

## Atkins, Caelan

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**From:** Christina Graydon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 31 March 2023 09:22  
**To:** Aquind Interconnector  
**Subject:** Objection to Aquind

**Categories:** Consultation Response

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christina Graydon, I am a resident of Southsea, Hampshire, and I am writing to you today to voice my objection for the AQUIND interconnector project that is proposed to run from Portsmouth to Lovedean. If this project goes forward, it is going to have a detrimental effect on Portsmouth's environmental, economic and residential life.

Environmental:

Portsmouth is an island city and desperately short of land in general and green space in particular. This project would damage and destroy precious green spaces that we have. The Milton harbour and Milton common areas on the route are important habitats for many sea birds and water fowl, and an over wintering site for Brent geese. The wild heathland is home to many land birds and the autumn berries on Milton Common are an important food source for wildlife. Several green spaces and parks are also going to be dug up and fenced off. These are precious green spaces for dog walkers, sports, children to play etc. and important to physical and mental health.

As an allotment holder, I am seriously concerned at the destruction the project would cause to the allotments. Although, my own plot would not be directly affected, I know the immense amount of time, effort and dedication that it takes to maintain a plot, and how fantastic it is for mental and physical health. Many allotment holders have spent decades nurturing a plot and to see that destroyed would cause immense harm and hurt. It would also disturb the numerous wildlife species that thrive on the allotments, grass snakes, smooth newts, foxes, frogs are some, and birds of all type.

I am also concerned about the release of potentially hazardous substances. A lot of the area in the south east of the city (on the route) is reclaimed land and part of the proposed route includes areas where it is known that toxic waste was dumped many years ago. Who knows what digging up the area will uncover? Following is an excerpt from Portsmouth city council Contaminated Land Part 2a Strategy 2020 Appendices, "Milton Harbour was **filled with dockland wastes and by uncontrolled tipping**. This created Milton Common which has become a pleasant green space with proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status." This is the exact area Aquind propose to dig huge trenches many metres across in.

Economic:

The proposed construction would cause gridlock on some of the main roads in and out of the island city and increase carbon emissions. Portsmouth already suffers from poor air quality and has recently introduced a clean air zone to try to combat this, any increase in congestion goes against government own air standards. The majority of Portsmouth is narrow Victorian roads that were not built for cars and any extra increase in traffic caused by the project could cause complete gridlock. As someone who has spent over 30 years commuting in and out of the city I can verify that it doesn't take much! The plan calls for lanes being closed on major roads along the route. This would affect businesses along the route and add to pollution.

The company Aquind itself has no recognised success or experience in this field and seems to have been created for the project. It is also very worrying that they are heavily Russian born/influenced and have added a data cable to the plan. There is also the question of a huge amount of money, running into millions, being paid to Conservative politicians. These 'donations' could easily be construed as bribes by some.

Residential:

People's homes will also be blighted by the works. Considering the scale of the massive trenches described on Aquind's own proposal documents it is certain to cause damage to infrastructure and property. I would expect disruption to services, accidental cutting of cables, pipelines etc. due to the high density of homes in narrow roads and the scale of the proposed work.

As a Portsmouth resident I have concentrated on the negative affects in my own area but, I believe that very similar detrimental affects will be felt all along the route. Particularly some of the very busy areas in Waterlooville that are included.

There is a reason why this project has united people from across ALL the political spectrum. The massive number of negative points to this project far outweigh any possible gains. Indeed, city MPs Stephen Morgan MP (Labour) and Penny Mordaunt MP (Conservative) , as well as the City Council (cross-party), have all come together with residents to object to this proposal.

Please listen to the people of Portsmouth and make the right decision; to REJECT the AQUIND interconnector.

with regards,  
Christina Graydon

Sent from [Outlook](#)