Dear Members of the Planning Committee

The Naval Dockyards Society comments on the revised proposed plans submitted to the Deferred Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 20 August 2020, for the following reasons:

This amendment does not directly address the impact of the application upon the infilled 1804 Dry Dock and the maritime significance of Turnchapel Wharf to the Conservation Area. Turnchapel Dockyard’s shipbuilding and repairing facilities were an important adjunct of Plymouth’s naval dockyard since the seventeenth century, but especially since the French and Napoleonic Wars. It therefore warrants protection as a key historic waterfront site.

Groundworks for the proposed new unit could cut through the infilled 1804 Dry Dock and possible earlier archaeological deposits, thus destroying them. Nowhere in the reports submitted to the Deferred Planning Committee meeting is the value of the 1804 Dock discussed.

The current and potential benefit of the 1804 Dry Dock and other below-ground structures on Turnchapel Wharf to the Turnchapel and wider Plymouth communities through its evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value is threatened by this proposal.

The NDS therefore considers that the proposed revised development will lead to substantial harm of this site and calls for rejection of this application.