

My name is Andrea Frankham-Hughes. I am a resident of Portland and an Archaeologist.

It has been my mission over the past few years to understand the use of the Island by prehistoric peoples and during my investigations it has become apparent that the Portland was of great importance due to its strategic position, resources and cultural significance. Many of the archaeological discoveries on Portland were made in the late 1800's during the building of the Verne Citadel, Grove Prison and quarrying of the Island. These were not recorded to our modern standards, but the evidence that was found is still here with us, recorded in antiquarian and grey literature.

Powerfuel proposes the erection of 2m high parallel fencing around the permissive pathway between the south east Sally Port and the Batteries. The Sally Port was a defended entrance to the Verne Citadel giving easy access for the soldiers between the two locations. This fence would cut between the Batteries and the Verne – two hugely important and significant parts of the historic environment which should be connected. Powerfuels proposed mitigation strategy would sever the connection and impact the historic environment.

Portland has a substantial historic legacy with evidence of Palaeolithic occupation around Portland Castle and the important Culverwell Mesolithic site at Portland Bill. Primary evidence of intensive use for burials stretches across the Bronze, Iron and Roman Ages. The Verne has been a particularly important source of archaeology in the form of burials and artefacts, evidenced during the building of the Citadel in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the subsequent housing estates constructed in the 1970's. Two important Iron Age ingots found on the Verne were imported from the continent. They are the only examples ever found in Britain and are currently housed by Portland Museum.

For a small Island Portland has a large number of high-status artefacts including Iron Age and Roman coinage, two Iron Age collars (now in the British Museum) and two bronze mirror fragments. This is highly unusual as discoveries of these items on mainland Dorset are extremely rare and they are usually only found individually. Academics at Bournemouth University are of the view that Portland could have been a substantially important cultural centre for the Durotrigian Iron Age tribe, being visible from a large part of the Dorset and Devon coastline. It must have been regarded as an imposing and special place to previous residents.

Prehistoric structures on Portland included Neolithic stone circles and a rare post framed building, Bronze Age barrows accompanied by large urnfields, and evidence of Iron Age settlements. The unique and enigmatic beehive huts were discovered in the late 1800's but have not been found or studied recently.

Very little archaeological investigation has been undertaken on the east side of the island around the area of the proposed EFW plant, but there could be important sites which are yet to be discovered. There are salt pans, possibly Roman, just to the south and a Mesolithic spearhead was found nearby. Marie Stopes found skeletal remains in rock fissures in the cliffs near the Grove and in 2012 a walker found skeletal remains just below the Grove prison which are thought by the specialists at Bournemouth University to be pre 1804 and possibly very much earlier. We are currently undertaking radiocarbon dating to establish their age and there is a possibility that they could be part of a larger cemetery.

The UNESCO Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site is important not only for its Geology but also for its unique historic and cultural value. The World Heritage Coast Partnership Plan clearly states that *Experiential Setting* must be protected, and that cultural heritage is part of the experiential setting, including the landscape and seascape, with strong links between geology & culture. The heritage asset and the surroundings in which it is experienced must be considered and according to the National Policy Planning Framework great weight must be given to the conservation of the setting. Portland's unique geology can be viewed clearly from many prehistoric sites on the South Dorset Ridgeway such as the Hell Stone, Abbotsbury Hillfort and the Bronze Age barrows at Portesham. It was part of the visual and cultural lives of ancient people and the impact of such a large-scale facility dominating the east of the Island would have a detrimental effect on its experiential setting.

The historical and cultural value of Portland as a place has been largely forgotten but is intrinsically of major significance. Archaeologist Susann Palmer observed that there are roughly 35 findspots per square mile and described the archaeological richness of the Island as 'phenomenal' with sites of a high local and national potential and importance. She stated that 'It must not be assumed by planners, developers and their advisors that nothing more of importance remains to be discovered on Portland.'

Much development has been imposed on the Island by the presence of the military and the undertaking of large-scale quarrying, housing and industrial development. The approval of the proposed plant is yet another imposition, with lack of regard and appreciation of Portland's unique layers of historic and cultural importance.

This is the wrong development in the wrong place at the wrong time and I ask you to reject the proposal for the sake of the experiential setting, historic environment and the unique cultural value of our Island.



