

Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole

**Mineral Sites Plan
Pre-Submission Draft**

**Assessment under the Conservation of
Habitats and Species Regulations,
2017.**

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

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Mineral Sites Plan – Habitats 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 Mineral Sites Plan.

The plan, when complete and adopted, will complement and develop the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy, adopted in 2014. The Minerals Strategy sets out the vision and objectives, spatial strategy, core policies and development management policies for the development and supply of minerals across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. However the Minerals Strategy is not site-specific and the Mineral Sites Plan will build on the Minerals Strategy through identifying specific sites to deliver the minerals strategies. It will also develop other aspects of the Minerals Strategy.

The Mineral Sites Plan has progressed through a series of stages of preparation. Evidence gathering began in 2007/2008 and the Mineral Sites Allocations Document Discussion Paper was issued for public consultation in 2008. This paper primarily set out the results of a call for sites, setting out all the potential development sites for public information and comment. This was followed by a break while the Minerals Strategy was completed and adopted. Work on the Draft Mineral Sites Plan, as it was renamed, resumed in 2013 with the range of site options put out to consultation again on December 2013.

Following a review of comments made at this consultation together with further site assessment, the Draft Mineral Sites Plan issued for consultation in July 2015 set out the preferred options of the Mineral Planning Authority for future site development, along with larger spatial areas such as the Aggregates Area of Search, required to deliver the Minerals Strategy. It also developed other aspects of the Minerals Strategy such as mineral safeguarding and site restoration and management through the Puddletown Road Area policy.

This report provides an audit of the Draft Mineral Sites Plan to ensure compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, to be known as the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening ('HRA Screening') of the Mineral Sites Plan. It includes a screening of all spatial options (sites and area of search) included in the Draft Mineral Sites Plan and a screening of the proposed policies. The HRA Screening has been undertaken internally by Dorset County Council's Senior Ecologist. It follows the Draft Guidance from Natural England¹ and current guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage².

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 European sites, and therefore determine if a full Appropriate Assessment of any policy or site is required, to determine whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. This report presents the findings of this exercise and is the final report in a series of iterations which have been produced to accompany the iterations of the Draft Mineral Sites Plan.

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

² Scottish Natural Heritage and David Tyldesley Associates (2015) Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans. Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland.

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 sites in and restore sites to their best condition³. This is implemented through a network of protected European sites. The Directive is transposed into UK law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017, known as the Habs Regs.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This is transposed into Regulations 105 and 107 of the Habs Regs which pertain to Land Use Plans. This means that the effects of a Land Use Plan on the relevant European sites need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained⁴.

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 (LSE) on a European site, alone or in-combination, 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 potential SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (and candidate SACs). These have been combined under the Habitats Directive into the European sites (Natura 2000) 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 of the following 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 Directive⁵
- **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, 1971.

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.

³RSPB (2007) The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: A Guide to Why, When and How to do it.

⁴ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment

⁵ Birds Directive: 2009/147/EC

2.1 Stages of Habitats 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):

- i. **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.” Case law (Dilly Lane/Justice Sweetman (CO/7623/2007) has established that proposed mitigation may be considered at this stage in a Habs Regs Assessment.

A plan, once adopted, should enable development to proceed providing it is in accordance with the policies within. It is therefore important that policies and options are tested for compliance against the Habs Regs to avoid any internal conflict arising between the plan’s enabling role, and the duty to protect European sites. Current guidance on limiting the risk of conflict is that ‘as soon as likely significant effects are identified, the plan making body should look to introduce measures to eliminate or reduce them. To carry weight, such mitigation should preferably be included in the policy wording’². In other words each policy should be as self-contained as possible in referring to the conflict pathway and the European site. Changes to the wording of the policy or the introduction of a specific criterion within the policy may be sufficient to ensure no likely significant effects and this is the approach adopted in the Draft Mineral Sites Plan, as recommended by Natural England.

- ii. **Appropriate Assessment:** If there are found to be likely significant effects, the plan options must be subject to Appropriate Assessment to ascertain whether there will be an adverse effect on site integrity, in view of its conservation objectives.
- iii. **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.
- iv. **Exceptional Circumstances:** If it is not possible to conclude no adverse effects then the plan making body may only proceed to adopt the plan in closely defined circumstances, as set out in Regulation 107. The plan making body must be satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or policy must be carried out for imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI). The plan making body may wish to obtain the opinion of the European Commission as to whether reasons are to be considered IROPI, and they may submit a written request to the Secretary of State identifying the matter on which an opinion is sought. In any case the plan making body must inform the SoS who may give directions prohibiting agreement to the plan or policy.

3. The Mineral Sites Plan

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Sites Plan complements and supports the Minerals Strategy in three main ways.

- i. It identifies the specific spatial options – sites and an aggregates area of search – required to deliver the strategies for the provision of minerals as set out in the Minerals Strategy.
- ii. It sets out an area based policy for the Puddletown Road, intended to facilitate long-term and coordinated management for the area - including heathland management and restoration.
- iii. It develops the mineral safeguarding approach set out in the Minerals Strategy, through identifying the minerals sites and infrastructure to be safeguarded.

The Plan contains policies for:

- i. The allocation of sand and gravel sites;
- ii. The allocation of a sand and gravel area of search, intended to facilitate the development of sites within the area;
- iii. The allocation of a site for the provision of crushed rock;
- iv. The allocation of a site for provision of recycled aggregate;
- v. The allocation of a site for the provision of ball clay;
- vi. The allocation of sites for the provision of Purbeck Stone;
- vii. The allocation of sites for the provision of building stone, apart from Purbeck or Portland Stone;
- viii. The designation of a Puddletown Road Policy Area, intended to secure a consistent and coordinated approach to the development, working and restoration of land permitted for mineral development and;
- ix. Developing the safeguarding function established through the Minerals Strategy, requiring local planning authorities to consult the Mineral Planning Authority if non-mineral development proposals are proposed within the relevant buffer zone around the identified minerals extraction, processing and transportation facilities.
- x. Safeguarding allocated but not yet permitted mineral sites.

Appendix 2 presents the results of the site by site assessments for the allocated sites. Appendix 3 presents the results of the assessment of the policies.

The Plan does not attempt to set out a vision, objectives or spatial strategy for minerals development, as these are established through the 2014 Minerals Strategy. Chapter 4 of the Minerals Strategy sets out a Vision for mineral extraction in Dorset, supported by six Objectives. Chapter 5 describes the spatial strategy for meeting the need for minerals, identifying in general terms where mineral development would be located and how much would be provided. It notes that the Mineral Sites Plan will develop this Strategy further by identifying specific sites, providing a level of certainty to local residents, the minerals industry, land and minerals owners and other interested stakeholders as to where future minerals development is likely to take place.

