**OBAMA FOLLOWS PORTLAND’S CRUISE PASSENGERS FOOTSTEPS**

Similarly to many of the thousands of cruise passengers that Portland Port welcomes every year, Barack Obama was recently spotted sight seeing at Stonehenge, in doing so he was; ‘knocking Stonehenge off the bucket list’. Many passengers take excursions to Stonehenge when visiting Portland with the same motivation.

Stonehenge is one of the most iconic landmarks in the world; it stands in the same condition today as it did 3500 years ago. Whilst there are no written explanations as to why Stonehenge was built, there are plenty of theories ranging from a place of healing and worship, to a place of dying. Some speculate that it was constructed as a place of human sacrifice whilst others are adamant it served a purely astronomical purpose. Just recently, researchers have made further discoveries beneath Stonehenge including traces of a timber structure, which is believed to have been used for ceremonial purposes.

Portland Port has welcomed over 24000 passengers in 2014 some of which have visited the local towns and others have headed further a field to a vast array of local attractions including Stonehenge, Abbotsbury, Athelhampton House and Bath.

Ian McQuade, General Manager (Business Development) commented; “Mr Obama’s interest in Stonehenge stands as great testament to the sites world heritage status, perhaps with attractions such as Bath and of course, the Jurassic Coast, we will be seeing him again soon”.

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**For more information or images please contact Jack Brooke at Portland Port on 01305 825368 or email** **j.brooke@portland-port.co.uk**

PHOTO: Marina alongside in Portland Port – 1st August 2014

Notes to Editors:

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers International. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The cruise schedule for 2014 can be seen and downloaded here:

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/cruise/cruise-calls>

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

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Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 300 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015 hectare inner harbour. Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436 hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.

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