

Navitus Bay – Relevant Representation

The National Trust, as a conservation charity has a statutory duty to promote the conservation of places of historic interest and natural beauty. The proposal site is surrounded by protected landscapes designated for their international importance and the Trust considers this proposal in its current location will negatively impact upon the designated highly sensitive coastlines of Purbeck; the south-west of the Isle of Wight and the south east of the World Heritage Site of Dorset and East Devon Coast.

Whilst the Trust is committed to more sustainable forms of energy generation we believe that the location and design of all energy generation schemes should take account the full range of environmental considerations, including the protection of valued landscapes, and that developments must be in appropriate locations and of an appropriate scale and design for their setting to avoid unacceptable harm.

The National Trust registers its objection to the current location on the following grounds:

- Landscape and visual impact: whilst the Trust acknowledges that the proposal has been amended in scale, our opinion remains that the amendments do not provide satisfactory mitigation and require further locational changes to minimise its impact on National Trust land and the Dorset WHS. Our coastal landscapes and seascapes are a valuable resource and key component of our national heritage and the coastline that would be affected is particularly valued for its historically important and uninterrupted seascapes. Should this proposal be approved in its current location we believe that the harm in terms of visual impact outweighs the benefit.
- We believe that the proposal is contrary to existing guidance in that it ignores the Government's SEA policy of the 12nm limit which is the guideline for sensitive coasts with the current proposal being just 6.95nm at its nearest point from Old Harry and 7.3nm from the Needles on the Isle of Wight.
- As an environmental charity with nature conservation as part of its remit the Trust reserves its position to make further comment on the proposal's long term impact upon wildlife.

In conclusion, our opinion remains steadfast in that if this proposal is to gain approval it will require further mitigation in order to successfully reduce its impacts on this special place otherwise the environmental harm caused by the current proposal, without further mitigation, will outweigh the benefits. We would urge the Inspector to undertake site visits to a number of locations along the coastline.

We remain committed to supporting sustainability energy generation and have commissioned our own independent research on the potential alternatives to the current scheme. Following this initial research we would propose that it would be possible to relocate the scheme further out to sea within the Round 3 designated zone. We therefore feel there is scope for a more appropriate scheme to be developed here but not in the current location proposed.