Policy SS2 - Identification of Sites in the Mineral Sites Plan - of the Minerals Strategy notes that the new minerals sites will be primarily identified through the Mineral Sites Plan although permission will be granted for unallocated (windfall) sites where it can be demonstrated that there is a need that cannot be met within allocated sites and where development would not prejudice the delivery of allocated sites.

Since the Mineral Sites Plan is required to conform to the Minerals Strategy and is intended to identify the sites and locations required to deliver the Strategy, it has been prepared in accordance with the Vision, Objectives and spatial approach set out in the Minerals Strategy

The Plan will aim to make provision for the continuing supply of minerals in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole whilst ensuring that the special environment and local communities of these areas are protected. All of the spatial options and policies of the Draft Mineral Sites Plan 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 Draft Mineral Sites Plan:

- i. Identification of European Sites
- ii. Screening of all spatial options contained within the Draft Mineral Sites Plan for likely significant effects alone and in-combination.
- iii. Screening of all the proposed policies for likely significant effects alone and in-combination.

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

5. Provision of Sufficient Information and Consultation with Natural England

Sufficient information, where necessary, has been supplied to the planning authority to enable this initial screening of the Draft Mineral Sites Plan to determine likely significant effect on the European sites.

Natural England has been consulted on the Draft Mineral Sites Plan and invited to comment on this and previous iterations of the Habs Regs Assessment (as required in Reg 102(2)). The scope of these discussions has particularly included:

- The nature of the effect of the proposed spatial allocations on adjacent European sites
- Policy wording for all sites where a risk of likely significant effect was identified at earlier stages in the production of the plan.
- Mitigation relating to those spatial allocations where it forms a key part of avoidance of likely significant effect, in particular AS-06 Great Plantation

Site visits have been carried out throughout the production of the Mineral Sites Plan. Visits to all sites have taken place, but in particular to Great Plantation (with Natural England) in June 2017. Discussions between NE, operators and DCC Mineral Planning have taken place throughout the production of this plan, including meetings in March 2015, July 2015 and May 2016. A meeting with Natural England in September 2016 was held to discuss policy wording regarding sites where there was a risk of likely significant effect. A meeting with Natural England in September 2017 was held to discuss final policy wording, restoration proposals at Woodsford Quarry Extension, Hurst Farm and Philliol's, and proposed boundary, mitigation and restoration proposals at Great Plantation.

The opinion of the general public (as required in Reg 105(3)) has also been obtained at relevant stages in the production of the Plan, through a number of public consultations.

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 minerals 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	

Table 2: Marine European Sites Identified

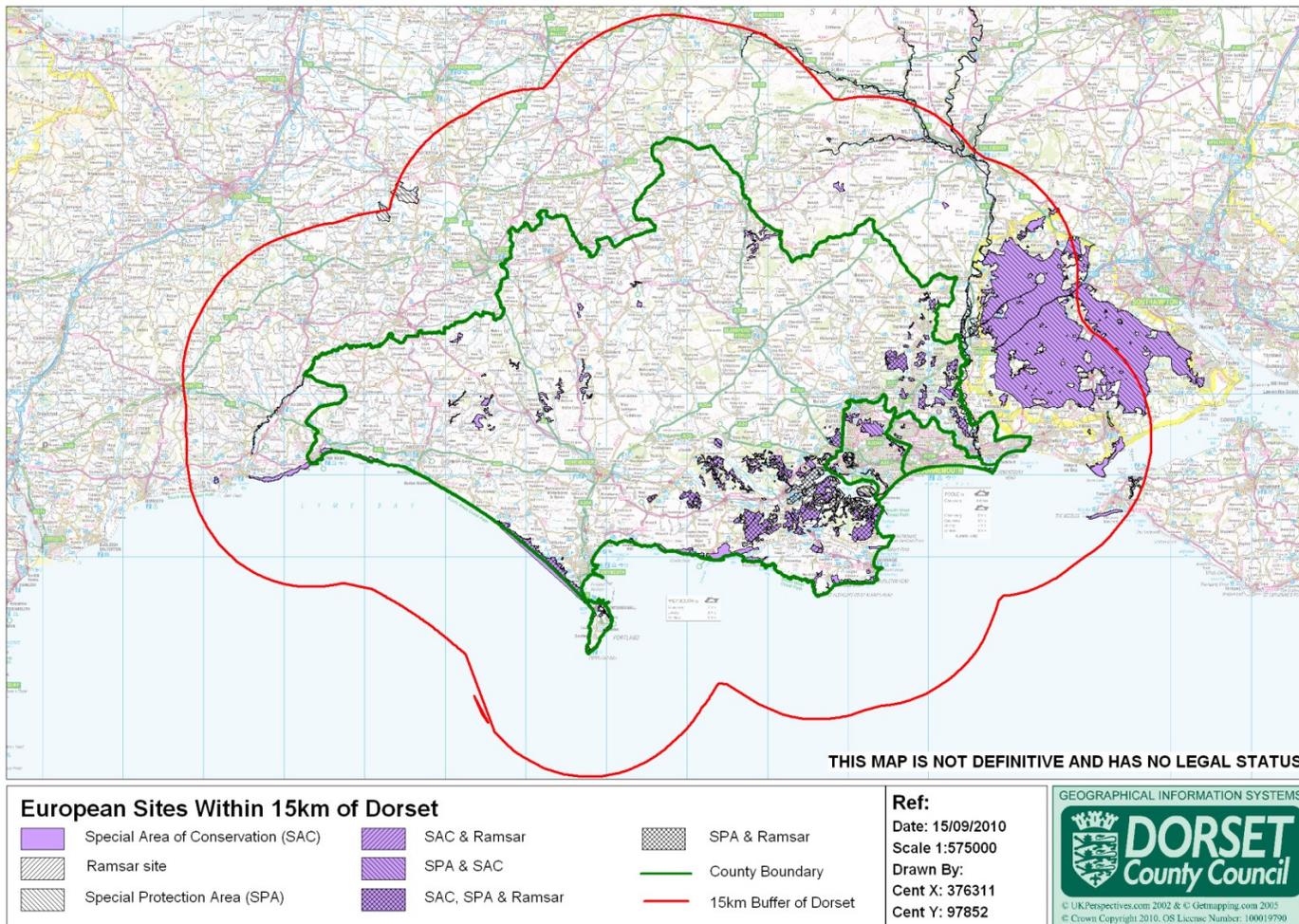
Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone
Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone
South of Portland Marine Conservation Zone
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges Marine Conservation Zone
South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone
Yarmouth to Cowes Marine Conservation Zone
The Needles Marine Conservation Zone
Axe Estuary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

