

Date: 1 March 2021

Application by Aquind Limited for a Development Consent Order for the 'Aquind Interconnector' electricity line between Great Britain and France (PINS reference: EN020022)

Mr. Geoffrey Carpenter & Mr. Peter Carpenter, in relation to Little Denmead Farm

Registration Identification Number: 20025030

Open Floor Hearing 3 Speech By Geoffrey Carpenter

Submitted in relation to Deadline 8 of the Examination Timetable



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Ref: 584927-6

Open Floor Hearing 3 Speech By Geoffrey Carpenter

Friday 19th February 2021 10.00

Stone Acre Copse means more to us, me and my entire family, than it can ever mean to Aquind

I [REDACTED] in this copse, as he never wanted to leave this farm, that was given to him by his farther. He had worked and lived off of this land for most of his life. Obviously having such a close and personal connection I would never want to not be able to visit [REDACTED]

This farm has been owned by my family since 1939

Aquind are planning on encroaching ever closer to our home with all the noise, dust and disruption this will cause

We have absolutely no faith in anything Aquind says or does as they have amply demonstrated throughout our dealings with constant last minute changes, always in their favour and gain. Its profits and bottom line have always been more important than a small family farm in a quiet rural part of Hampshire adjacent to the South Downs. Ever since their first involvement they have threatened compulsory purchase at every opportunity. At no point have they openly considered our views as landowners.

We have tried to discuss changes to the scheme, alternatives however They tell you that none of our alternatives work, but why are they not telling our solicitors this? Why are they not telling us

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this? Why are they not talking to us? All they are saying to you in hearings that "it is not an alternative" but they are not explaining WHY. Are you going to believe them?

Having had a [REDACTED] 2015, the farm and its surrounding offer a quiet environment, being a daily source of pleasure and enjoyments. Watching the young Grandchildren enjoying the freedom of playing safely in the fields and copse, learning the countryside ways as I did and daily walking our family dogs, enjoying the simple pleasures of listening to the many bird in the peace and quiet has aided in no small way to my continuing recovery both physically and mentally.

This can never be replaced or valued when its gone, it gone and we never envisaged a time when we would not have this farm to enjoy Aquind are ripping the heart out of our small family at least have the decency to let us keep as much as you feasibly do not need.

Aquind are not welcome or wanted. They have been unscrupulous and underhanded in the way they have handled matters, in our opinion. You are driving us out of our own farm and for that it costing us a small fortune

We are an ordinary family, having to pay many professional to fight for our rights to keep our land. The constant legal jargon and amendments mean that we have to pay specialist advisors to help us understand what Aquind actually want to do. Aquind's documents are not written in a way that ordinary lay people can understand. Aquind is forcing us to pay for advisors just so we can understand what is going on. That is completely unfair. I know our solicitors and barrister has asked that Aquind makes their documents much clearer for ordinary people to find information – why is this being ignored? What is the examining authority doing about it? . The constant

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deadlines, amendments, video calls and meeting with our solicitors. We did not ask for any of this.

Stone Acre Copse is ancient woodland and as such the ownership and management should stay with my family who care, no some company that has no personal connection or history with it.

The wildlife within the woodland, which return year on year including deer, badgers, owls, red kites and common mammal's, like foxes, rabbits. Along with the seasonal bed of Blue Bells and wild garlic. We, as a family cherish this small woodland and will take far better care of it than Aquind ever could.

The untold stress this is causing through no want of our own is immense. This has taken over our lives in a very unpleasant way, and when this project has been completed we will have to live with the consequences when everyone else have moved on. Please remember that your decision affects our lives and our health

I consent to whatever personal or medical details I give in my statement to be made public.