



Purbeck District Council Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2013 for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan



Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan

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Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal scoping

This sustainability appraisal scoping report takes as its starting point the original scoping report for the Purbeck Local Plan, which the Council published in 2005 and has updated regularly since then.

The sustainability appraisal is a process to ensure that plans and strategies are as sustainable as possible and that we have assessed alternatives, including what the situation would be if we had no plan in place.

We are carrying it out because the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan will include housing allocations and a number of policies. This is significant enough to require a sustainability appraisal.

The key sustainability issues for Bere Regis are the shortage of affordable housing and facilities for teenagers and poor transport and accessibility.

There are 8 sustainability objectives that we will use to assess the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan:

- Meet as much of Bere Regis' housing need as possible
- Promote services and facilities where need is identified
- Widen employment opportunities in Bere Regis
- Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport
- Reduce vulnerability to flooding and adapt to climatic changes
- Protect and enhance habitats and species
- Protect and enhance Bere Regis' unique landscape and townscape, and cultural and historical assets
- Minimise all forms of pollution and consumption of natural resources

1 Introduction

Purpose of this document

The purpose of a scoping report is to identify the issues that we need to take into account when we do a sustainability appraisal of the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of a sustainability appraisal itself is to ensure that plans and strategies are as sustainable as possible and that we have assessed all possible alternatives.

Although the sustainability appraisal is a process, we also produce reports that set out the findings from our assessments and how we have changed the plan in response to the assessments.

Legislation for sustainability appraisals and strategic environmental assessments

Sustainability appraisals of planning documents became a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The output of a sustainability appraisal is the final sustainability report. It should include social, economic and environmental considerations. Most of the environmental considerations are taken from the process below, referred to as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Strategic environmental assessments are required by European Directive EC/2001/42. This directive was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004).

The output for a strategic environmental assessment is an environmental report which will include baseline information and a prediction of the environmental impacts of the plan. The report will also identify options and alternatives, with emphasis on consultation and monitoring.

Further guidance (ODPM, 2004) merged this process to allow for a single joint appraisal to be carried out. Therefore, where reference is made to the sustainability appraisal (or SA), it refers to **both** processes.

2 Methodology for the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Stage A)

There are five stages within Stage A, as follows:

Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes

This stage identifies environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans, programmes and policies that are most relevant to Bere Regis. It also includes those that may not seem directly relevant but that ensure that we cover SEA requirements.



Stage A2: Collecting baseline data

This stage summarises or expands on some of the data from Stage A1. It also takes any other relevant data available. It is set out as follows: Social Data, Economic Data, Environmental Data.



Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

This stage lists the key issues and problems raised in parts A1 and A2 and identifies their sources.



Stage A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework for Bere Regis

This stage orders the issues into relevant themes. It then turns these themes into questions that we propose to use to assess draft options and policies. We also set out the monitoring framework to measure our success in achieving sustainable development.



Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

This stage ensures that the SA objectives will cover the likely significant effects of the plan. The three statutory consultees are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

3 Sustainable Development

The most commonly accepted definition of sustainable development is: ‘...development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

Source: Brundtland Commission, 1987

The UK government strategy for sustainable development ‘Securing the Future’ states that its aim is

To enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The five guiding principles for sustainable development are:

- Living within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

4 Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan (2013 – 2027)

Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 states that the role of Bere Regis will be supported through the allocation in the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan of a new supply of family and affordable housing within a settlement extension of approximately 50 dwellings (40% affordable) and through a new employment site. The allocation will provide new public open space. The Local Plan Part 1 also states that proposals will need to consider the opportunity to provide a larger health centre, employment site and community meeting space and the opportunity to relocate the school. Appendix B sets out the Local Plan Part 1 vision for the North West and Policy North West (NW) in full.

Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	
Summary	
Purpose:	To facilitate the delivery of new housing in Bere Regis and provide detailed policies such as protected open spaces, employment land, village centres and review the settlement boundaries.
Geographic Coverage:	Bere Regis village
Status:	Neighbourhood Plan
Conformity:	General conformity with National Planning Policy Framework and Purbeck Local Plan Part 1.
Joint Document:	No, but produced with assistance where required from Purbeck District Council officers.

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies additional objectives, some of which are included in the table below.

Housing growth in Bere Regis

There will be around 50 dwellings built in Bere Regis, possibly within 2 or 3 medium sized developments. The settlement boundary will need to change to accommodate this development.

Type of housing

Residents appear to want family-sized accommodation to improve the proportion of young people in the parish and to support the school and other facilities.

New employment growth

Residents support small offices and workshops on the land opposite the Shell Garage.

Green Spaces

Residents would like more footpaths and bridleways, with way-marked walking routes.

Renewable energy

The parish supports in principle renewable energy infrastructure such as solar energy and wind energy, while protecting designated sites and landscapes.

Facilities

A large shared facility south of the village is a possibility, as well as improved medical facilities.

Flood risk and coastal erosion issues

We will need to consider this at every stage of the plan.

5 List of plans, programmes and policies (Stage A1)

Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes

This stage identifies environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans, programmes and policies that are most relevant to Bere Regis. It also includes those that may not seem directly relevant but that ensure that we cover SEA requirements.

Appendix A sets out the details of each assessment.

National and International Documents	Theme
National Planning Policy Framework	Cross-cutting
PPS25 Practice Guidance	Flooding
Bern Convention and EC Directive 92/43/EEC	Habitat
Bonn Convention and EC Directive 79/409/EEC	Habitat
Air Quality Framework Directive	Air pollution
Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC	Noise pollution
Bathing Water Quality Directive 76/1670/EEC	Water pollution
Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC	Water pollution
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, including River Basin Management Plans	Water pollution
Renewable Energy Directive	Renewable energy

Local Documents	Theme
Purbeck Local Plan, Part 1	Cross-cutting
Bere Regis Parish Plan	Cross-cutting
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	Housing
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Housing
Housing Strategy	Housing
Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document	Housing
Tourism Strategy	Employment (tourism)
Purbeck Transportation Strategy	Transport and accessibility
South East Dorset Heathlands Development Plan Document	Habitat
Purbeck Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (including Catchment Flood Management Plans)	Flooding
Purbeck Landscape Character Assessment (Non-AONB)	Landscape & Heritage
Bere Regis Townscape Character Appraisal	Landscape & Heritage
Bere Regis Conservation Area Appraisal and Leaflet	Landscape & Heritage

6 Baseline data (Stage A2)

Stage A2: Collecting baseline data

This stage summarises or expands on some of the data from Stage A1. It also takes any other relevant data available. It is set out as follows: Social Data, Economic Data, Environmental Data.

Bere Regis in context: social data

Social Data (from ward data, unless stated otherwise)	Bere Regis Ward	Purbeck	Dorset or Nationwide
General population statistics		Comparators where available	
Population	1980*		
% of population aged 65 and over	20%	24%	16% (n)
% of retired residents (Census)	17%	19%	14% (n)
Decrease in population between 1999 to 2009	7%	1.8%	
Birth rate in 2009 per 1000 population	8.4%	8.4	12.9 (n)
Death rate in 2009 per 1000 population	10.6	10.5	9 (n)
% of population of Black or Minority Ethnic Groups (BME) (Census)	1.5%		3.2 (d) 13% (n)
% of 16 – 74 year olds with no qualifications (Census)	27%	27%	29% (n)
% of people with higher level qualifications (degree or equivalent)	19%		20% (n)
Community life		Comparators where available	
% of residents satisfied with their area as a place to live	84%	91%	
Important factor in making an area a good place to live – most important factor	Health services		
Important factor in making an area a good place to live – 2 nd most important factor	Affordable		

Social Data (from ward data, unless stated otherwise)	Bere Regis Ward	Purbeck	Dorset or Nationwide
	decent housing		
Important factor in making an area a good place to live – 3 rd most important factor	Clean streets		
1 st factor most in need of improvement	Public transport		
2 nd factor most in need of improvement	Activities for teenagers		
3 rd factor most in need of improvement	Levels of traffic congestion		
4 th factor most in need of improvement			
Total crime rate 2009/2010 per 1000 population	44	42.1	50.9 (d) 79 (n)

