From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to the proposed route and and construction methods of the Acquind interconnector
Date: 05 October 2020 17:37:54

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objection to this scheme as both a City Councillor (for the Cosham ward near the proposed route) and as a resident who lives within a few hundred metres of where the cable will run.

While I accept the need for infrastructure to ensure energy security, this scheme is poorly designed and badly thought out. It puts the wellbeing of the residents of Portsmouth and its local environment at unacceptable and unnecessary risk.

The proposed route runs directly through a SSI on Eastney beach and then along the sensitive coastline of Langstone Harbour. This has the potential for a profound impact on habitat for a number of important species including the threatened Brent Goose. It does this directly through damage and rub off caused by the work, but also through the huge disruption and increase in traffic the scheme will cause.

The route will close sections of the Eastern Road, a major A road and one of only 3 routes into the city, for months at a time. The congestion and pollution consequences of this will be enormous and cannot be mitigated. This is also the main route leading to the city football stadium.

Further north the connector will meet the mainland at the point of a major junction of the M27, A27 and A3, and run through a quiet family commuter suburb. Once again this will cause unacceptable disruption of and traffic congestion. Harming access to the city in this manner, for this length of time, will have a profound negative economic impact on a city which already has challenges with deprivation and poverty. Portsmouth should not be sacrificed for the sake of a cable if questionable necessity to the energy mix in this country. Importing energy in this manner, and with such environmental cost hardly seems compatible with the UK's commitments on carbon neutrality.

This is further exacerbated by the refusal of the company to consider alternative routes into the South Coast. Landing at Portsmouth increases the distance the cable must travel and deliverables cuts through both important environmental protected areas and busy urban and residential areas. The only reason for this is to exploit the public ownership of land and the infrastructure of the city. This scheme offers virtually no benefit to the city of Portsmouth and no compensation to the huge number of residents who will have their lives disrupted and their environment and quality of life degraded.

For these reasons I believe the scheme should be refused until the necessity of the cable and alternative routes are properly considered. Portsmouth is not a suitable route on a number of clear planning ground.

Kind regards,

Cllr Dr Matthew Atkins