HBC with draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and subject to review an input by HBC. Confirmed as mutually agreed Deadline 1 draft (via email 1 October 2020).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update on the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 though discussions progressing (including meeting in relation to noise issues was held on 14th October) with further meetings proposed following Deadline 2. Intention to progress a revised draft for Deadline 3.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Joint meeting with WCC regarding air quality has occurred though SoCG will be updated following a further meeting to discuss written representations and the outstanding points in the SOCG is scheduled for early November.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 which has been mutually agreed by the Parties for submission (confirmed by email exchange 12 November 2020). This reflects continued progress on topics discussed between the Parties. Additional engagement to follow Deadline 4 on outstanding matters (which include the assessment of alternatives and the draft DCO)</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the draft SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5. Progression in relation to the draft DCO and assessment of alternatives and these matters have largely been resolved. An updated draft finalising the last outstanding matter is anticipated at Deadline 6.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update issued at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on outstanding matters.</p> <p>Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-013]</p>

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
7.5.9	Eastleigh Borough Council	Onshore	Final Signed SoCG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A Signed SoCG submitted at Deadline 1
7.5.10	Highways England	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Highways England with draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and subject to review an input by Highways England including comments on 2 October 2020.	SoCG in draft No update on the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Discussions ongoing between the Parties (including a meeting on 8 th October) with relevant updates to be provided at Deadlines 3 and 4.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Progress is being made but further meetings in relation to protective provisions and traffic flows need to occur prior to updating the SoCG. Agreed with HE that an updated draft will be submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. A meeting was held on 11th November in relation to outstanding geotechnical matters with agreement that additional material will be issued by the Applicant at end of November. HE intend to prepare a submission in related to Revision 2 of the FTMS (Rev 002-REP1-068) and supplementary Transport Assessment (REP1-142) which has also been reflected in the SoCG.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions are reliant on the ongoing geotechnical work which is to be submitted to Highways England at Deadline 5. Discussions will follow Highways England's review of this material, with a view to provide an updated draft at Deadline 6.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties following hearings. Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-014]
7.5.11	Natural England (Onshore)	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Natural England in relation to onshore matters with a draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND discussed at meeting on 5 August 2020. Comments on draft SoCG provided by Natural England in September and most	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2, but discussions are being progressed between the parties with updates provided to reflect the position at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Discussions are continuing to progress in relation to outstanding matters regarding Denmead Meadows, Milton Common and the biodiversity metric with further material being produced. Aim of submitting an updated SoCG draft at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 (issued as a mutually agreed revision as confirmed by email exchange on 16 November) to reflect progress in relation to mitigation, Denmead Meadows and Milton Common following a meeting held on 10 th	SoCG in draft An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5 to reflect progression in matters primarily relating to the HRA and the draft DCO. An updated draft addressing comments that Natural England have inserted will be provided for Deadline 6.	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
			recently on 2 October 2020.			November. Outstanding issues to be progressed further for Deadline 5.		
7.5.12	Natural England (Marine) / Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Marine	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Natural England (in relation to marine matters) and JNCC with a draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND Draft reflects matters discussed though does not include comment on the draft SoCG by Natural England.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Natural England and JNCC are reviewing the Deadline 1 SoCG before providing further comments. Potential updated SoCG to then be submitted at Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Natural England and JNCC are continuing to review the draft SoCG prior to agreeing an updated draft – for potential submission at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4 following feedback received from Natural England and JNCC. Matters discussed with the JNCC have been resolved. Further discussion on matters outstanding with Natural England (limited number of issues) subject to further discussion following Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft No update to the draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5. Outstanding matters are partially reliant on discussion at hearings in December and on feedback given by the MMO.	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 which has been signed by JNCC and to reflect ongoing position between the Applicant and Natural England. Subject to Natural England review of this draft all matters either now ‘agreed’ or ‘not agreed’ and therefore no matters subject to further discussions. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.
7.5.13	Historic England	Onshore / Marine	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Historic England (separately for onshore and marine matters) with draft joint SoCG prepared by AQUIND Both parties have agreed that the draft submitted at Deadline 1 represents an accurate reflection of discussions though Historic England will provide further comment in due course.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. The key outstanding issues (in relation to Fort Cumberland) are subject to either review of material submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1 which HE will review or outstanding marine matters that are subject of further	SoCG in draft Further discussions have been held (meeting on 26 October) in relation to the only outstanding onshore issue (Fort Cumberland impact). No further updates in relation to marine matters. An updated SoCG to be issued to Historic England alongside meeting minutes to allow for further discussion and an updated	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4 which reflected the status of discussions – though comments received by Historic England have been received which due to timing have not been included in the Deadline 4 draft. A further iteration will therefore be issued at Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft Updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 5 to consolidate changes made by Historic England to the SoCG document. Discussion of matters will continue after Deadline 5, where feedback on marine archaeology issues is anticipated.	SoCG in draft An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 6 to reflect further feedback provided by Historic England following Deadline 5. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
				discussion following Deadline 2. Updates will be provided to reflect the position at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.	SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 4.	This Deadline 4 draft reflects further discussions have taken place in relation to the only outstanding onshore issue (in relation to the setting of Fort Cumberland) and the SoCG has been updated to reflect this. Marine matters have also been subject to additional discussion and will be updated at Deadline 5.		
7.5.14	Environment Agency	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Environment Agency (in relation to onshore matters) with latest meeting on 11 September 2020. Draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and issued to EA on 28 September 2020. Initial comments received from Environment Agency on 2 October reflected in Deadline 1 draft. Will be subject to further technical review by Environment Agency following Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Further discussions are being arranged to address outstanding matters, with a potential meeting on 10 November. Next iteration of the SoCG therefore likely to be submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Status as at Deadline 2 – further discussions progressing in early November, prior to updating the SoCG for Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4. A meeting was held with between the Applicant, EA and Portsmouth Water in relation to the General Method Statement, and SoCG updated by the Applicant to reflect these discussions.	SoCG in draft No update is submitted at Deadline 5, as the results of testing for groundwater conditions are awaited. Feedback is anticipated from the EA in other areas including the draft DCO and Generic Method Statement. An update is expected at Deadline 6 to reflect progress made following Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft Positive discussions have progressed between the parties and agreed positions reached on all matters. Updated SoCG to follow Deadline 6 to allow for final review and governance. Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-018]
7.5.15	Environment Agency	Marine	Final Signed SoCG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A Signed SoCG submitted at Deadline 1

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
7.5.16	Marine Management Organisation	Marine	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and MMO and comments provided on early draft SoCG. Amended SoCG issued by AQUIND on 23 September. This is the draft submitted at Deadline 1 and represents an accurate reflection of discussions though does not include further comment from MMO.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. MMO will provide further comments on the Deadline 1 draft of the SoCG which the Applicant will review and discuss further with the intention of submitting a further draft at Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft Feedback has been received from the MMO on outstanding items, and the Applicant is reviewing these. SoCG to be sent to MMO in early November for additional review, with an updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. The Applicant has prepared this updated draft in response to feedback from the MMO and the Applicant's comments have been received by the MMO. A further meeting is scheduled for 19 th November to progress the SoCG in advance of Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft No update is submitted at Deadline 5. Outstanding matters primarily relate to arbitration and Deemed Marine Licence conditions which will be discussed at hearings following Deadline 5. An updated draft to reflect progression will likely be submitted at Deadline 6.	SoCG in draft An updated SoCG issued at Deadline 6 to reflect recent discussions between the parties. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.
7.5.17	Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Marine	Final Signed SoCG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG in draft Signed SoCG issued at Deadline 1 withdrawn and draft reissued at Deadline 6 in order to accommodate further advice from the MCA submitted at Deadline 4. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.
7.5.18	Sport England	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Sport England with draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND issued to Sport England on 29 September for further discussion and comment following Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Discussions are being progressed and updates will be provided to reflect the position at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 3. Progress is being made in relation to outstanding items. Updated draft SoCG likely to be submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 prepared by the Applicant. An updated Framework Management Plan for Recreational Impacts (Document reference 7.8.1.13) was also	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5. Feedback is awaited from Sport England in relation to the updated FMP for Recreational Impacts. Following the receipt of comments, an updated draft SoCG will	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
						submitted at Deadline 4 which is reflected in the updated SoCG.	be submitted. This may be at Deadline 6.	
7.5.19	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	Onshore	SoCG in draft Various discussions progressed between the Applicant and with NGET during 2019/2020. Draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND issued to NGET on 1 October 2020 and subsequent correspondence. Further substantive comment from NGET to be provided post Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 following further discussions with NGET on 16 th October.	SoCG in draft Discussions between the Applicant and NGET have progressed further in relation to the outstanding matters and will be reflected in an updated SoCG at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. Meeting between the Parties held on 12 th November to progress landscape and protected provisions items. Updated draft submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect this.	SoCG in draft NGET are reviewing additional material submitted to them by the Applicant in relation to the scope of assessment within the ES. Once this material has been reviewed and feedback provided, an updated draft SoCG will be submitted (potentially at Deadline 6).	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5. Latest Draft = Deadline 6 submission.
7.5.20	Portsmouth Water Ltd	Onshore	SoCG in draft A series of meetings held between the Applicant and Portsmouth Water most recently on 11 September 2020. Draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND issued to Portsmouth Water 23 September 2020 which Portsmouth Water provided comments on 5 October prior to Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Further discussions scheduled to address outstanding matters. Next iteration of the SoCG likely to be submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft As with Environmental Agency (onshore) above – discussions are due to progress in early November. Aim to submit an updated draft SoCG at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Updated SoCG submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4. As with Environmental Agency (onshore) above – a meeting has held in relation to the General Method Statement, and SoCG updated by the Applicant to reflect this.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5. As with the EA above, the results of testing for groundwater conditions are awaited. Feedback is anticipated from PW in other areas including the draft DCO and Generic Method Statement. An update is expected at Deadline 6 to reflect progress made following Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft Positive discussions have progressed between the parties and agreed positions reached on all matters. Updated SoCG to follow Deadline 6 to allow for final review and governance. Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-022]

Doc ref.	Party	Onshore / marine	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6
7.5.21	West Waterlooville Development Ltd / Grainger PLC	Onshore	SoCG in draft Discussions progressed with Grainger and draft SoCG prepared by AQUIND and subject to subsequent discussion and comment by Grainger and accurately reflects the position at Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 though matters largely agreed between the Parties. Updated SoCG to be submitted at Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft Previous feedback indicated conclusion of discussions but further meeting regarding Heads of Terms requested by Grainger, due to happen in early November. Potential updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 4.	SoCG in draft Mutually agreed updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. Further meeting held on 9 th November between the parties to address outstanding items in SoCG. Heads of Terms to be agreed by the end of November, with a potential signed SoCG at Deadline 5 or 6.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 5. Heads of Terms are close to being finalised and a final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 6 to demonstrate that all matters have been agreed.	SoCG in draft No update submitted at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on single outstanding matter (Grainger 4.1.1). Latest Draft = Deadline 4 submission [REP4-023].
7.5.22	Southern Gas Networks PLC	Onshore	SoCG in draft Discussions progressed with SGN and draft SoCG recently prepared by AQUIND. Both parties have agreed that the draft submitted at Deadline 1 represents an accurate reflection of discussions to date. SGN to provide additional comment in further discussions following Deadline 1.	SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 though discussions ongoing between the Parties (including a meeting on 9 October) with an aim to submit an updated draft at Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft A meeting was held in October to discuss HDD locations, with a further meeting organised for early November. Discussions are still ongoing regarding protective provisions and so a potential updated draft SoCG may be submitted at Deadline 4 or 5.	SoCG in draft No update to the draft SoCG. Discussions regarding protective provisions have occurred but matters are still to be agreed. An updated draft SoCG is anticipated at Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft Discussions around protective provisions have now concluded, and a legal agreement is being finalised. A final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 6 to demonstrate that all matters have been agreed.	SoCG in draft No update at Deadline 6 pending executed engrossments. Latest Draft = Deadline 1 submission [REP1-116].

4. COMMONALITY

4.1. SUMMARY

4.1.1.1. This section of the report provides a broad summary of the topics covered in the twenty SoCGs (draft or finalised) submitted at Deadline 1 (as updated in the case the South Downs National Park Authority at Deadline 3 and all other parties at Deadline 4) and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters being discussed between the Applicant and the various parties.

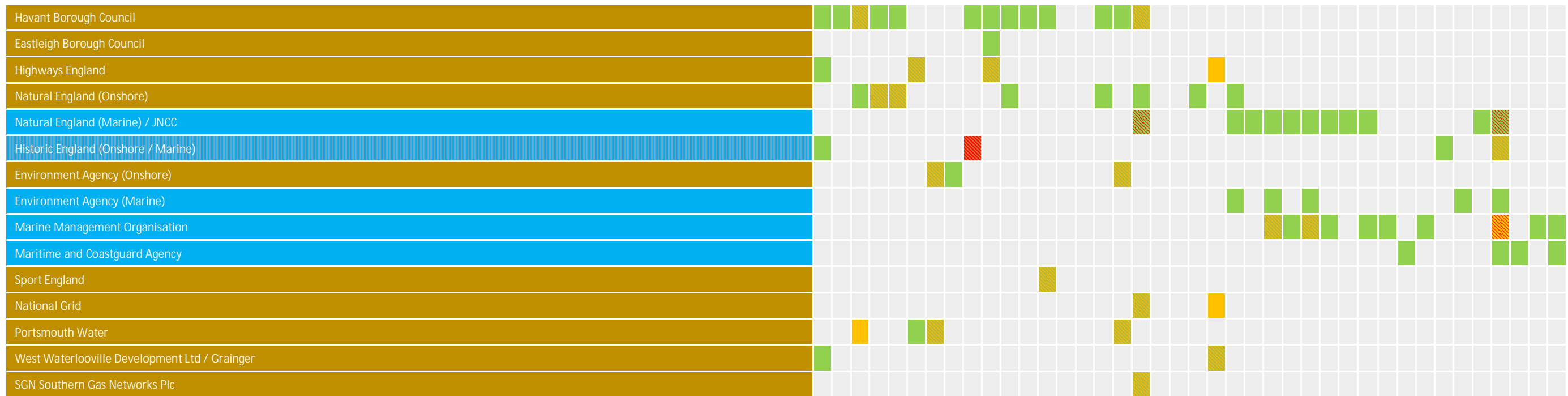
4.1.1.2. Table 4.1 lists out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the current status of that matter for each stakeholder. Where a topic is not relevant to a particular stakeholder the cell is greyed out. Where the topic is relevant the status is shown as follows (which corresponds to the status tables in each individual SoCG):

	All matters agreed
	Some matters agreed / some matters ongoing
	All matters outstanding
	Some matters ongoing / some matters not agreed
	All matters not agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters not agreed

4.1.1.3. It should be noted that where a broad topic applies to more than one SoCG party the detailed matters discussed within that topic may not be directly comparable or related. For example, discussions under the Landscape and Visual heading could cover discussions relating to landscaping at the Converter Station and at the ORS building depending on the stakeholder. Table 4.1 is therefore only intended as a general guide.

4.1.1.4. Following the summary at Table 4.1, Section 4.2 outlines the principle outstanding matters which are subject to further discussion to reach an agreed position.

So CG Par ty	Topics					
		Port sm outh City Cou ncil	Win ches ter City Cou ncil	Ha mps hire Cou nty Cou ncil	East Ha mps hire Dist rict Cou ncil	Sou th Do wns Nati onal Park Aut
	Cable Protection					
	Recreational Anniln					
	Dover Straite TSS /Maunation Risk Assessment					
	Deamed Marine Licence					
	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment					
	Marine Water Framework Directive					
	Marine Archaeology					
	Underwater noise					
	Shoalina Nautation and Other Marine Users					
	Commercial Fisheries					
	Physical Processes (Includina dredge disposal)					
	Marine Ornithology					
	Marine Mammals and Baskln Sharks					
	Fish and Shellfish					
	Intertidal and Benthic Habitats					
	Marine Water and Sediment Quality (incl. contaminated sediments)					
	Designated Sites					
	Habitats Regulation Assessment					
	Land Acquisition/Rights					
	Soils and Agricultural Land Use					
	Commonith Fund					
	Optical Renegeration Stations					
	Drift DCO					
	Onshore Outline EIMP					
	Cumulative Effects					
	Waste and Material Resources					
	Human Health					
	Socioeconomics					
	Noise and Vibration					
	Air Quality					
	Traffic and Transport					
	Heritage and Archaeology					
	Surface Water Resources and Flood Risk					
	Groundwater					
	Ground Conditions					
	Ecolou (with Archaeological)					
	Landscape and Visual amenity					
	Consideration of Alternatives					
	Need for the proposed development					
	Planina Policy					
	Cable Protection					
	Recreational Anniln					
	Dover Straite TSS /Maunation Risk Assessment					
	Deamed Marine Licence					
	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment					
	Marine Water Framework Directive					
	Marine Archaeology					
	Underwater noise					
	Shoalina Nautation and Other Marine Users					
	Commercial Fisheries					
	Physical Processes (Includina dredge disposal)					
	Marine Ornithology					
	Marine Mammals and Baskln Sharks					
	Fish and Shellfish					
	Intertidal and Benthic Habitats					
	Marine Water and Sediment Quality (incl. contaminated sediments)					
	Designated Sites					
	Habitats Regulation Assessment					
	Land Acquisition/Rights					
	Soils and Agricultural Land Use					
	Commonith Fund					
	Optical Renegeration Stations					
	Drift DCO					
	Onshore Outline EIMP					
	Cumulative Effects					
	Waste and Material Resources					
	Human Health					
	Socioeconomics					
	Noise and Vibration					
	Air Quality					
	Traffic and Transport					
	Heritage and Archaeology					
	Surface Water Resources and Flood Risk					
	Groundwater					
	Ground Conditions					
	Ecolou (with Archaeological)					
	Landscape and Visual amenity					
	Consideration of Alternatives					
	Need for the proposed development					
	Planina Policy					



4.2. PRINCIPAL MATTERS OUTSTANDING

- 4.2.1.1. The following section provides a brief summary of topic areas with the SoCG parties where matters are identified as being ‘subject to ongoing discussion’ or ‘not agreed’ at Deadline 6.
- 4.2.1.2. The individual SoCGs provide further detail of the specific matters of discussion.
- 4.2.1.3. Three SoCGs with Eastleigh Borough Council, the Environment Agency (on marine matters) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency were submitted at Deadline 1 as final signed documents. The latter has now been withdrawn and resubmitted as a draft SoCG at Deadline 6.

4.2.2. PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

- 4.2.2.1. A draft SoCG with PCC was been prepared by the Applicant following discussions with PCC since early 2019 and submitted at Deadline 1. This was updated by the Applicant at Deadline 4 and was considered to represent an accurate reflection of discussions with PCC up until Deadline 4. As well as submission of this draft into the examination at Deadline 4 it was also issued to PCC for comment on 16 November 2020.
- 4.2.2.2. Subsequent meetings between the parties have been held covering various matters including traffic and transport, land matters, flooding, ecology, socio economics and air quality.
- 4.2.2.3. At the meeting on 17th December 2020 PCC advised that it would not respond to a further draft SoCG in advance of Deadline 6 but did plan to submit a unilateral draft. The Applicant confirmed it would do the same and it was agreed that the parties would use these to prepare an updated joint draft at Deadline 7.
- 4.2.2.4. In the meantime, at Deadline 6, both the Applicant and PCC have issued unilateral updates to the SoCG based on the draft submitted at Deadline 4. Ongoing matters for discussion include the need for the development, landscape and visual, ecology, ground conditions, groundwater, surface water and flood risk, heritage and archaeology, traffic and transport, air quality, noise, socio economics, human health, cumulative effects, the OOCEMP, the Optical Regeneration Stations, Community Fund and the draft DCO.

4.2.3. WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

- 4.2.3.1. Agreement of common ground between the Applicant and WCC has been reached on various matters in recent discussions as reflected in the SoCG. This includes agreement on most issues relating to planning policy, landscape and visual amenity, ecology, air quality, cumulative effects and the OOCEMP (REP1-087). The Deadline 4 iteration of the SoCG reflected progression in areas relating to air quality and noise.

4.2.3.2. The Applicant has worked closely with WCC to discuss the ongoing matters which relate to detailed points of mitigation and assessment of residual effects for landscape and visual amenity, ecology, traffic and transport and in relation to the need and benefits of the project, design and the draft DCO (REP3-003).

4.2.3.3. An updated draft has not been issued at Deadline 6 though the Applicant has set out a series of proposed actions in order to seek an agreed position on the various matters of ongoing discussion (which include the needs case, landscape and visual, ecology, heritage and archaeology, traffic and transport, socio economics, cumulative effects, the OOCEMP, alternatives, carbon and climate change and flood risk.

4.2.4. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

4.2.4.1. The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was discussed between the Parties and was updated further to reflect ongoing discussions (including HCC review of the supplementary Transport Assessment). Matters agreed between the Parties include planning policy, the extent of the transport study area, aspects of mitigation, methodology in relation to ecology and the assessment of archaeology and historic environment. At Deadline 5, matters in relation to landscape and visual amenity and surface water resources and flood risk were also agreed. Removal of matters in relation to noise and vibration from the SoCG has been agreed by both parties.

4.2.4.2. A further update at Deadline 6 following meeting between the parties on 7 December to discuss transport matters, 14 December to discuss s278 procedures and on 17 December to discuss Public Rights of Way.

4.2.4.3. Ongoing matters of discussion include those in relation to converter station site access, converter station construction, operational phase, the cable route, alternatives, highways, landscape the OOCEMP and the scope of s106 agreement.

4.2.5. EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

4.2.5.1. Significant progress was made between the Applicant and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) prior to Deadline 4 including agreement on issues relating to planning policy, landscape and visual amenity, ecology, traffic and transport, air quality, noise, cumulative effects and the OOCEMP (REP1-087).

4.2.5.2. Following Deadline 4, additional matters were agreed including in relation to the draft DCO (REP3-003) and an updated draft SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5 to reflect this. One single matter in relation to statutory nuisance remains outstanding.

4.2.6. SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

4.2.6.1. Various matters have been agreed through productive discussions between the Parties, including in relation to planning policy, the need for development, methodology for landscape and visual amenity and certain aspects relating to the draft DCO (REP3-003). An updated draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 3 to reflect progress in discussions in relation to planning obligations.

- 4.2.6.2. Matters outstanding for further discussion include some landscape matters, cumulative effects, planning obligations, consideration of alternatives, and some matters relating to the draft DCO (REP3-003).

4.2.7. HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

- 4.2.7.1. Significant progress has been made on agreement of common ground between the Applicant and Havant Borough Council in discussions as reflected in the SoCG (including agreement on issues relating to planning policy, needs and benefits of the development, landscape and visual amenity, noise, cumulative effects, ecology, air quality, socio economics and various matters in relation to the draft DCO (REP3-003)). Most recent discussions were held on the 5 November and subsequent email correspondence. An updated draft was been submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect the progression of discussions.
- 4.2.7.2. The only outstanding matters relate to the draft DCO (Scope of Powers and Operative Provisions) and in relation to alternatives.

4.2.8. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

- 4.2.8.1. Matters agreed through discussions with between the Applicant and Highways England include planning policy, HDD construction traffic routing, some aspects relating to site access arrangements for HDD, duration of works, modelling and geotechnical works processes.
- 4.2.8.2. Matters subject to ongoing discussion include abnormal loads, collision data, some aspects relating to site access arrangements for HDD, management of construction traffic, traffic flow impacts and ongoing geo-technical matters. A meeting on 11th November focused on geo-technical matters, in which the Applicant agreed with Highways England that additional geo-technical work prepared by the Applicant would be submitted to Highways England for review at Deadline 5.
- 4.2.8.3. Progress was also made in relation to protective provisions and traffic flows and the updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 reflected the progression of these discussions.
- 4.2.8.4. No update to the draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 5 or 6 and discussions remain ongoing between the parties on the outstanding matters including abnormal loads, collision data, construction traffic, traffic flow impacts and land rights.

4.2.9. NATURAL ENGLAND (ONSHORE)

- 4.2.9.1. Various matters have been agreed in discussions between the Parties including in relation to landscape and visual amenity and ecology methodology and assessment, soils and agricultural land use, air quality and alternatives (in relation to the alternative cross country route). An updated draft was submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect the progression of discussions,

- 4.2.9.2. At Deadline 5, matters in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (REP1-082), cumulative effects, the OOCEMP (REP1-087) and the draft DCO (REP3-003) were updated to agreed positions.
- 4.2.9.3. Ongoing matters of discussion included details of mitigation and residual effects in relation to visual amenity, the ecological assessment of Kings Pond / Denmead Meadows and Milton Common SINC. These have now in part been resolved, but outstanding matters remain in relation to the impact on Denmead Meadows and Milton Common, and in relation to the application of the biodiversity metric, and whilst some matters have now been agreed within these topics issues are still outstanding.
- 4.2.9.4. The updated draft at Deadline 6 reflects the issue of a draft Position Paper on Denmead Meadows provided to Natural England on 15 December

4.2.10. NATURAL ENGLAND (MARINE) / JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

- 4.2.10.1. The updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 6 has been signed with JNCC reflecting that all matters discussed between the Applicant and JNCC have reached an agreed position.
- 4.2.10.2. The updated draft also updates all matters discussed with Natural England to a position of either agreed or not agreed with no ongoing matters for discussion. Those matters not agreed relate to arbitration (NE/JNCC 4.1.1) and Part 3 of the DML (NE/JNCC 4.1.2). Subject to confirmation from Natural England the intention would be to progress this draft for signatures.

4.2.11. HISTORIC ENGLAND

- 4.2.11.1. There are no outstanding matters for further discussion between the Parties with regard to onshore cultural heritage and archaeology.
- 4.2.11.2. Discussions regarding outstanding marine matters have also been progressed with an update on these matters provided in the SoCG updates submitted at Deadlines 4, 5 and a further updated at Deadline 6. Further matters relating to marine archaeology have now been agreed in relation to existing environment and assessment methodology. Matters that remain 'ongoing' have been subject to a response in REP2-014 and REP5-58 and subject to confirmation from Historic England if these matters are now resolved and can be agreed.

4.2.12. MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY

Following the submission of additional information by MCA at Deadline 4 the Parties have progressed further discussions and a proposed updated SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant at Deadline 6. Subject to confirmation from the MCA the Applicant believes all matters to be agreed with no matters subject to further discussion.

4.2.13. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (ONSHORE)

- 4.2.13.1. A meeting was held between the Applicant, EA and Portsmouth Water on the 16 December to discuss final refinements to the General Method Statement, Surface Water Drainage and Aquifer Contamination Mitigation Strategy and the OOCEMP. All outstanding matters between the parties were agreed and mitigation measures set out in the documents are considered to be acceptable. However, following comments by the Examining Authority receive at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (DCO), the Applicant re-evaluated the securing mechanism for the operational mitigation and moved some mitigation measures from the Onshore Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to the Design and Access Statement. In addition, the Surface Water Drainage and Aquifer Contamination Mitigation Strategy has been moved to the Appendix of the Design and Access Statement.
- 4.2.13.2. It was agreed to provide the Environment Agency with an opportunity to review the amendments made at Deadline 6 and, if required, a follow-up meeting will take place in January between the Applicant and the EA to answer any questions regarding the securing mechanisms for the relevant mitigation measures.
- 4.2.13.3. It is anticipated to submit a final SoCG at Deadline 7.

4.2.14. MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

- 4.2.14.1. An updated SoCG is submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6 which reflects discussions between the Parties in November and December and feedback from the MMO on the outstanding items discussed during Issue Specific Hearings and transcripts.
- 4.2.14.2. The majority of matters are either 'agreed' or 'not agreed' positions though ongoing matters include contaminated sediments, herring spawning, cable protection and specific wording in the DML. Following feedback from the MMO, the Applicant has prepared the updated Deadline 6 SoCG and issued this back to the MMO for review.

4.2.15. SPORT ENGLAND

- 4.2.15.1. Discussions with Sports England continue to progress in relation to the Framework Management Plan for Recreational Impacts and a meeting between the Parties will be arranged to discuss further updates which will also incorporate further feedback from PCC – to further discuss phasing of works and reinstatement of pitches.
- 4.2.15.2. An updated SoCG to reflect progression of the discussions of these matters is submitted at Deadline 6.

4.2.16. NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

- 4.2.16.1. 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.

- 4.2.16.2. The Parties are progressing discussions in relation to the DCO (including grid connection works, Converter Station options and landscaping)) and matters relating to land agreements and protective provisions. Some matters in relation to the DCO have now been agreed, in relation to AC cables and connection bays and the Work Order. Ongoing matters relate to land agreements and protective provisions .

4.2.17. PORTSMOUTH WATER

- 4.2.17.1. As set out above, a meeting was held between the Applicant, EA and Portsmouth Water on the 16 December to discuss final refinements to the General Method Statement, Surface Water Drainage and Aquifer Contamination Mitigation Strategy and the OOCEMP. Following some minor amendments, it is agreed that all mitigation measures set out in the documents are considered to be acceptable.

- 4.2.17.2. However, following comments by the Examining Authority receive at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (DCO), the Applicant re-evaluated the securing mechanism for the operational mitigation and moved some mitigation measures from the Onshore Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to the Design and Access Statement. In addition, the Surface Water Drainage and Aquifer Contamination Mitigation Strategy has been moved to the Appendix of the Design and Access Statement.

- 4.2.17.3. It was agreed to provide Portsmouth Water with an opportunity to review the amendments made at Deadline 6 and a follow-up meeting will take place in January between the Applicant and Portsmouth Water to answer any questions regarding the securing mechanisms for the relevant mitigation measures.

4.2.18. IT IS ANTICIPATED TO SUBMIT A FINAL SOCG AT DEADLINE 7 WEST WATERLOOVILLE DEVELOPMENT LTD/GRAINGER

- 4.2.18.1. Grainger Plc. is interested in the Proposed Development as a landowner within the Order Limits.

- 4.2.18.2. Easements are sought on Plot 4-36 and 5-12 (owned by Grainger Plc.) and the Parties are progressing discussions in relation to the Heads of Terms. These discussions will continue as the Examination progresses.

- 4.2.18.3. Following Deadline 2, feedback indicated conclusion of discussions but a further meeting regarding Heads of Terms was requested by Grainger which was held in early November. An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect the progress of discussions. Heads of Terms are expected to be agreed with Grainger Plc imminently and a final signed SoCG will be submitted to confirm that all matters for discussion are now agreed.

4.2.19. SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS PLC

- 4.2.19.1. The negotiation of protective provisions for inclusion in the Order are progressing and neither party currently anticipates any impediment to agreement being reached in relation to these as soon as is practicable during the course of the Examination.
- 4.2.19.2. Subject to the agreement of appropriate protective provisions and a private treaty, it is not considered the construction of the Proposed Development will unfairly prejudice or impact Southern Gas Networks PLC or have a detrimental impact on their undertaking. Further discussions have taken place regarding the HDD locations and the protective provisions for Southern Gas Networks PLC assets. Discussions around protective provisions have also largely been resolved and matters agreed, and a finalised SoCG will be submitted to confirm this when complete.

