



**AQUIND Limited**

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# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Statement of Common Ground Between  
Aquind Limited and National Grid Electricity  
Transmission Plc

**FINAL**

The Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, Rule 8(1)(e)

Document Ref: 7.5.19

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**DATE: 1 MARCH 2021**

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## DOCUMENT

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

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## 1.1. PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1.1.1. A Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') is a written statement produced as part of the application process for an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') and is prepared jointly by the applicant and another party. A SoCG sets out the matters of agreement between both parties, matters where there is not agreement and matters which are under discussion.

1.1.1.2. In this regard paragraph 58 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's guidance entitled "Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent" (26 March 2015) hereafter referred to as DCLG Guidance) describes a SoCG as follows:

*"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."*

1.1.1.1. The aim of a SoCG is to assist the Examining Authority to manage the examination of an application for a DCO by providing an understanding of the status of matters at hand and allowing the Examining Authority to focus their questioning. The effective use of SoCG is expected to lead to a more efficient examination process.

1.1.1.2. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start or during an Examination and updated as necessary or as requested during an Examination.

## 1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.2.1.1. AQUIND Limited ('the Applicant') submitted an application for the AQUIND Interconnector Order (the 'Order') pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 'PA2008') to the Secretary of State ('SoS') on 14 November 2019 (the 'Application').

1.2.1.2. The Application seeks development consent for those elements of AQUIND Interconnector (the 'Project') located in the UK and the UK Marine Area (the 'Proposed Development').

1.2.1.3. The Project is a new 2,000 MW subsea and underground High Voltage Direct Current ('HVDC') bi-directional electric power transmission link between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France. By linking the British and French electric power grids it will make energy markets more efficient, improve security of supply and enable greater flexibility as power grids evolve to adapt to different sources of renewable energy and changes in demand trends such as the development of electric vehicles. The Project will have the capacity to transmit up to 16,000,000 MWh of electricity per annum, which equates to approximately 5 % and 3 % of the total consumption of the UK and France respectively.

1.2.1.4. The Proposed Development includes:

- HVDC Marine Cables from the boundary of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone to the UK at Eastney in Portsmouth;
- Jointing of the HVDC Marine Cables and HVDC Onshore Cables;
- HVDC Onshore Cables;
- A Converter Station and associated electrical and telecommunications infrastructure;
- High Voltage Alternating Current ('HVAC') Onshore Cables and associated infrastructure connecting the Converter Station to the Great Britain electrical transmission network, the National Grid, at Lovedean Substation (by way of an extension to the existing substation); and
- Smaller diameter Fibre Optic Cables to be installed together with the HVDC and HVAC Cables and associated infrastructure.

### **1.3. THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND AND THE ROLE OF NGET**

1.3.1.1. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant in accordance with the DCLG Guidance and precedent examples of SoCG available on the Planning Inspectorate's ('PINS') website and is considered to represent an accurate representation of discussions with NGET at Deadline 1. Although this revision of the SoCG has been subject to discussion between the Parties it is not a mutually agreed draft as NGET will provide further substantive comments following Deadline 1.

1.3.1.2. NGET is interested in the Proposed Development as the owner of plot 1-27as shown on the Land Plans, which the Applicant is seeking to acquire for Converter Station Option B(ii) and the licenced owner of electricity transmission assets at Lovedean Substation plots 1-28, 1-31, 1-33 and 1-34 as shown on the Land Plan, and the HVAC onshore cables which form part of the Proposed Development.

- 1.3.1.3. The Applicant has entered into a connection agreement for the Proposed Development to connect into the National Grid at Lovedean Substation.
- 1.3.1.4. For the purpose of this SoCG the Applicant and NGET will be jointly referred to as the 'Parties'.

## 2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

2.1.1.1. The Parties have been engaged in consultation since the inception of the proposed Scheme. Early correspondence dates back to 2014.

2.1.1.2. A summary of recent key planning meetings and correspondence between the Parties can be found in the table below.

**Table 2.1 – Record of Engagement Undertaken to Date**

Date	Form of Contact	Summary
20/05/2019	Meeting	High level planning discussion
21/08/2019	Meeting	Discussion of DCO parameters
10/10/2019	Teleconference	General planning including Works Plans, Converter Station parameters, landscaping, and substation connection works.
07/02/2020	Teleconference	Planning, workstreams, connection works, construction traffic, other energy proposals in the vicinity.
19/03/2020	Teleconference	Planning, optioneering including selection of Lovedean.
03/06/2020	Teleconference	Alignment of disciplines, protective provisions, Converter Station options, land rights, technical specification update, legal matters.
13/10/2020	Teleconference	Discussion relating to the Statement of Common Ground (this document), contents of the NGET written representation (6 <sup>th</sup> October), transfer of rights from the Order and land rights
28/10/2020	Teleconference	A meeting to progress outstanding matters between the parties' respective land agents and solicitors on 28 October 2020 and both the



Date	Form of Contact	Summary
		Applicant and NGET are targeting agreement of Heads of Terms by Deadline 5
12/11/2020	Teleconference	Discussion relating to contents of the Statement of Common Ground (this document).
03/12/2020	Teleconference	Discussion relating to letter 62100616-WSP-NGET-20201120 in relation to NGET 4.1.1 and appended to this Statement of Common Ground.
11/02/2021	Teleconference	Discussion relating to Protective Provision Agreement.
23/02/2021	Teleconference	Discussion relating to Land Agreement

2.1.1.3. Note that other meetings where the agenda and discussion relates solely to engineering matters or land rights are not summarised.

