



Habitats Regulations Assessment

2015



Weymouth & Portland
Borough Council

Habitat Regulations Assessment

West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This HRA Screening Report provides an account of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercises for the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan ('the Local Plan').
- 1.2 The main purpose of the HRA process is to ensure that the Local Plan does not cause a significant adverse effect upon 'European sites', which are designated areas of exceptional ecological importance according to Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.
- 1.3 This HRA screening report has been updated to reflect the suggested modifications to the Local Plan following the examination.
- 1.4 The report has been prepared by West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, with the assistance of the lead Ecologist at Dorset County Council, Phil Stirling. Natural England have also assisted with this HRA screening.

THE WEST DORSET, WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN

- 1.5 The Local Plan, once adopted, will set the strategic context for future development in the county of Dorset. It will provide a long-term planning strategy for the plan area and direction for future development, giving local communities, developers and other stakeholders greater certainty about the types of applications that are likely to be approved, and greater security of future development land supply.
- 1.6 The Local Plan contains a general policy framework aimed at fulfilling the Plan's strategic objectives, which will be the main basis for making decisions on planning applications within West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland.
- 1.7 The Local Plan will also suggest land for development to meet the housing and employment needs for the plan area.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

- 1.8 EU Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive') led to the establishment of a network of 'European sites', collectively known as Natura 2000, which are areas of exceptional importance with respect to rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats or species. The Natura 2000 network consists of the following ecological designations:
 - Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Classified under the EU Directive (79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive'), with the objective of protecting and managing areas which are important for rare and vulnerable birds as they are important grounds for breeding, feeding, wintering or migration; and
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Classified under the Habitats Directive and provide rare and vulnerable animals, plants and habitats with increased protection and management.

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- 1.9 The requirement to undertake an assessment of plans or projects that are likely to have an effect upon European sites is given in Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.
- 1.10 The Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended ('the Habitats Regulations'). Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations implements Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive by requiring the competent authority (in this case both West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council) to complete an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives before deciding to undertake a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
- 1.11 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations applies the European Court of Justice ruling of October 2005 by setting a legal requirement for the plan-making authority to appropriately assess land use plans in the UK, including Development Plan Documents such as the Local Plan.
- 1.12 The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 118) states that the following sites should be afforded the same protection as Natura 2000 sites:
- **Potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA):** Potential Special Protection Areas, are sites on which the Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area
 - **Possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC):** Possible Special Areas of Conservation are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a candidate Special Area of Conservation;
 - **Ramsar sites (and proposed Ramsar sites):** Wetlands of international importance designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention, and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for a Ramsar site; and
 - **Sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites and Ramsar sites:** Sites which are included as compensation in schemes to mitigate adverse impacts upon European and Ramsar sites.
- 1.13 The Natura 2000 sites and additional sites presented in paragraph 3.2 will collectively be known as 'protected sites' for the purposes of this document.

THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 1.14 The method of undertaking a Habitats Regulation Assessment is not specified in the Habitats Directive or Habitats Regulations.

- 1.15 However, the draft guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the appropriate assessment of development plan documents¹ and by Natural England on the assessment of sub-regional strategies under the former Habitats Regulations² suggests an approach which has been followed during this Habitats Regulations Assessment. Natural England were consulted upon the proposed approach to this HRA screening, in accordance with the best practice suggested in the draft guidance, and did not propose any amendments to the suggested methodology.
- 1.16 The three main tasks or stages of Habitats Regulation Assessment described in this guidance and practiced in this HRA are as follows:

Task 1: Likely significant effects (screening stage)

The screening stage of the HRA process assesses whether a plan is likely to have a significant negative effect on a protected site, in combination with other plans and projects, and hence whether the subsequent steps of the HRA process are required.

The HRA screening stage firstly involves gathering information on the protected sites that fall within or near the geographical area of the Plan, and the characteristics of these sites and their conservation objectives.

Following this, the policies should be assessed for their effects on their own and in-combination with other policies, including those in other plans. A significant effect can be defined as: "... any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site is designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects"³.

If it is concluded that there is no likely significant effect on a protected site then further assessment is deemed unnecessary and the policies within the plan can be screened out from the rest of the HRA process. However, if it is found that a policy within the plan would have a likely significant effect on a protected site then further assessment is required through the subsequent stages of the HRA process.

The precautionary principle should be practiced when considering whether a significant effect is likely at the screening stage. Therefore it is unacceptable to determine an effect as insignificant on the basis of uncertainty, for example due to a lack of background information.

Task 2: Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity

Should likely significant effects be identified at the screening stage an appropriate assessment will be carried out to establish the potential effects of the plan on the integrity of the protected site. This assessment will consider the protected site's qualifying features (reasons for designation), conservation objectives and the key environmental conditions at the supported site. If it is concluded that that the plan will impact on the site's integrity, mitigation measures and alternative

¹ "Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment - Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents", published August 2006.

² "Draft Guidance: The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies Under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations", published by Natural England in March 2007.

³ "Habitats Regulations Guidance Note 3: The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation Regulations 1994, published 1999

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solutions would have to be considered to prevent any negative impacts resulting from the plan.

Task 3: Mitigation measures and alternative solutions

Where a plan has been found to have adverse effects on the integrity of a protected site, these effects should be mitigated to cancel out any adverse effects fully. Where it is not possible to eradicate the negative effects entirely, there should be a significant reduction in the impact of the plan so that an adverse impact on the integrity of the protected site can be nullified.

In exceptional circumstances, if it can be demonstrated that the plan is for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest', consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In these instances, compensatory measures must be put in place to offset any negative impacts.

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING OF THE LOCAL PLAN

- 1.17 This HRA Screening Report represents 'Task 1' in the HRA process, which is the screening stage.
- 1.18 An HRA Screening Report to accompany the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan was published in June 2012, and was consulted upon in June and July 2012. This report concluded that the draft Local Plan would have no significant impact providing a series of amendments to the draft 2012 draft Local Plan were made.
- 1.19 The HRA Screening Report was updated in June 2013 to take into account the schedule of recommended changes to the June 2012 draft Local Plan, to ensure that the Local Plan as amended will not have a significant adverse effect upon a protected site.
- 1.20 A further update to the HRA Screening Report took place in February 2015 to ensure that the suggested modifications to the Local Plan, following the examination, will not have a significant adverse effect upon a protected site.

STRUCTURE OF THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

- 1.21 Following on from the introduction, this HRA Screening Report contains the following Chapters:
- Chapter 2** Protected Sites: Provides a scope of the protected areas included in this HRA Screening exercise, developed in consultation with Natural England (See Appendix A also).
- Chapter 3** Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Methodology: Gives details of the methodology used to predict the nature of the impacts.
- Chapter 4** Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Findings: A summary of the findings of the HRA Screening exercises for the pre-submission draft Local Plan in June 2012, the schedule of recommended changes in June 2013, and the modifications to the Local Plan following the examination.
- Chapter 5** Conclusion: An evaluation of the HRA screening exercises to determine whether likely significant effects are likely to result from the Local Plan.

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2. Protected Sites

- 2.1 The scope of protected sites to be included in the HRA screening has been developed following consultation with Natural England. The HRA assessment includes the protected sites within the Plan area, as well as the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar which are linked to the plan area via the catchments of the Rivers Frome and Piddle.
- 2.2 The protected sites included in the HRA screening are listed in Figure 2.1 and shown on the maps in Figures 2.2 to 2.4.
- 2.3 The characteristics of the protected sites are presented in Appendix A. Information on these sites include the general site character, the coverage of various habitat classes, qualifying features and primary reasons for designation (underlined and in bold in the text, with * denoting priority features), the conservation objectives for the sites, and an overview of the main threats to the site. This information was provided almost entirely by Natural England and The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the public body that advises the Government on conservation issues.

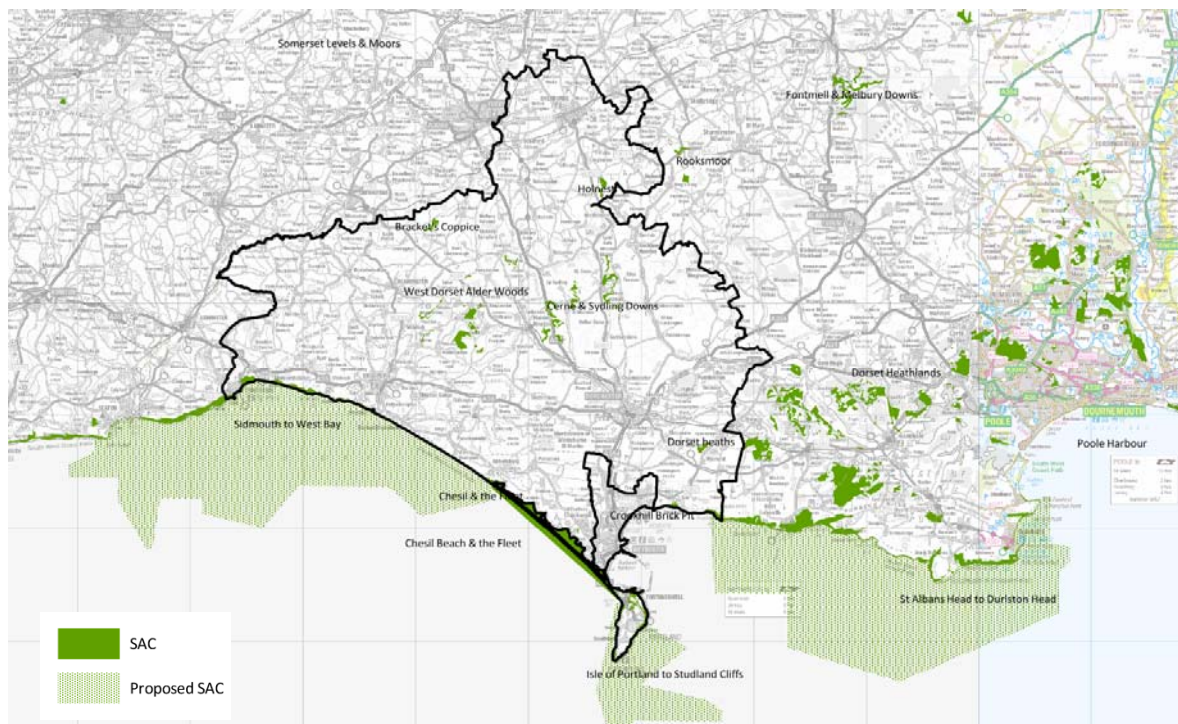
Figure 2.1 - List of protected sites considered in the HRA screening.

