

From: [viola langley](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Aquind interconnector
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Dear SoS,

On Monday, 15 January 2024, there was a news item on Radio 4, at 7.52 am.

In it, the President of the Electricity Transmission Business at National Grid, Alice Delahunty, was in discussion with a campaigner regarding the use of pylons to bring power from the North Sea to the High voltage Grid to the North of London. The discussion covered the use of pylons versus the laying of the cables underground.

Three important points of this discussion seem to be relevant to the Aquind Interconnector and should be considered:

Alice Delahunty made three clear statements:

1. Underground cables are more environmentally detrimental, as huge swathes of land need to be dug up which has a great ecological impact on land
2. Underground cable are very expensive
3. The consumer / taxpayer will have to pay the costs for these underground cables.

These three claims are very relevant to Aquind Interconnector. Let's Stop Aquind's submissions have referred to the ecological impacts on land and soil continuously. We highlighted damage to green areas, allotments, Milton Nature Reserve, Milton Common, various parks and leisure facilities.

The use of HDD drilling operations, under allotments, Milton Nature Reserve and Farlington Marshes has been challenged by LSA as very harmful. Breakouts, inadvertent releases, could happen at any time, anywhere when huge drills with lubricants and chemicals are used.

Biodiversity would be severely affected by such operations. Biodiversity in the UK is on the brink of collapse. Climate change is here- now. The State of Nature report, 2023 revealed the truth about the huge decline of biodiversity in this country.

Can you, SoS, in such circumstances, grant a DCO for such a harmful project which will have enormous consequences for the city of Portsmouth and beyond?

Furthermore, Alice Delahunty informs us of the high costs of underground cables and the tax payer would have to bear the costs.

Aquind, on the other hand, claims that the UK taxpayer would save money should the Aquind Interconnector be constructed.

The residents of Portsmouth, 3 MPs, Portsmouth City Council and other local have not wavered in their opposition to the Aquind Interconnector.

The project was refused in January 2022. Since then additional evidence and circumstances have been combined to make this project even more unacceptable.

I trust you will consider the above thoughts in your decision making process.

Viola Langley on behalf of Let's Stop Aquind

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