From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Object to Portsmouth Aquind cable
Date: 05 October 2020 09:07:49

I am writing to object to the plans to lay a new aquind cable in Portsmouth.

We are in a climate emergency. We need to halt biodiversity loss, not create more of it.

Aquind previously committed not to touch the allotments in Milton. But now it appears that the cable will go through allotment patches, destroying sheds, trees and all wildlife.

By destroying the allotments, many other things will be destroyed too:
- fresh fruit and veg grown for the community.
- the natural habitat for local wildlife.
- efforts to promote healthy eating
- patches that families and individuals have been tending to for years, creating fertile soil.
- a pleasant green space which improves mental health and well-being.

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 aquind cable will add pollution, disruption and added traffic to a city with already illegally high pollution levels which kill 95 people each year.

From Selma Heimedinger

Sent from my iPhone