

# **Additional Objection statement: and additions to my previously submitted comments, and responses by Portsmouth residents, myself and councillors (deadlines 4 and 5).**

by Kirsten McFarlane, Affected person and interested Party

My reference: AQUI-013

**This document includes comments and updates I have  
written between  
09/10/20 and 23/12/2020.**

1. I am writing this to try and glean some clarity on the 1000+ documents in the AQUIND planning inspectorate folder.

2.

I have an allotment plot at Milton Piece, Portsmouth. It is in the yellow area in the proposals.

I have subsequently been told that I am an interested party and that AQUIND have been made to acknowledge that we are tenants of this land, finally, after not recognising the fact, and deliberately not informing us of their plans/making light of their plans, and then blaming the allotment officers/ council for not telling us. then blaming the MP for frightening us when we finally cottoned on to how disastrous the plan was going to be for us, for portsmouth. Aquind has consistently changed their plans, blamed others, point blank state that their changes are inconsequential. need no consideration. AKA, the public, the councils , councillors are just to be ignored by AQUIND, or worked around, please inspectorate, teach AQUIND that sometimes you do have to take NO as an answer.

3. I only got my allotment plot July 2020. I had never heard about the AQUIND project from any source, until i saw a public post (not the council) on the allotment gate October 3rd 2020. It was a poster from LETS STOP AQUIND face group book - fellow allotment holders are key admin).

Throughout the examination process AQUIND has been forced to change their plans, it seems so many times over the years. I find this latest set of changes to their plans a blatant and arrogant ploy to sidestep the issues raised , rather than to fix them. From what I have read in the reports, and from public, council and MP's reports, this seems to be a long standing communication issue by AQUIND.

#### **4: 'NO IMPACT'**

In the October-December updates to inspectorate submissions, From the documents I have been

able to read, AQUIND is arrogantly side stepping the issue of our existence and legal rights on their planned route of pipe laying once again. My example of this is at the allotments, and referring to the letters regarding allotment holders. AQUIND say they now only want rights to access underground. they subtly (?) removed the surface from their application. and state numerous times thereafter that our issues are irrelevant because there is :-

**“no impact on the surface”**

thereby AQUIND has attempted to ‘remove” our ownership, right to reject, and they are refusing to accept the thousands of rejections they have had to their plan , not just for this one site, our allotment, but for all the homes, owned land, etc. that people are deeply concerned about loosing or being irrevocably damaged by aquind. And it’s not just the land (\*‘surface’) which stands to be taken over and ruined - also property values, right to a peaceful life, right to easy travel, right to live within pollution limitations.

I dont want aquind's clay drowning my plot for ; ruining it forever. Aquind want to pump clay through our allotments and denied it would 'have any impact 'at surface level';. literally they are saying' **lets pump clay through the arteries of a city; wont impact them or kill them...**' and **'its for the greater good'**

so far aquind have changed their tune umpteen times over the past years in order to get their way. increasing 10 fold the publics dismay and alarm.

**The list of impacted elements is so extensive i have no hope to learn, understand or comment on them all** - I know and hope that other members of the public, businesses, council and Mp’s will have provided enough evidence to the inspectorate to cover all the elements that AQUIND quite clearly deride and admonish; essentially just for their corporate gain.

**There is no benefit to Portsmouth in this plan. only destruction: Physical, financial, mental, environmental, sociological devastation .**

**AQUIND must be made to find a route that doesn’t destroy lives, our environment, our nature, our land (\*AKA the Surface).**

**They have tried to say in their reports that they can mitigate and relocate, compensate, renegotiate, manipulate, to make it work - this is utter rubbish. There isn’t any mitigation, nor space to make any more errors in their plan for Portsmouth.**

**Portsmouth is already maxed out; and cannot in any way function or survive with one more catastrophic load, it will indeed have an ‘impact at surface level’.**

**This week the police were stopping people leaving the island by one of only three roads off the island. because of COVID tier 4. How can you imagine it would be justifiable for AQUIND to cause city wide road grid locks over the years it will take to do this construction?.**

**I have read their mitigation reports on staggered development. this micro fixation doesn’t blind us from what it actually will do the city for the years it takes to complete. Their mitigation cant work. And I know the council and professionals have told AQUIND and the inspector this ad nauseam.**

**I fully agree and wish to repeat all that the council duly noted in their briefing report of 25th November 2020 : Every point they raise i agree with, and i will quote on section of the 21 page report as it pertains to the allotment I rent:**

**Document: 201124 Aquind Update Briefing - FINAL. Date: 25 November 2020 Report by: Strategy Unit (Portsmouth city Council.)**