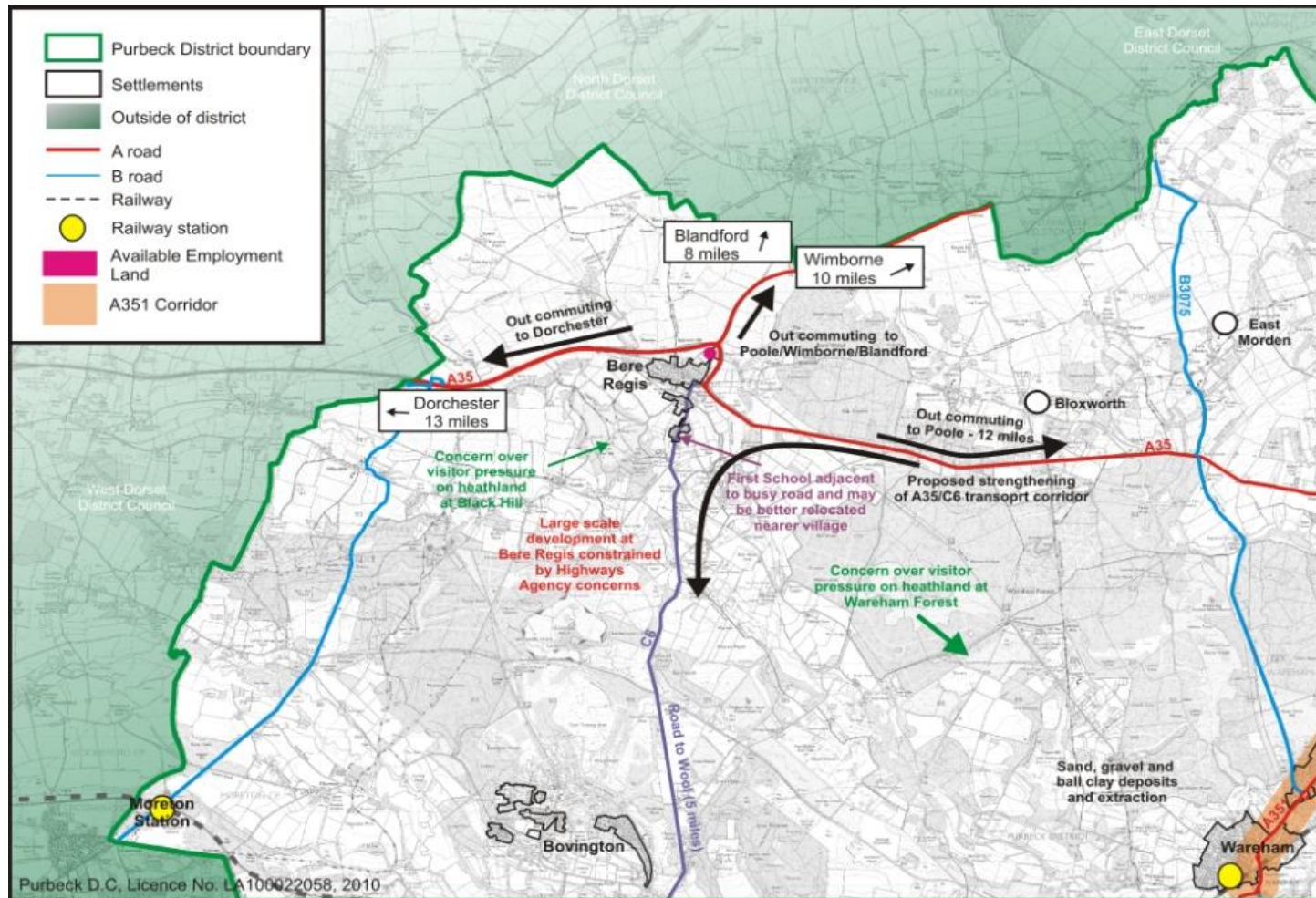
*This includes Bloxworth, which has a population of 210

The map below (taken from the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1) sets out the context for Bere Regis, showing its position on major traffic routes, including two trunk roads (A35 west of Bere Regis and A31).

The map draws attention to the following issues:

- Bere Regis is well-connected by road to a lot of larger settlements
- It has no railway station and very limited public transport
- It has provision for employment development
- Bere Regis Primary School is located on a busy road (C6)

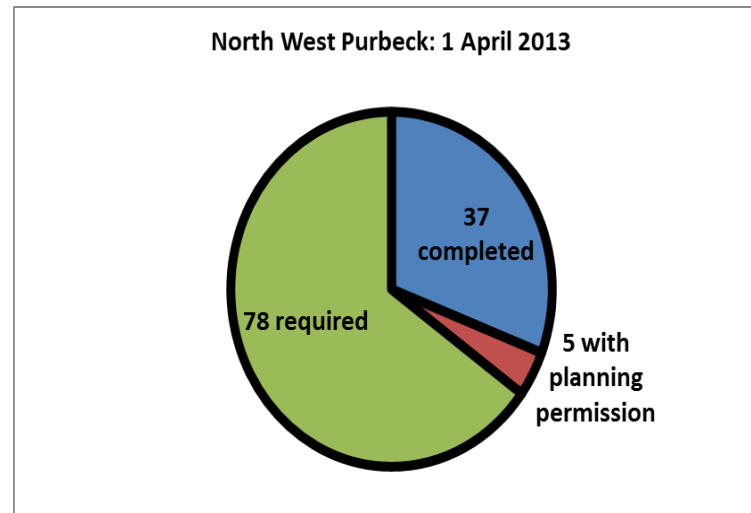
Bere Regis in context (from Purbeck Local Plan Part 1)



Bere Regis in context: housing needs

One of the roles of the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan is to deliver housing in accordance with Purbeck Local Plan Part 1, which is 2,520 dwellings over the plan period (120 dwellings per year). As stated in Appendix A, our Strategic Housing Market Assessment recommends the provision of 170 dwellings per year, but this has not been tested against Habitats Regulations. The SA will therefore assess the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with this provision of 120 per year. This is as much of the need as is possible to meet in the current circumstances.

The Local Plan divides Purbeck into five spatial areas. Bere Regis falls within spatial area 'North West Purbeck'. The Local Plan Part 1 has allocated 120 dwellings in total in this area. Most of this will be in Bere Regis, which is the largest settlement in the spatial area.



The Housing Monitoring Report 2012 - 2013 shows how, out of 120 dwellings allocated for North West Purbeck, 37 have been built and another 5 have planning permission. A further 78 are therefore required. Most of these will be in Bere Regis.

Bere Regis in context: economic data

Economic Data (from ward data, unless stated otherwise)	Bere Regis Ward	Purbeck	Dorset or Nationwide
Work		Comparators where available	
Approx number of business units	90		
Approx % of all business units in Purbeck	4%		
Approx number of people employed at above units	400		
% of service sector businesses	72%	74%	
% of residents aged 16 – 74 economically active (Census)	68%		
% of residents aged 16 – 74 economically inactive (retired, sick, student or carer) (Census)	32%		
% of claimant count in 2009	2.3%	1.9%	4% (n)
Socio-economic classifications: wealthy achievers	49%		42% (d) 25% (n)
Socio-economic classifications: urban prosperity			
Socio-economic classifications: comfortably off	30%		35% (d)
Socio-economic classifications: modest means	6%	0.1%	9% (d)
Socio-economic classifications: hard pressed	13%	6.6%	9% (d) 22% (n)
Socio-economic classifications: unclassified			
% of population living in households dependent on benefits	13%	14%	14.3% (d)
Accessibility		Comparators where available	
% of households which did not own a car (Census)	11%	15.6%	27% (n)
% of households within 30 mins by public transport from a GP	78%		
% of households within 30 mins by public transport from a shop	78%		
Level of deprivation in terms of geographical access	In top 20%		