Studland to Portland Marine SAC
South Wight Maritime Marine SAC
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs Marine SAC
Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA

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 Mineral Sites 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 Draft Mineral Sites Plan Site Options

7.1 Screening of Site Options for Likely Significant Effects

All site/spatial options within the Draft Mineral Sites Plan 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 6 ecological issues which are key factors that help to determine the likelihood of adverse effects of development on European sites:

- i. **Hydrology:** surface and sub-surface water regimes are critical to maintenance of wetland interest features of the European heathland sites. Water sources may arise within designated sites or may be at some distance from the site. In bringing forward sites for minerals, an understanding of the potential of development to adversely affect local hydrology is essential.
- ii. **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 brought forward for mineral working, an assessment of the existing contribution to recreation in the locality will be needed, the extent to which development would deflect existing recreation patterns towards heathlands, and what mitigation in the form of alternative areas could be brought forward.
- iii. **Proximity:** in general, the closer a mineral 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 of mineral winning and processing. For example, at its closest, an adjacent mineral quarry could affect a European site if the stand-off were too close, or the angle of cut too steep, such that the part of the European site slipped into the quarry.
- iv. **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 applies particularly to 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. Other Annex 1 species such as woodlark and Dartford warbler and the Annex 2 species, southern damselfly, must also be considered.
- v. **Land management:** parts of European sites may be grazed within units that include areas outside the designated sites and these areas may be important in enabling the grazing regime to function properly. A development may also introduce a need for parts of the European site to be managed in a particular way that is at odds with the conservation objectives.
- vi. **Pollution:** Restoration of mineral voids and restored habitats could affect European sites, particularly where run-off from mineral sites enters a European site directly or via a receiving watercourse.

However, there may also be opportunities for long term ecological gain through site allocation. This may be achieved where, for example, restoration of mineral voids could offer opportunity for the establishment of priority habitats that may contribute to the management of European sites by providing habitat links. Mineral voids also offer opportunities for restoration to wetland habitat (in-line with existing watercourses) which could contribute to overall nutrient and sediment load reduction in the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar sites.

7.2 Findings of the Screening Exercise

A total of 21 new or existing sites have been allocated in the Draft Mineral Sites Plan. They are listed below along with their intended use:

- AS-06 Great Plantation, Bere Regis. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-09 Hurn Court Quarry Extension, Hurn. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-12 Philliol's Farm, Hyde. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension, Christchurch. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-15 Tatchell's Quarry Extension, Wareham. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-19 Woodsford Quarry Extension, Woodsford. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-25 Station Road, Moreton. Provision of sand and gravel
- AS-26 Hurst Farm, Moreton. Provision of sand and gravel
- PK-16 Swanworth Quarry Extension, Worth Matravers. Provision of crushed rock
- RA-01 White's Pit, Poole. Provision of recycled aggregate
- BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham. Provision of ball clay
- PK-02 Blacklands Quarry Extension, Langton Matravers. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-10 Southard Quarry, Swanage. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-15 Downs Quarry Extension, Langton Matravers. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-17 Home Field, Acton. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-18 Quarry 4 Extension, Acton. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-19 Broadmead Field, Langton Matravers. Provision of Purbeck stone
- PK-21 Gallows Gore, Harman's Cross. Provision of Purbeck stone
- BS-02 Marnhull Quarry, Marnhull. Provision of other building stone
- BS-04 Frogden Quarry, Osborne. Provision of other building stone
- BS-05 Whithill Quarry, Lillington. Provision of other building stone

Appendix 2 contains the results of the screening exercise for these sites. Previous iterations of this assessment identified several sites where there may be likely significant effects on European sites and these sites are discussed in more detail section 7.3. These sites are:

- AS-06 Great Plantation, Bere Regis
- AS-12 Philliol's Farm, Hyde
- AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension, Christchurch
- BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham

In addition, several other sites were screened out at an earlier assessment stage but are discussed in Section 7.4 to provide clarity on how this decision was made. This is because, although effects are considered to be below the threshold of significance, mitigation has still been included to provide additional certainty, and is set out to clarify the decision making process.

7.3 Sites where there may be Likely Significant Effect

The site allocations below are those where previous iterations of this assessment concluded that the proposed activity had the potential to have a likely significant effect on the relevant European sites.

- AS-06 Great Plantation, Bere Regis
- AS-12 Philliol's Farm, Hyde
- AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension, Christchurch
- BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham

7.3.1 AS-06 Great Plantation, Bere Regis

This site is allocated for the production of sand and gravel and is surrounded by sites which form constituent parts of the Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heathlands SPA. The site is leased to the mineral operator from the Forestry Commission who manage it as a commercial forestry plantation. This means that at any time sections of the site are covered in conifer crops at various stages of growth, alongside open grassland with patches of heathland vegetation where trees have been harvested and not yet replanted. There is also a permanent network of rides and glades which provide habitat similar to that found within the adjacent European sites.

Surveys have shown that the site supports populations of sand lizard and smooth snake, as well as nightjar. These species are qualifying features of the European sites and it is likely that the populations at Great Plantation support those found within the European sites and are functionally linked to them. In addition, preliminary ecological appraisal (Gresham, S, 2013, Great Plantation, Dorset, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) highlighted the fact that Great Plantation provides suitable foraging habitat for nightjar populations found within the surrounding European sites.

The site is also used recreationally by visitors from the surrounding towns and villages as it is open access land. It has become a well-known dog walking area with the main access being from the A352 to the south. This recreational use is likely to reduce recreational impacts on the adjacent European sites.

Early discussions between the operator, Natural England and the mineral planning authority concluded that the initial site proposals would lead to significant effects on the European sites from:

- **Displacement of recreation** – the site provides a recreational alternative to the adjacent European sites and removing access to the majority of Great Plantation would inevitably cause an increase in visitor pressure, leading to disturbance of ground nesting birds and reptiles within these sites. In addition, visitors to the remaining parts of Great Plantation would be forced to choose walking routes closer to the European sites. These two separate issues would have a likely significant effect on the European heathlands.
- **Proximity** to the European sites – initial proposals incorporated parts of the SAC/SPA within the working boundary which would have led to destruction of part of the SAC/SPA. Working the proposed area would also lead to significant effects on the European sites from destruction of dispersal corridors and foraging habitat, as well as causing fragmentation of the remaining heathland habitat.
- Impacts on **species** associated with the European sites (nightjar, smooth snake and sand lizard) – Annex 1 birds (nightjar) and Annex 2 reptiles (smooth snakes and sand lizards) are known to use the proposed site. These species are functionally linked to the European sites and destruction of their habitat was judged likely to have a significant effect on the SAC/SPA sites.

