



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Position Statement on the Progress of
Statements of Common Ground for Deadline
7c

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009

Document Ref: 7.5.1

PINS Ref.: EN020022

AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Position Statement on the Progress of
Statements of Common Ground for Deadline
7c

PINS REF.: EN020022

DOCUMENT: 7.5.1

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2021

Quod

8-14 Meard St

London

WF1 0EQ

+44 20 3597 1000

www.quod.com

DOCUMENT

Document	7.5.1 Position Statement on Statements of Common Ground
Revision	001
Document Owner	Quod
Prepared By	Alex Higgin
Date	15 February 2021
Approved By	Pete Hall
Date	15 February 2021

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1.	PURPOSE OF THIS POSITION STATEMENT	1-1
2.	SUMMARY OF POSITIONS FOR DEADLINE 7C	2-2
2.1.	MATTERS RESOLVED FOLLOWING DEADLINE 7	2-2
2.2.	FINALISED SOCGS	2-3
2.3.	OTHER UPDATES AND PROGRESS	2-3

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS POSITION STATEMENT

- 1.1.1.1. This statement is made on behalf of AQUIND Limited (the ‘Applicant’) in relation to the AQUIND Interconnect Project.
- 1.1.1.2. The purpose of this Position Statement is to provide an interim update on the progression of Statements of Common Ground (‘SoCG(s)’) between the Applicant and relevant statutory consultees and other parties following Deadline 7 but ahead of Deadline 8.
- 1.1.1.3. This Position Statement is independent of but to be read in conjunction with the Statement of Commonality (REP7-048) and relevant SoCGs submitted at Deadline 7. As with all previous versions of the Statement of Commonality and SoCGs submitted, this Position Statement will be superseded by the Statement of Commonality and accompanying SoCGs that will be submitted at Deadline 8.
- 1.1.1.4. The progress of Statements of Common Ground summarised in this Position Statement reflects the Applicant’s view of the position of discussions unless otherwise specified.
- 1.1.1.5. To accompany this Position Statement, updated versions of the following SoCGs are also being submitted:
- Natural England (onshore) – updated draft SoCG;
 - Historic England – updated draft SoCG;
 - Marine Management Organisation – updated draft SoCG;
 - Southern Gas Networks – final signed SoCG.
- 1.1.1.6. Further detail on the progression of the above listed SoCGs is supplied at Section 2 of this Position Statement.
- 1.1.1.7. A full list of the relevant stakeholders and other parties with which SoCGs are being prepared can be found at Table 2.1 of the Statement of Commonality (REP7-048) submitted at Deadline 7. If an update is not provided at this stage for a party, the Deadline 7 Statement of Commonality (REP7-048) reflects the most up to date position.

2. SUMMARY OF POSITIONS FOR DEADLINE 7C

2.1. MATTERS RESOLVED FOLLOWING DEADLINE 7

2.1.1.1. Updated SoCGs are submitted with the following parties at Deadline 7c.

NATURAL ENGLAND (ONSHORE)

2.1.1.2. Following the submission of Natural England's response to ExQ2 (REP7-107) submitted at Deadline 7, a meeting was held to discuss the remaining outstanding matters in the SoCG, namely in relation to landscape mitigation and the ecological assessment of Kings Pond and Milton Common SINC. Progress has been made towards agreement of matters 4.1.9-4.1.10 regarding landscape, and also towards agreeing appropriate mitigation for Kings Pond.

2.1.1.3. An updated unilateral draft SoCG (prepared by the Applicant but reflective of the matters discussed) is therefore submitted at Deadline 7c to demonstrate progression in these areas. AQUIND and Natural England are both working towards a final signed SoCG for Deadline 8.

HISTORIC ENGLAND

2.1.1.4. Historic England have now reviewed the Environmental Statement Addendum 2 (REP7-067) submitted at Deadline 7. At Deadline 7, all matters in the SoCG submitted (REP7-054) were recorded as having a position of 'agreed' or 'not agreed' reached, but consultation remains ongoing with Historic England with regard to marine matters following the submission of the ES Addendum (REP-0167). An updated draft SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7c to indicate that Historic England are reviewing the Applicant's most recent response to feedback received from Historic England on 04 February 2021 and to include some minor wording amendments suggested through consultation. The Applicant and Historic England are working towards reaching a final signed SoCG to be submitted at Deadline 8.

MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

2.1.1.5. At Deadline 7, an updated draft SoCG was submitted (REP7-057) to demonstrate progress in discussions between the Applicant and the Marine Management Organisation. Remaining outstanding matters related to herring mitigation and dredging of sediments.

- 2.1.1.6. Following Deadline 7, these matters have now reached final positions of 'agreed' for herring mitigation, with wording secured in the dDCO, and 'not agreed' for the dredging of sediments.
- 2.1.1.7. The Marine Management Organisation have also provided initial feedback on the Environmental Statement Addendum 2 submitted at Deadline 7 (REP7-0167), and clarification is being provided by the Applicant to satisfy queries raised.
- 2.1.1.8. An updated draft SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7c to reflect the current outstanding matter. The Applicant and the Marine Management Organisation are working towards a final signed SoCG for Deadline 8.

2.2. FINALISED SOCGS

SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS

- 2.2.1.1. Following withdrawal of Southern Gas Networks' objection in mid-January, the Applicant was able to agree protective provisions. A final signed SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7c to reflect that all matters are now resolved.

2.3. OTHER UPDATES AND PROGRESS

- 2.3.1.1. Progress has also been made with the following parties where matters were still outstanding at Deadline 7:
- Portsmouth City Council;
 - Winchester City Council;
 - Hampshire County Council;
 - Highways England.
- 2.3.1.2. The Applicant recognises that it is more prudent to submit final SoCGs at Deadline 8 to allow for matters to be finalised following discussion at the Issue Specific Hearings shortly after Deadline 7c. Discussions are also ongoing with all other parties not listed above, with final signed SoCGs for these also anticipated at Deadline 8.

