

Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole

Draft Waste Plan

Conservation Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

**Prepared for the
Waste Planning Authority in Dorset**

July 2015 – UPDATED JUNE 2016

Waste Plan - Conservation Regulations Assessment Screening Report

1. Introduction

Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole are jointly preparing the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan.

The Plan, which will replace the adopted Waste Local Plan (2006) will set out the vision and objectives, spatial strategy, core policies and development management policies for waste development in the sub-region. In addition it will include site specific allocations to deliver the spatial strategy. The Plan covers the period 2014 – 2032.

The Waste Plan is undergoing a number of stages of preparation. Evidence gathering began in 2012 and an Issues Paper was published for public consultation in December 2013. The Issues Paper identified a number of needs for new or improved waste facilities that the Plan would need to address. Building on the responses to this consultation, further evidence gathering and liaison with a range of stakeholders, a Draft Waste Plan was prepared and published for consultation in 2015. The Draft Waste Plan forecasted the amount of waste that may be produced over the plan period for the four main waste streams: local authority collected waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste and hazardous waste. It included a series of proposed policies and a series of site options for various types of waste management facilities to address the identified needs.

A Draft Waste Plan Update 2016 has now been published. This iteration of the Plan contains six additional sites and a series of 16 sites that are emerging as preferred waste site allocations to address the waste management needs of the three authorities.

This report provides an audit of the Waste Plan in respect of compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, to be known as the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening ('HRA Screening') of the Waste Plan. This exercise includes a screening of all site options included in the Draft Waste Plan (2015 and 2016) and a screening of the proposed policies, plus vision, objectives and spatial strategy, of the Plan. The HRA Screening has been undertaken internally by Dorset County Council's Ecologist. It follows the Draft Guidance from Natural England¹.

The purpose of the screening stage is to determine whether any of the options being considered and any of the policies proposed are likely to have a significant effect on any Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site(s), and therefore to determine if a full Appropriate Assessment of any policy or site is required. The present report presents the findings of this exercise.

2. The Requirement to undertake Conservation Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna, the 'Habitats Directive', provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance.

It tackles the long-term decline in European biodiversity arising from the destruction and degradation of habitat as well as species persecution and exploitation and aims to maintain and

¹ Natural England (2009) Revised Draft Guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents

restore sites to their best condition.² This is implemented through a network of protected European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive requires Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This means that the effects of such plans or projects on European sites need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained.³

The HRA comprises a number of stages as set out below. The first stage is the screening stage, which determines whether any options could have a likely significant effect on a European site and therefore whether an Appropriate Assessment is required.

The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European sites, which comprise Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. These have been combined under the Habitats Directive into the European sites network. It is also Government policy to afford Ramsar sites the same protection as European sites.

For ease of reference, this document refers to all as 'European sites':

- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs):** for the protection of wild birds and their habitats, including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 and migratory species designated under the EU Birds Directive
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):** for other habitats (Annex 1) and or species (Annex II) designated under the EU Habitats Directive.
- Sites which are being considered for designation as one of the above are referred to as pSPA or cSAC.
- **Ramsar sites:** wetlands of global importance, listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to SPAs and SACs. This means that plans can only be taken forward if it is ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of European site(s).

Plans may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest as to why they should go ahead. However previous rulings show that these cases are rare. In such cases, compensation will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

Stages of Conservation Regulations Assessment

There are three overall stages to the Conservation Regulations Assessment process, as set out in DCLG guidance (Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment):

1. **Screening:** Determining whether the plan or any policy option would have likely significant effects on a European site (either on its own or in-combination with other plans). The screening exercise should be approached on a precautionary basis and should capture any plan policies or proposals that are likely to give rise to a significant effect on a European site. Note that 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.”

² RSPB (2007) The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: A guide to why, when and how to do it.

³ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment

2. **Appropriate Assessment:** If there are found to be likely significant effects, the plan options must be subject to Appropriate Assessment to ascertain the effect on site integrity, in view of its conservation objectives.
3. **Mitigation Measures and Alternative Solutions:** Where an option has been found to have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, there should be an investigation of mitigation measures and alternative solutions. If this is not possible, the option should be dropped, unless exceptionally the option is justified by 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest.'

3. The Waste Plan

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan sets out the strategic vision and objectives for waste planning and the spatial strategy and core policies, as well as development management policies, for waste development in the sub-region. The Draft Waste Plans 2015 and 2016 include a series of site options and emerging preferred site allocations to meet the identified needs.

It aims to provide a long-term strategy to guide waste development in the area, providing waste management facilities to meet the need for managing local authority collected, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes.

Sites will be allocated to meet the following specific needs:

Strategic needs (South-East Dorset comprising Bournemouth, Christchurch, East Dorset & Poole)

- Bulky waste management facility
- Residual waste treatment (energy recovery) facility(s)

Local needs

- Waste management centre and vehicle depot – Blandford
- Waste transfer facility, vehicle depot and household recycling centre – Dorchester
- Waste transfer facility and vehicle depot – Wareham area
- Household recycling centre – Wimborne/Ferndown
- Household recycling centre – Shaftesbury/Gillingham
- Inert landfill – across the plan area
- Sewage treatment works – Maiden Newton & Gillingham
- Green waste composting – western Dorset

The Plan will aim to make provision for these needs whilst ensuring that Dorset's special environment and local communities are protected.

The Waste Plan includes strategic policies to deliver facilities for recycling, recovery, disposal, inert waste, special types of waste and sewage treatment works. This is supported by development management policies against which proposals for waste development will be judged.

All of the proposed policies of the Draft Waste Plan (2015 & 2016) have been screened as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

4. Screening Stage Methodology

The following steps were undertaken to complete the HRA Screening of the Waste Plan:

1. Identification of European Sites

2. Screening of all site options contained within the Draft Waste Plan (2015 & 2016) for likely significant effects alone and in-combination
3. Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Waste Plan proposed policies, including a screening of all the proposed policies, vision, objectives and spatial strategy for likely significant effects alone and in-combination.

The stages are explained in the following sections of this report.

5. Consultation with Natural England

Natural England has been consulted on the Draft Waste Plans and invited to comment on this HRA Report.

6. Identification of European Sites

A review was undertaken to identify all European sites that fall within or adjacent to the boundaries of Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole. This involved the use of a GIS system to record all sites within the boundaries and within a 15km buffer of the Dorset boundary. The 15km buffer was used as a starting point to ensure that any sites that could potentially be affected were captured. It is acknowledged however that some sites either within the county boundary or within the buffer may not be affected at all by waste development. Therefore within the screening assessment only sites where conceivable impacts and pathways can be envisaged are referred to.

