

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Cc:** [office@portsmouthlibdems.org.uk](mailto:office@portsmouthlibdems.org.uk)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Aquind  
**Date:** 05 October 2020 17:44:03  
**Attachments:** [Opposition to AQUIND Interconnector.docx](#)

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Dear Sirs,

Attached please find our formal objections to the proposed Aquind Interconnector project from France to England via the Solent, Portsmouth, Waterlooville and Lovedean. Please include this along with the many other objections from representatives of residents in Portsmouth and environs, along with those in West Sussex and Hampshire who consider this project unsuitable and unnecessary.

As my health is not very good at present and I am awaiting [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am not sure if I will be able to participate in the next phase of the planning enquiry but, depending on eventualities, I hope that my views, and that of my wife, will be considered.

Yours faithfully

Patrick A Whittle

(also representing Cynthia A Whittle)

[REDACTED]

Ref AQUI-001 and AQUI-002

## **Opposition to proposed AQUIND Interconnector**

**Fact 1.** The amount of British electrical energy generated from different sources fluctuates, being roughly gas 38%, wind 28%, nuclear 17%, biomass 12%, solar 6%, wave, marine and hydro 4%, coal and oil 1%. Britain currently has 4GW of interconnectors importing energy with others under construction. In 2019 we imported 5.5 TWh and exported 1.1TWh - this net 4.4 TWh was 6% of UK needs. The proposed AQUIND Interconnector link of capacity 2GW aims to provide 5% of all British electrical energy needs by 2023.

**Objection 1. The need is questionable considering overall energy forecasts including renewable energy. British dependence on importing even more energy from various sources in Europe could impede our progress towards targets for our provision of renewable and sustainable energy (40% target by 2030).**

**Fact 2.** The proposed 238 km (145 mile) AQUIND high voltage cables between Normandy and Portsmouth would, for half of the submerged route, be adjacent to the IFA2 cable already in place across an extremely busy shipping lane and designated conservation zone.

**Objection 2. Laying new cables would not only inconvenience shipping but more significantly further disturb the Solent Marine Conservation Zone which is designated to preserve rare and threatened habitats and marine species.**

**Fact 3.** The AQUIND proposal for 20 km of thick underground high voltage cables, laid in deep trenches, require considerable insulation, alongside separate fibre optic cables. Both types of cable require roads to be dug up for servicing in future, impeding local traffic.

**Objection 3. Overhead high voltage power lines can be installed over water or land without digging up roads and disrupting traffic. They require less insulation and are far more economically viable than underground cables. Overhead cables are also easier to service without more digging up roads and inconveniencing local traffic.**

**Fact 4.** The underground route of the proposed cables follows busy main roads under Portsmouth, one of the most densely populated cities in Britain. From Eastney it runs along the Eastern Road, Farlington Avenue, Portsdown Hill Road to the A3 London Road, then through Purbrook and Waterlooville and along the Hambledon Road towards Lovedean. Sections of the route are also incompatible with the desirability of maintaining areas of open land which are part of or adjacent to the South Downs and nature reserves.

**Objection 4. The route from Eastney to Lovedean appears to be one planned by Satnav. It follows one of the two major roads in and out of Portsmouth, through Waterlooville, without consideration of effects on residents within this densely populated conurbation. Consequences for residents' due to extra traffic and parking of vehicles required by 250 Aquind employees are unacceptable. Apart from months of construction with roads closed and traffic disrupted, this project would certainly result in further degradation of road surfaces. The natural environment is threatened by a project proposing to remove many trees and degrade preserved open spaces upon which our plant and wildlife depend.**

**Fact 5.** Eastern European entrepreneurs, formerly with the defunct OGN company based in Newcastle (whose address they used in making this proposal) are behind this project. Their firm Aquind Energy Sarl, is registered in Luxemburg and appears to have extremely limited assets and heavy liabilities - being dependent upon significant financial inputs by the British and French governments.

**Objection 5. It would be unwise to invest in a project proposed by a company with no proven civil engineering record and which lacks adequate manpower and financial resources.**

**Patrick and Cynthia Whittle,**   
**Ref: AQUI-001 & AQUI-002**

**5th October, 2020**