In addition, NE have advised that numbers of nightjar outwith the existing SPA at Great Plantation, together with numbers of nightjar outwith the SPA in other areas of Dorset, introduce considerations concerning the potential for the site to qualify as an SPA. In these circumstances NE advise a risk based approach, based on the conclusions of the Rufford Case (<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121029114856/http://www.communities>

[.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/1914959.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/1914959.pdf)) as discussed in the Mineral Strategy, 2014 (para 16.42).

Earlier iterations of this Habs Regs Assessment reflected these conclusions and found that it would not be possible to allocate the site without re-considering the site boundary and proposed mitigation. Without these necessary steps, allocating the site would lead to a likely significant effect on the adjacent European sites.

Subsequent discussions focussed on how to reduce these effects by allocating a smaller area of the site, as well as looking at on and offsite mitigation which would reduce the impacts described above to negligible levels, alone or in-combination with other development. New proposals were brought forward in August 2017. The revised boundary incorporates less than half of the previous proposal and was presented along with an offsite heathland support area, as well additional heathland within the allocated site, to be provided by the mineral operator. These suggestions are discussed below, under each of the effects identified above:

- **Displacement of recreation** – the revised proposals include provision of an offsite heathland support area. This area would provide an additional, non SAC/SPA, recreational area in the vicinity of Great Plantation to ensure that there would be no increase in visitor pressure on the European sites while access to Great Plantation is reduced. Discussions have also focussed on the need to provide planned access routes within the remaining area of Great Plantation while mineral extraction takes place. These new routes will ensure that Great Plantation retains capacity for recreation and that when walkers are on site they are guided away from areas adjacent to the European sites.
- **Proximity** – the reduction in size of the new proposals instantly reduces proximity effects to levels which can be more easily mitigated. This is because a large proportion of the site will now be excluded from mineral working, and the associated foraging habitat and dispersal corridors will remain intact, reducing habitat fragmentation as well. Discussions have also focussed on the need to enhance areas of remaining heathland/acid grassland so that their function in supporting the European sites is retained and even increased.
- **Species** – effects on Annex 1 birds and Annex 2 reptiles will be small because the working area will largely comprise those parts of the site dominated by mature confers where these species interests are less significant. In addition, discussions between NE and the mineral operator have established that works will be phased across the site, with restoration to high quality heathland habitat (capable of supporting these species) taking place as soon as a phase is finished. This will further ensure that species effects are reduced.

Although the mitigation set out above cannot be secured at this early stage of site allocation, the discussions between NE, the mineral planning authority and the mineral operator have provided certainty that:

- Suitable mitigation is available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of this site in the Plan would not lead to a likely significant effect that could not be resolved through control at a later stage in the development management process.
- It is possible at this stage to include safeguards in the Plan to ensure that no site is brought forward if the resulting activity would lead to a likely significant effect on the European sites.

Safeguards have been included in the Plan to ensure that this detail must be provided at the appropriate stage and to provide certainty that no development will be allowed if it would lead to an adverse effect on the European sites. This has been provided by inserting the following

wording (written in consultation with Natural England), specific to Great Plantation, into Policy MS-1:

'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at AS-06 Great Plantation may have significant effects on species, proximity and displacement of recreation in particular.... Development proposals must either mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'

This is in addition to an initial paragraph in Policy MS-1 (reflecting wording in the Minerals Strategy, 2014) stating that:

'Proposals for the development of these allocations will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from their development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'

With this in mind, the development guidelines for Great Plantation reflect the discussions summarised above and state that these issues must be resolved before development can take place. Specific reference is made to the need for a heathland support area to protect designated heathlands from displacement of recreation.

7.3.2 AS-12 Philliol's Farm, Hyde

This site comprises farm fields, between the river Piddle to the south and forestry plantation to the north. The Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar abut the site at the north-east corner where forestry grades into open mire and heathland/acid grassland. Much of this adjacent heathland/forestry is open access or dedicated access land and the forestry block directly to the north of the site has some permitted access along existing rides, as well as a bridleway. The heathland is known to support populations of Annex 1 birds (nightjar) which are functionally linked to the European sites.

Although working of the allocated site is unlikely to lead to any direct effects on the European sites, a haul road is planned which would run through the forestry block to the north of Philliol's Farm, and this would form part of the allocated site boundary. The haul road has the potential to affect the European sites in the following ways:

- **Displacement of recreation** – the forestry block to the north of Philliol's Farm provides a recreational alternative to the nearby European sites and if the haul road is sited within this area then this has the potential to displace recreation onto the nearby European sites. This would lead to a likely significant effect.
- Effects on **species** associated with the European sites – nightjar are known to use areas of suitable habitat along existing ride edges within the adjacent forestry plantation. If the haul road affects these ride edges then there will be a negative impact on the population of this species which is functionally linked to the European sites. This would lead to a likely significant effect.

Discussions between the site owner, Natural England and the mineral planning authority have established that it will be possible to plan the location of the haul road with these issues in mind. The haul road will be created along a new route (rather than an existing ride) through an area of forestry which currently has no recreational value and does not provide habitat for Annex 1 birds. The entrance to the haul road will be separate from the current woodland ride entrance which is used as an informal car park. These measures will ensure that disturbance of nightjars and reduction in suitable nightjar habitat is negligible and will also be accompanied by habitat enhancements to ensure that there is a net gain in habitat. These measures will

also ensure that there is a minimal displacement of recreation, and this can be further mitigated by screening the haul road to reduce noise and dust which may otherwise deter walkers.

Although the mitigation set out above cannot be secured at this early stage of site allocation, the discussions between NE, the mineral planning authority and the site owner have provided certainty that:

- Suitable mitigation is available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of this site in the Plan would not lead to a likely significant effect that could not be resolved through control at a later stage in the development management process.
- It is possible at this stage to include safeguards in the Plan to ensure that no site is brought forward if the resulting activity would lead to a likely significant effect on the European sites.

Safeguards have been included in the Plan to ensure that this detail must be provided at the appropriate stage and to provide certainty that no development will be allowed if it would lead to an adverse effect on the European sites. This has been provided by inserting the following wording (written in consultation with Natural England), specific to Philliol's Farm, into Policy MS-1:

'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at.....AS-12 Philliol's Farm may have significant effects on displacement of recreation and species in particular.... Development proposals must either mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'

This is in addition to an initial paragraph in Policy MS-1 (reflecting wording in the Minerals Strategy, 2014) stating that:

'Proposals for the development of these allocations will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from their development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'

With this in mind, the development guidelines for Philliol's Farm reflect the discussions summarised above and state that these issues must be resolved before development can take place.

