

5 Westhill Close, Weymouth DT4 9NG

14 December 2023

Paul Griffiths
Inspector
Planning Inspectorate

Dear Mr Griffiths

I'm writing this letter in case I don't get to speak in my time slot this evening.

According to Google maps, I live 0.9 miles from the north coast of Portland Harbour and 0.4 miles from the Fleet Lagoon (in Wyke Regis). I wanted to tell you about all the things I love about living here which I would STOP doing if a waste incinerator gets built. I would stop because of the pollution - I won't want to breathe the air or swim in the water. And also the views - seascape and landscape - would be ruined by a huge factory like building and chimney stack with a plume.

I went to see the Plymouth incinerator when this project was first announced. I wanted to see for myself the impact. We could see the stack and plume from where we were staying - some miles away on the other side of the Tamar. This means the Portland stack and plume would be highly visible from a large part of the World Heritage site - the Jurassic Coast. Sitting on the beach at Lulworth or Durdle Door, the view would have an industrial aspect. This would be a tragedy.

Local residents in Plymouth told me their incinerator stinks and is noisy. I watched huge lorries arriving every few minutes loaded with rubbish. The location of the Plymouth incinerator is just off a dual carriageway - unlike the Portland access, the lorries don't drive through residential areas on small roads. It broke my heart to think of any possibility of Portland Harbour having one of these.

The waters, walks and beaches here are unique and as close to pristine as the South coast can offer. I went to the CEFAS public talks on Wednesday and learned that our harbour has Grade A waters - unlike our nearest neighbour Poole who has Grade B or even C waters. I always knew our oysters and crabs were the best I'd tasted in the world - but now I know why. I would definitely stop eating our local seafood if there was a waste incinerator here.

The north coast of the harbour has shallow, crystal clear water and sandy beaches. These are my haven in the summer - and that of all Weymouth residents, especially children. Our town beach in Weymouth Bay is mobbed by tourists and gridlocked - so we escape to the small local beaches in Wyke (Smallmouth, Sandsfoot and Castle Cove) as well as to the stunning beach at Chesil Cove. Cycling there for evenings after work are my sanity from a very stressful job. The sunsets are incredible and the beach fills in the evening with people of all ages enjoying barbecues, music and swimming. You could be in Greece or Turkey with the large white stones and clear turquoise water. I would not go near these beaches if there was an incinerator there - I would have to drive down the coast to find sanctuary.

I'm a paddleboarder and sea kayaker - by no means an Olympian like some of the speakers! It is my guilty pleasure and my mental retreat to get out on the water whenever I can. I can't describe the peace and the joy it brings me - like thousands of other local residents. I feel so grateful for the easy access to the Fleet, harbour and bays within a mile or two of my home. We don't have much in the way of retail or cultural venues down here, what we do have is the clean waters, fresh air and stunning views. That's what keeps me here.

I'm too old to be a windsurfer or kitesurfer - but I believe the Hamm (beach road) is one of the best locations in the world. It certainly brings hundreds of 'crazies' as I call them to the area when the wind is blowing from the west/south west (ie, most of the time). Their speed and acrobatics make an incredible spectacle! I'm sure lots of them would be worried about breathing and swimming in the pollution of an incinerator. And this would impact local tourism income.

The Rodwell Trail runs along the north coast of the harbour. It's a natural green route into the town for me. I cycle and walk it regularly - like lots of local commuters, school children and fitness enthusiasts. It has spectacular views and access to all the small beaches I mentioned. There are lots of groups of cold water swimmers using the beaches all year round (more crazies!).

I hope I have given you an idea of the beauty and leisure use of the north side of the Harbour. This would be ruined for me - and anyone else concerned about their health.

Portland Harbour may have a military past but its future should be about preserving its natural surroundings, protecting its wildlife and aquaculture and welcoming all the water sports enthusiasts who flock here. This is NOT an industrial area ... this seascape sits in the middle of a World Heritage site and is loved by tourists and locals. Nobody will want to sit on the beach at Lulworth or Durdle Door and see a chimney stack with a plume across the water.

Portland Port Ltd is a BLOT on this landscape. They will do anything for money. They bring us huge polluting ugly cruise ships, a barge of imprisoned asylum seekers and they want to ruin our pristine water and air with an incinerator. They bought the port for a song - and they are plundering it purely for their own profit.

I'm the only person in Weymouth & Portland with my qualifications and training. People travel from all over the country but especially the neighbouring counties to see me ... I will definitely leave the area if this incinerator gets built. I will no longer want to breathe the air or swim in the waters.

Please DO NOT overturn the unanimous decision of our elected representatives!

Jane Collison