The identified European sites are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1. Marine sites are listed in Table 2.

Table 1: European Sites Identified

European Sites Within Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole	European Sites Within 15km of Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole
Brackett's Coppice SAC	Beer Quarry & Caves SAC
Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC	Chilmark Quarries SAC
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Great Yews SAC
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Isle of Wight Downs SAC
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	New Forest SAC
Dorset Heaths SAC	Prescombe Down
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	River Avon SAC
Holnest SAC	River Axe SAC
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
Rooksmoor SAC	Solent Maritime SAC
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	The New Forest SAC
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	Avon Valley SPA
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	New Forest SPA
Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA	Solent & Southampton Water SPA
Dorset Heathlands SPA	Somerset Levels & Moors SPA
Poole Harbour SPA	Avon Valley Ramsar Site
Avon Valley Ramsar Site	New Forest Ramsar Site
Chesil Beach and The Fleet Ramsar Site	Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar Site
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Site

Poole Harbour Ramsar Site	
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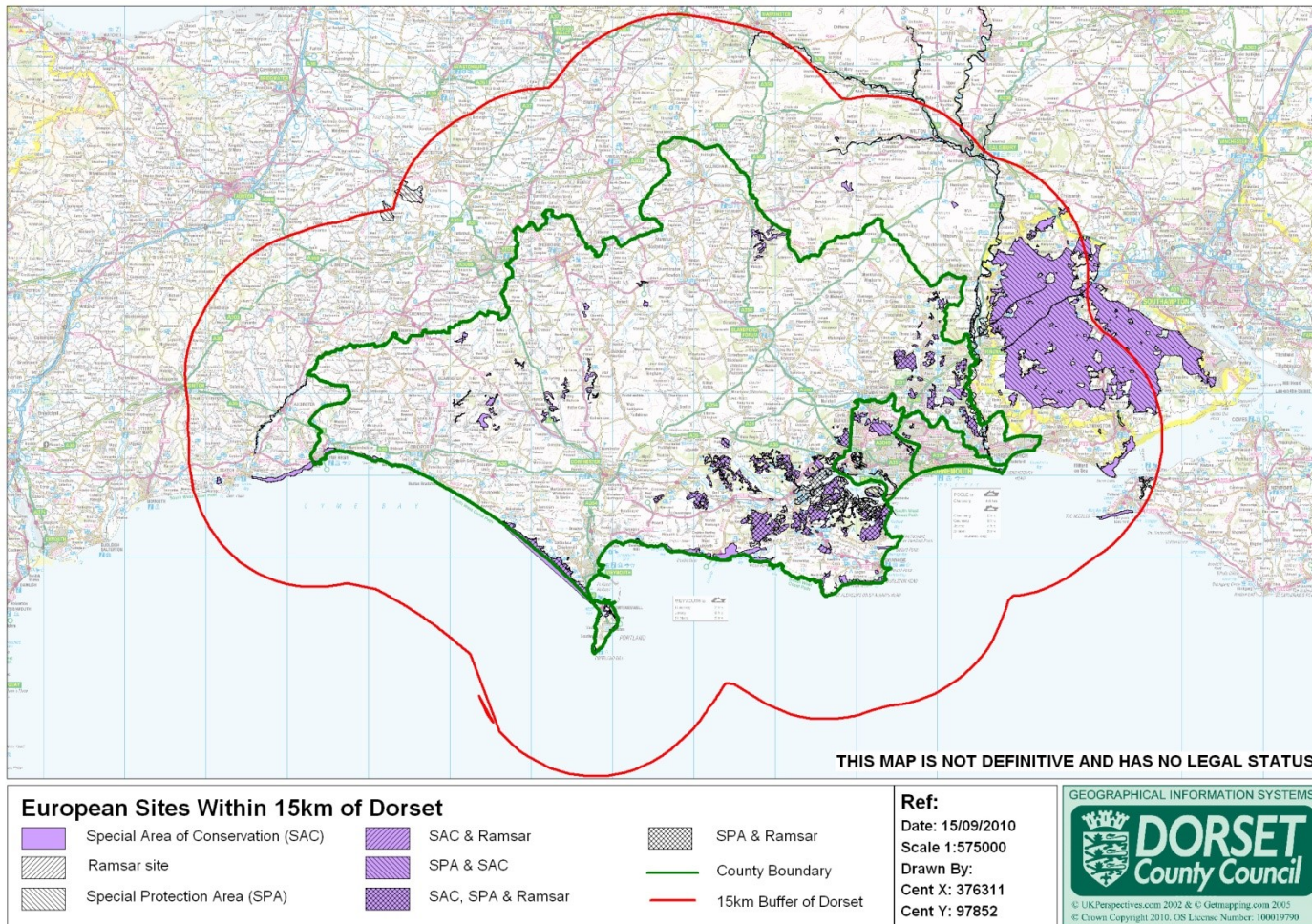
Table 2: Marine European Sites Identified

Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone
Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone
South of Portland Marine Conservation Zone
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges Marine Conservation Zone
South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone
Yarmouth to Cowes Marine Conservation Zone
The Needles Marine Conservation Zone
Axe Estuary Marine Zone
Poole Harbour Marine SAC
Lyme Bay and Torbay Marine SAC
Studland to Portland Marine SAC
South Wight Maritime Marine SAC

The attributes for each identified European site were then collated from various information sources, including the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website, which includes site information for all SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. The exercise also drew on the data compiled for the South West Regional Spatial Strategy HRA.

The table setting out the attributes of all European sites assessed as part of the screening of the Draft Waste Plan is attached in Appendix 1. The qualifying features of each site and the key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity are set out.

Figure 1: European Sites Identified Within Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole and 15km Within the County Boundary



7. Screening of Waste Plan Site Options

7.1 Screening of Site Options for Likely Significant Effects

All site options within the Draft Waste Plan (2015 & 2016) were assessed to determine whether there would be likely significant effects on European sites. The completed screening matrix is attached at Appendix 2.

The aim of the screening exercise was to determine: the activities that would likely arise from the allocation of that site option; which European sites could be affected; an indication of the likely effects on the European site(s) resulting from the site allocation; whether the site would have a significant effect on one or more European sites; and an indication of mitigation measures that would be required.