Bere Regis in context: environmental data

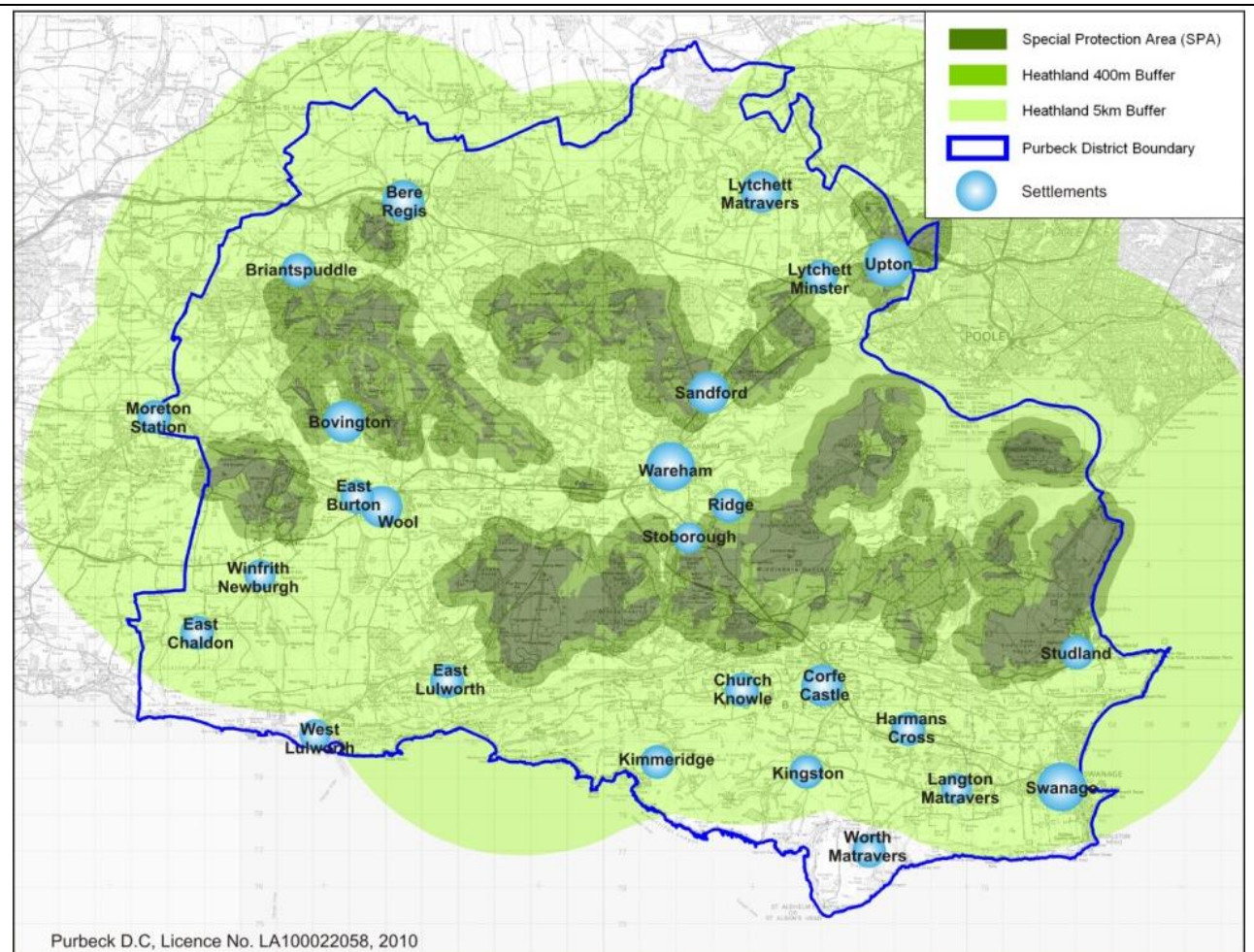
Economic Data (from ward data, unless stated otherwise)	Bere Regis Ward	Purbeck	Dorset or Nationwide
Flood risk and coastal erosion		Comparators where available	
Areas at risk of significant surface water or groundwater flooding	✓		
Areas at risk of fluvial flooding	✓		
Areas with housing at risk from coastal erosion	x		
Biodiversity		Comparators where available	
SACs and SPAs (within or close to ward)	✓		
Ramsar	✓		
SSSIs (within or close to ward)	✓		
SNCI	✓		
RIGs (within or close to ward)	✓		
Landscape and heritage		Comparators where available	
AONB (within or close to ward)	X		
Conservation Area	✓		
Pollution and natural resources		Comparators where available	
Chemical quality of water in or near the ward (classification)	'Very good'		
Biological quality of water in or near the ward (classification)	'Very good'		

Bere Regis in context: Dorset's Heathlands

A large proportion of the District is heathland. Impacts upon heathland can arise from cumulative pressures. All residential development and tourist accommodation within 5km of the heathlands must provide mitigation measures in accordance with European Directives.

In Purbeck, the South East Dorset Heathlands Supplementary Planning Document (which will become a Joint Heathlands Development Plan Document) collects contributions from development to provide mitigation measures such as alternative green spaces. The light-green buffer shown on the map means that any development within the area must contribute towards this mitigation.

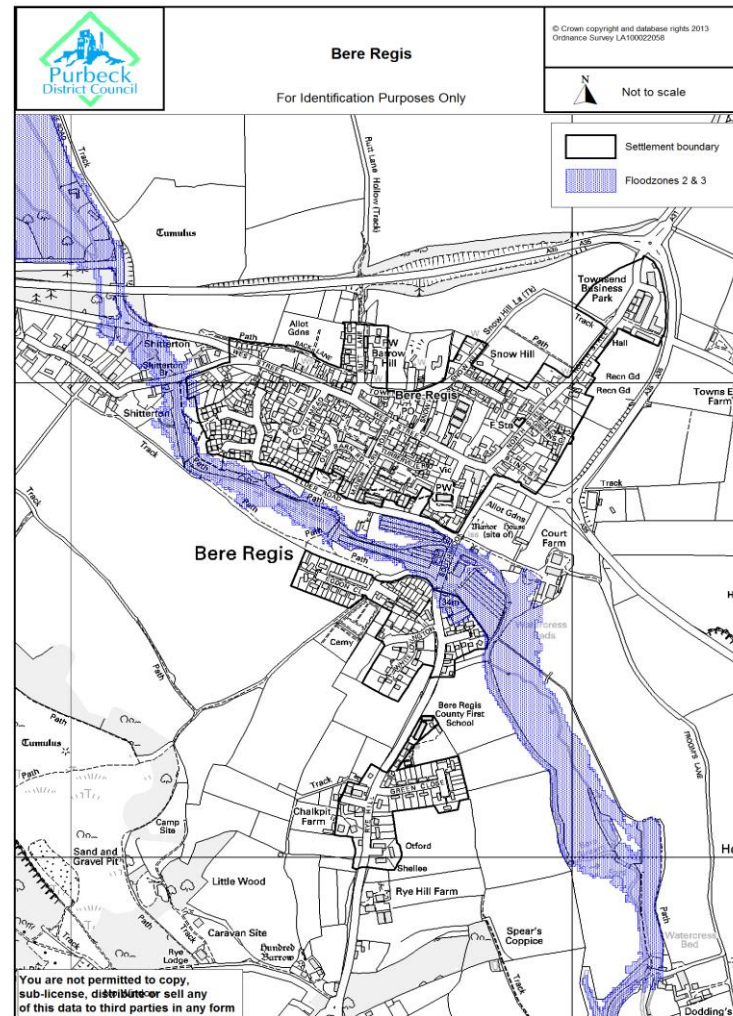
A small part of Bere Regis is within 400m of heathland where development would not be permitted. However, most of the village is not affected by this constraint and it is therefore not a hindrance to development - subject to mitigation.



Bere Regis in context: flooding and water quality of Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

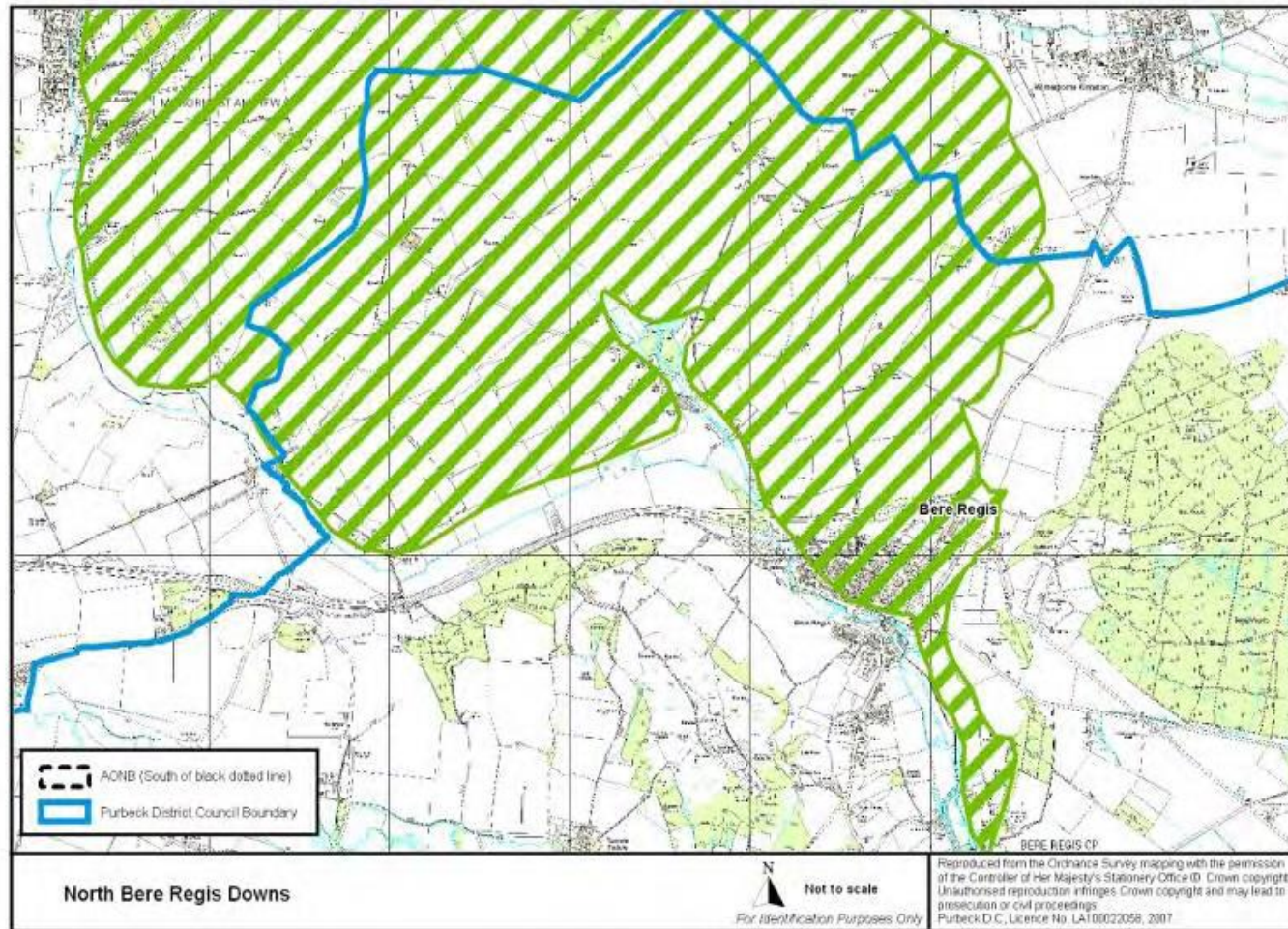
The map on the right shows floodzones 2 and 3 in Bere Regis. These are areas most at risk of flooding. However, there are also other types of flood risk such as flooding from surface water run-off. Such flooding is more likely to occur in low-lying areas, which are more likely to be in floodzones 2 and 3. The Catchment Flood Management Plans (summarised in Purbeck's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) sets out guidance on appropriate development.