PROTECTED SITE	DESIGNATION
Sidmouth to West Bay	SAC
Crookhill Brick Pit	SAC
Chesil and the Fleet	SAC, SPA, Ramsar
Holnest	SAC
Dorset Heathlands	SAC, SPA, Ramsar
Dorset Heaths	SAC
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs	SAC
West Dorset Alder Woods	SAC
Brackets Coppice	SAC
Cerne and Sydling Downs	SAC
Poole Harbour	SPA, Ramsar

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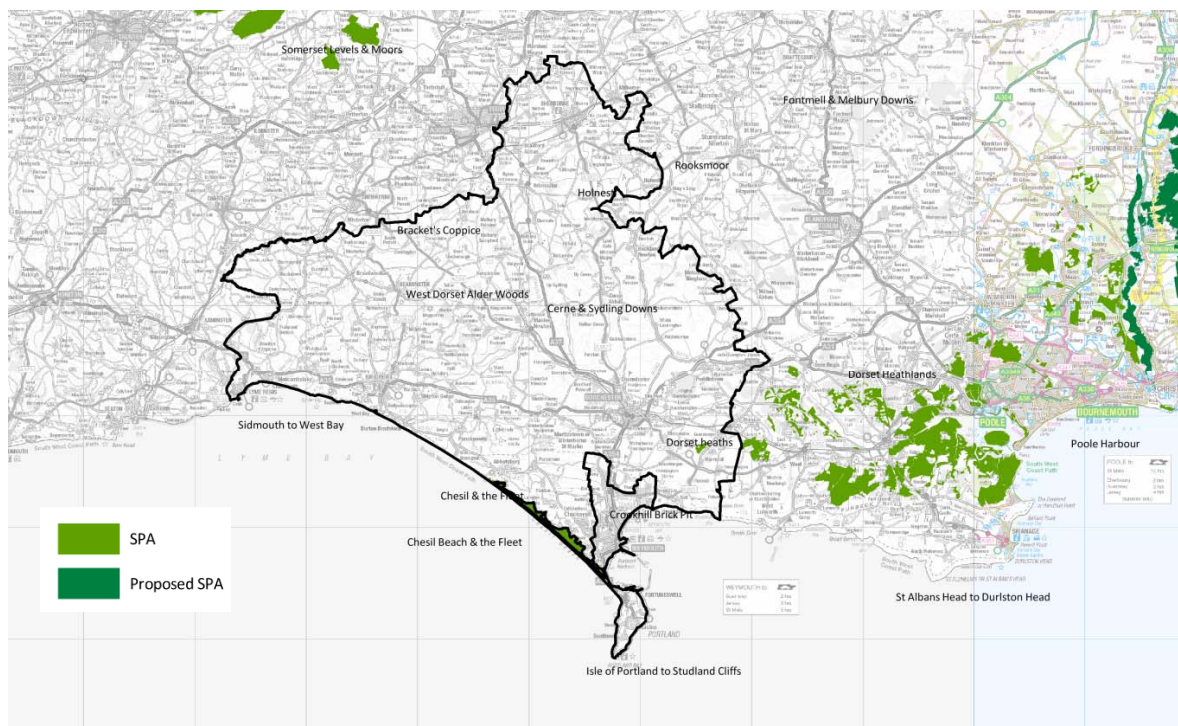
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Figure 2.2 - Map showing the distribution of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and proposed SAC sites within the plan area and its surroundings



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Figure 2.3 - Map showing the distribution of Special Protected Areas (SPA) and proposed SPA sites within the plan area and its surroundings

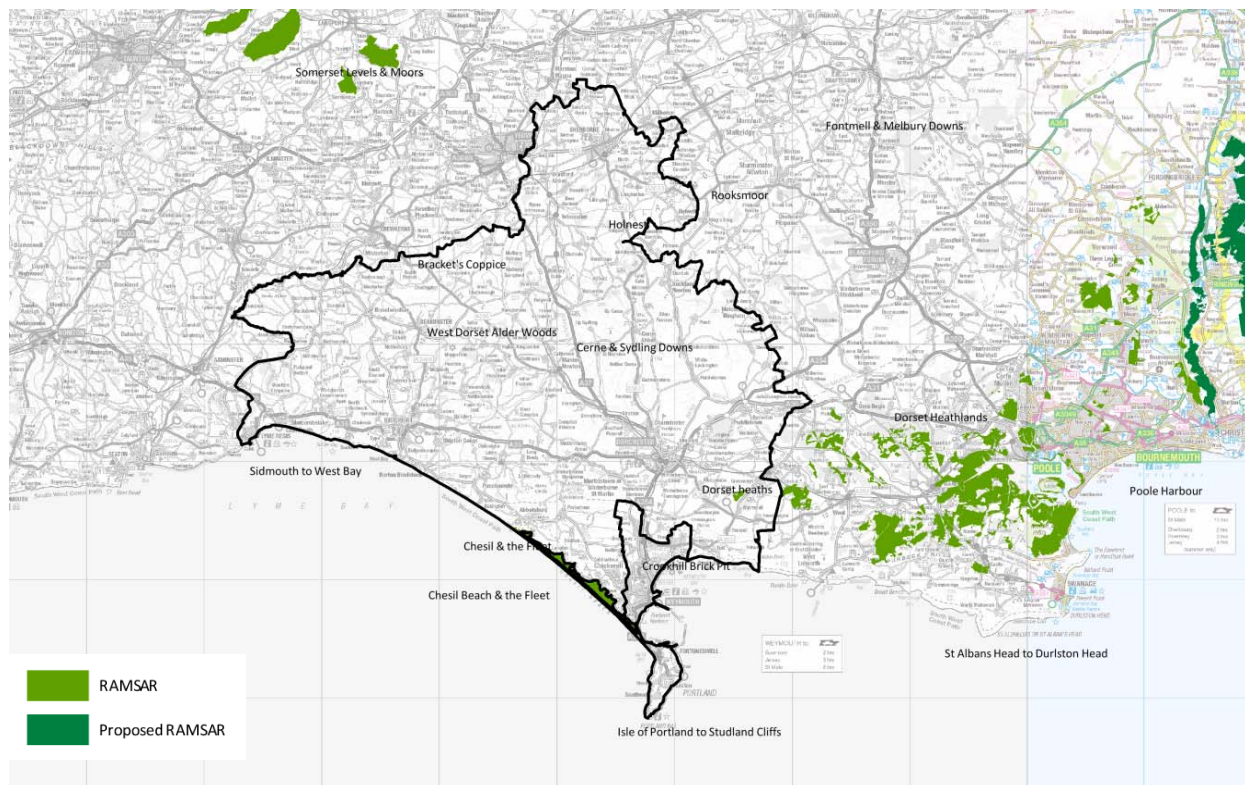


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Figure 2.4 - Map showing the distribution of Ramsar and proposed Ramsar sites within the plan area and its surroundings.



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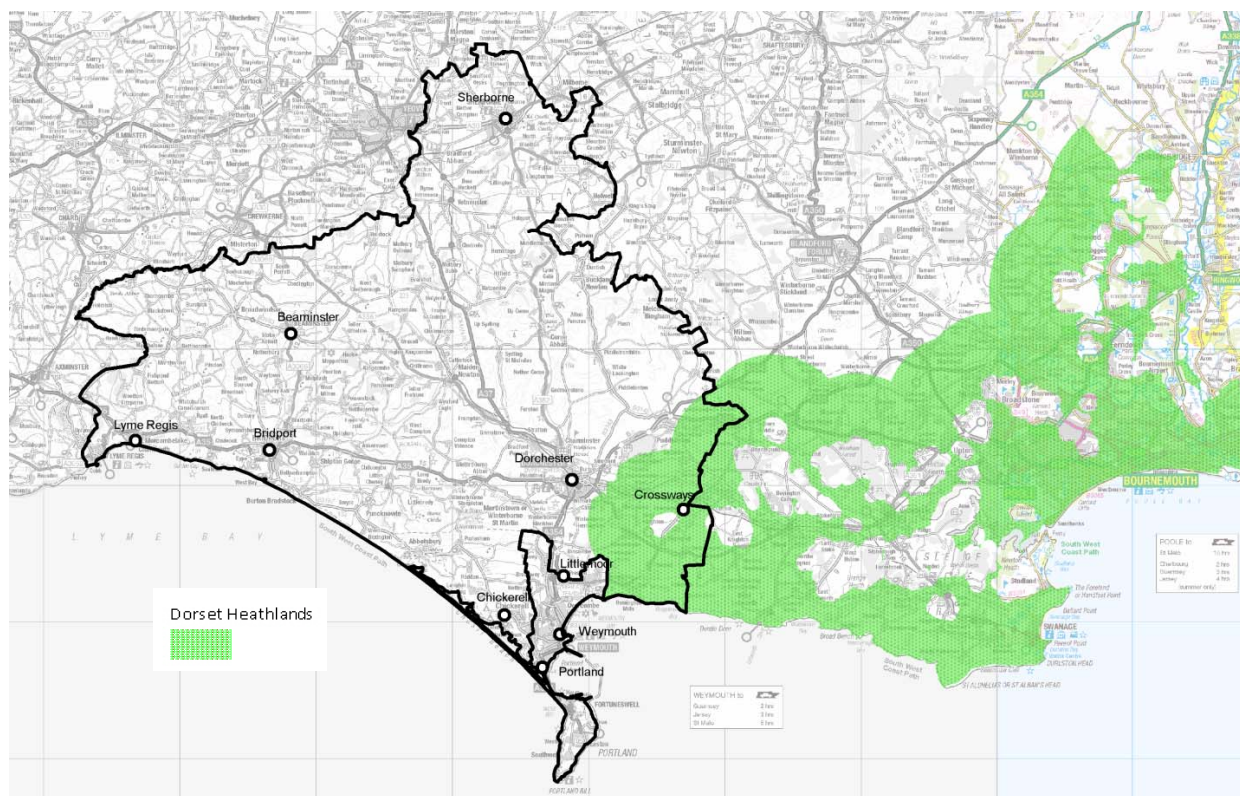
ISSUES WITH PROTECTED SITES

- 2.4 There are two protected sites in the plan area and its surroundings that are particularly sensitive to certain types of development, which are the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour.
- 2.5 The Dorset Heathlands SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites are sensitive to additional recreational pressure which may result from development close to this designation.
- 2.6 New housing within 5km of the Dorset Heathlands protected site, which is shown in Figure 2.5, is known to increase the number of people who visit the heathland causing disturbance such as an increase in wild fires which are started deliberately, disturbance by humans and their pets to the resident species, an increase in damaging recreational activities which result in a loss of vegetation and soil erosion, and the introduction of incompatible plants and animal species.

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Figure 2.5 - The location and extent of the 5km buffer zone surrounding the Dorset Heathlands protected site (excluding the designated area itself).



