From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Portsmouth interconnecter scheme opposition
Date: 05 October 2020 16:40:35

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the interconnecter scheme in Portsmouth for the following reasons:

• Aquind previously committed not to touch the allotments in Milton.
• Plans suggest that the cable will go through allotment patches and destroy sheds, trees and wildlife.
• By destroying the allotments it will destroy patches that A - Have been tended by families and individuals over years and years B – Destroy fresh fruit and veg grown for families and the wider community C – Destroy efforts for healthy eating from home grown veg D – Portsmouth obesity levels are high and allotments help in efforts to prevent this E – Destroy the natural habitat of animals in the area. F – Mental health is an important value of the allotments G – Communities have been built and meet up at the allotments. H – They are a valuable green space for the local community in a densely populated city.
• There have been many sightings of a species of newt (the Great Crested Newt – Triturus cristatus) all over the allotments. A rapidly declining species. 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. Natural England need to be informed of this and a report needed from an ecologist with regards to the planning inspectorate documents and if necessary, there must be a mitigation license produced.
• The government's own rules state a need to protect rare species that AQUIND cannot ignore and must abide by in any proposals.
• Extensive pollution, disruption and added traffic.
• The lack of consultation. Aquind have not consulted widely enough. The activity regarding consultation has been to a very small Milton based area. Where was the consultation to the wider affected area?
• The recent Covid crisis has made it very difficult to find out about recent changes to Aquind plans. This must be taken into account and could be seen as deliberately advantageous to Aquind. Residents have not been informed and kept in touch with the proposed plans or changes.

Yours sincerely,
Alice Crowe