Only Natura 2000 sites where conceivable impacts and pathways can be envisaged are identified in the screening assessment.

There are 3 ecological issues which are key factors that help to determine the likelihood of adverse effects of development on European sites:

- Displacement of recreation: our understanding of the impact of human and related recreational activity on European heathlands in particular, has grown in the past decade. It is now considered a serious issue which generally threatens the integrity of these sites. If there is already public access on any site to be allocated for waste development, an assessment of the existing contribution to recreation in the locality will be needed, the extent to which working would deflect existing recreation patterns towards heathlands, and what mitigation in the form of alternative areas could be brought forward
- Proximity: in general, the closer a waste site allocation to a European site, the more likely there are to be significant effects on that site. Such effects may result from a range of factors including habitat fragmentation, loss of dispersal corridors, and indirect effects such as dust, noise, gaseous emissions and nutrient enrichment.
- Species: species characteristic of European sites are often found beyond the boundaries of the sites, sometimes in considerable numbers and with functional links to the sites. This is particularly true of reptiles Sand Lizard and Smooth Snake. In addition, nightjar habitually forage long distances from their breeding places on heathlands and features in the wider landscape, such as semi-natural woodlands and improved grasslands, may be important to them.

However, there may also be opportunities for long term ecological gain through site allocation. This may be achieved where, for example, restoration of landfill/mineral voids could offer opportunity for the establishment of priority habitats that may contribute to the management of European sites by providing habitat links.

7.2 Findings of the Screening Exercise

At this stage in the assessment process it is difficult to identify where a site allocation would have a *likely* significant effect as the assessment relies on current ecological information rather than surveys carried out specifically for the assessment. However, knowledge of the sites, plus a data search from the Dorset Environmental Records Centre, has provided enough information to start the process. This initial assessment therefore includes the conclusion of 'uncertain' LSE (see Appendix 2: Screening Matrix) where it is possible that there may be an effect but where this seems unlikely and could almost certainly be ruled out by suggested mitigation or more detailed ecological survey. This should be seen as an interim conclusion as part of the iterative assessment process.

Appendix 2 has been split into two separate tables to reflect the Draft Waste Plan Update 2016. The first table contains the sites emerging as preferred waste site allocations. This also includes the additional sites not included in the 2015 Waste Plan and associated HRA screening. The second table includes the sites not currently proposed to be taken forward through the Plan – but still requiring assessment.

7.3 Sites where there is Likely Significant Effect

Notwithstanding the comments above, there was one site where it was concluded that there would be Likely Significant Effect on the European sites. This was:

- ED04 – West Moors Petroleum Depot

If brought forward as an allocated site there would be a requirement for an appropriate assessment to determine whether the development proposal would result in a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites. The site is known to support populations of species typical of the European sites and may qualify as pSPA or cSAC on further investigation. For this reason it was felt that the level of uncertainty about significant effects justifies progression to an appropriate assessment.

However, at this stage in the evolution of the Waste Plan, West Moors Petroleum Depot is not being brought forward as a preferred site, and therefore only remains in this assessment as one of the ‘sites not being taken forward through the plan’.

7.4 European sites where LSE needs further investigation

The following site options were assessed as those where effects on European sites are uncertain: they cannot be ruled out, although the risk is low. These sites therefore need further consideration through the plan process:

- WP01 – Ferndown Area of Search
- WP02– Woolsbridge Industrial Estate – south site
- WP04 – Site Control Centre, Canford Magna
- WP05 - Eco-composting, Parley

After consultation with Natural England, it has been decided that the uncertainty over LSE on these sites could be eliminated by inclusion of site specific clauses in Policy 17 – Biodiversity and Geological Interest. The wording of these will evolve throughout the iterative process of the Habs Regs Assessment but some suggested text has been included below:

WP01 – Ferndown Area of Search

Phase 2 surveys for species typical of the European Sites (in particular sand lizard, smooth snake, nightjar, Dartford warbler and woodlark) must demonstrate that this site does not qualify as pSPA/cSAC before any development is permitted. Studies must also demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the species and habitat (in particular lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load of the European sites then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

WP02 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate – south site

Phase 2 surveys for species typical of the European Sites (in particular nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler) must demonstrate that this site does not qualify as pSPA before any development is permitted. Studies must also demonstrate that emissions from development

will not impact on the species and habitat (in particular lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load of the European sites then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

WP04 - Site Control Centre, Canford Magna

Phase 2 surveys and planned mitigation must demonstrate that development on this site will not impact on nightjar foraging corridors, and that development will not lead to increased rat and fox numbers and therefore increased predation on heathland wildlife. Studies must also demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the species and habitat (in particular lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load of the European sites then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

WP05 – Eco-composting, Parley

Studies must demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the species and habitat (in particular lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load of the European sites then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

As a result of this the column 'Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?' within the screening matrix in Appendix 2 has been amended to 'No' for the above four sites. The inclusion of the suggested text in Policy 17 provides sufficient certainty within the Plan process to conclude that there would be no likely significant effect on the European Sites.

Sites WP01 and WP02 are already allocated employment sites in the Christchurch & East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014) and have been the subject of an assessment under the Habitats Regulations. This concluded that there would be no Likely significant effect if the sites were brought forward for development falling under the B2 use class (general industrial). This conclusion is also included as a consideration in the Waste Plan HRA, given that it can be assumed that the sites would be developed for this type of use in any case, subject to the relevant policies of the Core Strategy.

7.5 No likely significant effects

It is concluded that the remaining site options would have no Likely significant effect on European sites.

8. Screening of the Draft Waste Plan Proposed Policies

8.1 Screening of Proposed Policies for Likely significant effects

All proposed policies within the Draft Waste Plan were assessed to determine whether there would be likely significant effects on European sites. The completed screening matrix is attached at Appendix 3.

One additional policy was included in the Draft Waste Plan Update 2016. This policy is included within the screening matrix at Appendix 3.

Only Natura 2000 sites where conceivable impacts and pathways can be envisaged are identified in the screening assessment.

There are three ecological issues which are key factors that help to determine the likelihood of adverse effects of development on European sites, as listed in section 7.1 above.

8.2 Significant adverse effects likely or inevitable

There are no policies where adverse effects on European sites are predicted as likely or inevitable to arise if the Policies are adopted (see Appendix 3). Thus, within this category, there are no policies which fail the 'likely significant effect' test.