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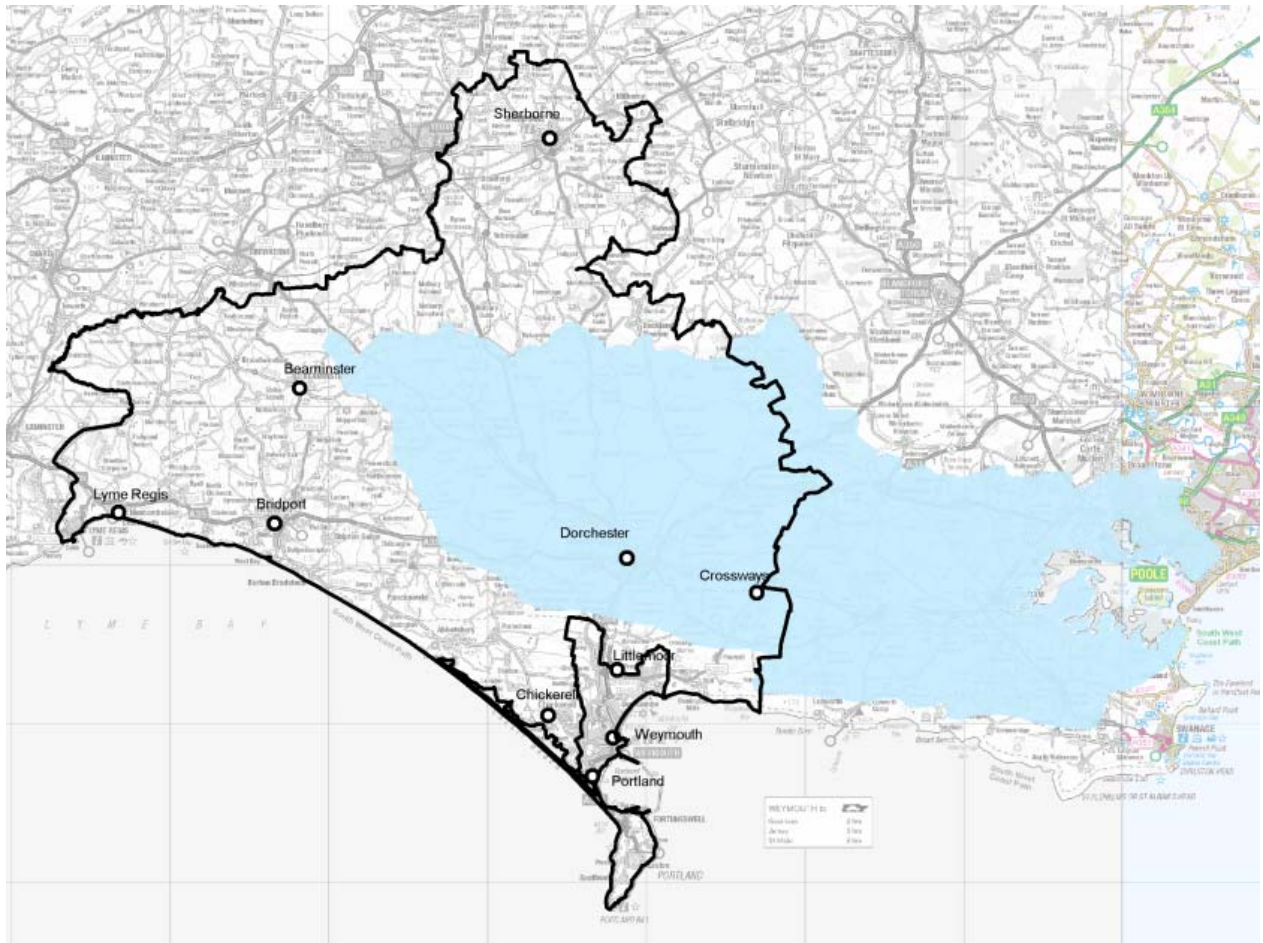
2.7 It is known that any development in the Poole Harbour catchment, the location of which is presented in Figure 2.6, may contribute to an increased nutrient loading discharge into the harbour. Since the mid 1980's the harbour has experienced a significant expansion of macroalgal mats, believed to be the result of increased levels of nitrate and other inorganic nitrogen compounds in harbour waters. Nitrogen is conveyed to the harbour through rivers ($\approx 76\%$; mainly the Frome and Piddle, the catchments of which are present within the plan area) from a catchment area of approximately 798km^2 . Direct discharges into the harbour account for approximately 7% of the loading and the remaining nutrients are from English Channel ($\approx 17\%$). The main source of non marine nutrients are from sewage treatment works, ($\approx 12\%$) and diffuse agriculture ($\approx 86\%$), leached into ground and surface waters.

2.8 The smothering effect of excessive macroalgal growth is adversely affecting the Poole Harbour protected site.

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Figure 2.6 - The location and extent of the catchment area for Poole Harbour.



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3. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Methodology

- 3.1 In line with best practice guidance, the nature of the impacts upon protected sites were assessed using the criteria presented in Figure 3.1.
- 3.2 It is inevitable that the decisions made regarding the nature of the impact of a policy relies on a degree of balanced judgement. However, it is important that wherever possible, this judgement is based upon sound evidence. Therefore, the prediction of effects during this HRA screening exercise took into consideration the information on the protected sites which are presented in Appendix A, such as the interest features and conservation objectives, and the issues surrounding the condition of the protected sites presented in Chapter 2.

Figure 3.1: The criteria used to define the effects of the Local Plan.

Code	Category	Criteria
NO	No negative effect	<p>Policy is not likely to have any negative effect on a European site</p> <p>Policy may set aims or objectives and not directly lead to development</p> <p>Policy may conserve or enhance the natural environment, including European sites</p>
NS	No significant negative effect	<p>No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects is considered likely. Effects on European sites are likely to be trivial because:</p> <p>there is no realistically possible pathway by which European sites could be affected by development which Policy would facilitate</p> <p>there is a satisfactory European site safeguard criterion within Policy</p> <p>the significant impacts can be made satisfactory through recommended minor word changes</p>
LSE	Likely significant negative effect	<p>Effects on European sites cannot be ruled out as an outcome of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> because Policy provides for, or encourages, a quantity or type of development that could threaten the conservation objectives of a protected site; where Policy alone is not likely to have significant effect, but where its effects are considered in combination with other effects, the effects are likely to be significant; because the development boundary overlaps with the European / Ramsar site designation.

4. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Findings

- 4.1 This Chapter provides a summary of the findings of the previous HRA screening exercises undertaken for the pre-submission draft Local Plan in June 2012, submission draft of the Local Plan in June 2013, and suggested modifications to the Local Plan following the examination in February 2015 with the full results presented in Appendices B, C and D respectively.

JUNE 2012: HRA SCREENING OF THE PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

- 4.2 All policies and land allocations within the June 2012 draft Local Plan were assessed to determine whether there are likely to be significant effects upon protected areas.
- 4.3 The HRA screening report for the June 2012 Local Plan identified likely significant impacts associated with some policies in the draft Local Plan (the screening matrix is presented in Appendix B). However, the HRA screening report stated that these likely significant effects could be avoided through the implementation of proposed mitigation measures which are shown in Figure 4.2. These amendments were made to the Local Plan, and subsequently the HRA screening concluded that the Local Plan was unlikely to cause significant effects upon protected sites.

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Figure 4.2 - Summary of the mitigation measures suggested in the HRA Screening Report for the June 2012 draft Local Plan, and the subsequent response

Policy	Recommended mitigation	Response
SUS 2	The following text (in italic) should be added to policy SUS 2 to prevent any adverse impacts upon protected sites: <i>(V) "Outside defined development boundaries, development will be strictly controlled, having particular regard to the need for the protection of the countryside and internationally designated wildlife sites, and be restricted to....."</i>	The following amendment (in italics) has been made to Policy SUS 2, to ensure that are likely significant impacts upon International Sites, in addition to other environmental receptors, are mitigated: <i>"Outside defined development boundaries, development will be strictly controlled, having particular regard to the need for the protection of the countryside and environmental constraints..."</i>
ECON 5 to ECON 10, HOUS 6, COM 4, COM 11	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>"Proposals for <INSERT DEVELOPMENT TYPE RELEVANT TO POLICY> (e.g tourism attractions and facilities for ECON 5) must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>	Mitigation is provided in preamble to ENV 2, Rather than adding this sentence to the preamble of each of the individual policies. The text added to policy ENV 2 states that great weight will be given to the protection of internationally designated wildlife sites and policy ENV 2 will be the over-riding consideration where significant impacts have been identified. The following text (in italics) has been added, as paragraph 2.2.17: <i>"The protection of nationally or internationally designated wildlife sites will be given great weight in planning decisions. The protection of internationally designated wildlife sites through policy ENV2 will be the over-riding policy consideration where development may cause a significant adverse impact to such a site."</i>
HOUS 2, HOUS 4	The policy should include the following condition: <i>"- the development does not result in a significant adverse impact upon an internationally designated wildlife site."</i>	As mitigation for policy HOUS 2 (Affordable Housing Exception Sites), which relates to issues with development outside defined development boundaries, the following text (in italics) has been added to the over-riding policy SUS 2 to ensure that likely significant impacts from such development upon international wildlife designations are avoided: <i>"Outside defined development boundaries, development will be strictly controlled, having particular regard to the need for the protection of the countryside and environmental constraints..."</i> As mitigation for policy HOUS 4 (Residential Care Accommodation), which

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Policy	Recommended mitigation	Response
		<p>relates to issues regarding development of residential care accommodation near to the Dorset Heathlands International designation, the row pertaining to the Heathlands issue in Table 2.2 in the preamble to Policy ENV 2 has been amended (in italics) to read:</p> <p><i>“Residential (C3 or C4 of the Use Classes Order or similar) development that would involve a net increase in homes”.</i></p> <p>This ensures that the impacts of sui generis or ancillary residential accommodation are also considered by the overriding policy ENV 2.</p>
COM 5	<p>Preamble to the policy may include the following text:</p> <p><i>“Proposals which alter patterns of recreational use on existing open spaces within 5km of European heathland sites must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i></p>	<p>The following text (in italics) will be added to Table 2.2 in the preamble policy ENV 2, rather than to policies COM 5 and COM 6, to ensure that the possible significant impacts associated with the change of use of recreational areas within 5km of the Dorset Heathlands International Designation that may occur through policies COM 5 and COM 6 are mitigated:</p> <p><i>“Proposals which alter patterns of recreational use on existing open spaces within 5km of the European Heathland sites must comply with environmental law by ensuring that significant adverse impacts upon this internationally designated wildlife site are avoided”.</i></p>
COM 6	<p>Preamble to the policy may include the following text:</p> <p><i>“Proposals which may alter patterns of recreational use on existing European heathland sites must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i></p>	
PORT 1	<p>The following text (in italics) should be added to the policy:</p> <p><i>“Land within Port jurisdiction will be safeguarded for potential port operational and ancillary uses. Proposals for these areas must not have a significant adverse impact upon international wildlife designations”.</i></p> <p>Also, the development boundaries for Portland Port presented in the Local Plan must be amended to preclude European and Ramsar sites from development.</p>	<p>Policy removed from Local Plan, and therefore planning applications at this location will be subject to the policies appraised in this Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening report. The development boundaries have been removed from the Local Plan.</p>

