From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Auquind interconnector
Date: 05 October 2020 15:41:52

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 to these plans for the following reasons:

1) Lack of clarity, overly complicated/technical and ever-changing plans.

Example: Milton allotments weren't part of the formal consultation with the public as an area that could be affected. In latest plans released by the company this area is now included.

2) Lack of quality engagement with the public.

Example: There have been several poorly managed consultations with the public, including letters to residents asking for home owners details and house prices.

3) Disruption to the city.

Portsmouth is the second most densely populated city in the country after London. There are 3 roads off and on to the island.

Example: The plans show that one of these roads (Eastern Road) would have lanes closed to traffic. These works would dramatically reduce the access to the city for a considerable period of time, causing huge delays backing up onto the M27 and A3.

4) Environmental impact on the city.

Example: The plans go directly through green spaces, protected areas and areas with specific wildlife protections. Milton common, locks and now Milton and Eastney Allotments. If this goes ahead the effect on wildlife due to increase in pollution/traffic levels of idle vehicles in the surrounding area due to disruption caused by the projects road works will be catastrophic.

I hope you will seriously consider these points I make. My concerns are shared by some local councillors and importantly our constituency Member of Parliament, [redacted], who agrees with my points and has been putting pressure on Government to think again about this national infrastructure project.

Thank you for your time,

Signed:
Lewis Darvill

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: aquind
Date: 04 October 2020 22:23:59

To whom it may concern
As a local resident and allotment owner. I am strongly AGAINST the plan of route of this. There needs to be more conversations with local people

Information has now been brought to light that suggests that the previous promise from Aquind that the allotments would be untouched has now been broken. There is a suggestion that the cable will no longer follow the path in the allotments but will now go through the allotment patches meaning that sheds, trees, wildlife and plant life will be demolished and destroyed to make way for this cable. A number of the allotment patches have been tendered to and nurtured for decades by the same families and every single allotment holder has taken significant time to establish the beautiful plants that they have grown there. Please also bear in mind that the allotment holders grown fresh fruit and veg which they often donate to the community to eat allowing healthy eating and a more varied diet – something that is especially important which also goes back to a previous point I have made earlier on about the levels of obesity in Portsmouth. Another point is that these allotments are vital towards people's mental health, especially in the times we face with limited contact with family and friends. It is an outlet for many people and is a comforting place to go to and enjoy. If you take that away from people, it will be extremely detrimental towards resident's wellbeing. There is also the question as to the fact that there is a species of newt (the Great Crested Newt – Triturus cristatus) that has been sighted a significant amount of times all over the allotments. This species of newt can live up to 25 years and its population is rapidly declining. Therefore, this species and its habitat is strongly protected by law (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981). It is also a priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and is listed as a European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive. On the government's own website, there is a page dedicated to the great crested newt and some of the activities the government themselves have said could harm great crested newts includes: excavating the ground, filling in or destroying ponds, removing materials such as dead wood on the ground, removing dense vegetation and disturbing the ground. I would like to know whether this has been taken into consideration when considering changing the route through the allotments and also, with the original plan to follow the allotment path. Has Natural England been briefed about this as I have not seen a mitigation licence from them or a report from an ecologist on the planning inspectorate's documents online. The government cannot put up rules about protecting this rare species then allow the wanton destruction of their environment by Aquind and their cable.

Lewis Darvill
[redacted]