8.3 Likely significant effects uncertain

It was concluded that it is uncertain whether policies 1-8 would cause Likely significant effect as the policies or accompanying text are not specifically defined in precautionary terms to protect European sites and, at the present time, it is not known which sites will be allocated to deliver the policies. Therefore at the present stage in the assessment process there is a level of uncertainty about what may result from the policies and it was thought best to adopt a precautionary approach and include a European site safeguard criterion within the policy or accompanying text to mitigate against likely significant effects.

Policies 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are considered unlikely to have Likely significant effect on European sites after insertion of the following sentence into the accompanying text:

'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 17 (Chapter 12).'

These policies allow for applications for waste development to be brought forward, and all applications would be subject to Policy 17: Biodiversity, which provides adequate safeguards for European sites. However, to ensure no likely significant effects the above wording will need to be included.

Policies 3, 4 and 5 are considered unlikely to have Likely significant effect on European sites after insertion of the following clause into the policy:

'Sites will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (related to displacement of recreation, proximity and species) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects'

The insertion of this sentence into the policy rather than the accompanying text reflects the fact that:

- Policy 3 deals with unallocated sites which will not have been assessed through the production of the Waste Plan
- Policies 4 and 5 are likely to result in larger scale developments than the other policies dealing with new facilities. At this stage, it is not known which sites will be allocated to meet the needs for these types of facilities as the Draft Waste Plan contains a range of possible site options. Some of the site options for meeting these needs have been screened as having 'uncertain' likely significant effects (see sections 7.3 and 7.4) and therefore a precautionary approach is adopted.

Policy X (new policy in the Draft Waste Plan Update 2016) is considered unlikely to have Likely significant effect on the European sites after replacement of the second sentence with the following wording:

'Applications for waste management facilities within these sites for the proposed uses will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (related to displacement of recreation, proximity and species) that might arise from the development

would not adversely affect the integrity of European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'

As above, the insertion of this sentence into the policy rather than the accompanying text reflects the fact that Policy X may result in larger scale development with possible 'uncertain' likely significant effects.

8.3 No likely significant effects

There are no likely significant effects that would result from the vision, all objectives, the spatial strategy, and Policies 11-23. These policies will not directly result in development, rather they set out points of principle and direction.

Additionally there would be no likely significant effects from Policy 9: Decommissioning & Restoration of Winfrith as restoration is likely to involve habitat creation with some recreational activity. This may benefit the nearby European sites.

9 Assessment of In-Combination Effects

This assessment has included consideration of the combined effects of the Waste Plan with other relevant DPDs, inside and outside of the plan area. As well, the possibility of in-combination effects between policies within the Waste Plan has been examined.

At this stage in the Waste Plan preparation process, possible in-combination effects with sites allocated for development in other Local Plans, or permitted sites, have been flagged up in the screening matrix (Appendix 2).

10 Conclusion

Providing the recommended changes to the text are incorporated to the next revision of the Waste Plan, the Waste Planning Authority can be confident that in adopting these policies which either allocate specific sites for waste development or allow for waste development more generally, they do not allow sites to come forward which would be likely to adversely affect European sites.

Subsequent, amended versions of the Waste Plan will continue the process of deciding which sites will be allocated for waste development. This process will need to have regard to the recommendations in sections 7 and 8.

Appendix 1 – Attributes of European Sites

Sites within Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
Brackett's Coppice SAC	53.75	Bats	Annex 1 Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) Annex II Primary: Bechstein's bat Myotis bechsteinii	Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement) Human presence (prof judgement) Biological Disturbance: Birch invasion of grassland (data form)
Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC	371.747	Lowland grassland	Annex I Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Annex II Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Biological Disturbance: Long-term overgrazing-prevents survival of Marsh Fritillary (data form) Scrub encroachment also caused by under grazing (data form)
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	1635.06	Coastal	Annex I Primary: Coastal lagoons * Priority feature Annual vegetation of drift lines_ Perennial vegetation of stony banks scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) Annex I Non-Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Physical Damage: Changes in natural coastal processes, e.g. through coastal defences (data form) Recreational pressure (EN comments) Toxic Contamination: Accidental oil pollution (data form) Non Toxic Contamination: Water quality - blooms of blue green algae occur (data form)

			Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	4.71		Annex II Primary: Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Physical Loss: Long-term risk of deterioration of the waterbodies due to lack of maintenance (data form) Biological Disturbance: Short-term risk of the introduction of invasive non-native plant species and fish (data form)
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	2230.75		Annex 1 Primary: Embryonic shifting dunes Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ('white dunes') Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) *Priority feature Humid dune slacks Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix *Priority feature European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Bog woodland *priority feature	Physical loss: development pressure • Physical damage: fragmentation of habitat causing edge and patch size effect • Erosion due to visitor pressure • Wildfires • Extant mineral extraction permissions • Biological disturbance: invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially Rhododendron • Successional trend to scrub and woodland • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management

			<p>Annex 1 Non Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty of clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae *Priority feature Alkaline fens Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Annual vegetation of drift lines Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary: Southern Damselfly – <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Annex 1 Non - Primary: Great crested newt – <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	
Dorset Heaths SAC	5719.54		<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools. • Acid soils. • Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time).

			<p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> * Priority feature Alkaline fens Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpolluted water and base-rich streams to support Southern damselfly. • Warm climatic conditions (Southern damselfly is at northern limit of its European range). • Un-fragmented heathland. • Use of traditional agriculture to discourage the successional trend to scrub and woodland invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species. • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	263.09	Lowland grassland, early gentian	<p>Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Annex II Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex II Non-Primary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i></p>	<p>Biological Disturbance: Invasive species such as nettles and ragwort due to adjacent intensive farming (data form) Over- grazing (data form) Scrub encroachment (data form)</p>
Holnest SAC	54.94		<p>Annex II Primary: <u>Great crested newt</u> <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	1446.45		<p>Annex 1 Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</p>	<p>Physical damage: coastal erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure • Extant quarrying permission • Biological disturbance: loss of grazing

			<p>Annex 1 Non-Primary: Annual vegetation of drift lines Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian – <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex 2 Non-Primary: Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	
Rooksmoor SAC	62.46	Lowland grassland; Lowland heath; Marsh fritillary butterfly	<p>Annex I Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)</p> <p>Annex II Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (Eurodryas, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></p>	<p>Non Physical Disturbance: Traffic (prof judgement)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance: Scrub invasion due to lack of grazing (data form)</p>
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	897.508	Coastal	<p>Annex I Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts_ Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary: Annual vegetation of drift lines Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary: <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p>	<p>Physical Loss: None identified</p> <p>Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement)</p> <p>Human presence (prof judgement)</p>
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	284.68	Lowland grassland, early gentian	<p>Annex 1 Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the</p>	<p>Physical damage: climbing activity</p> <p>• Non-physical disturbance: light</p>

