

Atkins, Caelan

From: graham oneil <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 12 June 2023 12:28
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to Aquind Interconnector

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Late submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will see at the bottom of this email my previous objection to the AquindInterconnector scheme. I wish to add more recent thoughts.

As I understand it, the scheme has been rejected by France so is this even viable?

Issues around becoming less energy reliant on other countries have moved on significantly since this scheme was proposed. Why do we want to make ourselves reliant on the French who have already threatened to cut off energy for British citizens as part of wider political posturing?

Issues around pollution, well-being and longevity have become better understood through science and research. Bad air quality affects everyone and is life shortening. Portsmouth has terrible air quality due to population, poor infrastructure and limited roads off the island. The damage to health and well-being whilst this project cripples the city's traffic is disastrous for the residents of Portsmouth.

Damage to the environment for the animals and humans that use these spaces is also an issue. We can't know that the spaces will be returned to the state they were in, nor the effect on wildlife that will have to leave, be displaced or perish as result of the digging up of one of the few green spaces in the city.

There is clear evidence of political interference from those behind this project and links to donations to sitting MPs. The whiff of corruption has never been far away from this project and needs further investigation as to how many key decision makers have been compromised.

On a final, personal note. Milton Common is an oasis of green and calm in a packed city, vital for the health and well-being of thousands. It should not be dug up as part of this ill-considered plan.

Below are my previous objection points which are still valid.

I am writing to you to object to the **AquindInterconnector** Scheme and add my voice to the thousands who are appalled at the damage that this will do to Portsmouth.

As a local resident, I am appalled to think of the massive damage and disruption that this will cause to the environment in Portsmouth and beyond. Portsmouth is one of the most densely populated cities in Europe and green space is at a premium. We already have alarmingly bad air quality, so the months of disruption that will be caused by its proposed route along the A2030 are a concern for the whole city. This is one of only 3 roads out of Portsmouth and this scheme will gridlock our city, leading to even worse air pollution.

Green space is at a premium in Portsmouth. As you will see from the ONS Bulletin, 'UK Natural Capital: Urban Accounts', South Hampshire has the least green and blue space of any of England's built up areas.

The proposed route will cause untold damage and disruption to Milton Common, one of the most diverse wildlife areas on Portsea Island, as well as to Bransbury Park and local allotments. All these areas are vital spaces for us to live healthy lives, from walking the dog and following cycle routes, to spaces where families and children get fresh air and play. Disruption and damage to these areas will take a huge toll on residents desperate for the outdoor space that lockdown has shown is vital for our well-being.

Don't just take it from me. Below is a brief list of objections from Conservative MP Penny Mordaunt.

"Today I handed in my petition against the **AQUIND Interconnector** Scheme to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This petition delivers the views of thousands of my constituents today to BEIS regarding **Aquind**.

It will:

GB Make the UK less resilient

 Politicise energy supply

 Disrupt #Portsmouth's recovery

 Damage our environment.

 For no benefit to energy consumers.

#StopAquind"

Labour MP Stephen Morgan is also campaigning against this issue and has talked in parliament about the murky issues of donations from the company to government ministers responsible for key decisions. This is an affront to democracy.

The **Aquind Interconnector** is hugely unpopular in Portsmouth and the campaign against it is growing and growing as you will see from the thousands who have signed Stephen Morgan's petition.

Please listen to everyone who is telling you that this project will be a disaster for Portsmouth and prevent this from happening.

Yours faithfully,

Graham O'Neil