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Policy	Recommended mitigation	Response
<p>DOR 1-DOR 9, DOR 11, CRS 1,</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy: <i>“This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2.”</i></p>	<p>Text relating to the nutrient loading in Poole Harbour issue has been added to policies DOR 11 and CRS 1 only, as the larger developments in the Poole Harbour catchment.</p> <p>The following text (in italics) has been added to the introduction to the Dorchester Chapter as paragraph 11.1.6, which applies to all allocations in the Dorchester area: <i>“Dorchester lies within the hydrological catchment area for Poole Harbour. It is known that any development within the Poole Harbour catchment may contribute to an increase in the discharge of nutrients into the harbour, largely through sewage treatment and disposal. This may cause excessive macroalgal growth within Poole Harbour, resulting in a significant adverse impact upon the internationally designated wildlife site. Development within Dorchester must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering Poole Harbour. For further information regarding this issue, please refer to policy ENV 2.”</i></p>
<p>LYME 2</p>	<p>The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for housing must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i></p>	<p>The preamble to this policy indicates that allocations at this site will come forward through the neighbourhood planning system. Neighbourhood plans will be subject to the HRA process should the proposals be likely to have a significant effect upon the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, and therefore no mitigation is required in this instance.</p>

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JUNE 2013: HRA SCREENING OF THE SUBMISSION DRAFT OF THE LOCAL PLAN

- 4.4 This HRA Screening Report was updated to ensure that the Local Plan, with the recommended amendments, will not have a significant adverse impact upon protected sites.
- 4.5 This HRA screening exercise considers those recommended amendments which represent a change in the direction or approach towards a policy area and have not yet been appraised. Minor changes, such as the rewording or rearranging of a policy, or small amendments to a policy with relatively small strategic consequences, were not reappraised.
- 4.6 The following recommended amendments to the policies were considered to require re-appraisal:
- ENV 2: Wildlife and Habitats
 - SUS 1: Level of Economic and Housing Growth
 - SUS 3: Adaption and Reuse of Buildings outside the DDB
 - ECON 4: Retail and Town Centre Development
 - ECON 6: Built Tourist Accommodation
 - WEY 10: Land at Markham and Little Francis
 - CRS 1: Land at Crossways
- 4.7 The HRA screening indicated that there would be no likely significant impact upon protected sites as a result of the recommended amendments to the draft Local Plan.
- 4.8 Some recommended amendments to the policies meant that the policy became more permissive in their approach to development, particularly policies SUS 3 and ECON 6 which would now allow development outside the defined development boundaries, thus potentially enabling development closer to protected sites and increasing the recreational pressures upon them. However, the amendment to SUS 2 recommended in the HRA screening for the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan in June 2012 (see Figure 4.2) is considered likely to provide sufficient mitigation to the impacts from development outside the defined development boundary. Policy SUS 2 is the over riding policy in this instance, and ensures that environmental constraints (such as impacts on protected wildlife sites) are key in controlling development outside defined development boundaries. Therefore, the appraisal showed that there were no likely significant effects upon protected sites as a result of the recommended amendments to the draft Local Plan.
- 4.9 The results of the full HRA screening of the recommended amendments to the draft Local Plan in June 2013 is shown in Appendix C.

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FEBRUARY 2015: HRA SCREENING OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL PLAN FOLLOWING EXAMINATION

- 4.10 This HRA Screening Report was updated to ensure that the Local Plan, with the main modifications following the examination, does not have a significant adverse impact upon protected sites.
- 4.11 This HRA screening exercise considers those modifications which represent a change in the direction or approach towards a policy area and have not yet been appraised. Minor changes, such as the rewording or rearranging of a policy, or small modifications to a policy with relatively small strategic consequences, were not reappraised.
- 4.12 The following recommended modifications to the policies were considered to require re-appraisal:
- ENV 2: Wildlife and Habitats;
 - ENV 4: Heritage Assets
 - ENV 6: Local Flood Alleviation Schemes
 - ENV 9: Pollution and Contaminated Land
 - ENV 13: Achieving High Levels of Environmental Performance
 - HOUS 1: Affordable Housing
 - HOUS 6: Other Residential Development Outside Defined Development Boundaries
 - DOR 10: Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan
 - CRS 1: Land at Crossways
 - CRS 2: Land Around Crossways
 - BRID 3: Land to the East of Bredy Veterinary Centre, off Jessops Avenue
 - BRID 5: St Michael's Trading Estate
- 4.13 The HRA screening indicated that there would be no likely significant impact upon protected sites as a result of the recommended modifications to the Local Plan following the examination.
- 4.14 The amended Policy HOUS 6 still enables the development of residential properties outside defined development boundaries. However, the over riding policy ENV 2 will ensure that development won't be situated in areas where there are likely to be significant impacts upon European sites.
- 4.15 The modifications to the Crossways policy do not introduce significant adverse impacts upon protected sites as the requirement to provide suitable alternative natural greenspace to address the impacts Dorset Heathlands designation remains, along with the requirement to avoid additional nutrient loading upon the Poole Harbour International site.

- 4.16 The results of the full HRA screening of the recommended modifications to the draft Local Plan in February 2015 is shown in Appendix D.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 4.17 The HRA screening must consider the cumulative effects of the local plan with other relevant plans or programmes. These are the effects of the local plan, in combination with other plans or programmes.
- 4.18 Consultation with Natural England did not result in any plans or programmes being suggested for the cumulative effects assessment. The Councils have identified the following documents for the consideration of in-combination effects upon Protected Sites:
- Dorset County Council, Minerals Core Strategy;
 - The New Plan for North Dorset;
 - Purbeck Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future;
 - Poole Core Strategy;
 - Publication Draft of the East Devon Local Plan (2006-2026); and
 - Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028).
- 4.19 The HRA screening identified the following possible cumulative effects:
- Development in Lyme Regis and the development brought forward through the Publication Draft of the East Devon Local Plan (2006-2026) impacting cumulatively upon the Sidmouth to West Bay protected site;
 - Additional recreational pressures upon the Dorset Heathlands protected site from CRS 1 (Land at Crossways) and development brought forward by the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future; and
 - Development in the Dorchester and Crossways areas potentially causing an increase in nutrient loading within the Poole Harbour protected site, in combination with the development within the Purbeck and Poole administrative areas.
- 4.20 The full details of these cumulative impacts are given for the relevant policies in Appendix B, C and D.

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5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The HRA screening of the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan in June 2012 recommended a series of amendments to policies, to prevent significant effects upon protected sites. These recommended mitigation measures were implemented through a series of amendments to the Local Plan in June 2013. An HRA screening was completed for the amended Local Plan in June 2013 and did not identify any likely significant adverse effects.
- 5.2 A series of further modifications to the Local Plan were recommended following the examination. An HRA screening was completed accordingly, which concluded that the Local Plan was unlikely to result in significant effects upon protected sites.
- 5.3 As there would be no likely significant effects that would arise from the adoption of the Local Plan, the Local Plan is considered to be in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations. Therefore, there is considered to be no requirement to undertake any further stages of HRA, such as an Appropriate Assessment.

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Appendix A - Protected Sites

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SIDMOUTH TO WEST BAY SAC

Area: 897.3ha

Habitat Classes	Coverage
Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	1%
Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	54.2%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, Phygrana	29.8%
Dry grassland, Steppes	15%

DESCRIPTION

The Sidmouth to West Bay SAC is an example of [Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts](#). This section of highly unstable soft cliff coastline is subject to mudslides and landslips, with the principal rock types being soft mudstones, clays and silty limestones, with a small chalk outlier in the west. The eastern section of the SAC, which is within the plan area, comprises unstable rocks, and unlike the central and western sections has no chalk capping. This area is subject to frequent mudslides in the waterlogged soft limestones and clays. Vegetation is very varied and includes pioneer communities on recent slips, calcareous grassland and scrub on detached chalk blocks and extensive self-sown woodland dominated by ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) or sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

The Western area of the SAC, beyond the plan area, includes an area of [Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines](#)*. Other reasons for designation include the [Annual vegetation of drift lines](#), which is present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The conservation objectives, published by English Nature in 2000, are to maintain in favourable condition, the interest features, which in this instance will be the [Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts](#) and [Annual vegetation of drift lines](#).

MAIN THREATS

Whilst there are no immediate threats to the features of European Importance on this site, minor issues such as light pollution and human presence provides the greatest risk.

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CROOKHILL BRICK PIT SAC

Area: 4.71ha

<i>Habitat Classes</i>	<i>Coverage</i>
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	5%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	35%
Dry grassland, Steppes	50%
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	10

DESCRIPTION

Crookhill Brickpit is a disused brickpit which has important geological features (exposure of Lower and Middle Oxford Clay). The site contains several ponds that support **S1166 Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*)**, including one pond which has been recorded to have one of the highest counts of the species in Dorset. The site also contains a variety of habitats used by the great crested newt in the terrestrial phase, including grassland, scrub and quarry spoil. The newer ponds were created as part of a mitigation project for the construction of a waste transfer station.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

To protect and, where necessary, improve the water or water-dependent environment to the extent necessary to maintain at or improve to Favourable Conservation Status the water-dependent habitats and species for which the Protected Area is designated)

MAIN THREATS

Potential hazards from the adjacent waste transfer station include lighting and rats. There is a long-term risk of deterioration of the waterbodies due to lack of maintenance and a short-term risk of the introduction of invasive non-native plant species and fish.

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CHEซิล AND THE FLEET SAC, SPA AND RAMSAR

Area: SAC: 1631.63ha

SPA: 748.11ha

Ramsar: 748.11ha

Habitat Classes	Coverage		
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Marine areas, Sea inlets	35.5%	0%	1.9%
Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	30.5%	48.0%	65.0%
Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	2%	4.0%	3.7%
Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	32%	46.0%	29.3%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0%	2.0%	0%

DESCRIPTION

The Fleet is the largest example of a lagoonal habitat in England and has features of both lagoonal inlets and percolation **coastal lagoons***. It is bordered by Chesil Beach, a large (28km long), fossil shingle barrier beach structure through which sea water percolates into the lagoon, although most of its water exchange occurs through the narrow channel that links it to Portland Harbour. A low freshwater input produces fully saline conditions throughout most of the Fleet. The lagoon is extremely sheltered from wave action, and generally has weak tidal streams and a small tidal range, and a temperature range far greater than on the open coast. The lagoon supports extensive populations of two species of eelgrass (*Zostera*) and three species of tasselweed (*Ruppia*), including the rare spiral tasselweed (*R. cirrhosa*), and a diverse fauna that includes a number of nationally rare and scarce species.

Chesil Beach is one of two representatives of **Annual vegetation of drift lines** on the south coast of England. The inner shore of the beach supports extensive drift-line vegetation dominated by sea beet (*Beta vulgaris* ssp. *Maritima*) and orache (*Atriplex* spp). This community exists in a dynamic equilibrium with the perennial shrubby sea-blite (*Suaeda vera*) community, which is typical of **Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)**, for which this site has also been selected.

Chesil Beach, with the contiguous Portland Harbour shore, is an extensive representative of **Perennial vegetation of stony banks** on the south coast of England. Much of the shingle bar is subject to wash-over and percolation in storm conditions and is therefore sparsely vegetated. It supports the most extensive occurrences of the rare sea-kale (*HRAmbe maritima*) and sea pea

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(*Lathyrus japonicas*) in the UK, together with other grassland and lichen-rich shingle plant communities typical of more stable conditions, especially towards the eastern end of the site.

Other reasons for designation include the [Atlantic salt meadows \(*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*\)](#), which is present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection.