The Bere Stream is part of the Piddle catchment, which flows into Poole Harbour, an SPA and Ramsar designated area for breeding birds. New development may be required to incorporate measures to avoid nutrients (nitrates) being discharged into Poole Harbour (see Policy PH: Poole Harbour) of Purbeck Local Plan Part 1. The aim of the policy is to create 'nitrogen neutral' development.



Bere Regis in context: landscape

Bere Regis is surrounded by two landscape character areas, referred to as North Bere Regis Downs and South Bere Regis Downs.

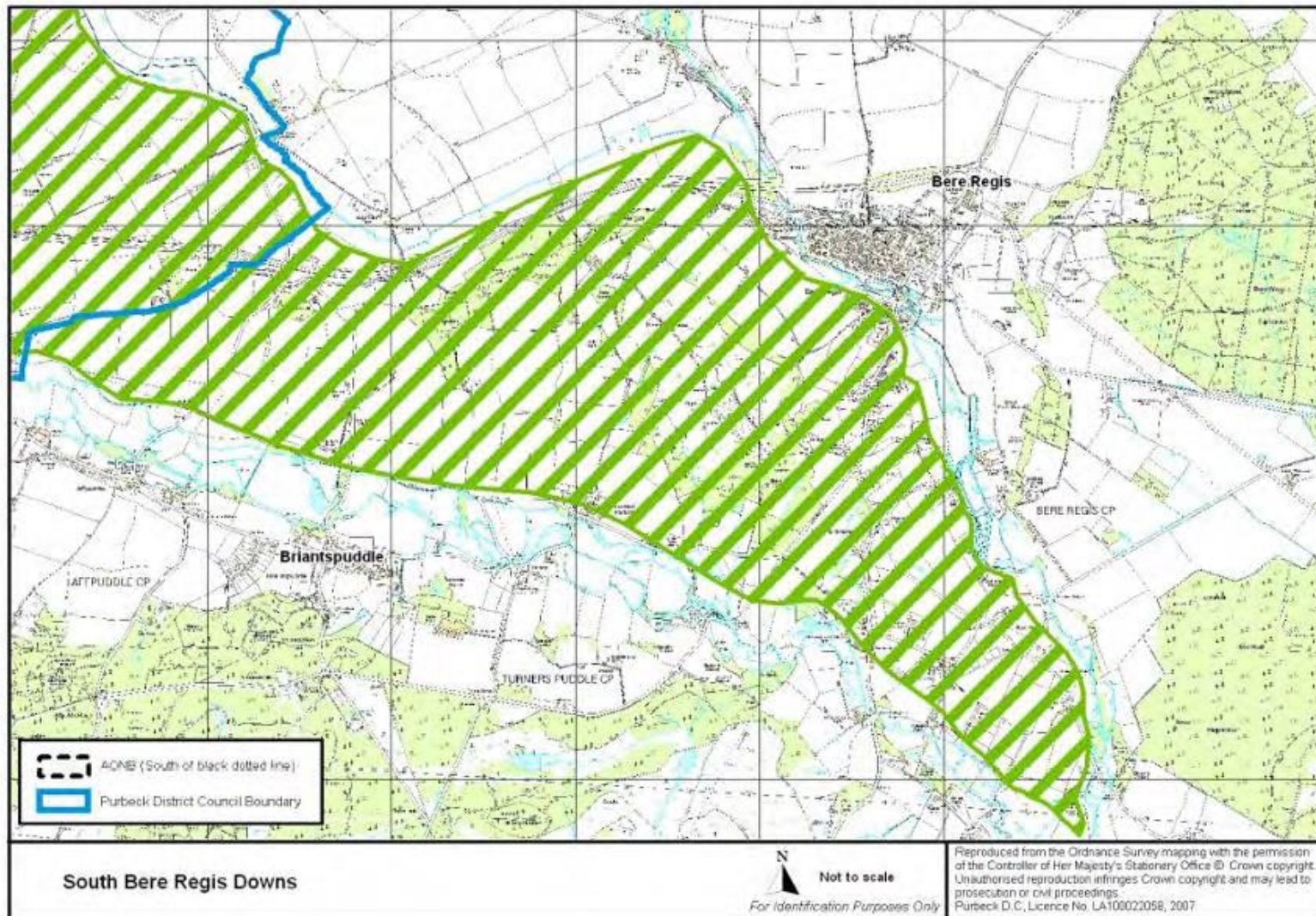


North Bere Regis Downs

Key characteristics

- A large scale, broad and expansive open landscape.
- Open views across wide areas to horizons.
- Thin and weak hedges with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Large geometric arable fields cultivated up to hedgerow edges.
- Straight rural lanes bounded by thin and low hedges.
- Bere Down is a local landmark feature.
- Numerous barrows, tumuli, drove roads and other historic environment features.





South Bere Regis Downs

Key characteristics

- Black Hill and Damer Hill form a local landmark of historic, wildlife and amenity value.
- The elevated dense woodland/ plantation at Kite Hill plantation and Piddle/Shitterton Woods are characteristic features.
- Open rolling arable fields with lanes lined with thick hedgerows.
- An extensive network of public rights of way and trails.
- Low lying pastoral landscape associated with the Frome valley.
- Some hard urban edges of Bere Regis are evident from certain locations and impact on local view points.



Summary of the landscape conditions in Bere Regis

North Bere Regis Downs

The document summarises North Bere Regis Downs' condition as '**moderate to poor**' primarily due to the fragmentation of hedgerows and their declining condition.

South Bere Regis Downs

The document summarises South Bere Regis Downs' condition as '**good to moderate**'. Overall this landscape is intact due partly to the reasonable condition and continuity of thick hedgerows which interconnect the significant blocks of mixed woodland. Elements which detract from condition are the A35, hard urban edges to parts of Bere Regis and some prominent intrusive agricultural buildings.

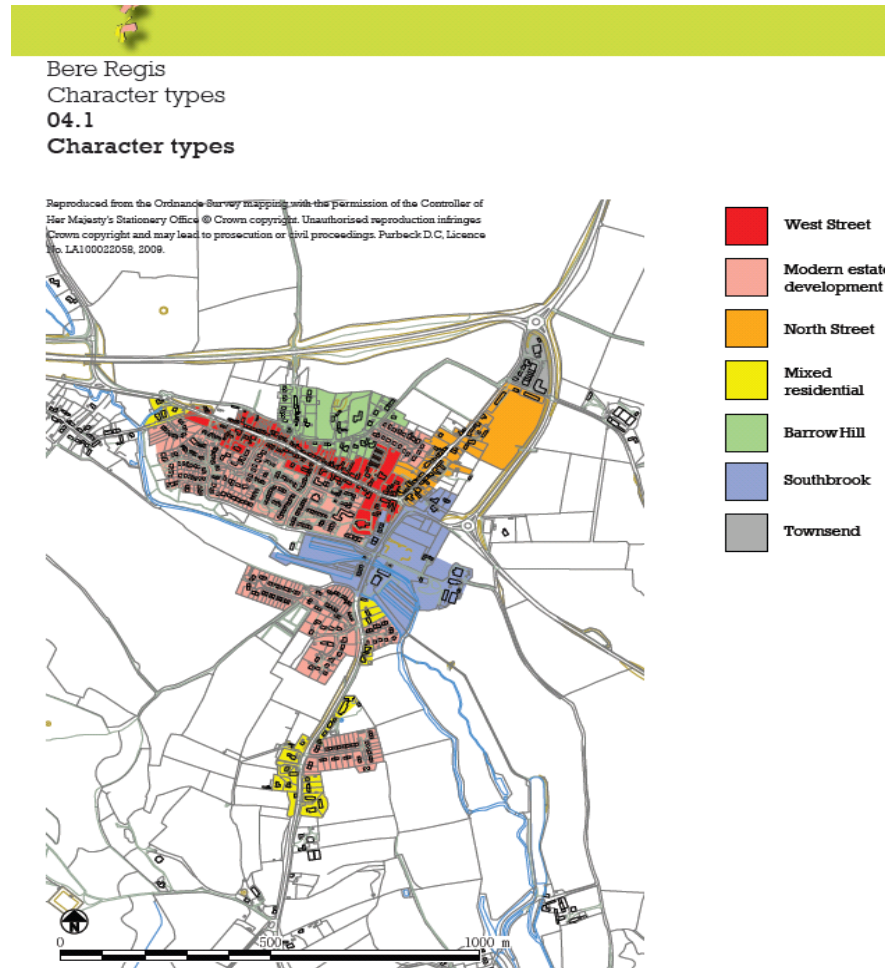
Main objectives for new development

The document identifies a number of objectives which serve as a useful guide to landscaping of new development in Bere Regis.