### ***“ Milton Piece Allotment Gardens***

*This allotment land is identified on the land plans for works requiring permanent new access rights - and some for new connection rights. The plots were noted as special category land by the applicant, although the Council has highlighted to the ExA that this appears to be based on a misunderstanding by Aquind about the specific legal type of the allotments. Nonetheless, this does not alter their significance to residents and the Council. Both these rights mean that the allotment land will not only be subject to potential disruption during construction but also into the future once operational. The rights of access as drafted are clearly permanent - and the new connection rights include not only the “right to install” and “operate...the underground electrical and fibre optic cables” but also to “maintain” the cables. To 'maintain' is understood to include inspection, upkeep, repair, adjust, alter, improve, preserve and further includes remove, reconstruct and replace any part of the authorised development.*

*If Aquind/the future developer carry out the construction works as the Council understands was indicated to the allotments association, namely drilling under the allotments, it appears there would be little or no impact on the allotments at that point. However, the rights sought by the applicant by means of compulsory acquisition powers reserves the right to open dig through the allotments. In addition, no limit is set out as to how access is to be gained to the cables once installed other than through the surface.*

*It appears to the Council that there is in fact the clear potential to disrupt the cultivated allotments and the allotment holders (who are tenants of the Council) as well the large sections of roadways and the main car park and entrance area within certain plots.*

*It is of considerable concern to the Council, based upon recent communications with its tenant allotment holders that this potential disruption does not appear in fact to have been explained either to the Allotment Association and/or the tenants directly. For example at a presentation held by Aquind at the allotments the Council is aware it was suggested that there would be no surface disruption to the allotments and that there should be no reason for the holders to be concerned.*

*The requirement to have extended access to the route of the new cable, as a consequence of the rights sought for acquisition may have implications on allotment holders generally along this route. Even if the cable were to be drilled under the allotments, as asserted by the applicant, the permanent easement sought subsequently for 50 metres along the cable, would directly affect around 97 allotment plots. Put simply the rights sought currently mean that AQUIND or any successor would be permitted access to allotment plots at any time and that this would include the right to excavate these plots throughout construction and in future to access the cables.*

*None of the allotment tenants or the interests and rights they hold as tenants of the allotment has been identified or listed within the Book of Reference or in the Land Plans, and many allotment holders have established and cultivated their plots over many years. The Council is working with Aquind to ensure that allotment holders are contacted by post and given an opportunity to be entered into the Book of Reference. It is evident that the loss and disruption caused by excavating these plots for the cable route would be devastating.*

*The work Order limit as shown in the Land Plans covers the whole of Milton Piece which has some 200 allotments and part of Eastney Lake affecting 52 allotments there, plus 2 of the main car parks and access roads and paths. All of these allotments are let to tenants and any threat of disruption for up to 7 years would clearly be a matter of major concern and anxiety to the affected tenants. The Council has no alternative allotment sites and waiting lists at all sites with nearly 4 years at the Milton site. In the Council's view, no assessment of this potential impact and no mitigation measures or controls on these powers appear within AQUIND's application documents. As such the Council is highlighting the potential disruption and loss to*

*allotment holders as unrecognised by the Applicant and pressuring Aquind to guarantee through the legal Order that Horizontal Directional Drilling is the only work method permissible in the vicinity of the allotments.*

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**Please inspectorate, put a hold on this process until UK has recovered (at least ) back to max tier 2 covid restrictions . Dont let this be the last nail in the coffin for us.**

**Portsmouth will have 1/3 less emergency escape routes for a heavily pollinated island if this construction work happens. I cannot believe the inspectorate can consider this a sane idea!. Portsmouth is overcrowded, highly polluted, high mental health issues,. there is no ‘mitigation’ that can make this plan work here.**

In AQUIND’s submissions to the inspectorate they quite clearly, repeatedly, **find the public and councils input insignificant and irrelevant** .In the last round of submissions AQUIND literally (slanderosly? ) passed the blame for ‘alarming’ allotment holders end September 2020 to one of the MP’s in their response to Stephen Morgan (MP)’s objection letter. - at the time i found out about their plan - and I know it wasn’t the council or any MP who scared and alarmed me 3rd of October when i read the poster on the allotment gate - ONLY AQUIND alarmed me

AQUIND’s response to Stephen’s objection letter in October exemplifies AQUINDS talent for manipulating wording and legal context.; unfortunately for AQUIND this technique has been very well documented and now is being questioned by every person objecting to this plan. And yes, more and more of the public are only finding out about the plan or that actually it will impact them, now. So AQUIND trying to fob off with the excuse that they made all the deadlines for submissions and we are too late to object etc surely cant be upheld.

I do not agree that Aquind did all they could to update new or preexisting interested parties; they did not find and communicate with new interested parties every time they changed their plan that would impact more new people. (including me). And then the admonish an MP for allegedly ‘alarming’ us by informing us of the aquind plans and what it really will mean to us?