The development guidelines for Philliol's Farm also refer to the potential for restoration to a large scale wetland once mineral extraction is complete. This would contribute towards overall reduction in phosphate, nitrate and sediment load in the river, and would therefore have a positive impact on the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar.

7.3.3 AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension, Christchurch

This site lies in the east of the county and is bounded by the river Mude to the east, which is also the county boundary with Hampshire. The land east of the Mude is allocated for the extraction of sand and gravel by Hampshire and Isle of Wight County Council and an application is currently being considered for this area.

Although the site is farmland, the river Mude is known to support a population of southern damselfly. This is an Annex 2 species which is a primary reason for the designation of the Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC. Although the allocated site is over 2km from the nearest SAC habitat, this species must be given due weight when considering whether development of the Roeshot site is likely to

have a significant effect on the European sites. There is also a potential in-combination effect because of the planned sand and gravel extraction at the HLOWCC on the other side of the river.

Discussions have taken place between the site owner, Natural England, HLOWCC and damselfly experts (including the county recorder and a southern damselfly specialist at Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust). These discussions have centred on how to avoid impacts, either alone or in-combination, on this species and have resulted in the following mitigation:

- A wide buffer strip to be excluded from sand and gravel working along either side of the river Mude
- Habitat improvements along the river Mude to increase the available habitat for southern damselfly
- Careful planning of water management on and off-site to ensure the river Mude isn't affected by sudden increases or reduction in flow, and that all silt from the mineral working is removed from water which will flow into the Mude.
- Timing of mineral extraction across the border to ensure that only one side of the river is worked at a time

Although the mitigation set out above cannot be secured at this early stage of site allocation, the discussions between NE, the mineral planning authority and the site owner have provided certainty that:

- Suitable mitigation is available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of this site in the Plan would not lead to a likely significant effect that could not be resolved through control at a later stage in the development management process.
- It is possible at this stage to include safeguards in the Plan to ensure that no site is brought forward if the resulting activity would lead to a likely significant effect on the European sites.

Safeguards have been included in the Plan to ensure that this detail must be provided at the appropriate stage and to provide certainty that no development will be allowed if it would lead to an adverse effect on the European sites. This has been provided by inserting the following wording (written in consultation with Natural England), specific to Roeshot Quarry Extension, into Policy MS-1:

'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at.....AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension may have significant effects on species in particular.... Development proposals must either mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'

This is in addition to an initial paragraph in Policy MS-1 (reflecting wording in the Minerals Strategy, 2014) stating that:

'Proposals for the development of these allocations will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from their development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'

With this in mind, the development guidelines for Roeshot Quarry Extension reflect the discussions summarised above and state that these issues must be resolved before development can take place.

7.3.4 BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham

Trigon Hill Extension is north-west of Wareham, comprising a mix of farmland and conifer plantation, with a constituent part of the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar and Dorset Heaths SAC adjacent to the northern boundary. The site is known to support Annex 1 birds (woodlark and nightjar) along ride edges and in areas of open grassland. These are qualifying species of the Dorset Heathlands SPA and are functionally linked to the adjacent unit of the SPA. This led to an initial conclusion that there would be a likely significant effect on the European site if ball clay extraction took place at this allocation.

However, subsequent discussions between Natural England, the operator and the mineral planning authority have established that adequate mitigation can be provided to ensure that effects are reduced to below the threshold of significance. Mitigation includes:

- Drawing back the northern boundary to create a buffer between the allocated site and the European sites.
- Phased working of the site to allow creation of high quality nightjar and woodlark habitat as soon as a phase is finished, to mitigate effects of mineral extraction on these species.

Although the mitigation set out above cannot be secured at this early stage of site allocation, the discussions between NE, the mineral planning authority and the mineral operator have provided certainty that:

- Suitable mitigation is available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of this site in the Plan would not lead to a likely significant effect that could not be resolved through control at a later stage in the development management process.
- It is possible at this stage to include safeguards in the Plan to ensure that no site is brought forward if the resulting activity would lead to a likely significant effect on the European sites.

Safeguards have been included in the Plan to ensure that this detail must be provided at the appropriate stage and to provide certainty that no development will be allowed if it would lead to an adverse effect on the European sites. This has been provided by inserting the following wording (written in consultation with Natural England), specific to Trigon Hill Extension, into Policy MS-5:

‘Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension may have significant effects on species in particular. Development proposals must mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.’

This is in addition to an initial paragraph in Policy MS-5 (reflecting wording in the Minerals Strategy, 2014) stating that:

‘Sites will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from their development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.’

The development guidelines for Trigon Hill Extension reflect the discussions summarised above and state that these issues must be resolved before development can take place.

7.4 Sites previously assessed as having likely significant effects

Four sites were previously assessed as having the potential to cause likely significant effects. However site visits, provision of further information and discussions with Natural England resulted in the conclusion that allocation of the sites would not lead to likely significant effect on the relevant European sites, a conclusion reflected in earlier iterations of this HRA. The text below provides information on how this conclusion was reached.

7.4.1 AS-19 Woodsford Quarry Extension, Woodsford and AS-26 Hurst Farm, Moreton

These allocations lie adjacent to and south of the river Frome. The proximity of the sites to a river which flows into the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar sites led to concerns that pollutants (silt and disturbed nutrients such as nitrate and phosphates) from activities associated with the mineral permissions would affect the European sites. However, discussions with Natural England resulted in the agreement that standard pollution controls, required via environmental permitting and the conditions of the mineral permission should ensure that these impacts never rise above the threshold of significance.

A safeguard was put in place by including wording in the relevant policy (MS-1) stating that development must not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites (see Sect 8 below).

In addition, the development guidelines for these sites refer to the potential for restoration to large scale wetlands once mineral extraction is complete. This would contribute towards overall reduction in phosphate, nitrate and sediment load in the river, and would therefore have a positive impact on the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar.

7.4.2 RA-01 White's Pit, Canford Heath

This site is close to the Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, and allocation of the site will not result in any development not already permitted. However, there were concerns that the proximity to the European sites could lead to impacts on heathland vegetation and/or associated species from dust and vermin. Foxes and rats are known to predate ground nesting birds (such as woodlark and nightjar) and reptiles (such as sand lizard and smooth snake) and it is possible that numbers of these pest species could increase as a result of an increase in food/suitable habitat associated with development. In addition, dust generated from the site has the potential to damage heathland vegetation by smothering plants and reducing the ability to photosynthesize, as well as affecting the pH and nutrient status of the site.