### 3. SUMMARY OF TOPICS COVERED BY THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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#### 3.1. TOPICS COVERED IN THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

- 3.1.1.1. The following topics discussed between the Applicant and National Grid are commented on further in this SoCG:
- Development Consent Order
  - Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions
- 3.1.1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, matters not covered in this SoCG have not been discussed between the parties.

## 4. CURRENT POSITION

### 4.1. DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Table 4.1 - Development Consent Order

Ref.	Description of matter	Current Position	RAG
<b>Development Consent Order</b>			
NGET4.1.1	Grid Connection Works	<p>It has been discussed and agreed that all associated works to connect the Interconnector and Converter Station to Lovedean Substation (including works within the existing Lovedean Substation site) shall be included within the DCO for the Proposed Development and those works are to be provided for within Works No.1 at Schedule 1 to the draft DCO.</p> <p>On review of the draft DCO, NGET requested a change to the description of Works No. 1 in order to make clear that the grid connection works (Works No. 1) would include an extension to the existing substation.</p> <p>Both parties agreed to revised wording in order to bring the necessary clarity to the draft DCO. It is not the case that this introduces new work which not been foreseen or assessed.</p> <p>The agreed revised wording is as follows;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Work No.1 – substation connection works consisting of –</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) <i>Extension of the existing substation, including site establishment , earthworks, civil and building works.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) <i>2 400 kilovolt air and or gas insulated switchgear bays, associated secondary equipment and auxiliary services;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) <i>Onshore HVAC cables of up to 800 metres in length (each cable circuit);</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(d) <i>up to 5 link boxes per cable circuit with dimensions of up to 0.8 metres in length by 0.8 metres in width by 0.6 metres in height;</i></p> <p>I order to confirm that these works have already been included as part of the Environmental Statement, the Applicant agreed to perform an audit which explains how Works No.1 have been included in each chapter of the Environmental Statement. The findings of this audit are set out in a letter from the Applicant to NGET (62100616-WSP-NGET-20201120) appended to this document.</p>	Agreed
NGET4.1.2	Converter Station Options	The Parties have engaged in discussions relating to the eastwards shift of the Converter Station (Option B(ii)) onto NGET land. It is agreed that NGET has no objection to the principle of this micrositing, subject to agreeing Heads of Terms.	Agreed
NGET4.1.3	Landscaping at Lovedean Substation	<p>The parties have discussed the implications of the Proposed Development on the landscaping associated with the existing Lovedean substation.</p> <p>It is accepted that Converter Station Option B(ii) would result in a loss of existing mitigation planting at the Lovedean substation.</p>	Agreed

Ref.	Description of matter	Current Position	RAG
		A plan identifying the indicative landscape proposals in connection with Option B(ii) for the Converter Station has been provided to NGET for consideration and National Grid has no concerns in respect of the indicative proposals.	
NGET4.1.4	AC cables and connection bays	<p>The principle of the routing of the AC cables from the Converter Station to Lovedean substation has been agreed, connecting at two connection bays within the Lovedean substation.</p> <p>It is agreed in principle that NGET will build, own and operate the AC connection bays and the 400kV AC cables from the sealing end in the substation to the sealing end in the Converter Station, to be completed via a transfer of the benefit of part of the Order. It is on this basis that Article 7 (6)(b) of the draft DCO (REP1-021 Deadline 1 submission) provides for the benefit of the Order in so far as it relates to Work No. 1 to be able to be transferred to National Grid.</p>	Agreed
NGET4.1.5	Work Order	Work No. 1 – substation connection works, and Work No. 2 – works to construct the Converter Station and associated equipment (covering the AC cables) as described at Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (REP1-021 Deadline 1 submission) are relevant to NGET and these are the Works which are the subject of this Statement of Common Ground.	Agreed



## 4.2. LAND AND PROPERTY AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS

Table 4.2 - Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions

Ref.	Description of matter	Current Position	RAG
<b>Land and Property Agreement and Protective Provisions</b>			
NGET4.2.1	Land Agreements	The Applicant and NGET have not yet agreed Heads of Terms in relation to the land rights required over Plot 1-27, though discussions are at an advanced stage. The parties expect that Heads of Terms will be agreed by Deadline 9 and expect the Option Agreement will be drafted and agreed in the 4-6 weeks following this.	Unresolved at Deadline 8
NGET4.2.2	Protective Provisions	The parties have agreed the form of protective provisions to be included within the Order.	Agreed

## 5. SIGNATURES

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Ref.	National Grid	Aquind (the Applicant)
Signature		
Printed Name	ANDREW LUCAS	KIRILL GLUKHOVSKOY
Title	Contracted Consents Officer	Managing Director
On behalf of	National Grid	Aquind Limited
Date	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021

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- Aquind Interconnector Ltd. (2019, December 12). *2.2 Land Plans*. Retrieved from National Infrastructure Planning: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000461-2.2%20Land%20Plans.pdf>
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