

<sup>1</sup>Mr Griffiths, thank you for taking the trouble to visit Portland and to listen to us. My name is Gerry Hinde.

At the Dorset Council planning meeting in Dorchester last Spring I was struck by the confidence of Powerfuel's Kings Counsel.

Even as he sensed the day was lost, he was keen to inform the public meeting that he had been involved in countless of these kinds of application and won virtually all of them. The vast majority, on appeal, to the Inspector and to the Secretary of State.

It is a frankly formidable position for us to be in.

Top lawyers -- and an army of "expert witnesses" hired and rehired all across the UK to drive their case against poorly funded, inexperienced communities ... Imagine us trying to muster a defence against a sea of words from professional appeal-busters.

George Orwell told us the great enemy of clear language is insincerity. And, describing the insidious world of "Doublespeak" in his novel *1984* he remarked: "the trick is that one must be able to dislocate the sense of reality." And I think of Orwell when I see the approved terminology at this hearing is 'energy recovery facility.'

Sir, respectfully, energy is the by-product of an action and that action is INCINERATION. Auschwitz was *never* a gold and mineral recovery centre. It would be highly offensive to suggest it was.

What we're talking about here, at this hearing, is an incinerator. To remain plain-speaking: a giant, ugly box with chimney attached, where gunk goes in at one end and ash and gas comes out the other. *Energy and cash are by-products.*

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<sup>1</sup>Isle of Portland Incinerator & Smokestack. December 14, 2023. Remarks by Gerry Hinde

No amount of architectural design, camouflage or cladding will ever disguise it. No artist's impressions with azure seas and soaring gulls is going to mitigate against it.

Mr Griffiths, you are involved in more of these appeals than you possibly care to remember. For most of us here, this is all new.

So, rhetorically, I'd like to ask you the five questions that really concern me. And I'd even like to have a guess at the kind of answers you might give me.

First off. Is there any vista, any landscape view, as part of a World Heritage Site or National Park in the United Kingdom where an incinerator and smokestack forms part of the view? I'm curious.

And you may nod and consider and and say something like, "Well actually yes there is. Up at the Lake District, as you look across from Keswick to Windermere a smokestack was approved ten years ago just outside Carlisle, not actually in the Lake district but on the fringe and, yes -- you can certainly see the smokestack from the heart of the Lake District.

Second. Is there anywhere in the UK where an incinerator has been approved literally 300 metres in front of a Grade 1 Scheduled Monument? And you might say something like: "Actually yes there is. Up at the Tower of London, right by St Katherine's Docks, yes, we've authorised an incinerator because we didn't really feel it impacted the Eastern view of the tower.

Third. Even most Portlanders don't know that this little island boasts 800 acres of Sites of Special Scientific interest.

Is there any precedent for a smokestack so close to such a biodiverse area? And you might tell me something like: "Actually, SSSIs are far more common than you might realise and we haven't seen any clear evidence that smokestacks damage them.

So indeed, in the Norfolk Broads, we've allowed an incinerator just outside a little village called Wroxham and it all seems to be working nicely.

Fourth. What about chimney stacks? Is there any modern precedent for building an 80 metre chimney on an island 110 metres high? Where emissions feed literally into hundreds of homes within a mile? And you may say, Ha, yes! We allowed much the same thing in Cardiff. In fact, local people tell us that in Summertime the emissions smell a bit like honeysuckle...

And finally, is there anywhere else in Britain where an incinerator is fed by 80 lorries a day on single carriageways for at least the last 30 miles of the journey? Anywhere? It's possible you may reply: 'Yes. The Orkney incinerator... 50 miles all the way out to Marwick... single carriageway road.'

If you, Mr Griffiths, gave me anything like those kinds of answers, I'd be a bit despondent — but maybe not entirely surprised.

But I'd still want to know. Is there any precedent, in your experience, where *all five* of these criteria have been allowed?

If Mr Griffiths, the answer is 'yes, there is a precedent.' Or, indeed, if the answer is 'No. There is no current precedent, but we are minded to give one...' Then I would say: Give Powerfuel permission to build three of the blessed things here, because we're all doomed anyway.

It would be a catastrophe for Portland and our heritage. Allow this, and our collective landscape -- the whole look and feel of England -- is going to be marred irredeemably, irreversibly, for the worse and there will be no going back..

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.