However, the planned site use (aggregate recycling) and the prevailing wind direction (from the south-west) were both considered and it was concluded that it was unlikely that predator numbers would increase as a result of the permitted activity, and that most dust generated would be carried away from the European sites by the prevailing wind. In addition, measures to control pests and dust will be required under the planning consent.

A safeguard has been put in place by including wording in the relevant policy (MS-4) stating that development must not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites (see Sect 8 below).

7.4.3 PK-16 Swanworth Quarry Extension

This site is close to the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, designated (in part) for calcareous grassland and associated species. The original site boundary lay close to the edge of the SAC, which led to concerns that activity associated with the consented activity could damage the SAC by generating dust which would smother the vegetation. However,

early discussions with the operator, NE and the Mineral Planning Authority resulted in the boundary being revised to create a buffer between the SAC and the allocated site. In addition, the prevailing wind is from the south-west, making it likely that any dust will be carried away from the SAC.

When these factors were considered it was concluded that any effects on the European site would be below the threshold of significance.

A safeguard has been put in place by including wording in the relevant policy (MS-5) stating that development must not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites (see Sect 8 below).

7.4.4 PK-17 Home Field, Acton

This site is close to the St Alban's Head to Durlston Head SAC, designated for calcareous grassland and associated species. It was thought possible that production of Purbeck Stone may lead to generation of dust with the potential to damage the vegetation for which the European site is designated. However it is likely that this impact would have been slight, as prevailing wind direction is from the south-west and therefore dust would be carried away from the SAC. Also, the quarrying activity would be small scale, part of a mosaic of small Purbeck Stone quarries on this part of Purbeck which have existed alongside the SAC since before the site was designated.

Previous iterations of this document recommended drawing back the boundary of this site to create a buffer. Now that this mitigation has been incorporated into the plan it is considered that any impacts on the SAC will be below the threshold of significance.

A safeguard has been put in place by including wording in the relevant policy (MS-6) stating that development must not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites (see Sect 8 below).

7.5 No likely significant effects, and restoration gains

All other sites were screened out in earlier iterations of this assessment. This is because the proposed activities, when combined with other factors such as lack of proximity to the relevant European sites, were considered to be below the threshold of likely significant effect.

Several sites have the potential to contribute to strengthening the network of European sites in Dorset, by creating high quality heathland/acid grassland habitat at the restoration stage, as well as habitat supporting qualifying species or priority species for which the sites are designated. This is highlighted in the development guidelines for AS-06 Great Plantation, AS-12 Philliol's Farm, AS-15 Tatchells Quarry Extension and BC-04 Trigon Hill Quarry Extension.

Restoration to wetland at several sites may contribute to reduction of nitrate, phosphate and sediment flowing into the Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar sites from the rivers Frome and Piddle. This is highlighted in the development guidelines for AS-12 Philliol's Farm, AS-19 Woodsford Quarry Extension and AS-26 Hurst Farm.

8. Screening of the Draft Mineral Sites Plan Proposed Policies

8.1 Screening of Proposed Policies for Likely Significant Effects

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

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

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

8.2 Policies previously assessed as having the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the European sites

Previous iterations of this assessment concluded that policies MS-1, MS-2, MS-3, MS-4, MS-5 and MS-6 could lead to likely significant effects on the relevant European sites as the policies were not specifically defined in precautionary terms to protect European sites. This being the case, wording was suggested for inclusion in the policies and in the accompanying text, in discussion with Natural England. This final version of the Habs Regs Assessment for the Draft Mineral Sites Plan presents the detail of what has been included and where it occurs in the plan.

This policy wording is in accordance with advice contained in the Habs Regs guidance document for Scottish Natural Heritage² which states that ‘as soon as likely significant effects are identified, the plan making body should look to introduce measures to eliminate or reduce them. To carry weight, such mitigation should preferably be included in the policy wording where policies are distinguishable from other text.’

Policies MS1-6 were discussed with Natural England and now have the following wording inserted in the policy text. This is to provide certainty that the likely significant effects on the European sites which may arise without additional wording will be reduced to a negligible or insignificant level.

- In the text of Policies MS1 – 6: development/allocated sites must demonstrate that *‘possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.’*
- In the accompanying text of Policies MS1 - 6: development/allocated sites *‘should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.’*

This mitigation is provided in addition to site specific wording for the following sites; AS-06 Great Plantation, AS-12 Philliol’s Farm, AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension and BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension, where specific likely significant effects were identified and discussions with operators/site owners have established that adequate mitigation and enhancements will be possible (see Sect 7.3 above).

Policy MS-8 (Puddletown Road Area policy) is less likely to have an adverse effect on the European sites as this policy aims to secure a consistent and coordinated approach to the restoration of land permitted for mineral development and should therefore support and enhance the European sites by helping secure the provision of high quality heathland and acid grassland. This will help create a resilient ecological network surrounding the European sites. However, to provide the level of certainty needed for assessment under the Habs Regs, wording has been included in the accompanying text and within the policy to ensure that no development can take place until it has been demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on the European sites. This wording is similar to the wording presented above for policies MS1-6:

- In the text of Policy MS-8: *‘Development, restoration, management or other activities will only be undertaken where it can be demonstrated that any possible effects that might result will not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.’*
- In the accompanying text of Policy MS-8: *‘Any development, restoration, management or other activities relating to the implementation of this policy should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this Plan.’* This wording links the Mineral Sites Plan to Policy DM5 of the Minerals Strategy, ensuring clarity about the importance of the European sites, how they are protected under UK and European/international law and what measures are needed to ensure impacts on these sites are below the threshold of significance.

8.3 No likely significant effects

No likely significant effects are expected to result from the implementation of Policies MS-7 and MS-9.

MS-7 allocates sites for the provision of other building stone (excluding Portland and Purbeck stone) and these are all sites on farmland, adjacent to existing extraction and not near to any European sites. There are no records of any species associated with the European sites occurring on or adjacent to the site allocations and therefore, although effects on European sites resulting from the implementation of these policies cannot be ruled out, it is seen as extremely unlikely.

MS-9 prevents land-use conflict. This will not lead to development and therefore cannot result in likely significant effect on the European sites.

9. Assessment of In-Combination Effects

An assessment of in-combination effects at the strategic level of the Mineral Sites Plan can only consider general possible effects, and a more useful appraisal will be achieved once sites are brought forward for development.