			<p>Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates *Priority feature</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex 2 Non-Primary: Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i></p>	<p>pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human presence • Biological disturbance: scrub invasion • Threat of <i>Brachypodium</i> becoming dominant
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	328.748	Woodland	<p>Annex I Primary: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) * Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)_</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>Annex II Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<p>Physical Damage: Game management (data form)</p> <p>Recreation (prof judgement)</p> <p>Development pressure (prof judgement)</p> <p>Water Table: Abstraction (prof judgement)</p> <p>Toxic Contamination: Agricultural runoff (prof judgement)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance: Deer browsing (data form)</p>
Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA	747.37		<p>Annex I Birds Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p> <p>Migratory Species:</p>	<p>Physical damage: Development of existing shellfish farm (data form)</p>

			Branta bernicla bernicla	<p>Non-physical damage:</p> <p>Recreational pressure(from increased watersport use) (data form)</p> <p>MOD firing range (data form)</p> <p>Routine or accidental oil/chemical discharges into harbour (data form)</p> <p>Agricultural run-off (data form)</p> <p>Non-toxic contamination:</p> <p>Domestic sewage discharges (data form)</p> <p>Biological disturbance</p> <p>Introduction of non-native species (data form)</p>
Dorset Heathlands SPA	8172.82		<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <p>Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p> <p>Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>Over winter:</p> <p>Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></p>	<p>Acid soils;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time; • Unpolluted water; • Unfragmented habitat; • Appropriate grazing regime; • Minimal recreational pressure and avoidance of heathland/accidental fires • The breeding season is important for the European bird populations (March – June), but the area is also important for over-wintering raptors and other fauna. • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management
Poole Harbour SPA	2313.57		<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban growth and port/marina development

			<p><i>melanocephalus</i> Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Over winter: Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Black-Tailed Godwith <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation pressures • Discharge from sewerage treatment • Wytch Farm oilfield – threat of spills • Bait digging • Drainage on grazing marshes
Avon Valley Ramsar Site	420.22		<p>Ramsar criterion 1 The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally-rare species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera</i></p>	<p>Major issue arising from decline in traditional pastoral agriculture and lack of maintenance of ditch network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of water levels driven partly by agriculture but also urban flood risk management continues to have adverse effect on habitats. • High levels of silt in river continue to degrade its interest, especially aquatic species but also contribute to silting-up ditches and deterioration of grasslands after flood events. • <i>Crassula helmsii</i> is increasing problem in Blashford • Lakes following restoration of gravel pits, not controlled adequately through planning consents and technically difficult to control following withdrawal of herbicide approval.

			<p>strepera, NW Europe Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Northern pintail , Anas acuta, NW Europe Black-tailed godwit , Limosa limosa islandica, Iceland/W Europe</p>	
Chesil Beach and The Fleet Ramsar Site	747.37		<p>Ramsar criterion 1 Outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat. Also supports rare saltmarsh habitats. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 15 specialist lagoonal species, five nationally scarce wetland plants and ten nationally scarce wetland animals. Also important for shingle habitats and species. Ramsar criterion 3 Largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK with greatest diversity of habitats and biota. Ramsar criterion 4 Important for number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle, including post-larval and juvenile bass Dicentrarchus</p>	<p>Physical damage: Changes in natural physical processes (prof judgement) Development of existing shellfish farm (data form) Non-physical disturbance: Recreational pressure (data form) MOD firing range (data form) Toxic contamination: Routine or accidental oil/chemical discharges into harbour (prof judgement) Agricultural run-off (prof judgement) Non-toxic contamination: Domestic sewage discharges (data form)</p>

			<p>labrax. Ramsar criterion 8 Nursery for bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>. Ramsar criterion 6 Overwintering Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i></p>	
Dorset Ramsar Site	Heathlands	6671.28	<p>Ramsar criterion 1 Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and (ii) acid mire with <i>Rhynchosporion</i>. Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and crossleaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species. Ramsar criterion 3 Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and</p>	<p>Under- grazing leading to scrub invasion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid rain • Pollution – unspecified • Leaching from waste tips • Development pressure • Further fragmentation • Recreational pressure • Wildfires • Infrastructure works A31 and Bournemouth airport • Extant mineral permissions • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management

			lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest.	
Poole Harbour Ramsar Site	2480.22		<p>Ramsar Criterion 1 Best example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics in Britain</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 2 Two species of nationally rare plant and one nationally rare alga. At least three British Red data book invertebrate species</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 3 Examples of natural habitat types of community interest – Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, as well as calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance.</p>	

			<p>Nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter: 24709 waterfowl</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 6 Species with peak counts in winter: Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p>	
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Attributes of Marine European Sites

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature
Studland Bay MCZ	397ha	n/k
Poole Rocks MCZ	3.8 km ² (374ha)	Moderate energy circalittoral rock (EUNIS habitat A4.2 Atlantic and Mediterranean moderate energy circalittoral rock) Subtidal mixed sediments (EUNIS habitat A5.4 sublittoral mixed sediments) (undersea beds of a mixture of stones, gravels, sands and muds)
South of Portland MCZ	1747.6ha	-
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	3765.5ha	High energy intertidal rock Intertidal coarse sediment

		Native Oyster Pink sea fan
South Dorset MCZ	19264ha (193km ²)	Subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal chalk
Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ	168ha	n/k
The Needles MCZ	1101ha	-
Axe Estuary MCZ	32.6ha	-
Poole Harbour MSPA	22.72 km ²	n/k
Lyme Bay and Torbay and MSAC	313 km ²	Annex 1 habitats: Reef Submerged/partially submerged sea caves
Studland to Portland MSAC	332 km ²	Annex 1 habitat Reef.
South Wight Maritime MSAC	188km ²	Annex 1 habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic & Baltic coasts • Submerged/partially submerged sea caves
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs MSAC	14km ²	Annex 1 habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of Atlantic & Baltic coasts • Semi natural dry grasslands & scrubland facies on calcareous substrates/orchids)

