

Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General UNESCO  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris  
07 SP France



27th January 2021

Dear Ms Azoulay

**Energy from Waste Incinerator**

**Planning Application WP/20/00692/DCC Portland Port, Castletown, Portland DT5 1PP UK**

we are very concerned that as yet UNESCO has not commented on this proposal to build a vast polluting and unsightly ERF Incinerator in Portland Port, Dorset, UK. Although the small port area doesn't come under UNESCO legal protection the remainder of the Isle of Portland and its environs form part of the UNESCO world heritage site - the Dorset Jurassic Coast.

This merchant incinerator is designed to emit 1 ton of CO2 and a ¼ ton of toxic ash for every ton of the 208,000 tons of waste to be burnt every year. The Dorset Waste Plan 2019 does not include a waste plant in this remote location and it is not needed for Dorset's waste. The Port is seeking to generate electricity to sell even though there is sufficient electric capacity in the local energy grid.

In a future when we Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, the fuel for these ERF incinerators is a reducing commodity, and yet where these plants operate recycling rates fall. Europe imports our UK waste for their ERF Incinerators as their home-produced waste levels are insufficient. Once built, incinerators must be fed for their running life thereby releasing copious amounts of greenhouse gases. This is not a viable solution in a decarbonizing world.

In addition, incinerators release largely un-trappable fine particulate matter PM2.5-PM1 into the atmosphere which are extremely damaging to people with respiratory and cardiac health conditions. Carcinogenic toxins such as lead, mercury and dioxins are emitted from the unscrutinised waste burnt, which the Environmental Permits only require to be sampled every 6 months. This is not good for people and it is not good for the natural world. Legislation, like the ban on smoking, is trailing behind public awareness.

Powerfuel Portland Holdco Ltd is a merchant company who admitted at the Weymouth Town Council planning meeting that they will sell the development onto another company to build and operate the plant. The application seeks to have no limit on the origin of the waste and to be free to import waste shipped in from abroad.

Portland is a wildly beautiful area, steeped in history and dating back to the Mesolithic period. Roman sarcophagi have been found.

Eden Portland, the off-shoot of the Eden Project Cornwall, chose Portland as the location for their forthcoming Memo Project **Mass Extinction Monitoring Observatory**. Needless to say, MEMO has submitted a strong objection to the incinerator.

Portland is also a first staging post for the UK's immigrant birds and butterflies and is the habitat of rare flora and fauna, lichen and moths. There are exemplary marine habitats here too, with a local fishing industry dependent on clean waters.

Local people have worked hard to ensure that Portland and Weymouth together form one of the most popular UK Eco- tourist destinations, with international sailing popular in this remarkable sea and landscape.

Over 7,000 local people signed our petition against the proposal. There are 2814 written detailed and thoughtful letters submitted to planning explaining why so many people are devastated at what is being threatened.

This is not the location for an 85-metre-high chimney dominating the entrance to Portland Harbour. The plume of emissions will be all too visible, particularly at night when it is illuminated and discharging under the homes of the many people living higher up the hill of Portland.

UNESCO states that Climate Change is one of the defining issues of our time. The Dorset Jurassic Coast made it clear to the World that EXTINCTIONS HAPPEN. It is this educational resource of the fossil records that gave foundation to the understanding of Evolution and indeed the Origin of the Species.

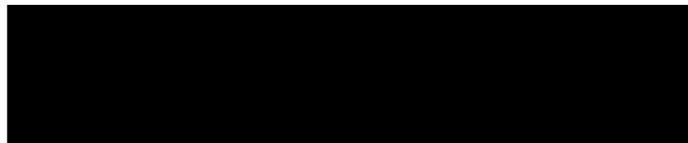
Today, we have the horrific knowledge that human activity is causing the Climate Change that is ending species and will cause world strife. UNESCO and its recognition of World Heritage Sites frames the ethical implications for present and future generations. Extinction through Climate Change will disproportionately affect the less resourced of this World.

We know it is an honour to have been chosen as a World Heritage Site, deemed worthy of preservation due to its universal value to humanity. It is a dishonour to everything the Jurassic Coast stands for to blight the area by constructing a vast edifice that reinforces the dangerous practice of burning rather than recycling material.

We quote: UNESCO "requires people to come together in support of a common cause" and "embody the Site's Outstanding Universal Value, tangible or intangible, collaboration and cooperation are essential." To this end we request with the utmost urgency that UNESCO supports our Campaign.

Please Object and join with us, the local people, and our MP Richard Drax, who have all objected to the proposed building of this Energy from Waste Incinerator in this location. Easy access to the Dorset Council planning page can be found on our website – first item, first link in red.

Yours sincerely



Paula Klaentschi BA Hons Dip Arch retired Architect  
Coordinator  
Stop Portland Waste Incinerator Campaign

[stopportlandwasteincinerator.co.uk](http://stopportlandwasteincinerator.co.uk)

[stoppwi@gmail.com](mailto:stoppwi@gmail.com)