However, this assessment has included consideration of the combined effects of the Mineral Sites Plan with other relevant development planning documents (DPDs) and the development which may arise from these. As well, the possibility of in-combination effects between policies within the Mineral Sites Plan has been examined. Appendices 2 and 3 contain the summary of this assessment and Appendix 4 contains a review of existing DPDs, to inform the assessment.

An assessment of the potential for in-combination effects arising when all the allocated sites within the Mineral Sites Plan are looked at together is also made below. This considers whether the small effects arising from several individual sites might add up to a significant affect overall, as opposed to considering effects arising from the Mineral Sites Plan in-combination with other development plans. This assessment concludes that:

- There are very few sites with any negative impacts on European sites.
- The identified effects are not all on the same European sites (eg Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar versus the Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar).
- The only site where a significant issue in terms of a potential significant effect on the heathlands was identified was AS-06 Great Plantation. At other sites (AS-12 Philliol’s Farm and BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension) the risks were small (though still mitigated) and

it was more a question of ensuring that the small risk from each development did not occur, taking a precautionary approach.

- The sites where heathland SAC/SPA/Ramsar effects are considered in the HRA are far enough apart that there is no likely direct interaction of effects.

Thus it is not considered that any combined effect from individual sites allocated within the Mineral Sites Plan could be significant over and above that from each one singly.

The general approach of the Mineral Sites Plan has been to ensure that site specific policies, general development management policies and the development guidelines associated with proposed site allocations are designed to provide adequate mitigation to reduce effects to non-significant levels. The assessment contained in sections 7 and 8 of this document demonstrates that all likely significant effects on the relevant European sites can be eliminated with changes to policy wording, accompanying text and development guidelines. This being the case, the likelihood of in-combination effects with development arising from other DPDs is further reduced.

The review of other DPDs shows that these documents have been assessed for effects on European sites. In all cases the accompanying HRAs were able to conclude that the relevant DPD would not lead to likely significant effects on the European sites. It is therefore concluded that it is extremely unlikely that the Mineral Sites Plan would result in in-combination effects with other DPDs at this strategic level.

However, there are issues which will require further examination when sites are brought forward for development. This issues include:

- Displacement of recreation. Although sites/spatial allocations/policies may be below the threshold of significant effect when individual site assessments are carried out, a more detailed examination of the effect of displacement of recreation in-combination with other development will be needed once detailed information is available to ensure that the sum effect does not lead to a significant effect on the European sites.
- Effects on southern damselfly at AS-12 Roeshot Quarry Extension. This site is adjacent to an allocated site for sand and gravel extraction in Hampshire and the combined effect of the two developments will need careful evaluation as proposals are brought forward.
- Effects on Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar from nutrient/silt inputs arising from development and mineral extraction along the main rivers which flow into this area: the Frome and the Piddle. The potential for these effects is addressed via the Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document which forms part of the Poole Local Plan (Policy PP31) and the West Dorset Local Plan (Policy Env2).

At this stage in the Dorset strategic mineral planning process, it is considered that policy wording, accompanying text wording and development guidelines ensure that there will be no in-combination effects from the spatial allocations and policies discussed above.

10. Conclusion

It is concluded that providing the recommended additions and changes in wording to policy, accompanying text and development guidelines are incorporated as above, the pre-submission Draft Mineral Plan, October 2017 is compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017.

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 <u>Coppice</u> 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 <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	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 <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>	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 (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) Annex I Non-Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	Physical Damage: Changes in natural coastal processes, e.g. through coastal defences (data form) Recreational pressure (NE comments) Toxic Contamination: Accidental oil pollution (data form) Non Toxic Contamination: Water quality - blooms of blue green algae occur (data form)

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			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 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	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 <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) *Priority feature Humid dune slacks Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> *Priority feature European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> Bog woodland *priority feature Annex 1 Non Primary:	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 <i>Rhododendron</i> • 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

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty of clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></p> <p>*Priority feature</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary:</p> <p>Southern Damselfly – <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Annex 1 Non - Primary:</p> <p>Great crested newt – <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	
Dorset Heaths SAC	5719.54		<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> *</p> <p>Priority feature</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). • Unpolluted water and base-rich streams to support Southern damselfly. • Warm climatic conditions (Southern

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			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>	damselfly is at northern limit of its European range). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	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>	Biological Disturbance: Invasive species such as nettles and ragwort due to adjacent intensive farming (data form) Over- grazing (data form) Scrub encroachment (data form)
Holnest SAC	54.94		Annex II Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	1446.45		Annex 1 Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Annex 1 Non-Primary: Annual vegetation of drift lines Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Physical damage: coastal erosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure • Extant quarrying permission • Biological disturbance: loss of grazing

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian – <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex 2 Non-Primary: Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus Cristatus</i>	
Rooksmoor SAC	62.46	Lowland grassland; Lowland heath; Marsh fritillary butterfly	Annex I Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) Annex II Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>	Non Physical Disturbance: Traffic (prof judgement) Biological Disturbance: Scrub invasion due to lack of grazing (data form)
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	897.508	Coastal	Annex I Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts_ Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature Annex I Non-Primary: Annual vegetation of drift lines Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Perennial vegetation of stony banks Annex II Non-Primary: <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	Physical Loss: None identified Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement) Human presence (prof judgement)
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	284.68	Lowland grassland, early gentian	Annex 1 Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates *Priority feature	Physical damage: climbing activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-physical disturbance: light pollution • Human presence • Biological disturbance: scrub invasion • Threat of <i>Brachypodium</i> becoming

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex 2 Non-Primary: Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	dominant
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	328.748	Woodland	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 Annex I Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)_ Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Annex II Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Physical Damage: Game management (data form) Recreation (prof judgement) Development pressure (prof judgement) Water Table: Abstraction (prof judgement) Toxic Contamination: Agricultural runoff (prof judgement) Biological Disturbance: Deer browsing (data form)
Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA	747.37		Annex I Birds Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Migratory Species: Branta bernicla bernicla	Physical damage: Development of existing shellfish farm (data form) Non-physical damage: Recreational pressure(from increased watersport use) (data form) MOD firing range (data form)

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				Routine or accidental oil/chemical discharges into harbour (data form) Agricultural run-off (data form) Non-toxic contamination: Domestic sewage discharges (data form) Biological disturbance Introduction of non-native species (data form)
Dorset Heathlands SPA	8172.82		During the breeding season: Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i> Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	Acid soils; <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. <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
Poole Harbour SPA	2313.57		During the breeding season: Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban growth and port/marina development