The Fleet SPA supports a large numbers of wintering waterbirds, including **Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)**. In spring and summer, Chesil Bank is an important breeding site for **Little Terns (*Sterna albifrons*)** which feed in the shallow waters of the lagoon, as well as adjacent waters outside the SPA.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation objectives for the Chesil Beach and the Fleet protected areas, published by Natural England in 1999, are divided amongst the qualifying features. The conservation objectives relating to the **coastal lagoons** focuses on maintaining attributes such as extent, water clarity, salinity regime, nutrient status (to manage increases in algal mats), and algal grazers. The conservation objective for the **Annual vegetation of drift lines** and **Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs** focuses on maintaining attributes such as extent and absence of landward constraints.

The conservation objectives for Chesil Beach and the Fleet, published by English Nature in 1999, concentrate on the habitats of the important bird species. The conservation objectives for the **Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)** focus on their feeding habitats, and maintaining the frequency and abundance of crustaceans, annelids, molluscs and fish within the lagoon. The conservation objectives for other bird species also focus on the condition of habitats, and seagrass bed communities (for the benefit of **Dark-bellied Brent Geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)** and Widgeon (*anas Penelope*) particularly) and maintaining the extent of food availability and ensuring no increase in disturbance to the feeding and roosting areas within the intertidal sediment communities.

MAIN THREATS

The Fleet and much of Chesil bank are privately owned and managed as a nature reserve. Part of Chesil is Crown Common land. Whilst the majority of the site is largely inaccessible to casual visitors, the south western part of the site is subject to considerable visitor recreational pressure.

An MOD firing range is also located within the site. The adjacent Portland Harbour through which much of the water exchange for the Fleet takes place is the site of a new commercial port and is also subject to increasing recreational pressures, particularly from waterborne sports.

The land use of the Fleet hinterland is largely intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off is a potential source of eutrophication within the Fleet itself. There are also small domestic sewage discharges into the Fleet.

There is a shellfish farm within the Fleet which cultivates oysters and cleanses mussels and other species. This does not present serious concerns provided it remains at the present scale. However introduction of non-native species remains a potential concern. Japanese seaweed is cut on an annual basis.

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The site is close to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and consequently there is a risk of accidental oil pollution.

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HOLNEST SAC

Area: 54.9ha

Habitat Classes	Coverage
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	3.0%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	52.0%
Improved grassland	20.0%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	23.0%
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	2.0%

DESCRIPTION

The Holnest SAC encompasses around 20 ponds set in a matrix of terrestrial habitats, comprising areas of semi-improved grassland, scrub, associated semi-natural habitats and woodland bounded by fences and hedgerows. The ponds exhibit a range of sizes, profiles and origins, and include some recently-created ornamental ponds as well as traditional farm ponds. A large population of **Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*)** is present, with over 200 individuals having been recorded at one pond in spring 2003. The woodland areas provide ideal hibernation habitat.

CONSERVATION INTERESTS

The conservation interests of the Holnest SAC are not known. However, the general default conservation interest for European sites, which is to conserve, enhance and restore, is likely to apply.

MAIN THREATS

Whilst the site lies in a poorly drained vale which does not lend itself well to further agricultural intensification, agricultural diversification and alternative uses of the land could threaten breeding ponds, foraging areas and hibernation sites for the **Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*)**. Agreements have been made with the owners to ensure these types of activities do not adversely effect the newt population.

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DORSET HEATHS SAC, DORSET HEATHLAND SPA, DORSET HEATHLAND RAMSAR

Area: SAC: 5730.73ha

SPA: 8168.79ha

Ramsar: 6730.15ha

Habitat classes	Coverage	
	SAC	SPA
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.0%	1.0%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	8.0%	6.0%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, Phygrana	86.0%	83.0%
Dry grassland, Steppes	1.0%	4.0%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0%	1.0%
Coniferous woodland	1.0%	4.0%
Mixed woodland	1.0%	0%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	1.0%	0%
Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	0%	1.0%

DESCRIPTION

However, the Dorset heaths represent some of the biggest and finest remaining areas of lowland heathland in the UK. This site includes 37 SSSIs, most of which include fine transitions between **European dry heaths** and **Northern Atlantic wet heaths (with *Erica tetralix*)** and mires, as well as other habitats such as woodland, grassland, pools, saltmarsh and reedswamp.

The dry heath occurs on very infertile soils and is not very diverse botanically, but occasionally some nationally scarce plants occur. Among birds, the dry heath is very important for woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*) and some migrants such as hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). The dry heaths support populations of European importance of several species, including rare butterflies, grasshoppers and spiders. All six species of native British reptiles, including the sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), occur within the Dorset Heaths.

The wet heath supports important species of heath, grass and moss, and provides a stronghold for the invertebrates, particularly dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and spiders, including the **Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*)**. The **Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)**

The Dorset Heath also supports a large proportion of the **Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*** habitat within England, both in bog pools of valley mires and in flushes.

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Other habitats present within the Dorset Heaths, but not a primary reason for the selection of the site include:

- **Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinia Caeruleae*)**
- **Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae****
- **alkaline fens**; and
- **old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains.**

The Dorset Heaths SPA is of great importance for specialist breeding birds of lowland heathland, such as the Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*), Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) AND Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), as well as for some wintering raptors including the Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Merlin (*Falco Columbarius*).

CONSERVATION INTERESTS

The conservation objectives for the Dorset Heaths protected areas are as follows:

- To restore the ecological integrity of heathland, mires, ancient woodlands, geological sites, rivers and river valley wetlands through physical management;
- To manage the rural heathlands in large units through extensive grazing;
- To manage the urban heathlands to mitigate the pressures resulting from their urban location;
- To enhance the biodiversity of the Dorset Heaths through species recovery measures; and
- To influence land-use planning to allow the above objectives to be implemented.

MAIN THREATS

The Dorset heathlands have become a fragmented heathland area through extensive losses to agriculture, forestry and urban development. In recent years these land-use changes have been almost halted through changes in national and local policy. However, the scale of previous fragmentation and development has left a number of adverse pressures and many heaths in or near urban areas suffer recreational pressure and a high incidence of wildfires, and are sometimes also disturbed by infrastructure works.

The heaths are affected by several old mineral extraction permissions, some still active. These will require review under the Conservation Regulations to ensure no adverse effect on integrity and agreement has already been reached on drawing back the possible working of some permissions.

In and around the urban areas there are now well-established initiatives to manage and contain recreation uses and to more effectively control the occurrence and spread of fires.

The decline in use for traditional agriculture has resulted in a successional trend to scrub and woodland together with invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially Rhododendron.

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ISLE OF PORTLAND TO STUDLAND CLIFFS SAC

Area: SAC 1447.5ha

pSAC: 33,177.41 Ha

Habitat Classes	Coverage (SAC)
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, Phygrana	5.0%
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	40.0%
Dry Grassland, Steppes	55.0%

DESCRIPTION

Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, including the detached peninsula of Portland, with St Albans Head to Durlston Head, forms a single unit of cliffed coastline some 40 km in length and a prime example of [Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts](#). The cliffs are formed of hard limestones, with chalk at the eastern end, interspersed with slumped sections of soft cliff of sand and clays. The cliffs support species-rich calcareous grassland with species that are rare in the UK, such as wild cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *oleracea*), early spider-orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*) and Nottingham catchfly (*Silene nutans*). The Portland peninsula, extending 8 km south of the mainland, demonstrates very clearly the contrast between the exposed western and southern coasts, with sheer rock faces and sparse maritime vegetation, and the sheltered eastern side, with sloping cliffs supporting scrub communities, where wood spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) grows in grassland.

Semi-natural dry grassland ([Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates \(Festuco-Brometalia\)](#)) occurs at this site in both inland and coastal situations on both chalk and Jurassic limestone. The site contains extensive species-rich examples of CG4 (*Brachypodium pinnatum*) grassland in the southern part of its UK range. Smaller areas of CG2 (*Festuca ovina* – *Avenula pratensis*) grassland occur on shallow soils on steeper slopes. Transitions from calcareous grassland to both chalk heath and acid grassland are also present. The site has well-developed terricolous and saxicolous lichen and bryophyte communities associated with open turf, chalk rock and pebbles, and flinty soils.

This site on the Dorset coast, together with St Albans Head to Durlston Head, supports important long-standing populations of **early gentian** (*Gentianella anglica*) numbering several thousands of plants in floristically-rich calcareous grassland.

Natural England have proposed the offshore area between Studland to Portland as a marine pSAC, in accordance with the Habitats Directive, with the interest feature being the **Reef** structures identified within this area.

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CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The conservation objectives for the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC include those for the separate SSSI, but are in general terms to maintain the designated habitats and species in favourable condition, subject to natural change, which includes processes such as erosion and deposition, and the cliff slumping which occurs frequently in this area.

The draft conservation objective for the proposed Studland to Portland SAC is to maintain the reefs in favourable condition, subject to natural change, in particular the bedrock and biogenic reef communities.

THREATS

Many of the vegetated cliffs are soft and eroding and their interest is dependent on the continuation of natural coastal processes.

In a few places, the zone of natural cliff-top vegetation is narrow and the interest of this strip will deteriorate as cliffs retreat into agricultural land.

The coastal grassland species are dependent on grazing by cattle or ponies.

Locally, recreational pressure is high.

Part of the site is subject to an existing blockstone quarrying permission.

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WEST DORSET ALDER WOODS SAC

Area: 329.29

Habitat classes	Coverage
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	4.0%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	15.0%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, Phygrana	3.0%
Dry grassland, Steppes	5.0%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	10.0%
Improved grassland	1.0%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	60.0%
Coniferous woodland	2.0%

DESCRIPTION

The Alder Woods SAC is an example of **Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)***. The Alder Mixed ash-alder *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Alnus glutinosa* woods are a characteristic feature of the sinuous valley woods developed along the headwaters of alkaline streams and seepages having their origin in the chalk downland and issuing from the underlying Upper Greensand at its junction with the Gault Clay. The woods vary from those with greater tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*), remote sedge (*C. remota*), hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage (*C. alternifolium*), to transitions to drier oak-ash woodland with ramsons (*Allium ursinum*). Several of the component sites are associated with valley mires with transitions to fen, reedswamp, fen meadow and acid grassland. Characteristic features of the woods are the shallow silty peats and tufa deposits which support an important assemblage of specialised invertebrates. The streams have natural meanders, back channels and debris dams, features that are otherwise rare in the lowlands. Ancient stands of ash-alder woodland have developed some 'old growth' characteristics with associated old forest lichens.

The Alder Woods SAC is an example of ***Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)** and **Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains**.

The **marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*)** population at the Alder Woods SAC is small but stable and has the potential to expand over the wider area of grassland/scrub mosaic with extensive flushed grassland and fen component, which is considered a favourable habitat for this species. The area also supports a population of **Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)**.

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CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

To maintain the designated interest features in a favourable condition

VULNERABILITY

The vulnerability of the habitat is linked principally to the surrounding land-use and the management of the water environment in the catchment, particularly where sites are small and isolated. Deer browsing and game management are a concern.

Euphydrys aurinia requires extensive grazing.

