

WP/20/00692/DCC: Construction of energy recovery facility with ancillary buildings/works incl. gatehouse & weighbridge, cable routes to ship berths and existing off-site electrical sub-station, at Portland Port, Castletown, Portland DT5 1PP

NET Team Consultation Response 11/11/2022:

Thank you for consulting the Natural Environment Team (NET) on the ecological aspects of this application.

Ecology mitigation for impacts on biodiversity (rather than air quality, nutrification, acidification issues which NET is aware are subject to further Habitat Regulations Assessment work by the authority), is detailed within a NET-approved Biodiversity Plan (BP). The BP therefore deals with on-site biodiversity impacts through mitigation and compensation. The compensation for habitats lost on site in the form of a financial contribution, will be used for habitat restoration elsewhere on Portland. The NET Compensation Projects Officer will determine how these funds will be allocated once these have been received by the authority if the application is approved.

A copy of the BP and associated approval certificate are attached. Consent, if granted, should include a condition for full implementation and compliance of the BP and a s106 for the agreed compensation payment as set out in the BP.

NET note and support the comments of Natural England regarding biodiversity net gain. In addition to the BP compensation, an element of net gain will need to be agreed with Natural England and confirmed within an amended version / addendum to the 'Statement of Common Ground - Ecological Enhancements' document prior to determination.

In addition to securing implementation of the BP and compensation payment by planning obligation, NET recommend further conditions for a Construction Environmental Management Plan in line with BS42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development to safeguard ecological receptors during the construction phases, Lighting Strategy and Landscape & Ecological Management Plan in accordance with that in the BS42020.

I trust that this is of help but please do get back to me with any questions.

Best wishes

Nikki

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Place Services

