

### Policy E2: Historic environment

Great weight will be given to protecting, and where possible enhancing, Purbeck's designated heritage assets and their settings when assessing applications. Designated heritage assets include: listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens; scheduled monuments and Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Sites.

When assessing applications for proposals that are likely to affect (directly or indirectly) the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset, the Council will take account of the heritage asset's significance, together with all of the following considerations:

- a. whether proposals have taken advantage of an opportunity to enhance all, or part, of a heritage asset's significance;
- b. the nature, scope, scale, appearance (including detailed design and materials) and character of proposals;
- c. indirect effects arising from proposals including noise, traffic and lighting;
- d. the benefits of any repairs to a heritage asset's significance and or bringing a vacant heritage asset back in to use;
- e. the contribution that a heritage asset makes to local character, distinctiveness and the economy;
- f. measures to avoid or minimise harm to the heritage asset's significance; and
- g. the viability of the heritage asset's current and proposed uses and the effects of securing an appropriate and viable use on the heritage asset's significance.

Applications affecting the significance of a heritage asset should be accompanied by sufficient information to allow for an understanding of the heritage asset's importance and the potential impact of proposals on its conservation. Where harm or loss to a heritage asset can be fully justified, and development would result in the partial or total loss of the heritage asset and / or its setting, the applicant will be required to secure a programme of recording and analysis of that heritage asset.

Scheduled monuments and other designated heritage assets of national archaeological importance, or non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest of equivalent importance, should be preserved in situ. Where harm to these heritage assets can be fully justified, and development would result in the partial or total loss of the heritage asset and/or its setting, the applicant will be required to secure a programme of recording and analysis of that heritage asset, and archaeological excavation where relevant, and ensure the publication of that record to an appropriate standard.

### East Devon and Dorset World Heritage Site

The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site is an important and iconic landscape feature recognised for its geological interest. Development within the designated World Heritage Site, or development which is likely to affect its setting, will only be permitted if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that the 'outstanding universal value' of the coastline will be protected. The Council will take account of the cumulative impacts of development when assessing its impact on the World Heritage Site.

### Improve resilience to climate change and mitigate against flood risk

#### Climate change

69. Human activities over the past 50 years are affecting the earth's climate, and indicators across the climate system show that the earth's climate is changing. Most aspects of every day life connected with using fossil fuels to generate electricity and heating, for transport, industry and agriculture contribute to these changes. Key effects for the UK are expected to be higher temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall with greater incidences of flooding and extreme weather events, and changes to the behaviour of plants, insects and animals with consequences for agriculture and the environment.
70. Adapting to climate change involves developing strategies or actions to respond to actual, or anticipated, changes in climate. These strategies or actions allow people to lower the risks arising from climate change and take advantage of any opportunities these changes might bring. Such measures include ensuring rising sea levels and increased risks of flooding are taken into consideration.
71. Climate change mitigation includes actions and strategies to reduce the impact of human activity on the climatic system. The main way of mitigating climate change is through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
72. National policy places climate change mitigation and adaptation as a strategic priority for plan making. The approach set out in policy throughout the Purbeck Local Plan seeks to ensure the needs for growth in Purbeck are managed to reflect the potential impacts of climate change and to support and encourage measures that would assist in climate change mitigation.
73. The Council will manage development and explore opportunities for climate change adaption and mitigation by:
  - a) taking account of rising sea levels when assessing new developments and flood risk;
  - b) encouraging the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure as part

of new development;

- c) managing development in areas of coastal change and providing opportunities for the relocation of existing development at risk of coastal erosion;
- d) supporting appropriate proposals that would increase low carbon or renewable energy generation;
- e) encouraging sustainable design in new development and encouraging use of decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supplies; and
- f) directing most new development to the most accessible and sustainable parts of the plan area.

### Renewable energy

- 74. Government policy encourages the use and supply of low carbon energy with a national target for 15% of energy needs to be delivered from renewable sources by 2020. Renewable energy includes energy obtained from natural processes that is replenished more rapidly than it is consumed. The EU Renewable Energy Directive lists renewable fuels as wind, solar, hydro energy; energy arising from the burning of plant and animal matter (known as bio energy); waste energy (e.g. landfill gas); and aerothermal, geothermal and hydrothermal energy (heat derived from the air, ground and water).
- 75. In Purbeck 69,572MWh of electricity were generated from renewable sources in 2015. Photovoltaics provide almost 55,000MWh of electricity generated by renewable energy reflecting the growth and development of solar farms across the plan area. The documents Landscape Change Strategy (Dorset County Council) and Landscape Sensitivity to Wind and Solar Energy Development in Purbeck are key to informing the Council's consideration of the specific impacts of renewable energy proposals upon the landscape in accordance with the following policy.