- Promote restoration of heathland
- Restore and enhance old hazel coppice stands
- Promote the planting of small oak, ash and hazel broadleaved woodlands on gentle slopes to increase landscape diversity
- Ensure new agricultural dwellings and barns enhance the local character and are sited away from open views and skylines.
- Protect archaeological features such as barrows/tumuli.
- Promote replanting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Retain historic drove roads
- Restore and enhance old hazel coppice stands
- Encourage phased restoration of chalk heathland habitats through conifer fellings
- Maintain mosaic of land cover on Black and Damer Hills.
- Integrate woodland management for key woodland blocks.
- Integrate existing and any future urban edges of Bere Regis by appropriate site selection, design and planting.

Townscape character appraisal of Bere Regis

This detailed piece of work on the townscape of Bere Regis includes a historic assessment of the village developed and the different seven different character types present today. The map below shows the seven character types.



The document lists the threats and opportunities for each type of character area, and the most relevant recommendations are summarised below.

West St

Infill development or replacement development should preserve or enhance its traditional character.

Modern Estate Development

There is some limited potential to provide some new infill development on larger rear gardens.

North St

Highway improvements such as the introduction of kerbs or wider pavements would undermine the informal rural qualities of this road.

Mixed Residential

Insensitive infilling or redevelopment of buildings that make a positive contribution to these areas.

Barrow Hill

The introduction of kerbs, pavements or road widening would be detrimental to the character of this area.

Southbrook

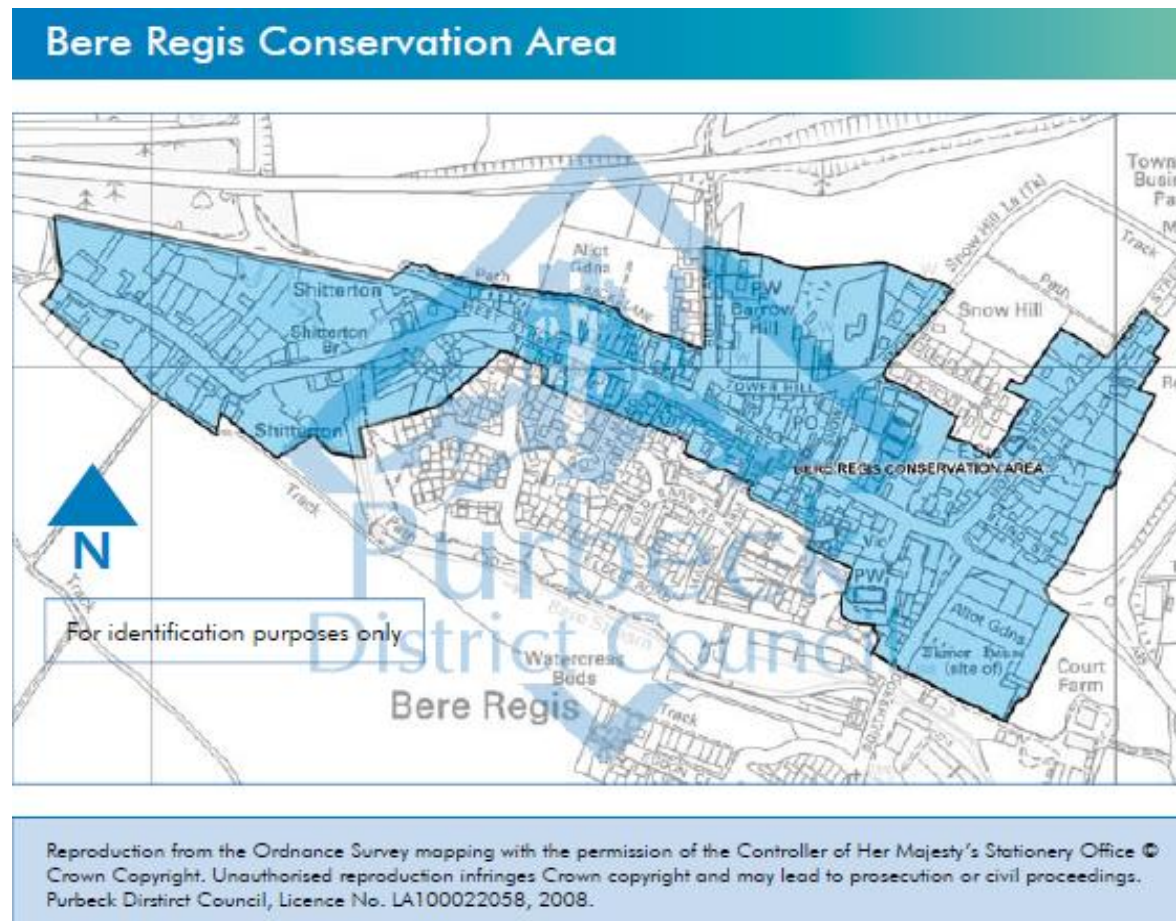
The loss of trees, hedges or verges would undermine the positive qualities of this area.

Townsend

Loss of trees and other existing landscaping would detract from the area's appearance.

Bere Regis Conservation Area

The Bere Regis Conservation Area was designated in 1981. The Council has produced a detailed appraisal as well as a leaflet showing the extent of the conservation area and including some basic information. The Conservation Area contains a relatively high number of listed buildings of which the grade I listed Parish church is particularly notable for its appearance and the extent of surviving medieval and early modern fabric.



7 Identifying main sustainability issues in Bere Regis (Stage A3)

Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

This stage lists the key issues and problems raised in parts A1 and A2 and identifies their sources.

Taking into account the above findings, the main issues and opportunities that face Bere Regis are:

Issues and opportunities	Sub-theme	Main Sources
<i>Social</i>		
Bere Regis residents say that the 2 nd most important factor in making Bere Regis a good place to live is the provision of affordable decent housing.	Housing	Ward data
Land has been submitted by landowners for potential development around Bere Regis	Housing	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
All housing in Bere Regis will need to contribute towards heathland mitigation.	Housing	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1
Bere Regis is within North-West Purbeck spatial area which needs to provide 120 dwellings between 2006 and 2027. Many have already been built, or have planning permission. Approximately 78 still need to be provided.	Housing	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1
Residents value their local services and would like to retain them	Community services & facilities	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1
The most important factor in making Bere Regis a good place to live is provision of health services.	Community services & facilities	Ward data
Activities for teenagers is the 2 nd factor in Bere Regis most in need of improvement.	Community services & facilities	Ward data
The population of Bere Regis decreased by 7% between 1999 and 2009.	Housing	Ward data
<i>Economic</i>		
Bere Regis needs to attract more employment opportunities	Work	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1

Issues and opportunities	Sub-theme	Main Sources
Public transport in Bere Regis is the factor most in need of improvement	Accessibility & transport	Ward data
About 11% of households don't own a car. This is less than the Purbeck average of 14%	Accessibility & transport	Ward data
<i>Environmental</i>		
Bere Regis has significant problems with fluvial, groundwater, and surface water flooding.	Flood risk	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (including Catchment Flood Management Plans)
The Bere Stream is part of the Piddle catchment which discharges into Poole Harbour, which is a SPA and Ramsar. New development could incorporate measures to avoid excessive nutrients being discharged into the harbour.	Biodiversity	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1
Bere Regis is surrounded by Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsars, SSSIs and SNCl, which are protected because of their biodiversity interest.	Biodiversity	Purbeck Local Plan Part 1
New development may impact on the character of the town.	Landscape & heritage	Townscape Character Appraisal
Development in Bere Regis offers opportunities for enhancement of the townscape and landscape	Landscape & heritage	Townscape Character Appraisal & Landscape Character Assessment (non-AONB)
Some of the character of the landscape around Bere Regis is judged to be in poor condition	Landscape & heritage	Landscape Character Assessment (non-
Much of Bere Regis is in a conservation area	Landscape & heritage	Bere Regis Conservation Area
There is no significant pollution identified in Bere Regis, but this must be taken into account to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive	Pollution & natural resources	Environment Agency
Levels of traffic congestion in Bere Regis are the 3 rd factor most in need of improvement.	Pollution (noise)	Ward data

8. Developing the SA framework for assessing the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan (Stage A4)

Stage A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework for Bere Regis

This stage orders the issues into relevant themes. It then turns these themes into questions that we propose to use to assess draft options and policies. We also set out the monitoring framework to measure our success in achieving sustainable development.

