

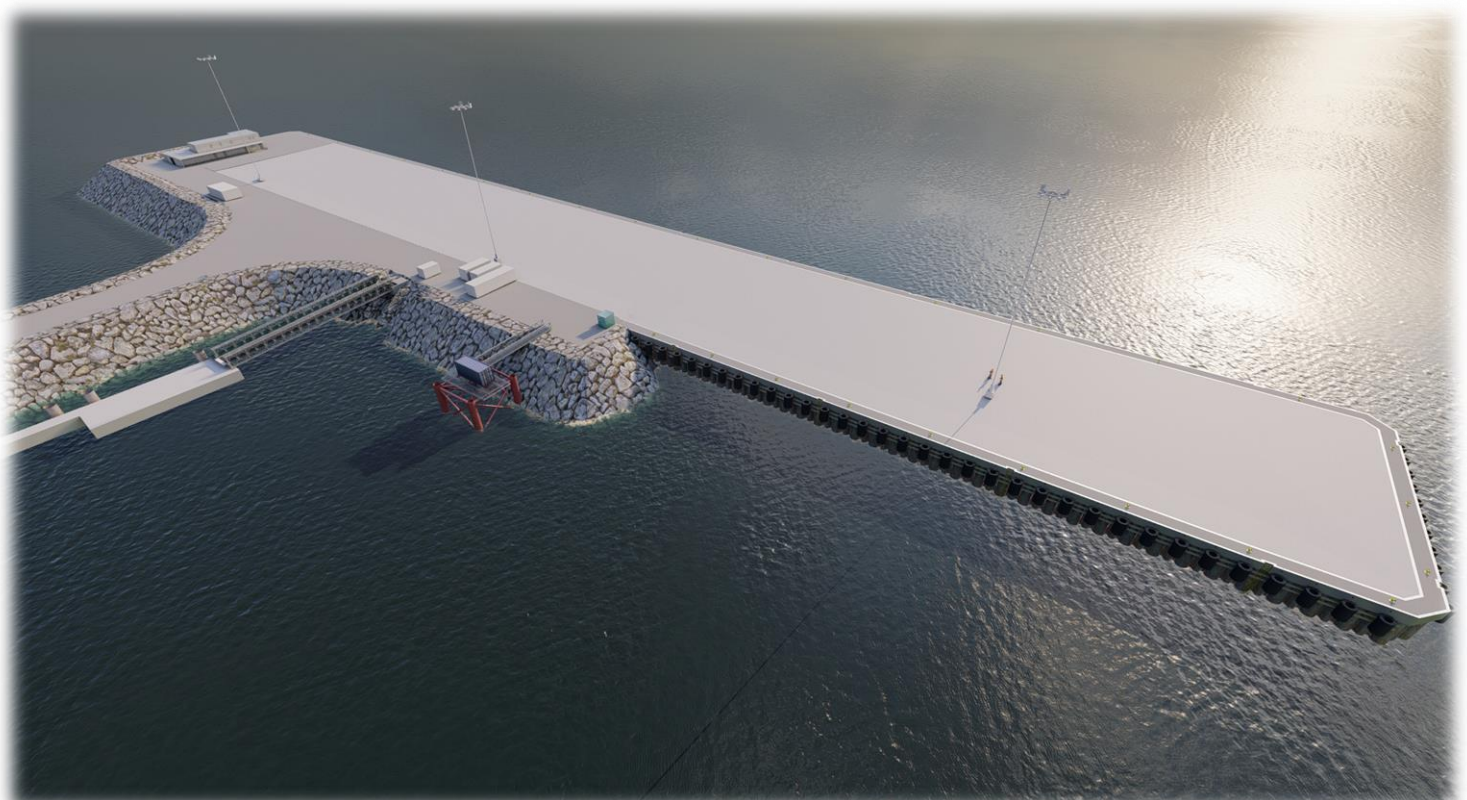


# New Port Facility Falkland Islands

## Statement on potential for terrestrial invertebrates

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## A1.0 Introduction

Following submission of the planning application for the new port facility in January 2022 (reference 04.22.P), a query was raised by Planning and Building Services as to why the ecological surveys and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does not make reference to the presence or otherwise of (terrestrial) invertebrates.

This statement provides supplementary information to the Planning and Building Services regarding the potential for invertebrates to be present and potentially disturbed as a result of the proposed new port facility. It has been informed through consultation with SAERI and desk-based review (including The Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999 and existing ecological survey reports).

