

From: [Nicola Beckett](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Concerns re stopping Aquind
Date: 01 March 2024 17:12:58

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I understand Aquind have sent another document to the Secretary of State at the DESNZ - today, 29 February 2024

I would like to express my specific concerns regarding the Aquind Interconnector before a decision is taken.

Unresolved issues regarding the Aquind Interconnector

Has the SoS considered the following list of unresolved or disputed issues?

1. Do the harms of this project not substantially outweigh the benefits?

Farlington Marshes is an incredible vital asset to many people of Portsmouth and draws many visitors bird watchers, families and people joining at seeking much needed wellbeing time that Nature provides.

The Trust, since its origins in the 1960's, has been managing the site for its wildlife for over 60 years. Early conservation pioneers like Dave Billet and his wife Rosemary helped shape the site, a mantle which has been passed on over the decades with conservation management gradually improving the site into the vitally important habitat it is today. A haven for wildlife and people that is an exemplar of one of the country's great coastal wetland sites.

Its success lies in its scale and infrastructure as well as its location. I think understand that The seawall is multi-functional, protecting the site from inundation by the sea and providing an amazing walking route around the site, offering fantastic views across the reserve and into Langstone Harbour. Public access is limited to the seawall, but provides a connected access track to the site building and cycle way and to some of the smaller field units, the Bushes and Point Field. This means that the majority of the site needs to be left undisturbed, purely for wildlife. A closer look will reveal a mix of habitats across the site that includes, coastal grassland, saltmarsh, fen, reedbed, scrub, freshwater ponds and a saline lagoon. This combination of habitats provides a huge range of niches for wildlife to utilise of which there are 1,000's to mention which is just incredible to highlight as an attraction for Portsmouth.

It is my view that Farlington Marshes must be protected for as long as possible until suitable compensatory habitat can be found and developed to replicate the scale and habitat complexity that Farlington Marshes currently offers. I accept that one day the site will be lost to the sea, that is inevitable, but we need to ensure that the wildlife the site support is not. The role Farlington plays in supporting avian life for Langstone, Portsmouth and Chichester cannot be overstated. If the nature reserve is lost, the impact on wildlife would be enormous and to the detriment of all three harbours. The local community will have also lost a vital green space, an area steeped in history, a place to connect with nature and be inspired by.

I believe it's vital and its not too late!!!!

The situation here highlights a stark reality and modern challenge – what value do we put on nature? In today's world where finances are constrained and other priorities such as protecting homes, business and infrastructure take precedent, it is easy for wildlife to lose out. But we also know that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and that we must do all we can to save it. If Farlington is lost, the impact on wildlife will be huge and irreparable. It is not too late to protect the site. If we act now and push for maintenance of the sea wall for the foreseeable future until such a time when compensatory habitat can be secured, the habitats established and a new Farlington created, then we will be able to safeguard the wildlife of Langstone Harbour and the wider area into the future. Why not be proud and protect and treasure our precious asset, animals and understand what they can teach us and extend and rebuild the sea defence wall to the Marshes instead of just handing it over for profit! How cruel and unfair that would be it's such a privilege to see such beauty, such wildlife choosing to make this their habit in our city. PLEASE LOOK TO YOUR HEARTS AND CONSIDER THIS RESCUE for the sake of our city and community, for all sentient beings.

2. Has the missing NGET feasibility study, requested by Justice Lieven in the High Court Appeal Case and the then Secretary of State, been found, validated and made public?
3. Should not Ninfield and other substations to the East be brought into consideration?
4. Has the impact of the possibly misleading evidence presented by the applicant in support of the project been thoroughly considered?
5. Should the fact that the project has been comprehensively rejected by the French local government not be a decisive factor?
6. Is this project not a National Security risk, as has been repeatedly highlighted by Portsmouth city MPs?
7. How does this Interconnector cable, equally likely to export UK energy as to import European energy, add to our national energy resilience?
8. Is it not appropriate to question the designation of this project as an NSIP? It is a means of transporting energy not a producer of energy. Should it have ever been compared to a power station generating electricity ? Does it not lead to no actual energy gain?
9. Is it a sensible option to slice through the second most densely populated and highly congested city, with dangerous levels of pollution, in the UK when there is a known risk of disturbing toxic waste ?
10. In view of the passage of time, over three years since the original completion date, should the project not be completely re-evaluated in light of the changes in national and international affairs, climate change urgency, national energy demands and of course all government policies which will have changed during this time period?
11. Could the embedded commercial tele-communication part of the FOC (fibre optic cable) be considered a risk to national security?
12. Can we rely on the company, Aquind, with no proven record of delivery in the energy sector, to deliver this project?

What control do we actually have concerning our own energy resources and infrastructure of England now? Look at what's happened to the dire situation with Portsmouth's water providers and actually the whole of England rivers and sea it's time to make a stand and use this as a positive change this really needs to be fairly and democratically addressed in a fair and healthy approach for our Island.

Please say NO to Aquind and help protect our assets, animals and community.

N Beckett. Portsmouth Island Resident.
Sent from my iPhone