- AQUIND’s arrogant and dismissive attitude towards the public, councils, MP’s, environment, seems to extend across the entire scope of areas affected by the the route of this plan, through France, Portsmouth, and all the way to Lovedean.

I do not agree that aquind’s surmises their plans as sound, safe or realistic.

I am alarmed AQUIND could conclude that the application includes thorough assessment of the environmental issues. So I tried to read (first week of October 2020) at least one environmental document in order to fathom the 100000’s pages of documents that i have no chance to read or understand., from their submitted evidence to the inspectorate.

After only hearing of the project October 3rd due to a notice on allotment gate by fellow plot holders, I spent an unreasonable amount of hours trying to understand read discuss and respond to this. But i have [REDACTED] and i cant take on the AQUIND team - i cant do this fight as a full time job - which is what is required to read, digest and respond to this horror; especially with COVID, and even more so having a deadline of 23rd december 2020 to write my response by,= just after portsmouth and south east england went into tier 4 COVID lockdown.

I had to cancel my christmas visit to extremely vulnerable family hi haven’t seen since last christmas because of the new tier 4 rules 20th december 2020..

i was supposed to be going to see my family tomorrow. i am a single parent of [REDACTED]. my family are extremely vulnerable. and yet, the inspectorate expect me to submit a response by the 23rd december. to a project that should not even be discussed still. the idea of using portsmouth should have been thrown out years ago.

now i find instead i have to do another emergency battle, and the deadline is 23rd december. I cannot comprehend why the inspectorate and the government can allow such a deadline too stand. it is grossly unfair and inappropriate.

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Back at the start of October I looked at some of the 501 environmental documents (to date), and focusing on **newts** as my example in this document, as newts are well observed across the allotments. I have also seen bioluminescent centipedes on my allotment plot, which are exceptionally rare,. There is an abundance wold life above and below the surface of the allotment area where aquind wish to lay their cables including slow worms, adders, reptiles, lizards, frogs toads, bats, etc etc etc.

**My research on AQUIND's environmental reporting - AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR  
written by Kirsten McFarlane, 09/10/12.**

**This is my summary objection to acceptance of the environmental reports from AQUIND:**

**I make highlight quotes from aquind's report text in Red:**

**1. AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

**EIA Scoping Report**

VERSION: FINAL ISSUE

PINS REF.: EN020022

DOCUMENT: EIA SCOPING REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 2018

- a. <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-000063-AQUI%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>
- b. Aquind's scoping report is 604 pages long.
- c. Searching the word 'newt' in the document only comes up with 12 times in 1 section (1 other being a town).
  - i. **Aquinds Reference to Newts:"**
    - ii. *"A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been undertaken to inform this Report. A detailed habitat survey was undertaken **for areas within the indicative site boundary and broad habitat mapping and identification of water bodies (for great crested newts)** was undertaken for areas up to 250m from the Proposed Development. The updated RLB will be assessed to identify any further water bodies within 250m. **Impacts on other protected species will also be considered, with the revised red line.**"*
- d. Despite saying the surveys would be carried out thoroughly over the entire area being worked on, it seems that only the 'station' areas have been assessed for Newts, and not the areas along the route planned for digging etc.
  - i. **Screenshot of document excerpt:**

### Reptiles

19.2.25. The desk study did not return any records of reptiles within the vicinity of the converter station. Habitats including grassland fields, woodland, hedgerows and logs piles and debris offer suitable hibernacula and foraging opportunities for the four common reptile species.

19.2.26. Reptile surveys have not been undertaken and are not planned around the proposed converter station locations.

### Great Crested Newt

19.2.27. The desk study returned no records of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* within the vicinity of the converter station.

19.2.28. No water bodies (ponds) were identified within 250m of the converter station locations.

### Other Amphibians

19.2.29. The desk study did not return records of other amphibians in the vicinity of the converter station option locations. Terrestrial habitats could support these species, but there were not any water bodies identified.

e.

