

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EN020022 AQUIND Interconnector
Date: 04 October 2020 22:06:22
Attachments: [qocBAOWFAOArIqcAOOYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA==.pdf](#)

EN020022 AQUIND Interconnector

We wish to object to the AQUIND Interconnector project Development Consent Order.

Our reasons for objecting are that the proposals are excessive, unjustified and will have a significant detrimental impact on the local environment.

The disruption to the community during construction will have a significant detrimental impact. Portsmouth is the most densely populated urban area outside of London and there can be no justification for selecting this route for such a project. Other less populated and less disruptive locations and routes are available along the South Coast and these should be considered before this proposal is progressed. Consideration should be given to the significant amount of objections to the project from the community of Portsmouth. The viability of the scheme must be brought into question when such a problematic route has been chosen with no logical explanation and proper consideration of alternatives.

It is proposing that significant amounts of land, much of which is currently open to the public or public land, will come under special rights for Aquind's benefit with little explanation or guarantees that the community interest will be preserved. Aquind's approach of sending letters to individual households early on in the process, making suggestions of notice of compulsory purchase, has instilled a distrust in the community of Aquind's motives or desire to come to amicable solutions. They have made little attempt to engender support or trust with local stakeholders and have made tokenistic consultation gestures which were not of relative scale to such a significant proposal. Their proposals lack detail or explanation of how works will be completed, timescales or an understanding of the long-lasting detrimental impact on the local amenity.

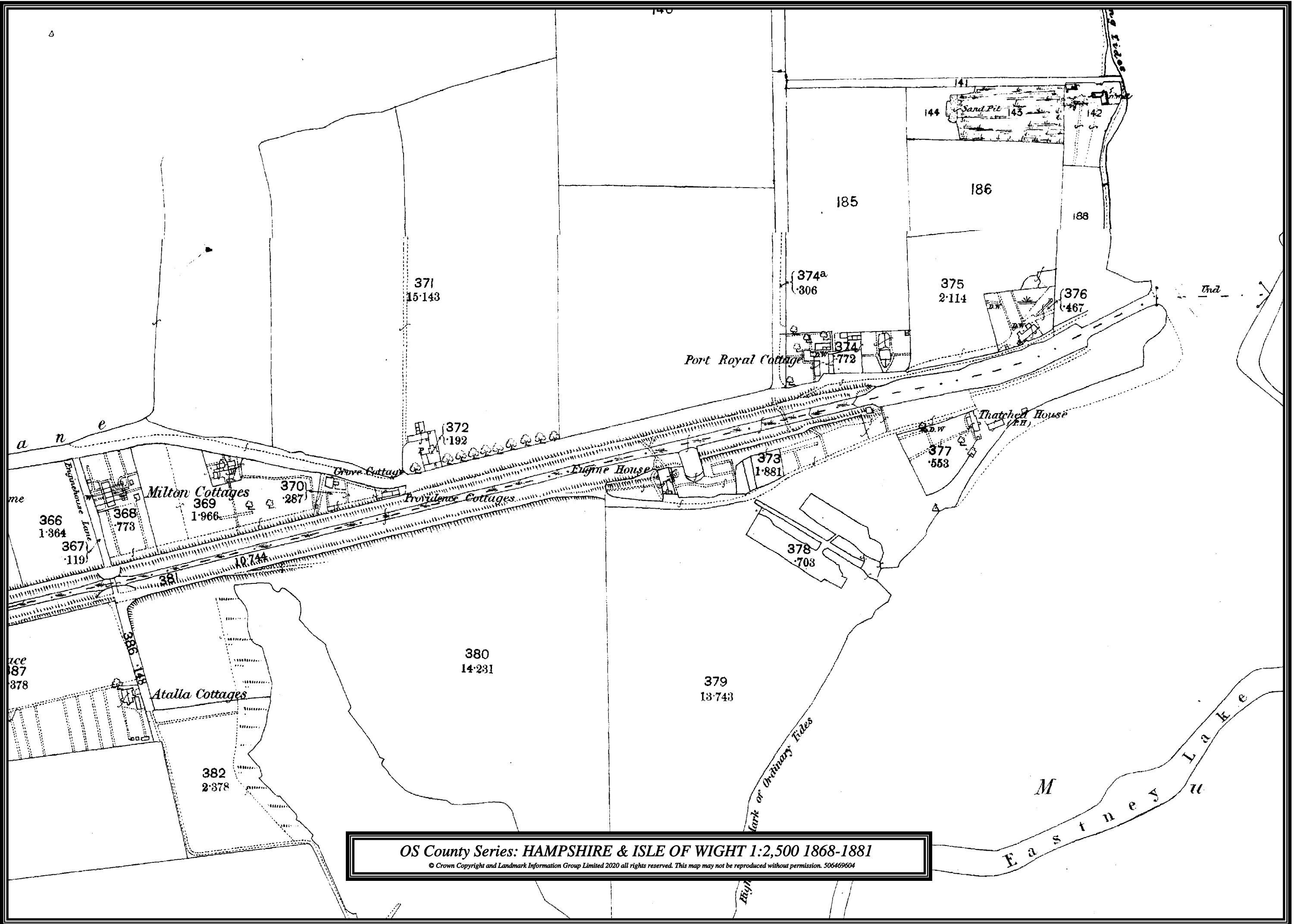
In this objection we have focused on two issues that seem not to have been fully considered in Aquind's application. The first is the heritage and archaeological study which appears to have overlooked a significant industrial archaeological feature on plot 10-14 application document reference 2.2 Land Plans Sheet 10 of 10. The route of the mostly now disappeared Portsmouth to Arundel Canal, is located nearby this plot and historic maps indicate that 'water locks' were located in this area. Although there is little visible evidence on the surface of these structures it is likely that the structures, which are probably constructed of small granite blocks, the evidence of these can be seen nearby, remain buried underground. The site was probably infilled with Victorian rubbish, local excavation would support this, and the lock structures, if only part, remain buried. The water locks disappeared from maps by 1909 but it is unlikely they were dismantled. The site should be thoroughly investigated before any excavation can proceed and this industrial heritage of Portsmouth properly recorded. The proposed horizontal drilling for the cables will destroy what remains of this structure. The attached OS map from 1889 shows the outline of these substantial structures (378.703). Also in this location, minimal reference is given in the study to the possibility of further parts of the original canal walls being found. It is likely that significant parts of the canal are buried under plot 10-05 of application document reference 2.2 Land Plans Sheet 10 of 10. Photographs from the early 20th Century clearly show the canal walls remaining before being filled in and levelled over. This should be investigated and recorded before any excavation or drilling proceeds.

The second issue is the impact on habitats. The Environmental Statements underplay the continuous detrimental impact, due to development, on Brent Geese

that use many parts of Portsmouth's open spaces and grassed areas as feeding and resting stops on their migration route. Other major developments are taking place across the city at the same time as this proposed application that will have a significant cumulative impact on their feeding grounds. The study fails to make reference to this as a significant issue. The redevelopment of the nearby St James Hospital site, potentially at the same time as this project, will be disruptive and disturbing to the Brent Geese and should be noted as a significant issue. Any mitigation measures will be compromised by the volume of other developments taking place at the same time. Sites 9-26 and 9-29 on Land Plans Sheet 10 of 10 are well used by Brent Geese between October and March each year and are important sites for feeding and resting. The study does not register the significance of these sites and how any development activity will harm the habitat and environment for the birds. Any mitigation, if this can be satisfactorily achieved, should be explained in detail in the study.

Denise & Victor Vine

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OS County Series: HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT 1:2,500 1868-1881
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