## A2.0 Supplementary information

### A2.1 Background

Over 250 insect species have been recorded in the Falkland Islands. Most native insect species are closely related to those in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, with the prevailing westerly winds and ocean currents likely to have aided their arrival (Falklands Conservation, undated).

Schedule 2 Part 1 of The Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999 identifies protected wild animals in the Falkland Islands; this confirms that all species of butterflies (Rhopalocera) are protected wild animals. No other species of invertebrate are included in Schedule 2 Part 1 of The Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999.

The only breeding / resident species of butterfly in the Falkland Islands is the Queen of the Falklands fritillary butterfly (Falklands Conservation, undated). This species is understood to be relatively rare and inhabits more wind sheltered areas. The fritillary butterfly lays its eggs on the leaves of the native yellow violet flower, which the young caterpillars eat as they grow (Falklands Conservation, undated). Adult butterflies have been reported feeding on the nectar of Berry-lobelia, Christmas bush flowers and Falkland lavender (Falklands Conservation, undated).

Other recorded butterflies in the Falkland Islands are understood to be transient or accidentally introduced (Haywood, 2020) and are therefore not resident populations.

### A2.2 Site-specific information

The yellow violet flower was not identified during the rare plant survey undertaken in 2021 (the findings of which are reported in the EIS (BAM, 2021)). In addition, a coastal drone survey was undertaken during 2021 around the eastern half of Stanley Harbour to map the existing habitats; yellow violet flowers were not mentioned in any of the habitat classifications identified from the drone survey.

Nick Rendell carried out a review of five possible new spoil sites on behalf of PWD in October 2021 (Rendell, 2021). One of the potential spoil sites that was reviewed by Rendell is located immediately west of the existing megabid landfill (i.e. to the south-east of the temporary works areas required for the new port facility, which are south of Airport Road). The habitats within the area are reported as (Rendell, 2021):

- Acid grassland largely comprising whitegrass.
- Dwarf shrub heath, largely comprising Diddledee, Christmas bush and small fern.
- Fern beds comprising Tall fern.
- Wet modified bog, largely comprising *Astelia pumila* and occasional *Gaimardia australis*.
- Eutrophic standing water.
- Natural rock exposure, small rock ridge running east to west.
- Eroding peat banks.

No protected plants were identified, and the ground was reported as being generally poor (“unlikely to support any protected or rare species”) (Rendell, 2021). As there were no sightings of the yellow violet plant, it is considered highly unlikely that the fritillary butterfly would be breeding within the area.

In addition to the above, a plant survey was undertaken in December 2019 by Premier Oil for the Sea Lion Phase 1 Development project. The 2019 survey covered the area of land which is proposed to temporarily house the geotubes required for the new port facility project. The native yellow violet flower was not identified in this area and, therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that the fritillary butterfly would be breeding within the proposed geotube area.

### A3.0 Conclusion

As noted in Section 2, all species of butterfly are protected wild animals in the Falkland Islands. The only breeding species of butterfly in the Falkland Islands is the Queen of the Falklands fritillary butterfly.

Given the rarity of the fritillary butterfly and the lack of suitable habitat within the proposed scheme footprint (i.e. unsheltered areas, no reported presence of yellow violets which the species lays its eggs on), it is considered highly unlikely that the fritillary butterfly would be directly (or indirectly) impacted by the proposed scheme. It is considered likely that there are far more attractive areas of habitat for butterflies outside of the proposed scheme footprint.

As set out in Section 4.2.1 of the EIS (BAM, 2021), any vegetation present within the various parcels of land which are not currently hardstanding will be stripped outside of sensitive ecological windows and following an ecological walkover survey to allow creation of hardstanding without harming protected species. Should any species of nature conservation importance be identified during walkover surveys, consultation will be undertaken with F.I.G. to agree appropriate working practices to avoid harming such species. This mechanism will therefore provide the control to avoid harming protected species (including invertebrates) and no further mitigation is required.

### A4.0 References

BAM, 2021. Falkland Islands New Port Facility. Environmental Impact Statement.

Falklands Conservation, undated. Available at: Invertebrates - Falklands Conservation. Accessed February 2022.

Haywood, 2020. The Falkland Fritillary: Biological and Ecological Factors in the Conservation of *Yramea cytheris cytheris* (Drury 1773). A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Bournemouth University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Premier Oil, 2020. Sea Lion Phase 1 Development. Survey of Potential Development Sites for Threatened, Protected and Endemic Plant Species

Rendell, 2021. Spoil Dumping in the Stanley area Assessing New Sites