- i. *There are no ponds or area surveys for newts within the Milton Piece allotment planned or completed.*
- ii. *The identified possible areas in the Milton Locks Nature Reserve next to the allotments were systematically 'scoped out' of the assessment.*

f. **No surveys have been carried out at Milton Piece Allotments for any wildlife or fauna; as far as i can comprehend.**

g. **AQUIND have not included standard reports in their investigations.** E.g referencing Record Pool: <https://www.recordpool.org.uk/> : The Record Pool collects data on herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) in the UK and to makes it available, locally and nationally, for conservation purposes.

h. **Almost half of the ponds visited were scoped out of the survey leaving only 33 study ponds. further scoping out reduced this number to 24.**

## **2. Environmental Statement – Volume 3 – Appendix 16.9 – Great Crested Newt Survey Report DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

a. **There are only 2 documents in over 1000 in the inspectorate folder:**

### **Description**

**[Aquind Limited](#) (PDF, 8 MB)**

**Additional Submission accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority - 6.3.16.9 Environmental Statement – Volume 3 – Appendix 16.9 – Great Crested Newt Survey Report - Low Resolution**

*Examination > Additional Submissions*

*Published: 21/09/2020*

**[Aquind Limited](#) (PDF, 27 MB)**

**6.3.16.9 Environmental Statement - Volume 3 - Appendix 16.9 Great Crested Newt Survey Report**

*Developer's Application > Environmental Statement*

*Published: 12/12/2019*

b. **From the 2019 document:**

- i.** *Extract 1: 'Environmental DNA ('eDNA') surveys were used to determine the presence or absence of great crested newts. ... Desk study data indicated the*

*presence of great crested newts within the local area, but all records were outside the Survey Area, the closest being 300 m from the Order Limits. The 2019 great crested newt presence/absence surveys did not identify evidence of great crested newts using ponds. While great crested newts are therefore likely to be present within the wider local area, they are not likely to occur within habitats which will be impacted by the Proposed Development. As a result, this species does not present a constraint to the Proposed Development. "*

**ii. Extract 2: screenshot:**

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3.5.1.2. Presence/absence surveys were undertaken at all accessible ponds in April, May and June 2019. The surveys were carried out with due regard for guidance provided in English Nature (2001) and Froglife (2001). Surveys were completed during the great crested newt breeding season, an optimal survey time for this species.

Statements such as "all accessible ponds in april , may and june 2019' scream inaccuracy: The ones that were not 'accessible' were just 'scoped out of the project survey'. Additionally only doing the survey over a hot dry period is not conducive to accuracy in findings.

I also note that although the "additional submission" document was submitted on 21/09/20, it seems to be a rewrite/edited version of last year's document, rather than an update for the changes that have been made this year.

It therefore looks like AQUIND have changed their plans over the past year and have not reported or submitted new data for those changes; and is still trying to sell the vague but exhaustively confusing documentation - 1003 documents. There is still no reference to Milton Piece allotment surveys for example and yet AQUIND has thrown the entire city into panic and distress, including all the allotment holders. This is unforgivable intimidation.

On one hand it concluded that they were not able to survey properly, because of the weather, for some planned pond sites. But then state they did find newts. Then state that 'newts are absent':

*"As previously discussed, the spring of 2019 was particularly dry and as a result some ponds were dry before surveys commenced or dried up during the presence/absence surveys. This resulted in three ponds not being surveyed, and a further four not having*

*all survey visits completed or all preferable survey methods (use of bottle trapping) used. This has meant that, when considered individually, these ponds could not be fully assessed for great crested newts. The remaining ponds were successfully surveyed, 12 of which were found to support other species of newt. It is considered that the conclusions of this study are reliable and that great crested newts are absent from the Survey Area. "*

Stating that great crested newts are absent from the **survey area**'. **This is not accurate, or, a distortion of the facts, boldly defined by creative 'survey area' definition.**

**3. Conclusion:**

As a resident of portsmouth and allotment holder, I will continue to investigate what 'official' records AQUIND have omitted from their investigations as far as I can, and what they should be including, or have omitted from their reports.

Recorded sightings and the area of milton piece allotment and milton lake nature reserve:

Recorded sightings and the area of milton piece allotment and milton lake nature reserve are within the 1km grid square Records for NGR square SZ6799

: are within the 1km grid square Records for NGR square SZ6799:

- common frog
- slow-worm
- common lizard
- (12 x Records)
- Show record data for SZ6799

Milton piece allotment and milton lake nature reserve are within the 1km grid square Records for NGR square SZ6799:

- common frog
- slow-worm
- common lizard
- (12 x Records)

Show record data for SZ6799

Work in progress:

Milton allotments and the milton lake nature serresece fall into the same grid square which had no studies by aquind done.

grid sqaure su60 and south sz69

<https://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong-os-gridref.html>

**SZ 67472 99649** Enter OS grid references or latitude/longitude values into the test boxes to try out the calculations:

OS Grid Ref	TG 51409 13177	=	
Lat/Lon (WGS84)			
(SW corner of grid square)			
Lat/Lon (OSGB36)			



no longer used (since 2014)

<https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

99a plot

**Grid Reference**

**Grid Reference**

**SZ 67487 99652**

Grid Reference (6 figure)

**SZ674996**

X (Easting) , Y (Northing)

**467487 , 099652**

Latitude , Longitude (decimal)

