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Planning Team A
Minerals and Waste
Economic Growth and Infrastructure
Dorset Council

Submitted via website

26 September 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

PLANNING APPLICATION: **WP/20/00692/DCC**

LOCATION: **Portland Port, Castletown, Portland DT5 1PP**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: **Construction of an energy recovery facility with ancillary buildings and works including administrative facilities, gatehouse and weighbridge, parking and circulation areas, cable routes to ship berths and existing off-site electrical sub-station, with site access through Portland Port from Castletown.**

1. I am writing on behalf of Dorset Area of the Ramblers as their Countryside Secretary. This comment is additional to those which we submitted in November 2020 and are made in response to the *Powerfuel: Portland energy recovery facility consultation response summary document* (August 2021).
2. The Ramblers works to help everyone to enjoy the pleasures and benefits of walking, and to enhance and protect the places where people walk. As walkers we understand the importance of our environment for the health and wellbeing of all. We are committed to encouraging and supporting walking, protecting and expanding public rights of way and access land, and protecting the beauty of the countryside and other areas.
3. We note that at section 17.10 of the response which deals with the impact of the proposal on the historic environment, the applicant states:

A framework heritage mitigation strategy has been submitted to Dorset Council, and these measures are now included in the ES Addendum as appropriate mitigation. These measures comprise a programme of works that will enable the East Weare E Battery scheduled monument and listed building grade II to be removed from the Historic England 'at risk register' and provision of a permissive public right of way, reconnecting existing rights of way, to

facilitate public views and interpretation of the heritage features present along the East Weare, and facilitating an around Portland walking route.

In our view it is disingenuous to suggest that the provision of a permissive footpath which would facilitate the provision of a round Portland walking route can be described as mitigation for the proposed development. There has been, for some time now, a campaign, completely unrelated to the Powerfuel development, for a truly coastal walking route around Portland, and Portland Port has had discussions with the campaign group and Portland Town Council about this. The campaign group has identified a suitable route which would, in effect, be the restoration of a path which must have been in existence in the past (the assumption is that the original closure of the stretch was related to MOD occupation of the site), and is the obvious link between definitive footpaths S3/72 and S3/81. It is our hope that, in due course, this route could be part of the South West Coast Path and the England Coast Path.

The impact of the energy recovery facility on the landscape and on users of the path network would not be lessened by the restoration of this important path link.

4. We can see nothing in the consultation response to change our objection to this planning application.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Davis

Janet Davis
Dorset Ramblers Countryside Secretary