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BRACKET'S COPPICE SAC

Area: 53.66ha

<i>Habitat classes</i>	<i>Coverage</i>
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.7%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	40.0%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	58.3%

DESCRIPTION

One of the first maternity colonies of Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*) was discovered in the Brackets Coppice SAC in 1998. The colony was found to be using bat-boxes within a small woodland area. The Brackets Coppice SAC also encompasses an area of *Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)*.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The conservation objectives for the Brackets Coppice SAC involve maintaining and conserving the semi-natural woodland that provide a habitat for the bat roosts and manage and control the composition of the marshy grassland species.

MAIN THREATS

The Bechstein's bat colony at Bracket's Coppice appears to require closed canopy high forest with veteran trees for both roosting and foraging, which must be managed effectively.

A case of unofficial occupation and use of land outside the wood has been brought to the attention of the authorities, and may threaten the interest features of this protected area.

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CERNE AND SYDLING DOWNS SAC

Area: 369.08ha

Habitat classes	Coverage
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	10.5%
Dry grassland. Steppes	89.0%
Mixed woodland	0.5%

DESCRIPTION

This site consists of a large area of semi-natural dry grassland (**Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)**) on the west Dorset chalk. Dry valley slopes with a variety of aspects support extensive examples of CG2 (*Festuca ovina* – *Avenula pratensis*) grassland in the south-west of its UK range. A particular feature of this site is the presence of the (*Succisa pratensis* – *Leucanthemum vulgare*) sub-community, especially on south- and west-facing slopes. This type of calcareous grassland is almost entirely restricted to parts of Wiltshire and Dorset. On south-west-facing slopes, the nationally scarce dwarf sedge (*Carex humilis*) can be abundant in this sub-community.

This site supports a large **marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*)** metapopulation which is composed of two large and one smaller sub-populations which regularly expand into other nearby areas in favourable years.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The conservation objectives for the Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC seek to maintain the designated habitats and species in favourable condition, subject to natural change. Condition of the site is largely favourable, with some areas unfavourable, generally due to locally unsatisfactory grazing regime and scrub control.

MAIN THREATS

Existing and potential marsh fritillary habitat is subject to long-term overgrazing, under which conditions marsh fritillaries cannot survive. Conversely, reduced grazing pressure in the past has led to scrub encroachment on potential marsh fritillary habitat and existing downland.

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POOLE HARBOUR SPA AND RAMSAR

<i>Habitat classes</i>	<i>Coverage</i>	
	<i>SAC</i>	<i>Ramsar</i>
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	59.0%	55%
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	23.0%	21%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	11.0%	0%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	10.5%	0%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0%	0.5%
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	2%	23%
Seasonally flooded agricultural land	0%	0.5%

DESCRIPTION

Poole Harbour is a bar-built estuary covering an area of nearly 4000 hectares. The Harbour occupies a shallow depression in the acidic, tertiary deposits towards the south-western extremity of the Hampshire Basin and has been formed over the last 5000 years by a rise in sea level. The unusual micro-tidal regime means that a significant body of water is retained throughout the tidal cycle and therefore exhibits many of the characteristics of a lagoon. There are extensive intertidal mudflats, fringed on the landward side by saltmarshes or reedbeds, that support internationally important numbers of waterfowl in winter. The river valleys of the lower Frome and Piddle support grazing marsh which is also important for wintering waterfowl. The western and southern shores of the catchment is an example of are unusual transitions from saltmarsh to valley mire. The Poole Harbour SPA includes Littlesea, a large dune slack lake also important for wintering wildfowl.

The Poole Harbour SPA is an important breeding site for internationally important populations of bird species during the breeding season, including the **Mediterranean gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)**, Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) and Common tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*). The SPA provides an important habitat for migratory species, including Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Spotted redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), and Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) during the spring and Autumn. The SPA supports internationally important assemblages of wildfowl in winter, including Black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis Nigricollis*), Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla Bernicla*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata arquata*).

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Nationally important species of invertebrates, including *Saldula setulosa*, *Piesma quadratum* and *Limonia bezzii*, and the nationally rare sponge *Suberites massa* also occur within the Poole Harbour SPA.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The conservation objectives for Poole Harbour include the maintenance in favourable condition of the shallow inshore waters, intertidal sediment communities, saltmarsh and reedbed for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I and migratory bird species and the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl.

The conservation objectives for Poole Harbour focus on habitat condition in recognition that bird populations may change as a reflection of national or international trends or events. The objectives state that subject to natural change, the favourable condition of the shallow inshore waters, intertidal sediment communities, reedbeds and saltmarsh habitats should be maintained for the internationally important populations of waterfowl, and regularly occurring and migratory bird species.

MAIN RISKS

Poole Harbour has been impacted by the growth of an urban conurbation along its north shore, together with associated infrastructure, and by development of a commercial port, marinas and moorings. Therefore, recreation pressures are considered a significant threat to the integrity of the site.

Dredging to provide navigation may impact on intertidal habitat.

Several sewage treatment plants discharge into the Harbour which effects water quality whilst Wytch Farm oilfield operates in accordance with agreed method statements to minimise the risk from oil spills, in addition to having in place oil spill contingency plans, the possible threat from an oil spill incident remains.

Recent studies have addressed the effects of bait digging in the Harbour which has local impacts.

The impact of drainage on grazing marshes is a threat to the Poole Harbour protected area.

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Appendix B: June 2012: Screening Matrix for the pre-submission draft Local Plan.

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
ENV1. Landscape, Coastline and Sites of Geological Interests	Policy to ensure that landscape, seascape and areas of geological interest are protected against the impacts of development.	NO	Policy seeks to protect landscape, seascape and areas of geological interest, which may indirectly impact positively upon European and Ramsar designations.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV2. Wildlife and Habitats	Policy to safeguard designated wildlife sites and deliver no net loss in biodiversity as a result of development.	NO	Policy provides a high level of protection against the adverse impacts of development upon European and Ramsar sites, giving particular attention to the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour designations.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV3. Green Infrastructure Network	Policy to provide/conservate a network of spaces that are valued for their wildlife, landscape and historical importance.	NO	Policy will safeguard existing green space infrastructure, promoting biodiversity, and reducing the impacts of development on European or Ramsar sites, especially where green spaces may act as Sites of Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGs).	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 4. Protecting and Enhancing Our Built Heritage and Archaeological Remains	Policy to protect and, where possible, enhance built heritage and archaeological remains from the adverse effects of development.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 5. Flood Risk	Policy to ensure	NS	Policy unlikely to have any	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
	development avoids significant flood risk, or incorporates appropriate flood mitigation measures.		significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites			
ENV 6 Burton Bradstock flood alleviation scheme	Policy to reserve land for the implementation of the flood alleviation scheme at Burton Bradstock.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on Chesil and the Fleet SAC, or any other European or Ramsar sites	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 7. Coastal Erosion and Land Instability	Policy to direct development away from areas vulnerable to instability, and define Coastal Change Management Areas.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, and may positively impact upon designated sites by promoting the natural functioning of coastal ecosystems dependent on erosion and instability.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 8. Agricultural Land and Farming Resilience	Policy to encourage local food and energy crop production, and protect higher grade agricultural land.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 9. Water Resources	Policy to protect groundwater supplies from pollution as a result of development, and promote the use of sustainable underground	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, and may indirectly have a positive impact through the protection of groundwater aquifers that	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
	drainage systems.		may extend to beneath protected areas.			
ENV 10. Contaminated Land	Policy to minimise the risk of contamination causing unacceptable risk to future occupiers of the development, neighbouring uses and the environment.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, and may indirectly benefit these areas through the general protection of the natural environment.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 11. The Landscape/ Townscape Setting	Policy to ensure that new development is integrated into its setting and relates well to the surrounding area, reinforcing local distinctiveness.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 12. The pattern of Streets and Spaces	Policy to ensure that buildings and spaces incorporated with new development has regard to the character of the area and its relationship with nearby buildings.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 13. The Design and Positioning of Buildings	Policy to ensure that the scale and positioning of buildings, and how they relate to surrounding patterns of development, is	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
	appropriate.					
ENV14. Shop fronts and Advertisements	Policy to ensure that high quality design and materials are used in shop front development.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 15. Efficient and Appropriate Use of Land	Policy to ensure that development optimises the potential of the site and makes efficient use of land.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 16 Amenity	Policy to minimise the effects of development on amenity, which may be impacted by noise, light and overlooking, together with issues such as disturbance and pollution.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS 1 The Level of Economic and Housing Growth	Policy setting out the targets for the provision of employment and housing land to 2031.	NS	This policy outlines the amount of new development rather than the distribution of new development, which is addressed in a separate policy (SUS 2).	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS 2 Distribution of Development	Policy sets out development distribution according to a settlement hierarchy.	LSE	Section (V) of the policy enables development outside the defined development boundaries (DDB), subject to a number of restrictions. Whilst	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC,	Development outside the defined development boundaries (DDB) may directly impact upon protected	The following text (in <i>italics</i>) should be added to policy SUS 2 to prevent any adverse impacts upon protected

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
			the policy states that development must have “particular regard to the need for the protection of the countryside”, the requirement to ensure no adverse impact upon European and Ramsar sites is not directly mentioned.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket’s Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	sites, through development within European and Ramsar sites, or indirectly through increased human pressure as a result of the development.	sites: (V) “ <i>Outside defined development boundaries, development will be strictly controlled, having particular regard to the need for the protection of the countryside and internationally designated wildlife sites, and be restricted to.....</i> ”
SUS 3 Neighbourhood Development Plans	Policy to ensure that Neighbourhood Development Plans conform to Local Plan policy.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, as neighbourhood development plans will require a Conservation Regulations Assessment to mitigate any potential impacts upon European protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS 4 Reuse of Buildings Outside Defined Development	Policy detailing the conditions during which rural buildings may be adapted or reused.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECON 1. Provision of Employment	Policy outlining the preferred locations for employment uses.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any influence on European or Ramsar sites. Please note that the impact of nitrates upon the Poole Harbour SPA will be assessed using development for	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
			housing rather than employment land, to prevent contributions being double-counted.			
ECON 2. Protection of Key Employment Sites	Policy for safeguarding key employment sites against development for other purposes.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECON 3. Protection of Other Employment Sites	Policy for safeguarding other employment sites against development for other uses.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECON 4. Retail and Town Centre Development	Policy regarding development within town centre locations.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECON 5. Tourism Attractions and Facilities	Policy sets out criteria for new tourist developments and the enhancement of existing facilities and attractions.	LSE	Whilst this policy identifies town centres as the preferred location for tourist developments, it does not preclude rural areas from tourist development. New tourist developments in some rural locations may impact upon European and Ramsar sites.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	This policy may impact upon protected sites both directly, through the impacts of the development, and indirectly, through increased human pressure as a result of higher numbers of tourists being attracted to the rural areas within the plan area.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>"Proposals for tourism attractions and facilities must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with</i>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
						<i>environmental law.”</i>
ECON 6. Built Holiday Accommodation	Policy sets out criteria for the acceptable locations of built holiday accommodation	LSE	The replacement and change of use of holiday accommodation in rural locations may impact upon protected sites.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket’s Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	This policy may impact upon protected sites both directly, through the impacts of the development, and indirectly, through increased human pressure as a result of rural buildings being converted to holiday accommodation.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for built holiday accommodation must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i>
ECON 7. Caravan and Camping Sites	Policy regarding the development of new caravan and camping sites, and amendments to existing sites.	LSE	New caravan and camping sites may be located within or in close proximity to European and Ramsar sites, potentially impacting negatively upon these designated areas. A number of caravan sites within the plan area are located in close proximity to European and Ramsar areas, and any extensions or alterations to these sites may have a significant negative impact.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket’s Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	This policy may impact upon protected sites both directly, through the impacts of the development, and indirectly, through increased human pressure as a result of additional tourists in sensitive areas.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for camping and caravan sites must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with</i>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
						<i>environmental law.”</i>
ECON 8. Farm Diversification	Policy supporting farm diversification, providing they are in keeping with rural character and meet a series of other conditions outlined the policy.	LSE	Change of use of buildings in rural areas may result in additional pressures upon European and Ramsar sites, depending on what the buildings are to be used for.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket’s Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	The impact would be largely dependant upon what the buildings are to be used for, but may result in the conservation objectives of the European or Ramsar sites being compromised through a change in environmental conditions caused by the change in use (for example, through additional pollution as a result of the new land use), or through increased human pressure.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for farm diversification must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i>
ECON 9 New agricultural buildings	Policy enabling the development of agricultural buildings, where necessary, providing the scale, siting, design and external appearance of the buildings do not create significant adverse landscape impacts.	LSE	The development of new buildings may have an impact upon European and Ramsar sites, due to their rural setting and potential impacts upon countryside management.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder	Development within the protected area may have a direct impact, through the development itself, or an indirect impact resulting from additional pressures upon the European or Ramsar site	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for new agricultural buildings must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse</i>