**50.792515 , -1.0438804**

Latitude , Longitude (degs, mins, secs)

recordkeeper.org.uk/index.php?option=com\_recordkeeper&controller=record&view=record&layout=detail\_filters&Itemid=161&Itemid=161&Itemid=161

You are logged in - You are viewing data at a 1km resolution (filter for sensitive species), and you can export data. Find out more about our access levels

CUSTOM FILTERS Limit to:

Results 1 - 19 of 19  = Verified  = Not yet verified

Show: 25  State:

ID ▲▼	Record Date ▲▼	Record Time ▲▼	Species ▲▼	Lifestage ▲▼	Sex ▲▼	City ▲▼	County ▲▼	Grid Ref ▲▼
39998	20-09-2020	13:48:00	common frog	Adult	unknown	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
39995	13-09-2020	12:27:00	common frog	Adult	male	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
39994	26-07-2020	12:34:00	slow-worm	Adult	female	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
39993	23-09-2020	14:23:00	slow-worm	Adult	male	2	Portsmouth	SZ6799
39991	26-09-2020	17:30:00	slow-worm	Young	unknown	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
39990	18-09-2019	Not entered	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
37618	26-07-2020	14:00:00	common lizard	Young	unknown	1	Portsmouth	SZ6799
37617	20-06-2020	11:00:00	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	3	Portsmouth	SZ6799
35770	20-05-2020	14:43:00	slow-worm	Young	unknown	3	Hants	SZ6599
35735	27-05-2020	13:00:00	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6599
35407	17-06-2019	14:23:00	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6599
33667	13-06-2019	10:33:00	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	1	see of wight	SZ6599
32648	11-06-2018	21:32:00	slow-worm	Young	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6599
29639	15-06-2018	09:45:00	adder	Young	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6599
29236	15-04-2018	09:45:00	adder	Adult	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6599
15524	11-08-2019	14:20:00	slow-worm	Adult	unknown	1	Hants	SZ6799
14146	29-03-2018	01:05:00	common frog	Tadpoles	unknown	Qty unknown	Hants	SZ6799
14280	23-03-2018	18:00:00	common frog	Eggs	unknown	2	Hants	SZ6799
2290	24-06-2012	21:39:00	adder		unknown	Not entered		SZ6599

Results 1 - 19 of 19

Additionally, I have looked up the grid references and can see that the ponds studied conveniently seem be unlikely newt habitats. I would be interested to know from locals at each of the survey points listed in the environmental report, what sightings of newts they have had? It would be nice to at least question if they deliberately choose unviable sites to survey, and omitted sites that should have been included?

I also want to encourage everyone to formally record their sightings of newts and all other wildlife to respective official records. I also want to check how to get this year's recent sightings confirmed and published as 'official', so if anyone can help work out that, or know, it would really help to know!

We need to actually have a 'robust' amount 'official' sightings recorded, with photographs, time date, notes preferably recorded to present for our objection against AQUIND's plans for Portsmouth, lovedean and the surrounding area.

## NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

At a national context, planning policy is driven by the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') (2019). The NPPF sets out, amongst other points, how at an overview level the

*"planning system should contribute to and enhance the national and local environment by:*

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IPG were compiled in 2011. The Infrastructure Planning Commission was abolished the 2011 Localism Act 2011 which transferred its decision making powers in all cases to the Secretary of State.

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- *...recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;*
- *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...*"

The NPPF states that this should be achieved through local planning development frameworks and gives recommendations for criteria based policies which recognise the hierarchy of designated sites which range from internationally important habitat, to Survey Areas of importance at a local level and ensure that protection is

*"commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks."*

A list of principles which local planning authorities should follow when determining planning applications is included in the NPPF which includes the following:

- *"if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided...adequately mitigated, or, as last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- *...opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged; and*
- *planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland...unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss..."*

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*planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland...unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss..."*

In particular the

last paragraph:

*“if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided...adequately mitigated, or, as last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused; ...opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged; and planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland...unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss...”*

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**23/12/2020**

**Addendum:**

**My new comments and additions to responses previously submitted by Portsmouth residents, myself and councillors (deadlines 4, 5and, 6).**

I also include here the writings I have shared on social media including discussions on the Lets stop aquind page. I had hoped to be able to have time and brain power to consolidate this document into something a bit shorter, hopefully not repetitive; but the deadline is today, and I need to cover all the things I have been thing about the past 3 months since I learned of the AQUIND project.

