

From: [Catherine Thomas](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: AQUIND Interconnector
Date: 20 June 2023 14:47:17
Attachments: [Aquind letter.docx](#)

To Whom it May Concern

Once again I am writing to express my concerns about the AQUIND interconnector.

- Concern 1 The laying of the cables will cause years of disruption and pollution, in an already heavily populated and polluted city
- Concern 2 The electricity will not be green, going against the current Conservative Party policy for 100% sustainable green energy by 2030
- Concern 3 The French do not want it, and if they don't I fail to see how it's feasible anyway
- Concern 4 Protected areas of wildlife will be adversely affected for years and may never recover
- Concern 5 The company AQUIND – has no track record in this field and the project is enormous, how can you be sure that they are capable

The list goes on and to remind you I enclose copies of my previous letters regarding this project, please do not allow this to go ahead, it is madness in the extreme.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Thomas

[Redacted signature block]

Mrs Catherine Thomas



27 June 2021

Dear The Rt Hon Kwarteng

Re: The proposed Aquind Interconnector Scheme

I would ask you to carefully consider the following as you make your decision.

This project will undermine the government's target of 100% renewable energy by 2030. This is nuclear power – which is not green.

In October 2020 Boris himself said that wind farms will generate enough electricity to power every home in the country. His words were the UK will become “the world leader in clean wind energy”, which is a commendable target and would negate the need for this interconnector.

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 at least one lane of a very busy road, the Eastern Road, which will result in gridlock at busy times and an increase in emissions.

The proposed route also cuts through an area of scientific interest at Langstone Harbour, a feeding ground for rare Brent geese that fly thousands of miles to arrive here every year, and the only inner-city nature reserve. It also cuts through a seagrass meadow at Farlington Marshes, another area that is supposed to be protected, by whom?? Not the government clearly

Going north from Portsea Island the route goes along the busy London Road, passing through Purbrook and Waterlooville - the clue is in the name – once the main road from Portsmouth to London – it is still busy! It then goes along the Hambledon Road, a main road through a densely populated built up area, I can only imagine the disruption that will occur.

Aquind want compulsory purchase powers to acquire land along the route, including 25,000 sq m of woodland near Lovedean, on the edge of the Southdowns National Park, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year – although those celebrations were subdued due to Covid restrictions. During this time, we have become more aware of the need to protect our countryside and I really hope you will consider this when making your decision

Finally, I would urge you to consider just how impartial your decision will be as we have heard that you have publicly endorsed Aquind. In addition, the Conservative Party has received large donations from Alexander Termenko and Viktor Fedotov both of whom have an interest in Aquind.

I reiterate, please consider very carefully this decision.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine Thomas

Mrs C Thomas



29 March 2023

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

