From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Application reference - EN020022 OBJECTION
Date: 05 October 2020 13:49:17

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to your plans for an Interconnector Cable to run the Eastern length of Portsmouth near Langstone Harbour and into Milton. My objections are as follows:

- Portsmouth is an island with limited routes for people to travel on and off. This proposed work would cause massive disruption to an area that already has a very high traffic volume, is heavily populated and already suffers from traffic chaos. This work would compound the problem immensely and the area highlighted for the work is therefore massively inappropriate.
- Pollution in the area is already too high. The affects to people's health is detrimental. Further traffic disruption plus additional large vehicles will make this problem worse. Portsmouth already suffers greatly due to traffic pollution and this work will increase the possibility of even higher pollution levels.
- The disruption to people's everyday lives will be huge. People who want to travel to work, have an undisrupted school run, visit those they care for etc. will be put at a huge inconvenience when other options regarding this cable are available. Also, due to traffic disruption that would ensue, what proposals do Aquind put forward to ensure emergency vehicles will not be caught up in traffic?
- The area highlighted for the work is a biodiverse, green and highly valued area. In a city such as Portsmouth, all areas where people can walk, take fresh air and enjoy an array of plants and wildlife are incredibly important. These areas are important for people's general health and mental wellbeing. To have the area massively disrupted is inappropriate and should not happen.
- There is an abundance of wildlife that will be affected by these plans. This wildlife should not be affected by any plans made by Aquind.
- Aquind now plan to destroy allotments in Milton, despite previously stating they would not. Not only is this greatly unfair in terms of it being a U-turn decision, it is also highly inappropriate for the area. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. These allotments have been tended by families over many years. They are not areas that can just be torn up willy-nilly at a whim for the sake of this cable.
2. The allotments provide an opportunity for people to grow healthy fresh fruit and vegetables which is vitally important in an area such as Portsmouth which has high obesity rates.
3. Food grown at the allotments is available for the wider community
4. Having outside space such as an allotment is important for people's mental health. In a time where mental health services are declining and mental health issues are increasing, preventing people from using spaces such as this is totally inappropriate.
5. Enough of Portsmouth's natural habitats for wildlife have been destroyed over the years. The wildlife at the allotments should be left well alone.
6. There have been many sightings of a species of newt (the Great Crested Newt – Triturus cristatus) all over the allotments. This is 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 if any work is to go ahead.

- Aquind has not consulted widely enough on the proposals. Any consultation has been confined to a small area of Milton and yet the proposals will affect many more people across the city as well.
- The Covid 19 crisis has made it extremely difficult for residents to find out about recent changes to Aquind's plans. Not all residents have access to social media although even here, information has been scant. Residents need to be far more informed about changes to the plans and the restrictions caused by Covid must be taken into account by Aquind.
- Potential links between Aquind Interconnector and a Russian tycoon have been reported in the media with investigative reports carried out by The Times. The Times article revealed that large sums of money have been paid by Aquind to the Conservative party. This will obviously require further investigation with clear answers in the name of transparency.

In all, this proposal made by Anquind and the subsequent changes are not appropriate for the area and I therefore submit this to you as an objection which I trust will be taken into due consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Kelsall

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