**I absolutely agree and support this statement by an fellow objector; Wilhelm Rien-D'amis :**

It summarises everything I believe therefore I summarise my opposition to the plan, and the changes proposed because :

*I OBJECT TO Aquind destroying Portsmouth's (already minuscule) green space, polluting Portsmouth's (already dangerous) air, disrupting Portsmouth's (already overloaded) road network and endangering Portsmouth's (already threatened) wildlife... for up to 7 years.'*

*I object to Aquind building what is effectively a huge power station on green belt land, 250 metres away from the boundary of the South Downs National Park.*

*I object to Aquind's entirely opaque offshore funding of £1.2 billion for the from the British Virgin Isles, or Aquind's secretive ownership by a Russian oligarch via a Luxembourg parent company, or the fact that Aquind is a regular donor to the Conservative party or simply because this huge and damaging project totally contradicts the government's stated commitment to green energy sources.'*

*I object to the inadequate opportunities for the public to be represented in the (highly technical and legalistic) planning process, intrinsically favouring the applicant.*

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—21/12/2020

*On of my cousin's shared this article with me, and I hope the inspectorate seriously investigates these issues.*

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2020-12-21/major-tory-donor-linked-to-russian-corruption-scandal?fbclid=IwAR3Mse8Ji9zlkaaShUkDxfv5xwou3E0PgPPsZNCx7NPgkeEti9u01O-wSyM>

**"MAJOR TORY DONOR LINKED TO RUSSIAN CORRUPTION SCANDAL  
TYCOON WHO BENEFITED FROM STATE PIPELINE PROJECT NOW AWAITS UK  
GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR BILLION-POUND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

**"PUBLISHED DECEMBER 21 2020**

By [Patrick Elliot](#), [Franz Wild](#)

*"A Russian tycoon whose company and its directors have donated £1m to the Conservative party has been linked to a corruption scandal in his home country that involved businesses he was connected with pocketing enormous commissions for state contracts, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism can reveal.*

*Viktor Fedotov, 73, was the chairman of two companies that made more than £80m from a pipeline construction project found to be mired in fraud, costing the Russian state vast sums.*

*In August this year Fedotov was revealed to be the owner of Aquind, a company that has donated heavily to the Conservative party while seeking ministerial approval for a £1.2bn energy infrastructure project, the building of an underwater power cable running from Portsmouth to France.*

*In a 2008 internal review, the Russian state pipeline monopoly Transneft questioned why certain companies, including one chaired by Fedotov, had received huge commissions for work it passed on to subcontractors, depriving the state-owned company of valuable resources. It led to a criminal investigation but no charges were filed and Fedotov was not personally accused of any wrongdoing.*

*The report was first made public in 2010 by Alexei Navalny – the Russian opposition campaigner who survived a Novichok poisoning this year – and raises questions over the man in control of Aquind, a company that, together with its director Alexander Temerko, has donated to the Tory chancellor Rishi Sunak, business secretary Alok Sharma and Northern Ireland secretary Brandon Lewis.*

*Transneft conducted its review after a change in leadership and summarised its conclusions in the report. Fedotov was not identified in the report and the Bureau confirmed his position at the companies through company records.*

*Temerko has donated just under £700,000 to the Tory party since gaining British citizenship in 2011. The party has accepted £243,900 in donations from Aquind since March 2019, when Fedotov assumed sole ownership.*

*The issue takes on new urgency as the Planning Inspectorate is due to advise the government whether to approve Aquind's infrastructure project in March 2021.*

*"These reports raise yet more serious questions about why the Conservative party is happy to be bankrolled by Fedotov and Aquind," Labour's deputy leader, Angela Rayner, told the Bureau. "The public will be rightly disgusted that a Russian oligarch appears to enjoy privileged access to the prime minister and government ministers because of his huge donations to the Conservative party."*

*"Any politician or party ought to have a clear understanding of the nature of their benefactors"*

*Tory insiders expressed dismay that the party had accepted donations from Aquind seemingly without seeking a full picture of how its owner amassed his wealth. "There is a part of the party which really doesn't want to see donations coming in when we don't really know where it's from – and especially when the donor is awaiting some sort of government decision," one senior Tory backbencher told the Bureau.*





*Alexander Temerko, right, is on the board of directors at Aquind*

*alexandertemerko.com*

*The main players*

*Viktor Fedotov Energy tycoon whose companies profited from the Transneft contract scandal in 2009. Now owner of Aquind, the company that has donated over £240k to the Tory party since March – and is seeking a £1.2bn contract from the UK government.*

*Semyon Vainshtok Chairman of Transneft at the time of the contract scandal. Shares a long business history with Fedotov and has served on the board of an Aquind sister company.*

*Alexander Temerko Former high-flyer in Russia's energy sector now living under political asylum in London. Has donated almost £700,000 to the Conservatives and counts Boris Johnson as a personal friend. Aquind board member.*

