From: helen bodkin [redacted]
Sent: 06 October 2020 21:11
To: Aquind Interconnector <aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Aquind connector cable route

I have recently been informed of the proposed changes to the route taken by the Aquind connector cable. I attended a public meeting to discuss the original proposal at Milton allotments and your representatives ensured everyone the allotments would not be affected. The proposed changes will indeed affect a great deal on the allotment site. For many people this area provides respite, physical activities and friendship with the added advantage of growing produce.
Portsmouth is highly populated with many families living in accommodation without outdoor space and being able to have the opportunity for that at the allotments is so important. The wildlife benefits from this human interaction as many plot holders focus on feeding a range of birds, set out ponds to encourage natural predators, grow flowers to encourage pollinators and the vast majority plant and grow organically.
I am a special need teacher and I bring students to my plot every week. These students find it difficult to control their emotions which can result in aggressive behaviour. They find a peace on the plot which is recognised by many studies and medical opinion that everyone benefits from when spending time outdoors.
We are more than just plot holders we are a little community. We have a vibrant committee, run a successful shop on site, embrace an ever-increasing diversity of different cultures across the plots with more young families learning from the older occupants which benefits so many people in so many ways. All of this has taken time (for example some recent plot holders have waited nearly 5 years to get their plot) and the effort of lots of people, sometimes generations of the same family and because of this and all of the fore mentioned I strongly object to Aquind proposals.

Helen Bodkin