

Alistair Burford's Evidence– CD26 -15 OBJ-211 – 25 September 2025

Mr Saunders

One of the first questions asked about his (Mr Saunders) assessment of Madingley Wood and the American Cemetery. He described both as HIGH VALUE RECEPTORS. When asked how he would treat these;

AVOIDANCE – Move away as far as possible, in this case to the South.

Surely, humans must also fall into the category of High Value Receptors and yet despite all the assessments on bats, badgers, trees, there is no mention of the impact on humans.

Later in Mr Saunders' evidence he was asked to comment on my property and its location – given that he had not conducted an assessment how could his response carry any weight. But regardless Mr Saunders stated that properties within 100 meters suffer the highest dust impact. He accepted that my property is 50 meters away and my house is 80 meters away. He then went on to give some vague reference to the trees in my garden and low level planting and some small bund next to the busway.

If Mr Saunders had of conducted a proper assessment. He would know the trees referred to are deciduous and would only give protection 6 months of the year. He would also know that because of the landscape the prominent south south west wind often blows at speeds in excess of 50 MPH as it did this weekend. He would also know we have 3 south facing bedrooms that we would be unable to ventilate. He would know that the track in line with my garden was the least thing to worry about because with the prevailing wind my property will be subject to dust from 50% of the length of the busway between the Waterworks and the hedge adjacent to my property.

He would have to report to 2 types of dust;

Course Dust – which with a fair wind behind it will easily travel distances well in excess of 100 meters.

Fine Dust – Again with the wind conditions can travel kilometres

This information is contained in the Institute of Air Quality Management – January '24 and this would have serious implications particularly during the build period.

On the subject of fine dust, the WSP technical report to Air Quality, 3.1.2. states 'Fine particles transported by wind are small enough to be drawn into the lungs during breathing which in sensitive members of the public could have a potential impact on health.

Turning to Mr Baker's time in the Chair, he listed his impressive qualifications and vast experience, surely at some stage over the last 7 years, he must have looked at my property and its close proximity to his preferred route and thought it may be a problem particularly during construction and that it needs to be addressed – but he didn't. At best I would call

this a serious oversight and that leads me to question - is the GCP Application even complete and valid without this information?

And finally;

If, you Sirs, are minded to recommend this scheme for approval, may I ask that you do so on the condition that it not be fully granted until a specific assessment of both construction and operation has been conducted.

Sirs, I am aware that the IAQM doesn't place much value on a single life as they do for 20 or 100 but surely in this extreme case common sense should prevail.

Mitigation is as much a part of the overall scheme as determining the route, the cost benefit and every other aspect involved. Unfortunately, I got the impression the GCP are thinking let's get this route approved and we'll sort the rest out later.

Invite to Walkabout