

Aquind Interconnector Oral Submission to Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 3 Patrick O'Hara

Post Glacial rising sea levels have left drowned river valleys surrounding islands of higher ground. Early mapping shows the extent to which the salt-water creeks and lakes of Langstone Harbour have been reclaimed.

Anthropogenic climate change is being mitigated by PCC and the Environment Agency.

The coastline has been split into seven flood cells each with a unique strategy. Eastney Lake the site for HDD 2 is in Flood Cell 3 where the strategy is to monitor and maintain and where funding is unlikely, and contributions will be required.ⁱ

To the north the 'hard defences' of Flood Cells 4 and 5 will transfer pressure to the soft low-lying cliffs that bound the allotments. The shoreline is characterised by exposures of terrace gravels below the top-soil, gabions lie stranded bereft of purpose and drainage pipes protrude from the cliff all attesting to a retreating coastline.

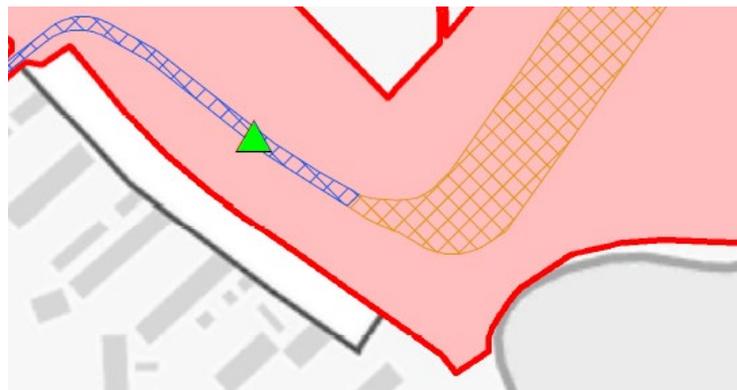
Given the life span of the project this route is unsuitable.

Made Ground

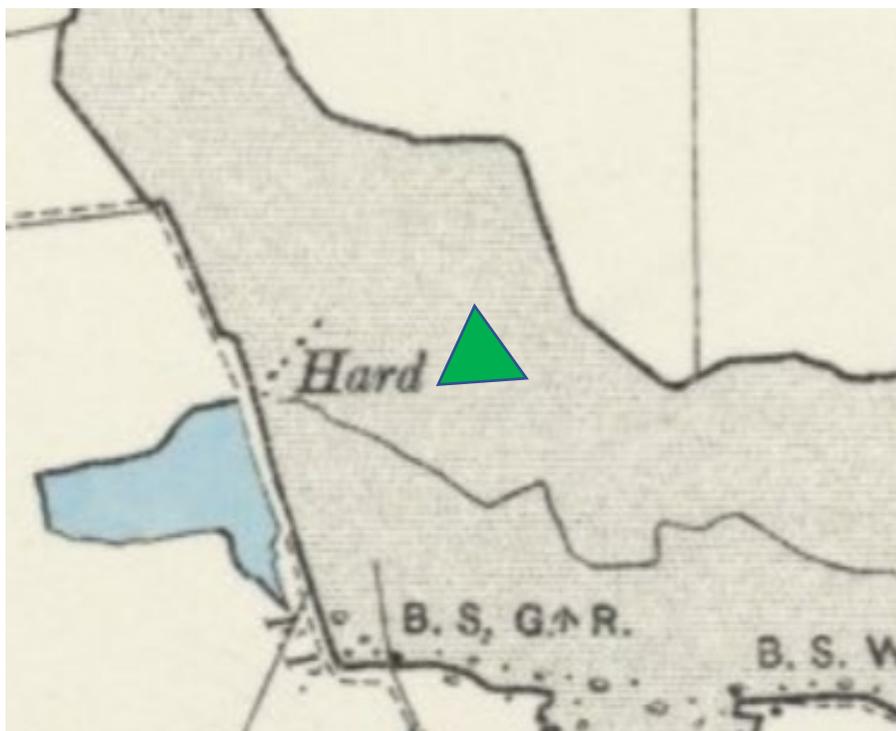
Prior to 1869 a finger of Eastney Lake extended as far west as Milton Road; a second finger extended north almost reaching Locksway Road. Map regression shows episodes of reclamation culminating in the 1960s and are contemporaneous with the infilling of Milton Common.