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				Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.		<i>impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
ECON 10 Equestrian development	Policy which sets out the conditions by which applications for buildings for equestrian purposes will be assessed.	LSE	The development of buildings for equestrian purposes may have an impact upon European and Ramsar sites as a result of their rural setting and potential impacts upon countryside management.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	The policy may have direct impacts resulting from the development itself and indirect impacts due to changes in countryside management.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>"Proposals for development of buildings for equestrian purposes must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
HOUS 1 Affordable housing	Policy for affordable housing on open market sites, which also outlines the tenure split, size, type, and mix of affordable housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
HOUS 2 Affordable housing exception	Policy which permits small scale affordable housing schemes as an exception to general	LSE	Exception sites, whilst being located in areas adjoining settlements rather than rural locations, may potentially	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and	The policy may result in development within a protected area, or cause indirect effects	The policy should include the following condition: <i>"- the development does</i>

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sites	policy.		impact upon European and Ramsar sites since policy ENV 2 does not apply...	Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	associated with increased human pressure resulting from residents.	<i>not result in a significant adverse impact upon an internationally designated wildlife site."</i>
HOUS 3 Open market housing mix	Policy encouraging a mix in the size, type and affordability of residential properties proposed, which reflects current range of house types and sizes and likely demand in that locality.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
HOUS 4 Residential care accommodation	Policy regarding new residential care homes and extensions to existing care homes.	NS	New and extended residential care homes may be located close to European heathland and Ramsar sites, and may have a adverse affect on those sites	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar	The policy may result in development within a protected area, or cause indirect effects associated with increased human pressure resulting from residents.	The policy should include the following condition: <i>"- the development does not result in a significant adverse impact upon an internationally designated wildlife site."</i>
HOUS 5 Sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople	Policy which determines the criteria which locations of sites for gypsies, travellers and	NS	The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document has been subject to a	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	travelling show people should meet.		Conservation Regulations Assessment, to ensure that European and Ramsar sites are protected			
HOUS 6 Other residential development outside defined development boundaries	Policy sets out criteria for the extension of existing houses outside the defined development boundaries.	LSE	New housing for full time workers located outside the defined development boundaries will be permitted subject to a series of conditions, none of which take into account the impacts upon European and Ramsar sites.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	Development within the protected area may have a direct impact upon the integrity of the site. Indirect impact associated with additional pressure from human activity may also impact upon the protected area.	Preamble to the policy may include the following text: <i>"Proposals for residential development outside defined development boundaries must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
HOUS 7 Development of Flats, Hostels and Houses in multiple occupation	Policy sets out criteria for acceptability of flats, hostels and houses in multiple occupation dwellings.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 1 Making sure new development	Policy to ensure that where new development generate a need for new	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, and	N/A	N/A	N/A

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makes suitable provision for community infrastructure	or improved community infrastructure, it is met through the Community Infrastructure Levy		may impact positively upon these areas by providing money to deliver mitigation projects (the project to provide SANGS for the Crossways development to prevent impacts upon the Dorset Heathlands SAC is provisionally on the list of projects.			
COM 2 New or improved local community buildings and structures	Policy permitting the development of new or improved community facilities within or adjoining existing settlements	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 3 The Retention of Local Community Facilities	Policy to safeguard against the loss of community facilities	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 4 New or improved local recreational facilities	Policy sets out the criteria against which new or improved recreational facilities will be judged.	LSE	Proposals for recreational facilities in the coast or countryside will be permitted without consideration of protected sites. Recreational facilities in marine areas require some consideration of the impacts upon European marine sites.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder	Additional pressures from recreational activities taking place within, or close to, protected areas.	Preamble to the policy may include the following text: <i>“Proposals for new or improved recreational facilities must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any</i>

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				Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.		<i>significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
COM 5 The retention of open space and recreational facilities	Policy preventing development on or change of use of open spaces and recreational facilities.	LSE	Proposals which alter patterns of recreational use on existing open spaces within 5km of a European heathland site will need consider the implications for access patterns on the heaths.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar.	Additional pressures from recreational activities taking place within, or close to, protected areas.	Preamble to the policy may include the following text: <i>"Proposals which alter patterns of recreational use on existing open spaces within 5km of European heathland sites must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
COM 6 The provision of education and training facilities	Policy to support the provision and expansion of educational and training facilities, providing conditions are met.	NS	Proposals for new or expanded facilities which could lead to increased recreational use of a European heathland site will need consider the implications for access patterns on the heaths.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar.	Additional pressures from recreational activities taking place within, or close to, protected areas.	Preamble to the policy may include the following text: <i>"Proposals which may alter patterns of recreational use on existing European</i>

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						<i>heathland sites must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law."</i>
COM 7 Creating a safe transport network	Policy to ensure that development will only be permitted if it delivers a safe transport network.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 8 Transport Interchanges and Community Travel Exchanges	Policy outlining the conditions that transport interchanges and community travel exchanges must meet, if they are to be given planning consent.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 9. Parking standards in new development	Policy outlining the requirements for parking standards in new developments.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
COM 10 The Provision of utilities service	Policy preventing development without the necessary utilities	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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infrastructure	service infrastructure.					
COM 11 Renewable energy development	Policy regarding the development of renewable energy technologies.	LSE	Policy does not consider the impacts of renewable energy developments upon European or Ramsar sites.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, Crookhill Brick Pit SAC, Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA and Ramsar, Holnest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathland SPA, Dorset Heathland Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, West Dorset Alder Woods SAC, Bracket's Coppice SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC.	Renewable energy developments within or close to European or Ramsar sites may impact directly upon the integrity of the protected area, or indirectly through issues such as bird strike from wind turbines.	Preamble to the policy may include the following text: <i>“Proposals for renewable energy installations must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i>
WEY 1 Weymouth Town Centre Strategy	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Since the Weymouth Town Centre Masterplan has not yet been completed, it is unclear at this stage whether the impacts upon the designated wildlife areas near to Weymouth Town Centre will be significantly and negatively impacted. The Weymouth Town Centre Masterplan may be subject to a Conservation Regulations Assessment which will mitigate any impacts upon the designated sites and therefore	N/A	N/A	N/A

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			there is considered to be no significant impact at this stage.			
WEY 2 Town Centre and Commercial Road Area	Allocation of land for development.	NS	There is unlikely to be a significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 3 Station Area and Swannery Car Park	Allocation of land for development.	NS	There is unlikely to be a significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 4 Custom House and Brewery Waterfront	Allocation of land for development.	NS	There is unlikely to be a significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 5 The Esplanade (South)	Allocation of land for development.	NS	There is unlikely to be a significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 6 Ferry Peninsula	Allocation of land for development.	NS	There is unlikely to be a significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 7 Westwey	Allocation of land for	NS	There is unlikely to be a	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Road and North Quay area.	development.		significant negative impact upon European or Ramsar sites resulting from the development of this site.			
WEY 8 Lodmoor Gateway	Allocation of land for the development of tourism and recreation facilities.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 9 Bincleaves Cove	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 10 Land at Markham and Little Francis	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 11 Land off Louviers Road	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 12 Land at Wey Valley	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 13 Land at The Old rectory, Lorton Lane	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 14 Land to the South of Lorton Lane	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 15 Bowleaze Cove	Allocation of land for the development of tourism	NS	Development in close proximity to the Isle of Portland to	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	and leisure facilities.		Studland Cliffs SAC may result in direct impacts upon this site's integrity, in addition to indirect impacts associated with additional tourists and visitors to the area. However, the preamble to the policy indicates that any development would be required to be appropriate in terms of the nature conservation importance of the site.			
WEY 16 Land at Tumbledown Farm	Policy for the development of community infrastructure.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 17 Lorton Valley Nature Park	The allocation of land linking Lodmoor Nature Reserve, Two Mile Copse and Lorton Meadows Sites of Special Scientific Interest, to form the Lorton Valley Nature Park.	NS	Policy will not have a significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, and is likely to improve biodiversity and the quality of habitat in the area.	N/A	N/A	N/A
PORT 1 Portland Port	Policy safeguarding a key employment site.	LSE	Whilst the preamble to the policy states that the site is located within an internationally designated nature conservation area and therefore care must be taken to ensure that any	Isle of Portland to Studland SAC.	Development associated with the port, and the port operations themselves, may have an impact upon the integrity of the Isle of	The following text (in italics) should be added to the policy: <i>"Land within Port jurisdiction will be safeguarded for</i>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
			development complies with relevant environmental legislation, the policy itself should include wording to that effect, to ensure there are no adverse impacts upon the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC.		Portland to Studland SAC.	<p><i>potential port operational and ancillary uses. Proposals for these areas must not have a significant adverse impact upon international wildlife designations".</i></p> <p>Also, the development boundaries for Portland Port presented in the Local Plan must be amended to preclude European and Ramsar sites from development.</p>
PORT 2 Osprey Quay	Policy safeguarding a key employment site.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
PORT 3 Former Hardy Complex	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites. The development of the Castletown Link Road may require a Conservation Regulations Assessment.	N/A	N/A	N/A
PORT 4 Portland Quarries Nature Park	Allocation for environmental enhancement and conservation.	NS	Policy is likely to have a positive, rather than negative effect on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
LITT 1 Littlemoor Urban Extension	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
LITT 2 Land at Icen and Weyside Farm	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
CHIC 1 Land at Putton Lane	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
CHIC 2 Chickerell Urban Extension	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
CHIC 3 Land off Rashley Road	Allocation of land for housing.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites, due to the nature and the scale of the proposed development.	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOR 1 Poundbury Mixed Use Development	Allocation of land for mixed used development.	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through the additional nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	Additional nitrates within Poole Harbour cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats. This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought	The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy: <i>“This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole</i>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.	<i>Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i>
DOR 2 Poundbury Parkway Farm Business Site Extension	Policy for employment uses	NS	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1:</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy: <i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.	
DOR 3 Dorchester Roman Town Area	An overarching policy direction for the town centre	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.	
DOR 4 Charles Street	Policy for mixed use site	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>“This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2.”</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.	
DOR 5 Future Town centre Expansion	Allocating Trinity Street as the main area for Town Centre retail Expansion.	NS	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>“This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2.”</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					this issue.	
DOR 6 Weymouth Avenue Brewery site	Allocation of a mixed use site.	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
DOR 7 Red Cow Farm, St. George's Road	Policy for mixed use site	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
DOR 8 Land South of St. George's Road	Allocation of land for housing or employment	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
DOR 9 Land off Allington Avenue	Allocation of land for housing	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy: <i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
DOR 10 Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan	Policy restricting development that would affect delivery of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOR 11 Land around the Dorchester area	Policy identifying a potential area for development to the north of Dorchester.	LSE	Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>This is a cumulative impact, since other development within the Poole Harbour catchment, brought forward through the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future and the Poole Core Strategy, will also</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy:</p> <p><i>"This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2."</i></p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
					contribute to additional nutrients within Poole Harbour, exacerbating this issue.	
CRS 1 Land at Crossways	Allocation of land for housing and associated infrastructure.	LSE	<p>Effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments may cause degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal flats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>The preamble to the policy introduces the need to deal with the possible effects of development on nearby European heathland sites. Paragraph (ii) of the policy requires developments to provide alternative natural green space (SANGS) and related measures to relieve human pressure upon the European heathland sites, to avoid adverse effects on integrity.</p>	Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<p>The additional effluent emitted from this development, in combination with that released from other development within the River Piddle and Frome catchments, may effect the integrity of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site as nitrates in the sewage may cause eutrophication and the formation of algal mats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>Additional pressures from recreational activities taking place within, or close to, protected areas.</p> <p>Possible cumulative impacts associated with the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1: Planning Purbeck's Future.</p>	<p>The following text may be added to the preamble to this policy: <i>“This development must be nitrate neutral in order to prevent additional nutrients entering the River Frome and Piddle catchments, and avoid adverse impacts upon the Poole Harbour internationally designated wildlife site, as explained in policy ENV 2.”</i></p> <p>No amendment to deal with the heathland issue is recommended.</p>

