From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Objection to interconnector infrastructure project
Date: 05 October 2020 20:37:09

Dear Inspector –

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the Aquind interconnector infrastructure project, due to come to land here in Portsmouth.

I object for the following reasons:

(1) Lack of clarity, overly complicated/technical, and ever-changing plans. For example, Milton allotments were not part of the formal consultation with the public as an area that could be affected. In the latest plans released by the company, this area is now included among impacted spaces.

(2) Following from (1), lack of quality engagement with the public. There have been several poorly managed consultations with the public, including dubious letters to residents asking for homeowners' details and house prices.

(3) Environmental impact to the city. The plans have the infrastructure going directly through vital green spaces, protected areas, and areas with specific wildlife protections (to ward off infrastructure projects exactly like this), including Milton Common, Milton Locks, and the Eastney allotments. **If this project goes ahead, the disruption to these spaces (from earthworks, HGV traffic) will be catastrophic and irreparable.** These green spaces are a green-space lifeline to residents from all over the city, not just the Eastney side. They are fundamental to the quality of life here – especially in a city with such a densely configured population. I run in all of these spaces (across the Common, Locks, and past the Eastney allotments) every day of the year – and I'm far from the only daily visitor. The loss of those spaces would be crushing. **The ecosystem services provided to the city by these environmental havens have a significant and substantive value – that will be longer-lived than the interconnector.**

I hope you will seriously consider these points, and the fact that my concerns are shared by local councilors. [redacted]

Thank you for your time,

Dr Eli Lazarus (Assoc Prof of Geomorphology, University of Southampton)
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