Parkman Environmental 1995 described the deeper areas of landfill to the centre and east of Milton Common as comprising *>4m of highly putrescible domestic waste that is highly variable but comprises mixtures of wood, paper, cardboard, brick, glass, metal, rubble and plastic etc, in a dark grey/black silty sandy gravel matrix with a strong anaerobic odour of decay.*ⁱⁱ

It is of deep concern then to read that in assessing the area of the HDD 2 reception area as follows. *historical landfill is noted adjacent and to the south-east of Milton and Eastney Allotments. Deposited waste included industrial, commercial and household waste. No further information is known for this historical landfill.*ⁱⁱⁱ



HDD 2 Reception



OS 1869

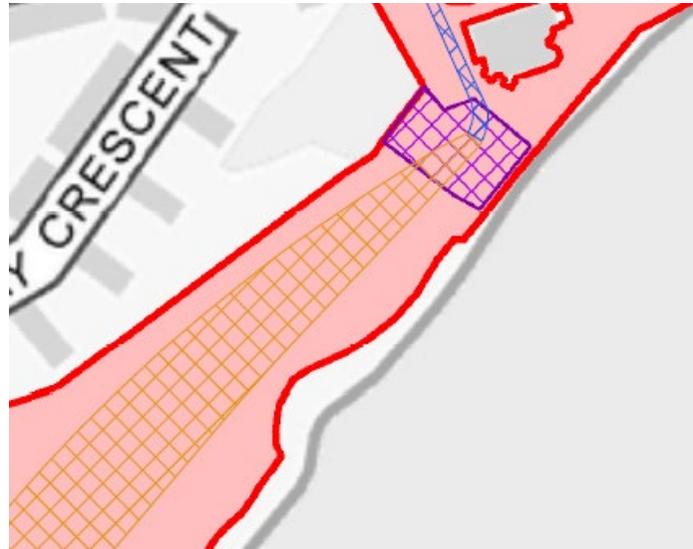


Google Earth

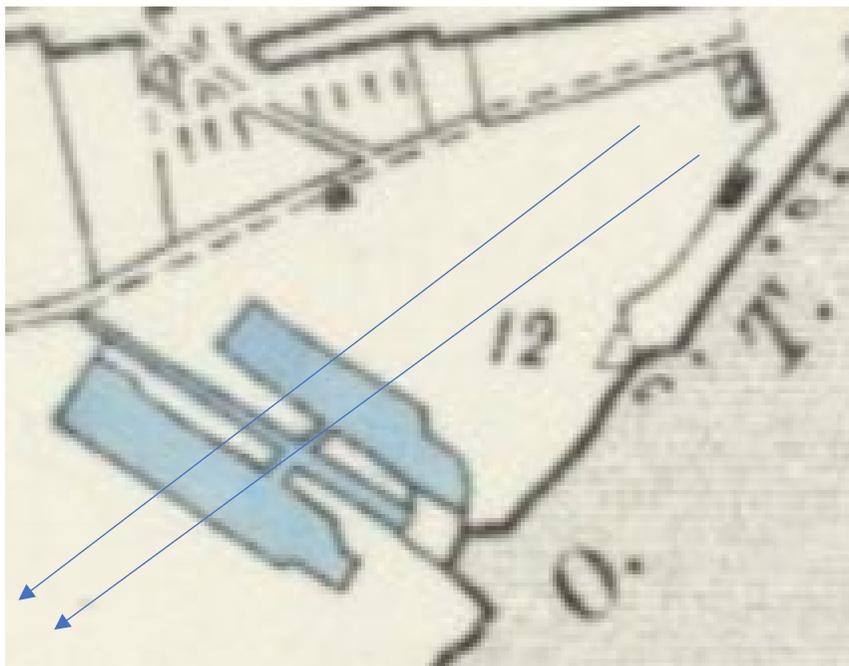
Below Ground Remains

SW of the Launch Site an indent in the coastline marks the entrance to basins associated with The Portsea Canal. An idea of the canal's ambition can be gauged by the 230 ton bm (c 350 tons displacement) collier that reached the centre of Portsmouth on the opening day in 1823 and the 12 feet depth of the canal it required.^{iv} Dredged to 4 feet below low water mark the open gravelly nature of the subsoil required 3 feet of clay puddling to make impervious.

The canal was an unmitigated disaster and soon fell into disuse. To the east of the island there was no pressure on the land and the canal remained open into the twentieth century. Similarly, the basins lay open and it is highly likely that the some 4,000 sq metres of basins were merely backfilled and grassed over. The potential for archaeological discovery is considerable as indeed is the possibility of brick and stone structures buried to depth.



HDD 2 Launch



OS 1869



Google Earth

The HDD will be moving through made ground and terrace gravels, in addition to the Bracklsham Beds.

It may be that the above has been covered by detailed investigation, borehole logs, and ground penetrating radar. If so the Environment Report Chapter 18 Ground Conditions is tantalisingly opaque.

Until such material is readily available to allotment holders the ExA can have no choice but to refuse the application for CPO.

ⁱ www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/safety/flooding/local-flood-risk-management-strategy pg66

ⁱⁱ PINS REF.: EN020022 DOCUMENT: 6.1.18-18.5.4.95

ⁱⁱⁱ PINS REF.: EN020022 DOCUMENT: 6.1.18-18.5.4.111

^{iv} London's Lost Route to London P.A.L. Vine 2005 Phillimore pg77