

1 Introduction

Purpose of This Document

- 1.1 This Environmental Report has been prepared by RPS on behalf of FAB Link Ltd (the Applicant). The findings of this Environmental Report support a planning application to the States of Alderney (SoA) for the onshore cable works in association with the FAB Link Interconnector.

Introduction to the FAB Link Interconnector

- 1.2 FAB Link is a proposed interconnector which will allow the exchange and trading of up to 1400MW of electricity between France, Alderney and Britain. The cable will cross the channel island of Alderney in order to connect future renewable tidal stream generation in the seas around Alderney.
- 1.3 The main components of the FAB Link Interconnector are shown on Figure 1.1 and would comprise:
- High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity cables buried in or placed (and protected) upon the sea bed between the Contentin (or Cherbourg) Peninsula, Normandy, France and the South Devon coast of Britain – the Offshore Cable Route;
 - HVDC electricity cable landing and traverse (as underground cables) of the Channel Island of Alderney;
 - HVDC onshore and offshore cable ‘transitions’ at the shorelines of all three territories;
 - HVDC to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) converter stations in both Normandy and Devon; and
 - HVDC onshore cables from the transition points to the converter stations and HVAC onshore cables from the converter stations to substations in both territories — the Onshore Cable Route.
 - Connection to the electricity system in Great Britain via the high voltage National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) substation near Exeter, operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission (‘National Grid’).
- 1.4 The FAB Link Interconnector is designated as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) under the Connecting Europe Facility and has received financial support for its development under that programme. It has been granted an Interconnector Licence by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and has been granted Interim Project Approval under the interconnector “cap and floor” regime by The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem).
- 1.5 FAB Link Ltd is developing the applications for the UK onshore, UK offshore and Alderney elements of the FAB Link Interconnector (as shown on Figure 1.1).

Statutory Framework and Planning Approach

- 1.6 Development at Alderney is controlled under the Building and Development Control (Alderney) Law, 2002 ('the Law').
- 1.7 Section 6 of this Law provides that the Building and Development Control Committee ('the Committee') may grant or refuse permission for a proposed development, or may grant permission subject to certain conditions. Section 7 of the Law sets out a series of 8 matters to be taken into consideration by the Committee when determining planning applications, which includes the provisions of any Land Use Plan approved by the States (the Alderney Land Use Plan was approved by the SoA in November 2011). Planning applications are also determined in accordance with the Committee's Policy Guidelines which were approved by the Committee and SoA in December 2008.
- 1.8 Under the Building and Development Control (Designated Area) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2016, the cable route lies within a Designated Area. Under this ordinance, the Committee can only grant planning permission for certain minor forms of development prescribed under Section 12 (2) of the Law, and the installation of an interconnector cable is not a recognised development type under this legislation.
- 1.9 Further information on the statutory planning requirements for Alderney can be found in the Planning Statement that will accompany the planning application.

Structure of the Environmental Report

- 1.10 The Environmental Report has been structured in order to allow relevant environmental information to be easily accessible. This volume of the Environmental Report (Volume 1) includes the main text of the Environmental Report. The description of the project is provided in Chapter 2. The remainder of Volume 1 contains topic by topic environmental information as shown in Table 1.1.
- 1.11 Figures and appendices to accompany the text of the Environmental Report are provided separately in Volumes 2 and 3. Volume 3 includes specialist reports providing relevant background and technical information.
- 1.12 The FAB Link Project Summary (available as a separate document) has been produced which provides an overview of the entire FAB Link Interconnector project and summarises impacts and proposed mitigation measures in non-technical language.

Table 1.1: Structure of the Environmental Report

Structure of Environmental Report	
Volume 1: Text	
Contents and Glossary	
Executive Summary	
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Project Description

Structure of Environmental Report	
Chapter 3	Ecology and Nature Conservation
Chapter 4	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Chapter 5	Transport and Traffic
Chapter 6	Air Quality and Health
Chapter 7	Noise and Vibration
Chapter 8	Hydrology and Flood Risk
Chapter 9	Geology, Hydrogeology, Ground Conditions and Contamination
Chapter 10	Land Use Agriculture and Soils
Chapter 11	Draft Code of Construction Practice
Volume 2: Figures	
Including all figures and drawings to accompany the text.	
Volume 3: Appendices	
Including specialist reports forming technical appendices to the main text.	

The Applicant

- 1.13 The FAB Link Interconnector is being developed through an unincorporated joint venture between RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) of France and FAB Link Limited of Guernsey. RTE is the owner and operator of the French national electricity grid. FAB Link Limited is an incorporated joint venture between Transmission Investment LLP of the UK and Alderney Renewable Energy Ltd (ARE).
- 1.14 Transmission Investment LLP is an operator and maintainer of various offshore transmission assets under Offshore Transmission Operator (OFTO) arrangements for connection of wind farms in the North Sea. ARE is the developer of a proposed tidal power station to be constructed off the south-east coast of Alderney and designed to take advantage of the extreme tidal currents in that area.
- 1.15 FAB Link Limited ('the Applicant') will own the assets in Alderney and Britain and RTE will own the assets in France.

The Assessment Team

- 1.16 The Environmental Report and planning application to SoA has been managed by RPS, taking into account information provided by the client team. RPS has provided the specialist topic assessments within this Environmental Report.

Further Information

- 1.17 This Environmental Report will be submitted as part of a planning application for the proposed cable installation across Alderney. The application will be submitted to the States of Alderney. The planning application, including the Environmental Report will be accessible for viewing at:
- Planning Office
States of Alderney
PO Box 1001
Alderney
GY9 3AA
- 1.18 Copies of the Environmental Report and planning application documents will be accessible on the local planning authority website:
<http://alderney.gov.gg/article/103482/Planning-Applications>
- 1.19 Further copies of the Environmental Report can be obtained from the following address:
- RPS
20 Western Avenue
Milton Park
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 4SH
- 1.20 A paper copy of the full Environmental Report can be obtained (cost on application) or an electronic copy (CD Rom) for free. A hard copy of the overarching NTS for all onshore elements of the FAB Link Interconnector (UK and Alderney) can be obtained for free.
- 1.21 All comments on the planning application should be issued to States of Alderney (planning office) at the address stated in paragraph 1.17.

References

- Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (2014) Manual of Procedures: The permitting process for Projects of Common Interest in the UK. May 2014.
- RPS (2015) France-Alderney-Britain (FAB) Interconnector: HVDC Converter Station Site Selection Process Report (2nd Edition) August 2015.
- Transmission Investment (2016) UK Connection Point Selection Report.