

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR CASE TEAM
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
TEMPLE QUAY HOUSE
2 THE SQUARE
BRISTOL BS1 6PN

19 FEBRUARY 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Please find enclosed my letter of objection to Aquind's proposal to use horizontal Directional Drilling under Milton Piece Allotments, Portsmouth.

I registered my interest in the land on 12 December 2020 by completing the Land Interest Questionnaire, and additionally by telephoning and dictating my answers to WSP Lands team.

My interest in the land has been confirmed as having been entered in the Book of Reference.

I have made several enquiries to both Aquind (via WSP) and your office because I do not have access to the internet.

In ordinary circumstances I would have opted to appear in person to voice my objection to Aquind's proposal.

I have been informed by your office that during the covid-19 pandemic my written objection will carry as much weight as if I were appearing in person, and that my objection needed to be written as if I were speaking.

I have been informed that I have until 01 March 2021 to lodge my objection.

I will be posting this cover letter and my letter of objection on Monday 22 February 2021, first class and with Proof of Posting.

Yours faithfully,

Jan Jenkins (Mrs).

MRS. JANET JENKINS

PLOT HOLDER 121/121A/122A MILTON PIECE ALLOTMENTS. PORTSMOUTH

19 FEBRUARY 2021

LETTER OF OBJECTION FROM MRS. JAN JENKINS · PLOTHOLDER 12/121A/122A · MILTON PIECE

With reference to the letter received from the Planning Inspectorate dated 21 January 2021, informing me that I have been formally registered as having an interest in the land at Milton Piece allotments, Portsmouth, and my subsequent telephone calls to your office at Temple Quay House, Bristol, please would you carefully consider my following objections to the horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) proposed by Aquind which will affect my plots 121, 121A and 122A, Milton Piece and the plots of my fellow allotmentees.

I have held my three plots since 2002, 2004 and 2006 - 19, 17 and 15 years respectively, and have invested largely, principally in time, effort and planning regarding tending them sustainably, and also financially.

From 2002 I began tending my plots organically which means that I have never used any chemicals to either clear my ground or as an artificial aid to growing my crops, plants, fruit trees, shrubs, soft fruit, flowers, bulbs and herbs. All my soil preparation has been by hand.

In recent years I have supplemented organic techniques with permaculture techniques. Permaculture holds sustainability at the heart of its philosophy. Because I work with nature, as opposed to against nature, a wide range of species inhabit my plots to aid and maintain the health of all my trees and plants and crops.

In addition to the usual soil invertebrates vital to balanced ecology, pollinators such as bumble and honey bees, butterflies and moths, hoverflies and ladybirds, there are lizards, slow worms, frogs and grasshoppers inhabiting my plots. The broadleaf oak on Plot 121A supports over 300 invertebrates, perching birds and occasional nesting birds including blackbird, blue tit, magpie, kestrel, pigeon and greenfinches. Robin and wren regularly nest in the boundary planting.

When I read the literature provided by Aquind I was dismayed to note that due to HDD there could be a "breakout of bentonite" which consequently would not only contaminate the surrounding soil, it would also contaminate the water-table. Even more worrying is the quoted drilling depth of only 2-5 metres at the north and south boundaries.

A "breakout of bentonite" would affect the soil of all three of my plots due to their vicinity to the south boundary, as well as the plots of my fellow allotmentees to the north and south boundaries.

Even at a drilling depth of 10 metres a breakout would affect the surrounding environment.

Aquind state that "the risk of a bentonite breakout has been assessed as small to negligible".

Contrary to the information supplied by Aquind, discharge of drilling fluids (bentonite) is a common phenomenon (please refer to research from Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, 2018).

A breakout of bentonite would be a catastrophe to all plotholders. We eat the food we grow. We give the food we grow to our families and any excess to our friends.

If the ground becomes contaminated our food becomes contaminated. Our plots will become unworkable. Our source of food no longer available.

Additionally, contamination would severely affect the invertebrates in the soil - these invertebrates are the corner-stone of our ecosystem. These invertebrates not only work as detritivores (feeding on dead plants and animals) - they are a vital building block, ultimately supporting birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. In Sir David Attenborough's words "if we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world's ecosystem would collapse".

In the literature provided to me by Aquind there is no explanation of the need for test boreholes, where and when they will be drilled, no diameter given for the pilot drilling or the diameter of the carrier pipe.

Aquind has not given details of who will be independently monitoring the process for loss in the separation system and deep loss - both of which will indicate a breakout of bentonite.

There is no mention of how contamination of the soil or water-table will be managed by Aquind.

As a plotholder these are all relevant and important points which require detailed explanations.

I regularly tend my plots throughout the whole calendar year, and currently the allotments are a place of tranquility to garden quietly and to raise crops.

Along with other plotholders, I value the allotments as a safe place for working on the land, surrounded by nature, away from the noise and bustle of a densely populated city, in order to cultivate nutritional and tasty food - we are a community.

Please do not allow Aquind to jeopardize the allotments, and all they mean to us, with their proposed HDD.

Please would you direct Aquind to choose an alternative route for their Interconnector Project.

Thank you very much for your time and attention listening to my appeal against Aquind's proposal.