

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 Peter Carpenter

Submitted in relation to Deadline 8 of the Examination Timetable



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Ref: 584927-6

Open Floor Hearing 3 Speech By Peter Carpenter

Friday 19th February 2021 10.00

I would like to strongly object to compulsory rights being acquired on Stone Acre Copse. Stone Acre copse is of significant importance to my family and I. It is a special place, we enjoy as a family, a safe place for my grandchildren to play, ride their ponies and enjoy the countryside. [REDACTED] in the centre of the farm he worked most of his life. The woodland is beautiful, with a bed of bluebells and wild garlic. I can manage this woodland better than any corporate company, who don't care for the land.

I know how to deal with ash die back. I have offered to deal with it and to work with AQUIND – My solicitors have already submitted this offer through the examination. But AQUIND has remained silent. Not one word. Why? It feels like they are not willing to hear about any alternatives we put forward. Why are they not talking to us about this? Why can't they explain their position?

The grandchildren use the woodland as part of a circular riding route, which allows them to ride their horses without the need to go on any roads, this will be lost, if Aquind take our land. Even the limited survey access Aquind has taken has scared the horses, which required veterinary and blacksmiths attention

Any land we lose will have a direct impact on the use of the retained land, we are already short of grazing and turn out for our horses andstock we do not have enough land for winter feed and bedding. We have had to change our farming practise due to the threat of Compulsory Purchase. It has stopped me from farming the holding as efficiently, as we don't know when the land will be taken. I bought extra land in 2010 to expand my farming business, now Aquind will be taking the heart out of the farm

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Ever since Aquinds first contact in 2017, they have stated that This time next year we will take your land. This constant threat and worry has impacted on [REDACTED]

I know the Examining Authority plans to come and view the farm property to gain a better understanding of the impact that it is going to have on my family and I. My family have worked this land for 80 years, everything I do is for our family. I have put my entire working life into this farm and at 60 am too old to retrain or change career. Aquind are compulsorily taking my land, my business and livelihood for their own capital gain.

We want to farm our own land, we do not want this stress and worry, if the scheme has to go ahead, give us adequate compensation to buy another farm locally, so we can remain close to our children and grandchildren and can continue to farm as we have done all our lives.

We own the most important site for this scheme to work yet We have not had any communication with Aquind for many months, other than a barrage of constantly changing information which is published on the planning inspectorate website. We and our lawyers have had to read 1000's of pages of information, to know what's happening on our own farm.

We have had to spend life savings saved for retirement to afford representation at this DCO enquiry, to try to keep as much of our farm as possible. We have lived under constant threat for 4 years. With little or no information from the Applicant.

The agent is rude and doesn't give a damn about the impact on my family. At every stage we have been threatened with compulsory purchase, never have they taken on board our views or tried to reach any form of agreement with us, unless it is solely on their terms they will rely on compulsion. They are trying to strong-arm us into submission, this forceful behaviour should not be accepted and

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landowners should be supported by Sectary of Sate, Aquind should not get away with this aggressive behaviour

This scheme is going to change mine and my family life for the considerable worse and I hope that you take into consideration the impact that your recommendations will have on me and my home my family and the rest of my life as well as keeping the heart in the countryside.