Sites within a 15km Buffer of Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
Beer Quarry & Caves SAC	31.4277		Annex II Primary: Bechstein's bat Myotis bechsteinii Annex II Non-Primary: Lesser horseshoe bat Rhinolophus hipposideros Greater horseshoe bat Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Physical Damage: Occasional quarrying of stone from habitat areas (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Potential for quarrying and tourism to disturb some areas of bat habitat but site management statement in place to minimise this (data form) Light pollution (prof judgement) Water Table: Flooding of caves (prof judgement)
Chilmark Quarries SAC	10.4995		Annex II Primary:	Physical Loss: Collapse of underground

			Greater horseshoe bat Rhinolophus ferrumequinum Barbastelle Barbastella barbastellus_ Bechstein`s bat Myotis bechsteinii Annex II Non-Primary: Lesser horseshoe bat Rhinolophus hipposideros	voids (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Human presence, noise and visual disturbance (data form) Light pollution (prof judgement)
Great Yews SAC	28.8798		Annex I Primary: Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles * Priority feature Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	Physical Loss: None identified
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	458.087		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts European dry heaths Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	Early gentian is associated with a grazing regime which maintains a short turf and a proportion of bare ground. • Maintenance of grazing. • Minimal air pollution – nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification. • Absence of direct fertilisation. • Well-drained soils.
New Forest SAC	29253.96		Annex I Primary: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)_ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the Isoëto-	Physical Loss: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Physical Damage: Increased recreational pressure (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement) Human presence (prof judgement)

			<p>Nanojuncetea_ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix_ European dry heaths_ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)_ Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion_ Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roburi-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)_ Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests_ Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains_ Bog woodland * Priority feature_ Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) * Priority feature Annex I Non-Primary: Transition mires and quaking bogs_ Alkaline fens Annex II Primary: Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale_ Stag beetle Lucanus cervus Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt Triturus cristatus Barbastella barbastellus</p>	<p>Water Table: Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form) Biological Disturbance: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Essential grazing by commoners' animals is vulnerable to current economic trends (data form)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management
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			<p>Myotis bechsteini Lutra lutra Lampetra planeri Cottus gobio</p>	
Prescombe Down	76.2203		<p>Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Annex II Primary: Early gentian Gentianella anglica Annex II Non-Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</p>	<p>Biological Disturbance: Inappropriate grazing regimes (data form) Increased stocking of game birds (data form)</p>
River Avon SAC	467.584		<p>Annex I Primary: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculum fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation Annex I Non-Primary: Alkaline fens Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) Annex II Primary: Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana_ Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus_ Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri_ Atlantic salmon Salmo salar_ Bullhead Cottus gobio</p>	<p>Physical Damage: Channel modifications causing changes to sediment processes (data form) Water Table: Abstraction (data form and WT comments) Is a serious problem already plus new development proposed at Bath, Trowbridge and Salisbury-even greater impact (EN comments) Toxic Contamination: Water pollution (data form) Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)</p>

			Annex II Non-Primary: Lutra lutra Austropotamobius pallipes	
River Axe SAC	25.0997		Annex I Primary: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation Annex II Primary: Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus_ Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri_ Bullhead Cottus gobio_ Salmo salar	Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	37.935		Annex I Primary: Coastal lagoons Annex I Non-Primary: Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Water Table: Sea-level rise- coastal defence (data form). Toxic Contamination: Industrial waste disposal/landfill/discharges (data form) Diffuse pollution occurring off the site (data form)
Solent Maritime SAC	11243.38		Annex I Primary: Estuaries <u>Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)</u> <u>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</u> Annex I Non-Primary: <u>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</u> <u>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</u> <u>Coastal lagoons</u> * Priority	

			<p>feature</p> <p><u>Annual vegetation of drift lines</u></p> <p><u>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</u></p> <p><u>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</u></p> <p><u>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</u></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary:</p> <p><u>Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></u></p>	
Avon Valley SPA	1351.1		<p>Over winter:</p> <p>Bewick's Swan Cygnus <i>Columbianus bewickii</i></p> <p>Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i></p>	<p>Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime</p> <p>Unpolluted water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of nutrient enrichment of water • Absence of non-native species • Appropriate grazing regimes
New Forest SPA	27997.59		<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <p>Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i></p> <p>Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p> <p>Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>Over winter:</p> <p>Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p>	<p>A carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heaths, mires and pools. Most of the valley mires have been damaged in the past by drainage which has resulted in drying out of peat layers. Low water levels lead to decrease in wetland habitats of wading birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid soils. • Maintenance of grazing and other traditional management practices. • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time; • Unpolluted water.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal nutrient inputs. • Low recreational pressures. A recent decline in waders, reds shank, lapwing, curlew and snipe is thought to be related to dog walkers. • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	5401.44		<p>During the breeding season: Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <p>Over winter: Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></p> <p>Assemblage qualification: A</p>	<p>Unpolluted water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of nutrient enrichment. • Absence of non-native species. • No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. • Low amounts of silt loss; • Maintenance of freshwater inputs for certain bird species. • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. • Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore/off shore to reduce disturbance during sensitive overwintering periods.
Somerset Levels & Moors SPA	6393.72		<p>Annex I Birds: Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></p> <p>Migratory Species: Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Vanellus <i>vanellus</i></p> <p>The area qualifies under Article</p>	<p>Physical Loss: Conversion of grassland to arable (data form)</p> <p>Physical Damage: Cutting of silage (data form)</p> <p>Water Table: Drainage (data form and WT comments)</p> <p>Hydrological effects of development at</p>

			4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl Over winter, the area regularly supports 72,874 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Taunton and Bridgewater (RSPB comments) Non-toxic contamination: Nutrient enrichment due to increased discharge from Ham Sewage Treatment facility Into River Tone above Curry Moor (data form, WT and EN comments)
Avon Valley Ramsar Site	See above (also falls within Dorset)			
New Forest Ramsar Site	27997.59	Woodland; Lowland heath; Bog, fen and swamp		Physical Loss: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Physical damage: Recreational pressure (data form) Changes in management regime (prof judgement) Non-physical disturbance: Human presence (data form) Increased population(RSPB comments) Recreational pressure (RSPB comments) Light pollution (prof judgement) Water Table: Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form) Biological Disturbance: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Essential grazing by commoners' animals is vulnerable to current economic trends (data form) • management to maintain or restore

				favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management
Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar Site	6394.53	Lowland grassland; Bog, fen and swamp	Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 17 species of British Red Data Book invertebrates. Ramsar criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter: 97155 waterfowl Ramsar criterion 6 Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan , Cygnus columbianus bewickii Eurasian teal , Anas crecca Northern lapwing , Vanellus vanellus	Physical Loss: Conversion of grassland to arable (data form) Physical Damage: Cutting of silage (data form) Water Table: Drainage (data form) Water level management issues due to development on flood plain (WT comments) Non-toxic contamination: Nutrient enrichment due to increased discharge from Ham Sewage Treatment facility into River Tone above Curry Moor (EN comments)
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Site	5306.66		Ramsar criterion 1 One of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow with long periods of slack water at high and low tide. Includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky	Physical Loss: Land-claim (data form) Development pressure (prof judgement) Coastal squeeze (prof judgement) Physical Damage: Erosion (data form) Flood and coastal defence works (data form) Dredging (data form) Recreational pressure (prof judgement) Water Table: Sea level rise (prof judgement) Toxic Contamination: Industrial/oil pollution (prof judgement) Pollution from former waste disposal sites (data form)

