

Atkins, Caelan

From: Catherine Thomas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 29 March 2023 13:04
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: Flick Drummond MP
Subject: AQUIND Interconnector application
Categories: Consultation Response

Mrs C Thomas



29 March 2023

To Whom it may Concern

I am writing again to object to the planning application by AQUIND.

I was pleased when the previous application was rejected, and I ask you to reject this once again.

I am unsure as to the benefit on being reliant on France for our power, I believe they have frequent outages and have in the past threatened to turn off power to Jersey when embroiled in a disagreement regarding fishing.

As I pointed out in my previous letter to Kwasi Kwarteng when he was Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Portsmouth is the second most densely populated city after London and has high levels of pollution and poor air quality at the best of times. The trench to carry the cables will be up to 23m wide. There are only 3 roads in and out of the city – it is an island and digging this trench will close one side of a very busy road, the Eastern Road, which will result in gridlock all through the city at busy times and an increase in emissions.

The route then cuts through Farlington Marshes, and Langstone Harbour one of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight's wildlife trust's oldest nature reserves and internationally recognised as a Special Protection Area and home to seagrass meadow undergoing restoration. It is an area which is abundant in wonderful wildlife, including many bird species which are endangered including Lapwing and Brent Geese.

After that the route passes through residential areas, at the top of the Eastern Road, through Widley and Purbrook and then through Waterlooville and towards Lovedean on the edge of the South Downs National Park. Residents along the route face the threat of compulsory purchase, including woodland near Lovedean, I imagine these trees will be felled if the project gets the go ahead, cutting down trees doesn't future proof our planet, does it?

Furthermore, the record of AQUIND's donations to the conservative party are another worrying aspect of this application. And the quiet addition of data cables to the mix is, many believe, a threat to national security.

All parties in Portsmouth are opposed to the scheme and know the huge effect it will have not just in the city but all along the route.

I urge you not to grant this application and add that the French have also rejected the proposal.

I hope that you will do the right thing and reject this scheme for the residents all along the route and the wildlife that will inevitably be lost .

Catherine Thomas