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
BRID 1 Land at Vearse Farm	Allocation of land for a mixed use development	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 2 Land off Skilling Hill Road	Allocation of land for housing	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 3 Land to East of Bredy Vet Centre, off Jessops Avenue	Allocation of land for housing	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 4 Future Town Centre Expansion	Allocation of land for retail development	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 5 St Michael's Trading Estate	Allocation of land for mixed use development	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 6 Broomhills Waste Management Facility	Land allocated for the construction of a waste management facility.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BEAM 1 Land North of Broadwindsor Road	Land allocated for housing, employment and public open space.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BEAM 2 Land off Hollymoor Lane	Land allocated for housing and public open space	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
BEAM 3 Land at Lane End Farm	Policy for employment use	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
LYME 1 Land at Woodberry Down Lyme Regis	Policy for housing and retention of existing employment uses	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
LYME 2 Land around Lyme Regis	The Council will continue to explore options for the expansion of Lyme Regis.	LSE	The suggested locations for expansion are not currently known, and therefore possible effects on the European site cannot be ruled out.	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC.	The need to stabilise landslips and undertake drainage to prevent slippage of built infrastructure may directly and indirectly affect European sites, through habitat loss or change to the hydrology supporting the interest features. Possible cumulative impacts with the Publication Draft of the East Devon Local Plan (2006-2026) also.	The preamble to the policy should include the following text: <i>“Proposals for housing must comply with Policy ENV 2, to ensure that internationally designated wildlife sites are protected from any significant adverse impacts resulting from the development in accordance with environmental law.”</i>
SHER 1 Land at Barton Farm	Allocation of land for housing, employment use and associated infrastructure.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
SHER 2 Future Town centre Expansion	Policy identifying the areas of Sherborne for future expansion.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
SHER 3 Land at Sherborne Hotel	Policy identifying land at Sherborne for the retention and intensification of hotel and business uses.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Appendix C: June 2013: Screening Matrix for the submission draft Local Plan

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
ENV2. Wildlife and Habitats	Policy to safeguard designated wildlife sites and deliver no net loss in biodiversity as a result of development.	NO	Policy provides an even greater degree of protection against the adverse impacts of development upon European and Ramsar sites following the recommended amendments to this policy, giving particular attention to the issues surrounding the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour designations.	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS 1 The Level of Economic and Housing Growth	Policy setting out the targets for the provision of employment and housing land to 2031.	NS	The recommended amendment to this policy results in a slight reduction in the amount of employment land allocated, and a reduction in the amount of housing allocated in West Dorset. This policy outlines the amount of new development rather than the distribution of new development, which is addressed in a separate policy (SUS 2).	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS 3 Adaption and Reuse of Buildings outside the DDB	Policy detailing the conditions during which rural buildings may be adapted or reused.	NS	The recommended amendment to this policy would mean that the reuse and replacement of buildings outside the defined development boundaries for open market housing is permitted in settlements of more than 200 people. However, mitigation is provided through the recommendation from the HRA Screening of the June 2012 draft Local Plan, which ensures that international sites are given protection from development outside the defined development boundaries by giving scope for the consideration of “environmental constraints” in SUS 2, the over-riding policy with respect to development in these locations.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
ECON 4. Retail and Town Centre Development	Policy regarding development within town centre locations.	NS	The consequence of the recommended amendment is that small scale retail facilities no longer need to undertake the sequential test, and therefore these facilities would no longer be preferentially located in the town centre areas and would be permitted within smaller communities. Due to the small scale of the development, and the characteristics of the development which would comprise small scale retail development, it is considered unlikely that an increase in recreational pressures upon surrounding international sites would occur.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECON 6. Built Holiday Accommodation	Policy sets out criteria for the acceptable locations of built holiday accommodation	NS	The recommended amendment to this policy would enable new built holiday accommodation to be located outside the defined development boundaries. However, mitigation is provided through the recommendation from the HRA Screening of the June 2012 draft Local Plan, which ensures that international sites are given protection from development outside the defined development boundaries by giving scope for the consideration of “environmental constraints” in SUS 2, the over-riding policy with respect to development in these locations.	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEY 10 Land at Markham and Little Francis	Allocation of land for development.	NS	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on protected sites, as they are located at an appreciable distance from the site.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
CRS 1 Land at Crossways	Allocation of land for housing and associated infrastructure.	NS	<p>The recommended amendment mitigates the issue of effluent from development within the Piddle and Frome catchments causing degradation of the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site through nitrates in the sewage causing eutrophication and the formation of algal flats on the mud flat habitats.</p> <p>The preamble to the policy introduces the need to address the possible effects of development on nearby European heathland sites. The policy itself requires developments to provide alternative natural green space (SANGS) to relieve human pressure upon the European heathland sites, to avoid adverse effects on integrity.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Appendix D: February 2015: Screening Matrix for the suggested modifications to the Local Plan following the examination

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
ENV2. Wildlife and Habitats	Policy to safeguard designated wildlife sites and prevent a loss in biodiversity as a result of development.	NO	Policy prevents adverse impacts upon European and Ramsar sites, and gives particular attention to the issues surrounding the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour designations.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 4: Heritage Assets	Policy aims to protect and enhance heritage assets.	NO	Policy prevents adverse impacts upon archaeological features, conservation areas, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens, which is therefore unlikely to introduce significant impacts upon protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 6: Local Flood Alleviation Schemes	Policy detailing the conditions during which rural buildings may be adapted or reused.	NO	Safeguarding land from development is unlikely to introduce significant impacts upon protected sites. Reducing the occurrence of flooding may protect the qualifying features of protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 9: Pollution and Contaminated Land	Policy prevents pollution to ground water, surface water or tidal waters, and protects future occupiers, neighbouring uses, and the environment from contaminated land.	NO	This policy prevents pollution and protects the natural environment from contamination. Therefore, this policy may protect the interest features of protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENV 13: Achieving High Levels of Environmental Performance	Policy encourages the development of buildings which achieve high levels of environmental performance	NO	Improving the environmental performance of buildings is likely to result in significant adverse impacts upon protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
HOUS 1: Affordable Housing	Policy requires developers to provide affordable housing, or contribute towards the provision of affordable housing	NO	The proportion of affordable housing provided with a development is unlikely to influence impacts upon protected sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
HOUS 6: Other Residential Development Outside Defined Development Boundaries	The policy enables the development of residential properties outside the defined development boundaries, providing they are for rural workers.	NS	Significant adverse impacts upon protected sites from the development of residential properties outside defined development boundaries is provided by policy ENV 2, which prevents adverse impacts upon internationally designated wildlife sites and will be the over-riding consideration where significant impacts have been identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOR 10: Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan	Policy which restricts development which would affect delivery of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan.	NO	Policy unlikely to have any significant negative influence on European or Ramsar sites as the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan aims to improve air quality by reducing traffic in Dorchester and surrounding areas, resulting in a positive impact upon the environment. There are no protected sites in Dorchester or its immediate surroundings.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
CRS 1: Land at Crossways	Allocation of land for development for housing and employment use.	NS	The policy provides mitigation against any adverse effects on internationally designated heathland sites through requiring the provision of SANGS, and from adverse impacts due to nutrient loading within the Poole Harbour catchment.	N/A	N/A	N/A
CRS 2: Land Around Crossways	Policy commits the Councils to working with other local authorities and Network Rail to undertake joint evidence gathering, including on constraints to ensure that over the long term, the most appropriate solutions to meeting the needs of both authorities are fully understood and explored and thereafter expressed in future planning policy documents, including master planning work.	NS	The policy will ensure that future planning policy documents will identify constraints, including those relating to the Dorset Heathlands International site, and employ a strategic approach to addressing the issues in future planning policy documents.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Plan section / Policy reference	Summary of content	Effect category	Reason	European / Ramsar site affected	Potential impacts on site	Suggested mitigation measures
BRID 3: Land to the East of Bredy Veterinary Centre, off Jessops Avenue	Allocation of land for development for housing and employment use in Bridport.	NO	There are no protected sites in Bridport or its immediate surroundings.	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRID 5: St Michael's Trading Estate	Allocation of land for development for housing and employment use in Bridport.	NO	There are no protected sites in Bridport or its immediate surroundings.	N/A	N/A	N/A



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