



**DEVELOPMENT OF LONDON CITY AIRPORT TO ACCOMMODATE 9 MILLION PASSENGERS  
PER ANNUM**

**Planning Application Reference: 22/03045/VAR**  
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**REBUTTAL**

**JOHN STEWART**

**NOISE IMPACTS**

# 1. Use and value of urban green space

- 1.1 In his proof of evidence at paragraph 11.4.12, Mr Richard Greer states that “People generally spend more time indoors than outdoors. Some surveys even indicate this could be up to 90% of people's time.” He purports to evidence this claim by reference to a 2018 survey of 1,000 people conducted by cycling company Ribble Cycles as part of a campaign to promote cycling and outdoor sport.<sup>1</sup> In my view, Mr Greer’s reliance on this unscientific, outdated, and non-peer reviewed survey significantly understates the true importance of access to nature and green space to people and their wellbeing.
- 1.2 More recent and authoritative data on the importance of access to nature and green space can be found in Natural England’s *Adults’ Year 3 Annual Report* (April 2022 - March 2023) (Official Statistics) (Published 20 September 2023) [CD3.8.14]. Amongst the findings in this statistical bulletin were the following:
  - 1.2.1 Almost two in three (65%) adults had visited a green and natural space in the previous 14 days in Year 3. This was higher than in Year 2 (63%) and in Year 1 (62%) (p.7).
  - 1.2.2 In Year 3, urban green spaces (such as a park, field, or playground) were the most commonly visited green and natural spaces (by 50% of adults) (p.11).
  - 1.2.3 About four in ten adults in Year 3 (April 2022 – March 2023) said that nature/wildlife is more important than ever to their wellbeing (38%) or that visiting local green and natural spaces has been even more important to their wellbeing (39%) (p.17).
- 1.3 Previous versions of this survey bulletin found that four in ten adults reported spending increased time outside since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (42% between April 2020 and March 2021 and 45% between April 2021 and March 2022). Three in ten agreed that they had increased the amount of time they spent noticing nature and wildlife since the start of the pandemic (30% between April 2020 and March 2021 and 31% between April 2021 and March 2022).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Road.cc article February 2018: <https://road.cc/content/news/217728-brits-spend-92-all-their-time-indoors>.

<sup>2</sup> Natural England The People and Nature Survey for England: Year 2 Annual Report - Data and publications (April 2021 - March 2022) (Official Statistics) main findings, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-people-and-nature-survey-for-england-year-2-annual-report-data-and-publications-april-2021-march-2022-official-statistics-main-findings>.

- 1.4 This data clearly indicates the general value of time spent outdoors in green space and the specific value of urban green spaces to local populations. Moreover, it demonstrates that this value increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and has remained high thereafter, with a higher proportion of people having spent time in green space in the past 14 days in Year 3 than in Years 1 and 2.
- 1.5 I consider that this is important context for the Inspector when considering the value of overflowed urban green spaces, which are heavily used by Londoners on Saturday afternoons.