			<p>boulder reefs. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants. Ramsar criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter: 51343 waterfowl Ramsar criterion 6 Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover , Charadrius hiaticula Species with peak counts in winter: Dark-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla Eurasian teal , Anas crecca Black-tailed godwit , Limosa limosa islandica</p>	<p>Non-toxic contamination: Sewage discharge (prof judgement)</p>
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Appendix 2 - HRA Screening of Site Options: Draft Waste Plan 2015 and Draft Waste Plan Update – Additional and Emerging Preferred Waste Site Allocations 2016

Preferred Sites

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
East Dorset						
WP01 – Ferndown Area of Search	Uncertain as it stands – but no if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects. Breeding Nightjar recorded from within site boundary. Smooth snake recorded on adjacent road verge.	Construction of one or more of the following: - Residual waste treatment facility - Bulky waste treatment facility - Household recycling centre - Vehicle depot Increased vehicle traffic Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility	Activities may lead to loss of Annex I bird species breeding and foraging habitat and loss of available reptile habitat. Effect of emissions on adjacent European sites.	Dorset Heaths SAC Dorset Heathlands SPA Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Reptile and Annex I bird surveys should be carried out at earliest opportunity to inform mitigation needed. Effects on European sites would be lessened if eastern end of site was excluded from site boundary. Site Residual Waste Treatment facility at western end of site?	No if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as there will be no LSE and therefore can't be any in-combination effects. Otherwise, potential for in-combination effects with Christchurch & East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014). Employment sites allocated in/around Ferndown & West Moors, including Blunts Farm, Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Brook Road & Bailie Gate.
WP02 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate – south site	Uncertain as it stands – but no if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects. Nightjar, Woodlark and	Construction of one or more of the following: - Residual waste treatment facility - Bulky waste treatment facility - Household recycling centre *	Activities may lead to loss of foraging habitat for Annex I bird species Effect of emissions through proximity to adjacent European sites.	Dorset Heaths SAC Dorset heathlands SPA Dorset Heathlands	Only use eastern parcel of land (see below). Surveys for Annex I birds and reptiles needed to inform possible mitigation.	No if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as there will be no LSE and therefore can't be any in-combination effects. Otherwise, potential for

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
	Dartford Warbler recorded in adjacent European sites. The proposed site would provide good foraging habitat for Nightjar	<p>- Vehicle depot*</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p> <p>*Use of the site for these facilities is not being progressed.</p>	Hydrology – site is adjacent to Moors River SSSI and includes tributary of this river.	Ramsar		in-combination effects with Christchurch & East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014). Employment sites allocated in/around Ferndown & West Moors, including Blunts Farm, Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Brook Road & Bailie Gate.
WP02 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate – east site	No	<p>Construction of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residual waste treatment facility - Bulky waste treatment facility - Household recycling centre* - Vehicle depot* <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p> <p>*Use of the site for these facilities is not being progressed.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poole						
WP03 Mannings Heath Area of	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Search						
WP04 – Site Control Centre, Canford Magna	<p>Uncertain as it stands – but no if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects.</p> <p>Unknown effects of proximity to European Sites</p>	<p>Increase in area of site (B4extension) used for waste activities will bring works area directly adjacent to SAC/SPA.</p> <p>Intensification of existing uses Extension of existing uses, potentially including: - Residual waste treatment facility</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p>	<p>Negative impacts from increase in dust and noise on adjacent European heathlands. Possibility that waste deposited in B4 extension area next to SAC/SPA may cause increased rat and fox numbers and therefore increased predation on heathland wildlife. Loss of lagoon in this area may affect Nightjar foraging habitat.</p>	Dorset Heaths SAC/Dorset Heathlands SPA	Exclusion of B4 area from proposed waste site boundary, focusing instead on intensification of activity in existing areas.	<p>No if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as there will be no LSE and therefore can't be any in-combination effects.</p> <p>Otherwise, potential for in-combination effects with Poole Core Strategy (2008). Site allocated as Developed Site in Green Belt.</p>
Christchurch						
WP05 - Eco-Composting, Parley	<p>Uncertain as it stands – but no if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects.</p> <p>Unknown effect of increased critical pollutant load on European sites.</p>	<p>Reconfiguration of existing uses and permitted uses, including anaerobic digestion plant.</p> <p>Construction of solid recovered fuel processing plant (small scale residual treatment facility). Increased vehicle traffic Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p>	Impacts of increased Nitrogen on adjacent European heathlands	Dorset Heaths SAC/Dorset Heathlands SPA	Minimise N emissions and create a buffer zone in the south east section of the site adjacent to European heathlands	<p>No if wording suggested in Section 7 is adopted as there will be no LSE and therefore can't be any in-combination effects.</p> <p>Otherwise, potential for in-combination effects with Christchurch & East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014). Bournemouth Airport & Business Park allocated for</p>

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
						airport operations, employment and retail uses.
North Dorset						
WP06 - Land south of Sunrise Business Park	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP07 - Brickfields Business Park, Gillingham	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP08 - Gillingham Sewage Treatment Works	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland						
WP09 - Maiden Newton Sewage Treatment Works Extension	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP10 - Land at Stinsford Hill	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP11 - Loudsmill	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP12 - Old Radio Station	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
WP13 - Charminster Depot & Farm	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP14 – Land at Bourne Park, east of Piddlehinton	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Purbeck						
WP15 – Land at Blackhill Road, Holton Heath Industrial Estate	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WP16 – Swanworth Quarry	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sites not being taken forward through the Plan – but still requiring assessment

