



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

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The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
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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 The original (now superseded) Rule 6 Letter dated 5 March 2020 [PD-005] stated that: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 7 (25 January 2021). The report also identifies where there are matters that are common to multiple stakeholders.
- 1.1.1.6. The Applicant will continue to work with SoCG parties where necessary and a final version of the SoCGs and this document will be submitted at Deadline 8 (the final Examination Deadline) to reflect any progress made.

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 7.
- 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.

2.2. PROGRESS OF SOCG SUBMISSIONS AT PREVIOUS EXAMINATION DEADLINES

- 2.2.1.1. 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.
- 2.2.1.2. 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.
- 2.2.1.3. At Deadline 2, only one updated SoCG was submitted, namely with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.

- 2.2.1.4. 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.
- 2.2.1.5. 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.
- 2.2.1.6. At Deadline 5, the Applicant is able to demonstrate further progress in discussions with multiple stakeholders. As such updated SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 5 for the following parties:
- Hampshire County Council;
 - East Hampshire District Council;
 - South Downs National Park Authority;
 - Natural England (onshore);
 - Historic England (combined onshore and marine).
- 2.2.1.7. Deadline 6 followed the Open Floor and Issue-Specific Hearings held in mid-December. Some SoCGs were able to be updated to reflect progression on issues discussed at those hearings alongside the continued regular engagement to discuss remaining outstanding matters held separately with stakeholders. As such, at Deadline 6 draft SoCGs were submitted for the following parties:
- Portsmouth City Council;
 - Hampshire County Council;
 - Natural England (onshore);
 - Natural England (marine) / JNCC;
 - Historic England (combined onshore and marine);
 - Marine Management Organisation;
 - Sport England;
 - NGET; and
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- 2.2.1.8. Prior to Deadline 1, a final SoCG was signed with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, but this was updated by the Applicant to accommodate for further advice from the MCA submitted at Deadline 4. This is explained in the Deadline 6 Statement of Commonality.

2.2.1.9. Discussions have continued with all parties where SoCGs remain to be agreed and signed throughout January. Discussions have continued to focus on the matters raised in the December hearings, but have also moved towards either resolving matters or reaching a final formal position agreed between the Applicant and the stakeholders where issues could not be resolved.

2.2.1.10. As such, at Deadline 7 the following SoCGs are being submitted:

- Portsmouth City Council (PCC);
- Winchester City Council (WCC);
- Hampshire County Council (HCC);
- South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA);
- Havant Borough Council (HBC);
- Highways England;
- Historic England;
- Environment Agency (onshore);
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- Portsmouth Water Ltd.

2.3. LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 2.3.1.1. 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.
- 2.3.1.2. 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 25 January 2021 (Deadline 7)	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

Network Infrastructure Ltd	Rail	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. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee provided their sign-off of all matters of their concern at Deadline 6.	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, and final signed SoCG for onshore matters submitted at Deadline 7.	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. This SoCG was withdrawn prior to Deadline 6 and updated at the request of the ExA. SoCG currently being progressed.	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)			
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc		SoCG being progressed.	7.5.19

Portsmouth Water Ltd	SoCG being progressed.	7.5.20
Southern Gas Networks PLC	Final signed SoCG to follow after Deadline 7.	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

- 2.3.1.5. 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 7 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 7

Document Reference	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	Status at Deadline 7
7.5.3	Portsmouth City Council / East Coast Solent Partnership	Onshore	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft Separate updated draft SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 6 by both the Applicant and PCC following various video calls between the parties since Deadline 5.	SoCG in draft Updated consolidated draft SoCG is submitted shortly following Deadline 7, combining the separate Deadline 6 drafts, reflecting engagement with PCC following Deadline 6. Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8. Latest draft = Will follow the Deadline 7 submission
7.5.4	Winchester City Council	Onshore	SoCG in draft 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	SoCG in draft 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,	SoCG in draft 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	SoCG in draft 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	SoCG in draft An updated draft will be issued following Deadline 5. Extensive discussions between the Parties have been progressed between Deadline 4 and	SoCG in draft No submission of a draft SoCG was made at Deadline 6. Whilst it was the intention to issue an updated draft after Deadline 5, discussions remained ongoing between	SoCG in draft An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 following discussions to close out outstanding matters and to address matters raised at

			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).	carbon and transport and the Draft DCO - with updated versions of the SoCG to be submitted at Deadlines 3 and/or 4 following these discussions.	to submit an updated SoCG at Deadline 4.	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 submitted at Deadline 5 capturing discussions in relation to these topics and all other ongoing matters.	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 discussed. Submission of an updated draft will be submitted shortly after Deadline 5 (at the discretion of the ExA).	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.	Deadline 6. Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8. Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission
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	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	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	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	SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide an update on further discussions since Deadline 5. Meetings between the parties was held on 17 December in relation to the effects of the scheme on the Public Right of Way network, on 7 December to	SoCG in draft An updated draft is submitted at Deadline 7 to provide an update and resolution on some matters. Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8. Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission

			discussions (including HCC review of the supplementary Transport Assessment).		TA, FTMS and CTMP.	expected at Deadline 5 or 6.	FTMS and FCTMP. A further update is likely to be submitted at Deadline 6 to report on further progress on outstanding matters.	discuss transport matters and on 14 December to discuss s278 procedures.	
7.5.6	East Hampshire District Council	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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 relation to air quality and noise.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>A mutually agreed updated draft SoCG submitted (agreed between the Parties on 26th 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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update issued at Deadline 6. There remains only a single outstanding matter between the parties (namely EHDC 4.10.9).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update issued at Deadline 7, as discussions around the single remaining outstanding matter are expected at the Hearings scheduled in February. Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 5 submission</p>

7.5.7	South Downs National Park Authority	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft 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 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 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 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 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 No update issued at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on outstanding matters.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft Updated draft submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect progression on outstanding landscape mitigation matters. Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission</p>
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7.5.8	Havant Borough Council	Onshore	SoCG in draft 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).	SoCG in draft No update on the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 though discussions progressing (including meeting in relation to noise issues was held on 14 th October) with further meetings proposed following Deadline 2. Intention to progress a revised draft for Deadline 3.	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft 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)	SoCG in draft 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.	SoCG in draft No update issued at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on outstanding matters.	SoCG in draft Updated draft submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect agreement on most of the remaining outstanding matters. Only matter outstanding relates to statutory nuisance (as with EHDC). Final signed SoCG anticipated at Deadline 8. Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission
7.5.9	Eastleigh Borough Council	Onshore	Final Signed SoCG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

7.5.10	Highways England	Onshore	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft No update on the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2. Discussions ongoing between the Parties (including a meeting on 8th October) with relevant updates to be provided at Deadlines 3 and 4.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft No update issued at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on outstanding matters.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated draft is submitted at Deadline 7, reflecting progression on geo-technical matters. Final signed SoCG anticipated for Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission</p>
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7.5.11	Natural England (Onshore)	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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 recently on 2 October 2020.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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 10th November. Outstanding issues to be progressed further for Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 6. Natural England preparing standalone submission for Deadline 7. The parties will meet following Deadline 7 to discuss definitive positions for Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 6 submission</p>
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7.5.12	Natural England (Marine) / Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Marine	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 7. Most matters progressed to agreed, but a review of additional information submitted at Deadline 7 by the Applicant is anticipated so will submit final version at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 6 submission</p>
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7.5.13	Historic England	Onshore / Marine	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 discussion following Deadline 2. Updates will be provided to reflect the position at Deadlines 3 and/or 4.</p>	<p>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 will be submitted at Deadline 4.</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 6 to reflect further feedback provided by Historic England following Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect progression in marine matters. Historic England are to review the ES Addendum supplied by the Applicant. Final signed SoCG is anticipated at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission</p>
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7.5.14	Environment Agency	Onshore	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft Status as at Deadline 2 – further discussions progressing in early November, prior to updating the SoCG for Deadline 4.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Final signed SoCG Positive discussions have progressed with all parties and a final signed draft to confirm all agreed positions is submitted at Deadline 7.</p> <p>Final SoCG = Deadline 7 submission</p>
7.5.15	Environment Agency	Marine	Final Signed SoCG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

7.5.16	Marine Management Organisation	Marine	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 19th November to progress the SoCG in advance of Deadline 5.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated SoCG issued at Deadline 6 to reflect recent discussions between the parties.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated draft is submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect agreements made following meetings in January. Aiming for a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission</p>
7.5.17	Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Marine	<p>Final Signed SoCG</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>SoCG in draft Signed SoCG issued at Deadline 1 withdrawn and draft reissued at Deadline 6 to accommodate further advice from the MCA submitted at Deadline 4.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft No update is submitted at Deadline 7. The MCA are to review the ES Addendum being submitted at Deadline 7. Final signed SoCG anticipated for Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 6 submission</p>

7.5.18	Sport England	Onshore	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 submitted at Deadline 4 which is reflected in the updated SoCG.</p>	<p>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 be submitted. This may be at Deadline 6.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7. Further discussions with Sport England are being held with a view to submit a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 6 submission</p>
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7.5.19	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 following further discussions with NGET on 16th October.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. Meeting between the Parties held on 12th November to progress landscape and protected provisions items. Updated draft submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect this.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>An updated draft is issued at Deadline 6 to provide updates on discussions since Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7. Discussions relating to land agreements are ongoing and will be resolved by Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 6 submission</p>
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7.5.20	Portsmouth Water Ltd	Onshore	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft A unilateral updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect progression in some further outstanding matters. A final signed SoCG is anticipated for Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 7 submission</p>
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7.5.21	West Waterlooville Development Ltd / Grainger PLC	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 though matters largely agreed between the Parties. Updated SoCG to be submitted at Deadline 3.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>Mutually agreed updated SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. Further meeting held on 9th 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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update submitted at Deadline 6. Discussions ongoing between the parties on single outstanding matter (Grainger 4.1.1).</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7. Discussions remain ongoing and a final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 8.</p> <p>Latest draft = Deadline 4 submission</p>
7.5.22	Southern Gas Networks PLC	Onshore	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the SoCG submitted at Deadline though discussions ongoing between the Parties (including a meeting on 9 October) with an aim to submit an updated draft at Deadline 3.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update to the draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 4. Discussions regarding protective provisions have occurred but matters are still be agreed. An updated draft SoCG is anticipated at Deadline 5.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SoCG in draft</p> <p>No update at Deadline 6 pending executed engrossments.</p>	<p>Final signed SoCG</p> <p>To reflect that all matters have been resolved and that protective provisions have been agreed, a final signed SoCG will be submitted following Deadline 7.</p> <p>Final SoCG = Will be submitted following Deadline 7</p>

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.

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 5.
- 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.

4.2.2. PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

- 4.2.2.1. A draft SoCG with PCC was prepared by the Applicant following discussions with PCC since early 2019. A draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 1, which was updated unilaterally by the Applicant and submitted at Deadline 4. The Deadline 4 draft was considered to represent an accurate reflection of discussions with PCC up to Deadline 4 and was also issued to PCC for comment on 16 November 2020.
- 4.2.2.2. More recently, two separate draft SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 6 – one by PCC and one by the Applicant. This dual submission was agreed at a meeting between the Parties on 17 December 2020, as was the strategy to prepare an updated joint draft for submission at Deadline 7.
- 4.2.2.3. In order to make progress towards resolving the matters raised in the SoCG drafts and achieving a final signed SoCG between both Parties at Deadline 8, the Applicant has worked to consolidate the unilateral drafts submitted at Deadline 6 into one draft SoCG which was intended for submission at Deadline 7. This draft was sent to PCC for review on 21 January, but a significant amount of key feedback was given by PCC on the day of the Deadline 7 submission. In order to give the Applicant time to review and respond to this feedback, a consolidated draft SoCG will be submitted shortly after Deadline 7 to capture the progress made in recent discussions.
- 4.2.2.4. Ongoing matters for discussion and finalisation ahead of Deadline 8 include landscape and visual amenity, surface water resources and flood risk, heritage and archaeology, traffic and transport, air quality, cumulative effects, the OOCEMP and the draft DCO. Matters in relation to the Optical Regeneration Station, the definition of Associated Development and relevance and position of other licences and consents (France) which were raised by PCC at Deadline 6 reached a position where they have not been agreed.
- 4.2.2.5. Some matters are flagged as ongoing in the Deadline 7 submission (namely in relation to ground conditions, human health, waste and material resources) and have been flagged for removal following PCC’s review of the SoCG draft at Deadline 7 as they are yet to be addressed by PCC. They will be removed from the SoCG draft following Deadline 7 if no further feedback is given. The Parties are working towards a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.

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, alongside the draft DCO (REP3-003).
- 4.2.3.3. An updated draft was not submitted at Deadline 6, but the Applicant and WCC have continued to work together to resolve matters. Discussions on design matters have also continued to progress in the lead up to Deadline 7.
- 4.2.3.4. The updated draft at Deadline 7 reflects progress in areas such as including some landscape and visual amenity matters, and updates to discussions in areas such as ecology, need for the proposed development, and the OOCEMP (REP1-087). All remaining matters in relation to transport, socio-economics, cumulative effects, carbon and climate change and flood risk and ground water have now been agreed.
- 4.2.3.5. Outstanding matters including ecology, heritage and archaeology, alternatives, the OOCEMP (REP1-087) and the draft DCO (REP3-003) remain to be finalised ahead of Deadline 8.

4.2.4. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 4.2.4.1. The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was discussed between the Parties and has since been 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.
- 4.2.4.2. At Deadline 5, matters in relation to landscape and visual amenity and surface water resources and flood risk have now also been agreed. Removal of matters in relation to noise and vibration from the SoCG has been agreed by both parties.
- 4.2.4.3. A further updated SoCG was submitted at Deadline 6 to reflect updates on meetings held on 7 December to discuss transport matters, 14 December to discuss s278 procedures and 17 December to discuss Public Rights of Way.

4.2.4.4. The updated Deadline 7 draft reflects further discussions in relation to transport, implementation officer requirements, and the resolution of all outstanding ecology matters. It also reflects the outcome of a tri-party meeting between PCC, HCC and Highways England in relation to transport and highways matters. Outstanding matters to be addressed ahead of Deadline 8 include the converter station construction phase, the cable route, transport and highway matters and the scope of the 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 was submitted at Deadline 5 to reflect this.

4.2.5.3. One single matter in relation to statutory nuisance remained for further discussion following Deadline 5. Discussions are still ongoing regarding this point so no update to the draft SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7.

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. Following this, some matters in relation to landscape, the draft DCO and the OOCEMP (REP1-087) were resolved. This was reflected in an updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 5.

4.2.6.3. An updated draft SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect meaningful progression on the outstanding matters, including landscape mitigation and DCO requirements. Matters outstanding for further discussion include some landscape matters, cumulative effects, consideration of alternatives, and some matters relating to the draft DCO (REP3-003).

4.2.7. HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

- 4.2.7.1. Updated draft SoCGs submitted at Deadline 4 and at Deadline 6 reflect the significant progress made on agreement of common ground between the Applicant and Havant Borough Council. This includes 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, the assessment of alternatives, and various matters in relation to the draft DCO (REP3-003)).
- 4.2.7.2. Following submission of the Deadline 6 draft SoCG, the only outstanding matter remaining relates to statutory nuisance (the same matter as with EHDC). An updated draft is being submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect further discussions on this issue and the agreement of any other previously remaining matters.

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. Progress was made in relation to protective provisions and traffic flows and the updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 4 reflected the progression of these discussions. No update to the draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 5 or Deadline 6.
- 4.2.8.3. At Deadline 5, the Applicant submitted additional geo-technical work to Highways England for their review. This geo-technical work has been the focus of discussions, and prior to Deadline 7 Highways England issued their agreement with the Applicant's findings. All geo-technical matters have now been agreed, alongside outstanding cumulatives matters. The matter relating to the draft DCO (REP3-003) has reached a position of not agreed. Some detailed transport matters such as abnormal loads and the FCTMP for management of construction traffic have now also been agreed. This has been reflected in the updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 7.
- 4.2.8.4. Outstanding matters at this stage now relate to land rights, collision data and traffic modelling. The Applicant will continue to work with Highways England to ensure that these matters are resolved prior to the anticipated submission of a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.

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. 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.

4.2.9.2. 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. A draft Position Paper was submitted by the Applicant to Natural England at Deadline 6 regarding the impact on Denmead Meadows, and Natural England are preparing a response for Deadline 7. No update to the SoCG is therefore being submitted at Deadline 7, and a final signed SoCG is anticipated for Deadline 8.

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

4.2.10.1. Draft SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 1 and Deadline 4, and by Deadline 4 most matters had been agreed save for limited matters under discussion that included appeals and arbitration as part of the draft DCO (REP3-003). An updated draft was submitted at Deadline 6 that was signed with JNCC, reflecting that all matters discussed between the Applicant and JNCC have had an agreed position reached.

4.2.10.2. The updated draft at Deadline 6 also updated all matters with Natural England to a position of agreed or not agreed, with no matters remaining outstanding. The Applicant however is preparing an ES Addendum for submission at Deadline 7 which would be reviewed by Natural England. Therefore a Deadline 8 final signed SoCG submission signed by all Parties is planned.

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. The submission made at Deadline 6 reflected progress made on matters in relation to marine archaeology, following feedback previously provided by Historic England. As with Natural England (marine) / JNCC, it is anticipated that Historic England will likely seek to review the ES Addendum submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7. Historic England are also understood to be formulating a response to the Examining Authority's Further Written Questions (ExQ2) published on 7 January 2021.

4.2.11.3. Initial feedback from Historic England prior to Deadline 7 has indicated that they would like to progress all marine archaeology matters to an agreed position, and an updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect this.

4.2.11.4. The Applicant will continue to engage with Historic England to work towards a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.

4.2.12. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (ONSHORE)

- 4.2.12.1. The most recent update to the SoCG between the Applicant and the EA (Onshore) was submitted at Deadline 6, following the results of additional arbitration testing as requested by the EA. Meetings were held in December to discuss final refinements to the General Method Statement, Surface Water Drainage, Aquifer Contamination Mitigation Strategy and the OOCEMP.
- 4.2.12.2. All matters were agreed at Deadline 6, but further discussions have been held in January to confirm that all commitments are secured. At Deadline 7, a final signed SoCG between all Parties is submitted to reflect that all positions are now agreed and discussions resolved.

4.2.13. MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

- 4.2.13.1. Previous versions of the draft SoCG with the MMO were submitted at Deadlines 1, 4 and 5. An updated draft SoCG was submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6 to reflect discussions between the Parties following the Issue Specific Hearings in December.
- 4.2.13.2. The majority of have had positions reached. An updated draft SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 to reflect ongoing discussions held with the MMO in early January in relation to the DML. All matters in relation to underwater noise have now been resolved. Final outstanding matters relate to contaminated sediments and fish and shellfish, and a meeting is planned for mid-February to progress these matters.
- 4.2.13.3. It is anticipated that the MMO will review the ES Addendum being submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7, so a final signed SoCG is being progressed for submission at Deadline 8.

4.2.14. MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY

- 4.2.14.1. Agreement of common ground between the Applicant and the MCA had previously been established prior to Deadline 1, where a final signed SoCG had previously been submitted. At Deadline 4, the MCA submitted additional information and at the request of the ExA, the SoCG was withdrawn and an updated submission provided at Deadline 6 to reflect this.
- 4.2.14.2. It is agreed with the MCA that all matters are agreed, with no matters subject to further discussion. It is however anticipated that the MCA will review the ES Addendum prepared by the Applicant following Deadline 7, so a final signed SoCG is anticipated for submission at Deadline 8.

4.2.15. SPORT ENGLAND

- 4.2.15.1. An initial draft SoCG was submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1. Following this, discussions with Sports England focused on the assessment of effects contained within ES Chapter 25 (Socio-economics) (APP-140), ES Appendix 22.5 Illustrative Phasing of Works at Example Open Spaces (APP-473) and the Framework Management Plan for Recreational Impacts (submitted at Deadline 1).

4.2.15.2. An updated SoCG to reflect progression of the discussions of these matters and Sport England's review of the Framework Management Plan for Recreational Impacts was submitted at Deadline 4, with further updates reflected in an updated draft SoCG submitted at Deadline 6.

4.2.15.3. Sport England have confirmed that the SoCG represents an accurate reflection of the engagement that has been had and that those aspects which have not been agreed are accurate. The final outstanding matter relates to the Framework Management Plan and further consultation is planned with Sport England following Deadline 7 in order to finalise a signed SoCG for Deadline 8. No update to the SoCG draft is therefore submitted at Deadline 7.

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. Previous draft SoCGs were submitted at Deadline 4 and Deadline 6 to reflect the progression of discussions.

4.2.16.2. All matters with NGET are now largely resolved, with the only ongoing matter relating to land and property agreements. This is subject to ongoing discussion with NGET and so no updated SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7. It is anticipated that following continued engagement with NGET a final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 8.

4.2.17. PORTSMOUTH WATER

4.2.17.1. A number of matters have been agreed between the Applicant and Portsmouth Water as reflected in the draft SoCG. This includes agreement on most issues relating to EIA methodology, predicted impacts and the proposed mitigation set out in the OOCEMP. An updated draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 4 to set out the progression of discussions. Following the results of the arbitration testing, a further updated SoCG was submitted at Deadline 6.

4.2.17.2. The unilateral draft submitted at Deadline 7 reflects AQUIND's understanding of the position following the progression of further matters with Portsmouth Water, with the final outstanding matters relating to protective provisions and routing through Portsmouth Water land. It is anticipated that following continued engagement with Portsmouth Water, a final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 8.

4.2.18. 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 was submitted at Deadline 4 to reflect the progress of discussions. Heads of Terms are in the process of being agreed with Grainger PLC prior to Deadline 8, so a final signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 8 to confirm that all matters 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 SGN withdrew their objection following the signing of a private agreement on 11 January 2021. A final signed SoCG will follow to confirm this.