The next step is to take the issues listed above and order them according to theme. We then develop an objective related to the theme. We will use this objective to measure policies, strategies and site allocations in the Bere Regis Local Plan.

Issue in Bere Regis (theme)	SA Objective based on issue identified
<i>Social</i>	
Housing	Meet as much of Bere Regis' housing need as possible.
Community services and facilities	Promote services and facilities where need is identified.
<i>Economic</i>	
Work	Encourage more employment opportunities in Bere Regis.
Accessibility and transport	Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport.
<i>Environmental</i>	
Flood risk	Reduce vulnerability to flooding and adapt to climatic changes.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance habitats and species.
Landscape and heritage	Protect and enhance Bere Regis' unique landscape and townscape, & cultural and historical assets.
Pollution and natural resources	Minimise all forms of pollution and consumption of natural resources.

All the themes identified in the SEA and the SA guidance must be considered in the SA framework. These are as follows:

SA Theme	SEA Theme (Annex 1 f of SEA Guidance)	SA Theme
Social		
Housing	Population, human health, material assets	Social inclusion, economic development
Community services and facilities	Human health	Social inclusion, economic development
Economic		
Work	Human health, cultural heritage	Economic development
Accessibility and transport	Human health, air, climatic factors	Social inclusion, economic development
Environmental		
Flood risk and coastal change	Climatic factors, human health	Economic development
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil	
Landscape and heritage	Cultural heritage, including architectural & archaeological heritage	
Pollution and natural resources	Climatic factors, soil, air, water, human health	Economic development, social inclusion

9. What the SA will look for when assessing the options (Stage A4)

Stage A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework for Bere Regis

This stage orders the issues into relevant themes. It then turns these themes into questions that we propose to use to assess draft options and policies. We also set out the monitoring framework to measure our success in achieving sustainable development.

The next step is to take each objective and turn it into a question. We can use these questions to assess all the options we are dealing with, whether it is a site for housing, or policy for tourism or any aspect of the Bere Regis Local Plan.

Assessing the options – types of questions we can ask when assessing the options against SA objectives These are not exhaustive, but designed to prompt ideas when assessing the options.
Housing
<p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help make housing available?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site offer housing at an affordable price?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help meet local needs?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help provide family housing?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site encourage provision of affordable housing for rent?</p>
Community services and facilities
<p>Does the policy/plan/project/site assist in the provision of an identified need?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help address the needs of teenagers in Bere Regis?</p>
Work
<p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help to stimulate economic activity in Bere Regis?</p> <p>Does the policy/plan/project/site help to encourage tourists to Bere Regis?</p>
Accessibility and transport

Assessing the options – types of questions we can ask when assessing the options against SA objectives
These are not exhaustive, but designed to prompt ideas when assessing the options.

Does the policy/plan/project/site help everyone get access to what they need?
Does the policy/plan/project/site reduce the need to travel by car?
Does the policy/plan/project make public transport, cycling and walking easier and more attractive?

Flood risk

Does the policy/plan/project/site reduce vulnerability to flooding?
Does the policy/plan/project take into account areas at risk from flooding?

Biodiversity

Does the policy/plan/project/site protect and enhance habitats and species?
Does the policy/plan/project/site recognise and enhance strategic wildlife corridors?
Does the policy/plan/project/site increase provision of green space?

Landscape and heritage

Does the policy/plan/project/site protect and/or enhance the existing landscape and townscape?
Does the policy/plan/project/site value and protect distinctiveness and increase resilience to climate change?
Does the policy/plan/project/site maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets?
Does the policy/plan/project/site take into account the guidelines of the Landscape Character Assessment?
Does the policy/plan/project/site take into account the guidelines of the Townscape Character Assessment?

Pollution and natural resources

Does the policy/plan/project/site promote renewable energy?
Does the policy/plan/project/site minimise pollution?
Does the policy/plan/project/site help reduce noise pollution on the C6?

10. Monitoring SA outcomes (Stage A4)

Stage A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework for Bere Regis

This stage orders the issues into relevant themes. It then turns these themes into questions that we propose to use to assess draft options and policies. We also set out the monitoring framework to measure our success in achieving sustainable development.

Type of indicators required	Targets (to be refined as consultation evolves)	Source of Data
Housing: Meet as much of Bere Regis' housing need as possible.		
Indicators of success in providing suitable and affordable housing, particularly for local needs	Provision of additional housing in accordance with the Local Plan Part 1 or subsequent guidance	Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team
Community services and facilities: Facilitate provision of identified need		
Indicators of success in providing access to learning, training, skills, and cultural activities.	Provision/enhancement of community services and facilities	Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team
Work: Improve employment opportunities in Bere Regis		
Indicators of success in improving employment opportunities in Purbeck.	Additional employment and retail facilities.	Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team
Accessibility and transport: Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking, and use of public transport		
Indicators of success in helping everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking, and use of public transport	Provision of transport facilities in accordance with the Purbeck Transportation Study or subsequent guidance	Dorset County Council
Flood risk and coastal erosion: Reduce vulnerability to flooding and plan for climate change		
Indicators of success in reducing vulnerability to flooding and that plan for climate change	No additional housing built in areas at risk of flooding All new surface water drainage applications in	Environment Agency Purbeck District Council Engineer

Type of indicators required	Targets (to be refined as consultation evolves)	Source of Data
	coastal areas to meet the requirements of district engineer	
Biodiversity and geodiversity: Protect and enhance habitats and species		
Indicators of success in protecting and enhancing habitats, species and geodiversity	No adverse impact on Special Areas of Conservation No adverse impact on Special Protection Areas No adverse impact on SSSIs designated for geological value	Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team
Landscape and heritage: Protect and enhance the landscape and townscape of Bere Regis and the surrounding area		
Indicators of success in protecting and enhancing the landscape around Bere Regis Indicators of success in protecting the townscape of Bere Regis	Provision of a robust and defensible settlement boundary Additional planting and landscaping No adverse impact on conservation area and on setting of the wider village	Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team
Pollution and natural resources: Minimise all forms of pollution and use of resources		
Indicators of success in the reduction of waste, energy consumption and water Indicators of success in the reduction of land, water, air, light, and noise pollution	% of rivers having good biological quality % of rivers having good chemical quality No 'Air Quality Management Areas'	Dorset County Council Research and Information section Purbeck District Council Environmental Health team

11. Consultation (Stage A5)

Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

This stage ensures that the SA objectives will cover the likely significant effects of the plan. The three statutory consultees are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. In the updated version of this document, Appendix C (page 45) will set out their responses and what we included in this scoping report as a result of their comments.

Appendix A

Review of Key Documents: international and national documents

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012	Guiding planning policy to achieve sustainable development which will enable people to enjoy a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations.	All planning policy-related objectives are included in the NPPF. Many of them are relevant to Bere Regis, in particular those promoting the rural economy.	The purpose of the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan must be the achievement of sustainable development and in accordance with NPPF.	Ensure the priorities are the backbone of the SA: sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, protection of natural resources and sustainable communities.	SA framework addresses social, economic and environmental issues, with four main topics within each issue.
PPS25 Practice Guidance	Although the PPS itself is no longer valid, chapter 3 of the practice guidance backs up flood risk guidance set out in the NPPF above.	An updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is required which must take into account the NPPF.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan must be in accordance with flood risk guidance contained within the PPS25 practice guidance and within the NPPF above.	The SA must taken into account flood risk in Bere Regis	SA framework addresses flood risk
Bern Convention (1979) 92/43/EEC	To ensure the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats by means of cooperation between States.	Conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats. Protect endangered migratory species. Promote education and disseminate information on the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan must ensure relevant habitats are protected and enhanced.	Ensure that SA Framework includes objective to protect habitat.	SA framework includes habitat protection

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
Bonn Convention (1979) 79/409/EEC	To ensure the conservation of migratory species of wild animals worldwide.	To provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I. To conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan must ensure that relevant habitats are protected and enhanced.	Ensure that SA Framework includes objective to protect habitat.	SA framework includes habitat protection
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC (99/30/EC) (2000/69/EC) (2002/3/EC)	Controls levels of certain pollutants and monitors their concentrations in the air.	Provides limit values for a number of air pollutants which are continually monitored. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) indicate areas where air quality targets may not be met.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan must minimise the adverse environmental, social and economic effects of air pollution.	The SA framework must minimise the adverse environmental, social and economic effects of air pollution through specific objectives.	SA framework includes objective to minimise pollution.
Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Framework for noise policy, based on shared responsibility between the EU, national and local level.	Production of strategic noise maps to inform the public about noise exposure and its effects, and to draw up action plans. "Strategic noise maps" for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan will need to take noise pollution into account when making proposals and policies.	Noise pollution needs to be addressed through the SA Framework.	SA framework includes objective to minimise pollution.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	Measures to reduce Nitrogen release to controlled waters.	Prevention of eutrophication and water pollution, protection of human health and ecosystems.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan should be aware of these and of the effect of agricultural practises.	Water pollution needs to be addressed through the SA Framework.	SA framework includes objective to minimise pollution.