*A party spokesperson said: "Donations to the Conservative party are properly and transparently declared to the Electoral Commission, published by them, and comply fully with the law."*

*Boris Johnson's government has already been hit by a series of scandals in which Conservative donors and others with personal connections to party leaders have landed Covid-related contracts worth billions or secured lucrative decisions in their favour.*

*Steve Goodridge of the campaign group Transparency International UK said: "Any politician or political party ought to have a clear understanding of the nature of their benefactors. Undertaking thorough due diligence on those who sponsor your activities is a robust safeguard against subsequent embarrassment or scandal. We urge politicians to think not only whether the funds they receive are lawful, but also whether accepting them shows good judgment."*

*Many MPs had expressed misgivings over the lack of transparency surrounding Aquind's ownership before Fedotov was revealed as its owner (via a Luxembourg company) by the Times in August.*

*Longtime allies*

*Fedotov, Temerko and Semyon Vainshtok – a former president of Transneft who was briefly a director for a company in the Aquind group – have been sowing the seeds of their involvement in the British energy sector since December 2006, when they met at a private drinks party at Kensington Palace held under the auspices of Prince Michael of Kent, the Queen's cousin.*

*The event was organised by Vainshtok's daughter Inna and hosted by Temerko, whose time at the top of Russia's oil industry overlapped with that of Fedotov and Vainshtok and who was living in exile in London after Vladimir Putin's regime had attacked his former employer, Yukos. (The previous year, the Russian state had failed in its attempt to have him extradited, with a judge dismissing the charges of fraud as politically motivated.) According to a source with*

*knowledge of the event, Vainshtok attended the party along with Fedotov, with whom he shares a long business history in Russia's murky world of energy deals.*

*Two months later, Temerko joined the board of directors at SLP Engineering, a now bankrupt UK-based sister company to Aquind that built offshore oil platforms. The following year he was joined there by both Fedotov and Vainshtok, who had just left a post he was appointed to by Putin, overseeing the preparations for the Sochi Winter Olympics.*

*Vainshtok had been president of Transneft for eight years, leaving in 2007, but it was not until 2010 that the details of the commissions scandal during his time there were made public by Navalny, the poisoned opposition activist.*

*Navalny's revelations were based on a Transneft review of its own contracts, undertaken after Vainshtok left the state monopoly. The review scrutinised deals awarded for the construction of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean oil pipeline during Vainshtok's time as president. It said contracts worth 303 billion rubles (about £6.18bn at the time) had been awarded – more than half of them to companies doing little more than taking a commission and finding other operators to do the work.*



*Semyon Vainshtok with Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in 2006*

*Sergei Zhokov/Itar/Tass*

*Fedotov was the chairman of two companies that, according to the review, had benefited from the contracts: the All-Russian Research Institute for Construction and Operation of Pipelines, Enterprises of Fuel and Gas Sector – known by its Russian acronym, VNIIST – and IP Network.*

*The Bureau, which identified Fedotov as the chairman of VNIIST and IP Network in company filings, was not able to independently corroborate the allegations contained in Transneft's internal review.*



*Mikhail Krutikhin, a partner at the Moscow-based research consultancy RusEnergy, highlighted the level of corruption that has historically surrounded Russia's state-commissioned energy projects. "They are political instruments of Putin and everybody understands they are losing money, they are not generating profit," Krutikhin said. "But the guys who are building pipelines get very, very wealthy from building unnecessary, redundant pipelines. The same was true for the oil pipeline to the Pacific coast."*

*Transneft's report led to a 2009 criminal investigation into allegations of the embezzlement of funds by companies it had hired as contractors, but the investigation did not result in any further proceedings.*

*The Bureau made a number of attempts to contact Fedotov regarding the story but received no response.*

*Aquind's connections to the UK's ruling party run deeper than donations. Months after losing his seat in the 2017 general election, the former Tory MP James Wharton took up a paid role advising the board of Aquind. He went on to become the campaign manager for Boris Johnson's successful bid for party leadership and was selected by Johnson for a life peerage this year. In September he took up a seat in the House of Lords, as Baron Wharton of Yarm, and remains in his role advising the board of Aquind, according to his LinkedIn profile.*

*Another Tory peer, Lord Martin Callanan, sat on Aquind's board of directors for more than a year, until the end of June 2017. In July this year, the government appointed him to an international anti-corruption role. Header image: Viktor Fedotov. Credit: Sputnik."*

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*This is the poster I have put on my allotment website, business pages, and social media:*

<https://kirstenmcfarlane.co.uk/PlotDeSpecialK/>

## Blog - Plot De Special K

### CONTINUING BATTLE WITH AQUIND - THIS I'LL DEFEND!

#### Details

Written by Kirsten

I only received documents today from AQUIND to submit to be added to book of reference.... and oh so vague and intro basically restates the obvious LIE: 'no affect at surface level'. no info on defining what an interested party or affected person is, or what that means legally.