Site Option	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
East Dorset						
ED01 – Brook Road, Wimborne	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ED04 – West Moors Petroleum Depot	Yes – breeding Woodlark and Nightjar recorded within site boundary. Site is bounded by European sites to west, north and east. Likely to be EPS reptiles on site.	Construction of one or more of the following: - Residual waste treatment facility - Bulky waste treatment facility - Vehicle depot Increased vehicle traffic Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility	Activities may lead to destruction of Annex I bird species breeding and foraging habitat and loss of habitat for reptiles. Effect of emissions through proximity to adjacent European sites.	Dorset Heaths SAC Dorset heathlands SPA Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Annex I bird species and reptile surveys needed as soon as possible. Bird surveys need to identify extent of Annex 1 bird use as site may be a Rufford case. Hard to mitigate potential effects on European sites or EPS reptiles as this site is largely undisturbed and much of it is habitat of similar quality to adjacent European sites.	Potential for in-combination effects with Christchurch & East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014). Employment sites allocated in/around Ferndown & West Moors, including Blunts Farm, Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Brook Road & Bailie Gate.
ED05 – Little Canford Depot, Hampreston	No – based on assumption that site is reduced in size to proposed new boundary encompassing only	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	northern section.					
ED06 – East Dorset Police Headquarters	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ED07 – Bailie Gate Industrial Estate & Extension Area	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ED08 – Land at Candy's Lane, Corfe Mullen	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ED09 – Land at St Leonards Farm, Ferndown	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ED10 – Cobham Gate, Ferndown	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poole						
PO03 – Nuffield Waste Management Centre	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Christchurch						
CB01 - Hurm MRF	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Dorset						
ND01 - Holland Way, Blandford	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND02 - Land off Shaftesbury Lane, Blandford	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND04 - Brewery Site, Blandford	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND05 - Land south of Pimperne	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND06 - Land north of Wincombe Business Park, Shaftesbury	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND08 - Enmore	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Green, Shaftesbury						
ND10 – Land south of A30, Shaftesbury	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Dorset						
WD01 - Land North-West of Monkey's Jump	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WD03 - Land to the south of stadium roundabout	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WD06 - Rainbarrow Farm	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WD08 - Parkway Farm Business Park, Poundbury	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WD09 - Maiden Newton Sewage Treatment Works	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WD10 - Broadcroft Quarry, Portland	Uncertain	Filling of mineral void with inert materials Siting of transfer facility for sorting/screening construction and demolition wastes Increased vehicle traffic	Effects on European site due to proximity of activities creating dust and possibly damaging SAC interest features. But, restoration could also lead to benefits to the SAC through habitat recreation.	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Introduce measures to reduce dust creation.	Potential for in-combination effects with mineral extraction at permitted quarries on Portland.
WD11 - Coombefield Quarry, Portland	Uncertain	Filling of mineral void with inert materials Siting of transfer facility for sorting/screening construction and	Effects on European site due to proximity of activities creating dust and damaging SAC interest features.	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Introduce measures to reduce dust creation.	Potential for in-combination effects with mineral extraction at permitted quarries on Portland.

		demolition wastes Increased vehicle traffic	But, restoration could also lead to benefits to the SAC through habitat recreation			
Purbeck						
PK02 – Dorset Green Technology Park, Winfrith	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PK03 – Binnegar Environmental Park, Wareham	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PK04 – Romany Works Business Park	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bournemouth						
BO01 - Castle Lane East, Riverside Avenue	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BO02 - Kinson Sewage Treatment Works	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Appendix 3 - HRA Screening of Policies: Draft Waste Plan

Proposed Policy	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
A Vision for Sustainable Waste Management in Dorset	No – the vision itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 1	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 2	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 3	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 4	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 5	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective 6	No – the objective itself would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spatial Strategy	No – the strategy itself will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy X – Proposed Waste Site Allocations *New Policy contained within the Draft Waste Plan Update 2016	Uncertain as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects				Replace second sentence with wording suggested in section 8.3.	
Policy 1 – Sustainable Waste Management	Uncertain as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating that all applications will	N/A

Proposed Policy	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
					need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1. ⁱ	
Policy 2 – Integrated Waste Management Facilities	Uncertain as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating that all applications will need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1.	N/A
Policy 3 – Applications for Waste Facilities Not Allocated in the Waste Plan	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional clause into Policy – see footnote 2. ⁱⁱ	N/A
Policy 4 – Facilities to enable the recycling of waste	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional clause into Policy – see footnote 2	N/A
Policy 5 – Energy Recovery	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional clause into Policy – see footnote 2	N/A
Policy 6 – Final Disposal of Non-Hazardous Waste	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating that all applications will need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1.	N/A
Policy 7 – Inert waste recovery and	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in	N/A

Proposed Policy	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
disposal	will mitigate against Likely significant effects				supporting text stating that all applications will need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1.	
Policy 8 – Special Types of Waste	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating that all applications will need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1.	N/A
Policy 9 – Decommissioning and Restoration of Winfrith	No – restoration may provide benefits to European sites through habitat creation and provision of a SANG type area.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 10 – Sewage Treatment Works	Uncertain/yes as it stands – but no if suggested wording is adopted as this will mitigate against Likely significant effects	N/A	N/A	N/A	Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating that all applications will need to comply with Policy 17 – see footnote 1.	N/A
Policy 11 – Transport & Access	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 12 – Quality of Life	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 13 – Landscape & Design Quality	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 14 –	No – the policy will not lead to	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Proposed Policy	Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites?	Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if policy implemented	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Sustainable Construction and Operation of Facilities	development					
Policy 15 – Natural Resources	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 16 – Flood Risk	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 17 – Biodiversity and geological interest	No – the policy will not lead to development; this policy provides for the safeguarding of European sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 18 – Historic Environment	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 19 – Airfield Safeguarding Areas	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 20 – South East Dorset Green Belt	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 21 – Waste from new developments	No – the policy will not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 22 – Restoration, Aftercare & Afteruse	No – any possible effects of this policy on European sites would be covered by other policies in this plan relating to the acceptability of waste development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy 23 – Safeguarding Waste Facilities	No – the policy would not lead to development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

ⁱ Wording to be inserted into Policy's supporting text: *"To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 17."*

ii Suggested clause to be inserted into Policies 3, 4 and 5 to avoid Likely Significant Effect:

“Sites will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (related to displacement of recreation, proximity and species) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects”