

## **Atkins, Caelan**

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**From:** John Lucas [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 31 March 2023 14:46  
**To:** Aquind Interconnector  
**Cc:** kate robinson  
**Subject:** Objection to Aquind

**Categories:** Consultation Response

Dear Sir,

I write to inform you of our objections to the Aquind project.

These fall into 3 categories:

1. The economic argument for the project does not stack up
2. It will cause major disruption to Portsmouth
3. Environmental disruption

### **Economic Arguments against Aquind**

- This project is economically naïve.
- We do not need another interconnector to bring electricity from France; we need more domestically produced electricity.
- France has a generation deficit already, and will only sell electricity to UK when it doesn't need it domestically.
- By not investing in our own power generation we expose ourselves to being held hostage by other nations, who will control the price of our power, and therefore our industrial output (cf power prices now due to the Russian in vision of Ukraine).
- As soon as France realises we are dependent on them for our power, their prices can be expected to rise.
- When the project was devised, the unit price of renewable power was much higher than at present, and power may have been cheaper to buy in from France.
- However, since then, we have doubled the size of the Shoreham wind farm and renewable prices have plummeted.
- The original arguments for the project are therefore no longer valid.
- In our opinion, this money would be better spent investing in a tidal power scheme instead of this outdated cable based scheme.

### **Disruption to Portsmouth**

- The disruption the proposed route will cause is immense, and will last for years.
- The proposed route will close off one of only 3 routes onto Portsea Island, increasing journey times at peak hours and leading to much higher emissions, noise and air pollution.
- The reason Portsmouth was chosen is that being a Unitary Authority, if the Government declares this project to be in the national interest, it knows it can overrule Portsmouth City Council's opposition to the scheme and force it upon the residents of our city. This is not the case either to the east or to the west of us, where Sussex and Hampshire County Councils can block the scheme.
- The works scheduled for the Eastern side of the city will deny amenities to Portsmouths residents, such as access to the beach at Eastney, the wildfowl breeding grounds at Langstone, and the coastal path used extensively by dog walkers, hikers, runners and cyclists for years.

- It will block the Shipwrights way and the Solent Way Long Distance Footpaths and will affect Portsmouth's road and rail links with the rest of the country.

### **Environmental Pollution**

This scheme will produce, amongst other effects, the following Environmental impacts

- Damage to / Loss of critical wildfowl breeding grounds in Langstone Harbour
- Damage to / Loss of Littoral archaeological resources in Langstone Harbour, from neolithic hunting camps through the Roman period and up to recent history such as the WWII remains to be found there.
- Silting up and disturbance of coastal plant life due to the engineering works required around Hilsea lines and Eastney Beach
- Noise pollution from construction vehicles
- Air pollution from the same
- Seabed environmental damage from the dredging required to bring the cable ashore
- Environmental damage from the excavations and construction of the shore station planned to be sited within the South Downs AONB.

The sad thing about all this is that it is all motivated by greed and sleaze. The project has been supported all the way by the Conservative Government, who have received large donations from the project owner. One minister had to recuse himself when the donations made to his constituency party were revealed; his successor left loopholes in the decision against the project (which I am sure had nothing to do with more donations being made to Conservative party funds), and now we have this appeal in support of a project that no-one wants, no-one needs, and that will cause huge disruption and environmental damage to a whole city and delicate, vulnerable ecosystems.

I hope we can trust you to make the right decision and close the door once and for all on this odious, unwanted and unnecessary proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

John Lucas  
Kate Robinson