From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to Aquind Connector Power Line
Date: 06 October 2020 21:33:34

Dear Inspector
I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed route of the Aquind Connector power line across Eastney & Milton.
There are few green areas in southern Portsmouth, and this route affects some of the most important ones.
The attempts at consultation by Aquind have been shamefully inadequate; the whole of Portsmouth is affected to some degree and consultation has been too limited in geogrpahy and content.
The plans proposed are unclear leaving Aquind opportunities to do what they want without sufficient oversight and protection of the green areas that are under threat.
The latest plans carve up three local nature reserves: Farlington Marshes; Langston Harbour and Milton Common. Not only are these three areas loved and valued by Portsmouth residents for their beauty, they are vital open natural areas in a very densely urbanised and populated city. They provide a wealth of physical and mental health benefits for residents providing free opportunities for all to exercise in nature and are used regularly by many for fishing, walking, cycling, bird watching and water sports. These areas are also important internationally and have a various designations for protection because of their international and national importance.
The route through Bransbury Park and the allotments will be disruptive and cause irreparable damage to wildlife and green space. I understand that there are rare newts (the Great Crested Newt – Triturus cristatus) living at the allotments which could be lost for ever should their habitat be disturbed by works indictaed in these plans. 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 include: excavating the ground, filling in or destroying ponds, removing materials such as dead wood on the ground, removing dense vegetation and disturbing the ground.
Are Aquind proposing to protect this species and are there sufficient measures in place to ensure these are properly followed.
What involvment has Natural England had about the proposed disruption to the allotments and the nature reserves; I have not seen a Mitigation Licence or a report from an ecologist on the planning inspectorate's documents online?
You should ask why this route is being chosen. Surel there are better less damaging routes than can be undertaken.
The route along Furze Lane, Moorings Way and beyond will be disruptive to local residents, hindering the bus route which will lead to fewer journeys by public transport and increasing the number of cars on the road which in turn will impact on the already poor air quality.
This matter has been poorly handled from the start, and by circumventing any decision by our local council it feels as though we are being used as pawns in a politically motivated game.
This route needs to be independently reviewed along with the names behind the project and their contributions to the Conservative Party.
Please can you refuse this particular planning application and insist that Aquind find a better route.
Regards

Russell Andrews
[redacted]