

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Aquind Interconnector - Milton Piece allotments
Date: 26 October 2020 08:38:18

From: Derek McCullough (Affected Person)
Plot [REDACTED]
Milton Piece Allotments
Portsmouth

5 October 2020

Re: Aquind Interconnector Development Consent Order Examination being conducted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State

I strongly object to the proposal that the cables should run through Milton Piece allotments as this will undoubtedly cause considerable disruption and distress for myself and other plot holders. We have been informed, by Portsmouth City Council, that Aquind want to drill under the eastern side of the allotments. We are worried that if Aquind say they cannot (or cannot afford) to drill under the allotments they have asked for permission to dig a trench through those allotments.

Regardless of how the cables are laid, Aquind want rights to come onto the allotments and dig them up if this is necessary for maintenance. Aquind also want access to the cables via existing roads and paths on the allotments. As these roads and paths are quite narrow it will mean that more plots will be lost to accommodate Aquind's vehicles and plant.

I have had Milton Piece plot [REDACTED] since 2012, after 3 years on the waiting list. I am [REDACTED], retired, and live in a first floor flat in the middle of the city, with no garden access. There is a constant hum from the traffic and air pollution levels are high.

It is worth noting that Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK, outside of London (Office for National Statistics 2019). Space is precious! Milton Piece allotments are on the south-eastern side of the city, next to the sea. They are unique! Plot [REDACTED] is my haven, it provides me with fresh vegetables and flowers and essential exercise. The air is fresh and I cannot hear the traffic. I can hear birdsong and flocks of geese and swans fly above me. Frogs live in my pond. Aquind's proposal to run electric cables through these allotments are certain to put all this under threat.

The area likely to be affected by Aquind's proposed route contains approximately 150 similar plots. Even more plots are likely to be affected due to Aquind's desire to attain access rights to facilitate maintenance.

Open space and garden allotment land are assets for the purposes of Article 1 to the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, benefitting the City Council and members of the public generally (in relation to open space) and specifically (in relation to allotment holders). The breadth of land-take and the onerous restrictive covenants that Aquind seek over public open space land, combined with short notice periods to enter onto the public

open space land and take control of it represent an indeterminate, uncertain, fluctuating control of Council land that at short notice will deny the Council and the public possession of its land.

The protection of public interest is in strict contrast to the applicants' aims which is to serve its own profitable business venture. This is a further example of an abuse of the Planning Act 2008.

The engagement with other stakeholders, community or interest groups and others who may have an interest in the proposed development as well as hard to reach groups has not been sufficient for a project of this size and significance. Myself and other allotment holders have only recently learned about Aquind's proposals.

I ask for my views to be taken into account when determining Aquind's application.

Regards
Derek McCullough

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10