18 of 21

no acknowledgement of the hundreds of (new) objections given in october 2020, other than, from as many of the newest documents i could stand or bear to read; AQUIND has CHANGED their plan to now not include 'some' surface areas , including allotment plots, but not the paths we need to access our plots..... hmmm. ?!? a very clear example of the extremes AQUIND WILL GO TO, TO BEND THE TRUTH, and manipulate an entire city into letting one corporation utterly control them and manipulate them, and disrupt their lives ....

but then, also, I note, they also literally wrote to the local MPs and council blaming them for freaking us out, we; the allotment holders, by letting us know of AQUINDS plan. ERRR. NO. I will be looking at legal action for slander on that. - the council/MP's didn't 'scare' us or tell us of your plan - My only finding out about the monster corporate destruction plan Oct 3rd 2020, from a community notice post on the gate of the allotment, despite it being in the works for years ; is literally sickening.

AQUIND is hiding behind very slick tactics to stick to the minimum examination rules and haven't been informing all residents. and yeh aquind. we do know now. some more of us. and many thousands more residents, the entire city WILL begin to know.

AQUIND - you cant hide your plan anymore, delude or manipulate us more, by going the ' its all really deep underground and doesn't have any impact at surface level' route. ERR NO. lol . how the hell do you think you can pull the wool over our eyes that much.????? sorry. your 10000sss of documents and complicated, evasive, and precisely worded to avoid giving us any help in understanding or objecting to your plans, or the formal letters you sent - do NOT cut it. WE ARE NOT FOOLED.

We will say this to the examiners.

and we hope they will listen to the entire population and NOT your utter nonsense hidden in fancy icing. that takes the biscuit.

GO AWAY, bake your dessert and eat it elsewhere. take your batter and bake it elsewhere. you get the idea. AQUIND is affecting my mental health.:



## **WARNING**

**STOP AQUIND FROM DEVASTATING  
OUR CITY & ALL AREAS THROUGHOUT THEIR  
PLANNED ROUTE TO LOVEDEAN:**

**AQUIND REPEATEDLY SAY TO THE EXAMINERS THAT  
THE PLAN HAS 'NO IMPACT AT SURFACE LEVEL'  
on residents, allotment holders, planned route, living  
by stations etc. - WHICH IS NOT ACCURATE OR FAIR -  
I DO NOT AGREE!**

**PLEASE URGENTLY LOOK INTO THIS PROJECT YOURSELVES:**

**YOU CAN HAVE HOPE OF GIVING YOUR  
LAST MINUTE OBJECTION TO THE EXAMINERS.**

**PROTECT YOUR:**

**LEGAL RIGHTS, ALLOTMENTS, HOMES, HEALTH, SPORTS  
GROUNDS, PARKS, WILD LIFE RESERVES, & ABILITY TO LIVE  
WITHOUT HARDSHIP: ROADS, ACCESS, DISRUPTION, POLLUTION,  
WELLBEING.**

**ME: KIRSTEN McFARLANE:**

**ALLOTMENT HOLDER, AFFECTED PERSON & INTERESTED PARTY:**

**[www.KirstenMcFarlane.co.uk/PlotDeSpecialK/](http://www.KirstenMcFarlane.co.uk/PlotDeSpecialK/)**

**AND  
COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP:**

**LETS STOP AQUIND:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/939949843156027>



- NO** to disrupting traffic and businesses
- NO** to destroying wildlife habitats
- NO** to grabbing land, property and allotments
- NO** to air and noise pollution
- NO** to the **AQUIND** electrical interconnector!

We are local people opposed to the laying of this underground cable and angry at the lack of consultation. Did you know the route from France will land at Eastney and run through Portsmouth, Fratton, Purbeak, Denmead, Waterlooville, ending at Lovedean? To find out more join our Facebook group 'Let's Stop AQUIND'. Please put this in your window if you also want to STOP AQUIND.



**ALLOTMENT HOLDERS:**

We should have all been sent AQUINDS QUESTIONNAIRE documents by post. I received mine 30/11/2020.

**IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED IT,**  
please tell LETS STOP AQUIND ADMIN, or me.

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, MOBILE PHONE, HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS or ANY OTHER FACTOR / NEED HELP SUBMITTING YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE; – LET US HELP YOU.**

I am on plot 99a Milton Piece.  
I can share and print documents/info for you.

**CHANGE TACK AQUIND.**

**Examination @ National Infrastructure planning is under way:**

Electric Lines:

**AQUIND Interconnector**

*by AQUIND Limited*

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/>