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Looks at the water environment as a whole, integrating water quality, quantity and physical habitat with ecology.	Requirements are set out in more detail in River Basin Management Plans. Cleaner rivers and lakes, groundwater and coastal beaches. 33 substances identified that will be controlled, 11 of which are priorities for removal from controlled waters.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan should be aware of its role in managing water resources.	SA should include objectives on saving water and using and disposing of water in a sustainable fashion.	SA framework includes objective to minimise pollution and use of natural resources
Renewable Energy Directive (2001/77/EC)	Directive aims to promote a substantial increase in the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources across the European Union by 2010.	Increase the share of electricity produced from renewable energy sources (RES) in the EU to 22.1 per cent by 2010 (up from 15.2 per cent in 2001). EU RES target of overall energy consumption of 12 per cent by 2010.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan should encourage the production of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES).	The SA must contain objective to promote renewable energy whenever this is possible.	SA framework includes objective to minimise pollution and to adapt to climate change

Review of Key Documents: Local documents

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
<i>Cross-cutting themes</i>					
Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 Adopted 2012	This document is the spatial plan for the whole of Purbeck, but it contains a number of policies for North West Purbeck	Policies on housing, employment and retail supply as well as development policies for all aspects of planning, such as community facilities, flood risk, landscape, transport and so on.	This strategy will feed directly into the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan. See Appendix B for more details on Bere Regis. 120 houses are required in South East Purbeck. Approx 78 are outstanding.	The SA must ensure that all the relevant objectives contained within the Local Plan Part 1 are addressed. The SA must address housing needs within the context of the 120 required for North West Purbeck.	SA framework addresses social, economic and environmental issues, with four main topics within each issue. All of these overlap with the policies set out in the Local Plan Part 1.
Bere Regis Parish Plan March 2007	The plan also comprises an action plan covering topics such as housing needs and use of the village hall.	Policies set out what residents want to do, and action plans how they will do it.	This plan gives some useful background into the priorities of Bere Regis residents, especially views on traffic and streets.	The SA needs to take the parish plan into account, while acknowledging that certain aspects of it are now out-of-date.	SA framework addresses social economic and environmental issues which all overlap with priorities in the parish plan.
<i>Housing</i>					
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (submitted sites)	This document is divided up according to spatial area and sets out all land submitted by landowners for potential housing development.	The document is a piece of evidence to demonstrate that we have enough land for development should we require it.	A number of sites have been submitted in the area surrounding the settlement boundaries of Bere Regis	If any of the sites are taken forward for consultation they will need to be assessed against the SA framework.	Many of these sites will be assessed against the entire SA framework.

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	The document sets out how many houses Purbeck should provide as well as the tenure (whether it is market or social housing). Purbeck needs 520 additional units of affordable housing (all tenures) per year over the five years, if all such needs were to be met.	The SHMA recommends an annual housing target of 170 dwellings, of which 40% should be affordable (all tenures). These figures are based on historic trends. The SHMA acknowledges that this figure has not been tested against the Habitats Regulations.	One of the key proposals within the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan will be to assist in providing dwellings to meet Purbeck's needs.	The SA needs to ensure that the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan makes an important contribution towards provision of housing.	SA framework includes an objective to provide suitable market and affordable housing.
Housing Strategy	An action plan across the whole of the District with over 50 actions under three main headings.	An action plan to meet three main objectives: increasing the supply of housing to help satisfy local needs, deliver high quality housing, and maximise return on public investment.	The first objective is particularly relevant, and actions within this, which include keeping the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment up-to-date, and looking at suitable sites for rural exception sites.	The SA needs to ensure that the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan makes an important contribution towards provision of housing.	SA framework includes an objective to provide suitable market and affordable housing.
Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document	Issues and Options currently being prepared. Pre-submission consultation is planned for 2015.	Finding sites for gypsies and travellers across the whole of Dorset.	There <u>may</u> be sites in or Bere Regis, but this is not yet known.	The SA needs to ensure that the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan takes the DPD into account.	SA framework includes an objective to provide suitable market and affordable housing. This includes addressing gypsy and traveller needs.

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
<i>Employment</i>					
Tourism Strategy 2008- 2013	Strategy sets out aims & actions, giving examples of how the Council and those working in tourism can achieve the aims.	3 strategic aims: maintain current visitors and recruit new ones; improvement infrastructure and personnel skills; protect the environment through awareness of climate change & sustainable tourism practises.	Awareness of Purbeck as a tourist destination is high (compared to Purbeck in general) but this puts pressure on the local roads. Protection of the environment through sustainable tourism practices should be a priority.	Tourism will always be important for most areas in Purbeck, and the location of Bere Regis at the two trunk roads means that the SA will need to take into account the importance of tourism in the village.	SA framework includes: Minimising pollution Minimising use of natural resources Adapting to climate change
<i>Transport and Accessibility</i>					
Purbeck Transportation Strategy 2005	The study looked at all transport problems across Purbeck and made a series of recommendations which become the Purbeck Transportation Strategy (PTS)	The strategy's aims include improving the level of service, availability and attractiveness of public transport, cycling and walking; reducing the impact of the car.	Heavy traffic and lack of public transport are two major challenges that the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan will need to face.	Transport and accessibility are possibly the most cross-cutting areas for the SA. The SA will need to take into account.	SA framework includes: Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport.
<i>Habitat</i>					
South East Dorset Heathlands SPD	Collects contributions from development to provide mitigation measures to protect heathland. Will eventually be DPD.	So far, contributions have been used to create Upton Woods open space to take pressure off Upton Heath and other heathlands.	The contributions will apply to most residential development in Bere Regis.	The SA must ensure that the Local Plan has open space to take pressure off the nearest heathland.	SA framework includes: protect and enhance habitats and species and local geodiversity

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
<i>Flooding and Coastal Erosion</i>					
Purbeck Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (including reference to Catchment Flood Management Plans)	This covers the whole of Purbeck and includes fluvial, tidal and groundwater flooding as well as localised flooding events.	Gives guidance on how to take flood risk into account and shows where the most vulnerable areas are. It is updated on a regular basis to ensure conformity with Environment Agency flood maps. It summarises the Catchment Flood Management Plans and how these guide flood risk management.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan needs to ensure that each potential site is assessed for flood risk and risk of flooding elsewhere, in accordance with government guidance and in line with Catchment Flood Management Plans.	The SA will need to ensure that all sites and policies take into account fluvial, groundwater and surface water flooding.	SA framework: reduce vulnerability to flooding and adapt to climatic changes.
<i>Landscape and Heritage</i>					
Purbeck Landscape Character Assessment	Condition of landscape in non-AONB areas in Purbeck	Sets out the condition of Bere Regis North Downs and Bere Regis South Downs and makes recommendations for improvements.	The improvements suggested need to be taken into account when planning development, particularly on the edges of Bere Regis	The SA needs to include reference to the landscape around Bere Regis	SA framework: protect and enhance the unique landscape and townscape, & cultural and historical assets of Bere Regis.
Bere Regis Townscape Character Appraisal	Condition of townscape in Bere Regis. Divides the settlement into 7 character areas.	Sets out a SWOT analysis of each of 7 character areas.	The improvements suggested need to be taken into account when planning development	The SA needs to include reference to Bere Regis townscape.	SA framework: protect and enhance the unique landscape and townscape, & cultural and historical assets of Bere Regis.

Title of the document	Summary of the document	Key objectives/ requirements of the document	Implications and Actions for Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan	Actions for the SA	How has this been addressed in SA?
Bere Regis Conservation Area Appraisal and Leaflet	Sets out the history and specific qualities of the conservation area, the listed buildings and guidelines for development.	Sets out how Bere Regis conservation area will be protected and how development can be achieved.	The Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan needs to take the Conservation Area into account.	The SA needs to include reference to Bere Regis conservation area	SA framework: protect and enhance the unique landscape and townscape, & cultural and historical assets of Bere Regis.

Appendix B: Purbeck Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future

Policy NW: North West Purbeck

In North West Purbeck, **Bere Regis** will provide the focus for service provision, where development will be managed through the use of a settlement boundary. Around 120 dwellings are required to meet housing supply needs from 2006-2027, of which around 40 dwellings should be affordable for local people.

In order to ensure that new development is focused in the most sustainable locations, proposals in North West Purbeck outside of the Bere Regis and Briantspuddle settlement boundaries will be strictly controlled in accordance with Policy CO: Countryside. Settlement boundaries will be reviewed through the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan or the Site Allocations Plan.

New residential development will be expected to contribute towards mitigation measures for European protected sites. The housing allocation will be expected to provide SANGs to provide an alternative to Black Hill. The SANGs should include an area where dogs can run freely off the lead linked to walks along the Bere stream. Other residential development will contribute to the Heathlands DPD, which will provide a range of mitigation measures including strategic SANGs between Bere Regis and Upton. Guidelines for the design of SANGs are set out in Appendix 5.

Bere Regis

The role of Bere Regis will be supported through the allocation in the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan of:

- A new supply of family and affordable housing within a settlement extension of approximately 50 dwellings (40% affordable). The allocation will need to provide new public open space (SANG) to mitigate potential impacts upon nearby heathland and mitigation measures to ensure that the development including the SANG is nitrogen neutral. The proposals will need to consider the opportunity to provide a larger health centre, employment site and community meeting space and the opportunity to relocate the school as part of Dorset County Council's proposals to expand Bere Regis first school into a primary school. Proposals that include the 50 dwelling allocation will be considered favourably where they have regard to the results of the '*Where shall we build in Bere Regis 2010-2026?*' consultation (June 2010) and should have the support of Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council and Bere Regis Parish Council.
- A new employment site at Bere Regis to provide for local job opportunities linked to the housing growth. The existing allocation at North Street will be safeguarded on the Proposals Map and reviewed through the neighbourhood plan.

Appendix C

We consulted the three statutory consultees:

- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Natural England

English Heritage comments. Email received 25 November 2013	Officer response
<p>In response to your authority's recent consultation with us on the SA Scoping Report for the Purbeck Local Plan we drew to your attention in our email of 11th November recent guidance issued by English Heritage, SEA/SA and the Historic Environment (EH, June 2013) http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/. This was intended to help your authority refine the SA to ensure it establishes a more relevant baseline for the historic environment, including the trends and targets and gaps in the existing information e.g. the number of heritage assets at risk in Purbeck; the condition and protection of non-designated heritage assets http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&di=Purbeck&ctype=all&crit= then in turn the issues and opportunities for the historic environment and heritage assets e.g. how to positively address those assets at risk; how to identify and conserve non-designated heritage assets. Which may in turn help to inform appropriate indicators. This exercise will help establish sustainability indicators, objectives and targets for the Local Plan and in doing so those against which the Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed.</p>	<p>Advice noted</p>
<p>We note the reference to the townscape of Bere Regis and its conservation area as a basis for defining its heritage significance and for measuring the impact of change. However, the conservation area does not cover the whole of the NP area and there may be other designated and non-designated heritage assets which should be identified, including potentially some At Risk. This will help inform and as necessary develop the sustainability issues (section 7, P27) which is currently broad in its reference to townscape, and to the conservation area as the only defined asset. The Heritage SA Objective (section 8, P29) appears statutorily compliant, as is the options assessment (section 9, P31), but the table for Monitoring SA Outcomes (section 10, P33) is unduly limited in identifying only the protection of the townscape of Bere Regis as an indicator, and planting and landscaping as the only targets. Overall, we would therefore encourage you to think more critically and holistically about the distinctive character of the Bere Regis NP area and its heritage assets and issues, and how this might better inform the scope and content of the SA.</p>	<p>Monitoring table expanded to include additional target.</p>
<p>The document makes reference to Swanage instead of Bere Regis in one or two places!</p>	<p>Changes made.</p>

Environment Agency comments. Email received 2 December 2013	Officer response
Local Plans and programmes should include reference to: South West River Basin Management Plan, Catchment Flood Management Plans, Nutrient Management Plan for Poole Harbour	Changes made.
Also I noted that on page 28 under the environmental section it still refers to tidal flood risk, which we would not anticipate to be an issue at this location.	Changes made.
We would also trust that this document would make reference to the aspirations for no new increase in nutrients from new development in the Poole Harbour catchment.	Changes made.
Natural England comments. Email received 25 November 2013	Officer response
General: There appear to be a number of references to Swanage in the report. We have assumed that these are typographical errors and that Bere Regis should be used in its place.	Changes made.
Page 3: We welcome the objectives to 'protect and enhance habitats and species' and 'minimise all forms of pollution and consumption of natural resources'.	Noted.
Page 7: We note that there will be an allocation for housing of approximately 50 dwellings in the Neighbourhood Plan, and that this will provide new public open space. The Neighbourhood Plan must ensure that this allocation is not within the 400m zone of protected heathland sites, within which residential development is disallowed. If the new public open space to provided as part of the allocation is to be used as mitigation for impacts on the suite of Dorset Heathland sites in the area, it must meet or exceed the criteria for a SANG.	Noted.
Page 8: One of your additional objectives entitled Green Spaces, mentions that residents would like more footpaths and bridleways, with way-marked walking routes. Whilst Natural England supports the use of the rights of way network to enhance people's access to nature, any enhancement should be planned with due regard to the additional pressure from recreational impacts that this may bring to the designated heathland sites in the vicinity of the village.	Noted.
Page 8: An additional objective, entitled Renewable Energy, mentions that the Parish supports in principle, renewable energy infrastructure such as solar energy and wind energy. You may like to add some supporting text to this objective, in order to give protection to designated sites and landscapes.	Changes made.
Page 16: Under the Biodiversity heading, you already refer to SACs, SPAs and SSSIs as occurring in the Bere Regis ward. Please be aware that the ward also contains Ramsar and SNCI sites so these should also be included on the list.	Changes made.
Page 17: This page presents Bere Regis in the context of Dorset Heathlands. We support the inclusion of a reference to a small part of Bere Regis being within 400m of heathland, where development would not be permitted. You then go onto mention that most of the village is not affected by this constraint and it is therefore not a hindrance to development. You should consider adding 'subject to mitigation when of a residential nature'.	Changes made.

Page 23: We strongly support the main objectives for new development in relation to landscape conditions in Bere Regis, when in relation to the protection, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity/habitat features.	Noted.
Page 27: We concur with the inclusion of the statement that 'all housing in Bere Regis will need to contribute towards heathland mitigation'.	Noted.
Page 28: You mention that Bere Regis is surrounded by SACs and SPAs, which are protected because of their biodiversity interest. This should be expanded to include SSSI, Ramsar and SNCI designations.	Changes made.
Page 34: As point 6, under the Biodiversity and Geodiversity heading, you already refer to SACs, SPAs and SSSIs as occurring in the Bere Regis ward. Please be aware that the ward also contains Ramsar and SNCI sites so these should be included on the list.	Changes made.
Page 43: Appendix B: We are assured of your reference to a need for provision of a SANG in relation to new residential development, as an alternative to Black Hill Heath SSSI. We concur with your statement that an area where dogs can run freely off lead should be included, and agree with the suggestion that the area should link with walks along the Bere Stream.	This is an excerpt from Purbeck Local Plan Part 1, but we note your support for SANGs.
Page 43: Appendix B: We are assured by your inclusion of the statement that the settlement extension, including the SANG will be ensured to be nitrogen neutral.	
Page 44: Addressing impacts on European protected habitats and wildlife: As point 6, you already refer to SACs, SPAs and SSSIs as occurring in the Bere Regis ward. Please be aware that the ward also contains Ramsar and SNCI sites so these should be included on the list.	
Page 44: Addressing impacts on European protected habitats and wildlife: You mention that the proposed residential allocation at Bere Regis will need to provide adequate mitigation in the form of a SANG, and that this is helped by two private landowners controlling a considerable landholding around the village in which to secure suitable mitigation. Please see below for more commentary on SANG provision.	
Page 44: Green Infrastructure Provision and Transport: You mention that GI provision may include additional provision of footpaths, which we support. However, this should be done with consideration to comments we make under point 4 above.	
Page 44: Transport: You mention that there could be improvements to the rights of way/GI network to encourage walking and cycling. Again, this should be done with consideration to comments we make under point 4 above.	

SANGs and Rights of Way enhancements

Natural England is aware of a currently unsecured proposal for a community woodland known as Queen's Piece, in close proximity to Bere Regis. We understand that public access is proposed to be included. Ideally we would like this proposal to be secured, and would then be happy to agree this as a SANG. This would be subject to discussions and agreement of the obligations involved in provision of a SANG with the landowner. In relation to any rights of way improvements, we could support the opportunities for provision of better links to the Bere Stream running through the village. A riverside walk would provide more variety to the suite of paths already in the area, and could potentially be linked to the aforementioned community woodland to form a circular walk, and could also be used to incorporate and encourage access to and over the Southbrook SNCI in the centre of the village. The provision of enhanced access to the existing network of rights of way in this part of the village would act as a draw from both the north and south of the village in respect of the location of proposed housing allocation sites. We therefore recommend that the village should seek to secure and enhance access in this area.

Ongoing issues

We enclose as an addendum a letter sent by Natural England to Purbeck District Council dated September 2013 in relation to CIL, nutrients and recreational impacts on Poole Harbour. Whilst the letter details issues that are being dealt with by the wider District, we feel that they are issues that should be brought to your attention. We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Alison Appleby on 07500 913698. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Noted.
This document now makes reference to nutrient neutrality, in line with Policy PH (Purbeck Local Plan Part 1)