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<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 strepera</i>, NW Europe Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i>, NW Europe</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.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe	
Chesil Beach and The Fleet Ramsar Site	747.37		<p>Ramsar criterion 1 Outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat. Also supports rare saltmarsh habitats.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3 Largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK with greatest diversity of habitats and biota.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 4 Important for number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle, including post-larval and juvenile bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 8 Nursery for bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 Overwintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i></p>	<p>Physical damage: Changes in natural physical processes (prof judgement) Development of existing shellfish farm (data form)</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance: Recreational pressure (data form) MOD firing range (data form)</p> <p>Toxic contamination: Routine or accidental oil/chemical discharges into harbour (prof judgement) Agricultural run-off (prof judgement)</p> <p>Non-toxic contamination: Domestic sewage discharges (data form)</p>
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site	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>.</p>	<p>Under- grazing leading to scrub invasion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid rain • Pollution – unspecified • Leaching from waste tips

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and crossleaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3 Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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 <i>Cladium</i></p>	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>mariscus. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance. 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>	

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	-

Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature
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 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)
Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA	89078.26ha	Supporting habitat for feeding populations of: Common Tern Sandwich Tern Little Tern

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:	Physical Damage: Occasional quarrying of stone from habitat areas (data form)

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p><u>Lesser horseshoe bat</u> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i></p> <p><u>Greater horseshoe bat</u> <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i></p>	<p>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)</p> <p>Light pollution (prof judgement)</p> <p>Water Table: Flooding of caves (prof judgement)</p>
Chilmark Quarries SAC	10.4995		<p>Annex II Primary:</p> <p>Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i></p> <p>Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></p> <p>Bechstein`s bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary:</p> <p>Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i></p>	<p>Physical Loss: Collapse of underground voids (data form)</p> <p>Non Physical Disturbance: Human presence, noise and visual disturbance (data form)</p> <p>Light pollution (prof judgement)</p>
Great Yews SAC	28.8798		<p>Annex I Primary:</p> <p><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles</p> <p>* Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary:</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p>	<p>Physical Loss: None identified</p>
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	458.087		<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p>	<p>Early gentian is associated with a grazing regime which maintains a short turf and a proportion of bare ground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of grazing. • Minimal air pollution – nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of direct fertilisation. Well-drained soils.
New Forest SAC	29253.96		<p>Annex I Primary:</p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)_</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea_</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix_</p> <p>European dry heaths_</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)_</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion_</p> <p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)_</p> <p>Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests_</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains_</p> <p>Bog woodland * Priority feature_</p> <p>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) * Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary:</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs_</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Annex II Primary:</p>	<p>Physical Loss: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form)</p> <p>Physical Damage: Increased recreational pressure (data form)</p> <p>Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement)</p> <p>Human presence (prof judgement)</p> <p>Water Table: Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form)</p> <p>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

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> <i>Myotis bechsteini</i> <i>Lutra lutra</i> <i>Lampetra planeri</i> <i>Cottus gobio</i>	
Prescombe Down	76.2203		Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Annex II Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex II Non-Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>	Biological Disturbance: Inappropriate grazing regimes (data form) Increased stocking of game birds (data form)
River Avon SAC	467.584		Annex I Primary: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Annex I Non-Primary: Alkaline fens Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) Annex II Primary: <i>Desmoulin's whorl snail</i> <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	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 (NE comments) Toxic Contamination: Water pollution (data form) Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> _ Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> _ Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> _ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> 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 <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Annex II Primary: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> _ Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> _ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> _ <i>Salmo salar</i>	Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	37.935		Annex I Primary: Coastal lagoons Annex I Non-Primary: <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)	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><i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritima</i>)</u> <u>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)</u> Annex I Non-Primary: <u>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</u>	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p><u>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</u> <u>Coastal lagoons</u> * Priority feature <u>Annual vegetation of drift lines</u> <u>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</u> <u>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</u> <u>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</u></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary: <u>Desmoulin's whorl snail</u> <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p>	
Avon Valley SPA	1351.1		<p>Over winter: Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus Columbianus bewickii</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i></p>	<p>Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime 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: Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i> Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i> Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>Over winter: 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.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time; • Unpolluted water. • 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:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
Somerset Levels & Moors SPA	6393.72		<p>Annex I Birds: Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Migratory Species: Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Vanellus <i>vanellus</i></p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 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)</p>	<p>Physical Loss: Conversion of grassland to arable (data form) Physical Damage: Cutting of silage (data form) Water Table: Drainage (data form and WT comments) Hydrological effects of development at Taunton and Bridgwater (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 NE comments)</p>
Avon Valley Ramsar Site	See above (also falls within Dorset)			
New Forest Ramsar Site	27997.59	Woodland; Lowland heath; Bog, fen and swamp		<p>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)</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<p>Water Table: Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form)</p> <p>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
Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar Site	6394.53	Lowland grassland; Bog, fen and swamp	<p>Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 17 species of British Red Data Book invertebrates.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter: 97155 waterfowl</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i> Northern lapwing , <i>Vanellus vanellus</i></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)</p> <p>Water level management issues due to development on flood plain (WT comments)</p> <p>Non-toxic contamination: Nutrient enrichment due to increased discharge from Ham Sewage Treatment facility into River Tone above Curry Moor (NE comments)</p>
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Site	5306.66		<p>Ramsar criterion 1 One of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and</p>	<p>Physical Loss: Land-claim (data form)</p> <p>Development pressure (prof judgement)</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>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 boulder reefs.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter: 51343 waterfowl</p> <p>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 bernicla Eurasian teal , Anas crecca Black-tailed godwit , Limosa limosa islandica</p>	<p>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) Non-toxic contamination: Sewage discharge (prof judgement)</p>

Appendix 1 is an updated version of the tables which first appeared in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, 2013

Appendix 2 – HRA Screening of Site Options: Draft Mineral Sites Plan

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Sand and Gravel						
Great Plantation, Puddletown Road (AS-06)	No – see Sect 7.3	Sand and gravel extraction. Creation of voids.	<p>- Proximity: based on the current proposed boundary, mineral working would destroy part of the SAC/SPA. Also potential effects of habitat fragmentation, loss of dispersal corridors and foraging habitat.</p> <p>- Effects on species characteristic of European sites including Annex 1 bird populations and reptile populations for which the habitat forms a functional link with adjacent European sites.</p> <p>- Displacement of recreation: the site currently provides open access recreational land which helps to reduce recreational impacts on adjacent European sites.</p>	Dorset Heaths SAC Dorset Heathlands SPA Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<p>Creation of an off-site heathland support area to mitigate displaced recreation.</p> <p>Design of a network of walks/paths around the remainder of the site, to ensure walkers are directed away from areas adjacent to the European site</p> <p>Phasing of works, with restoration to high quality heathland/grassland habitat taking place as soon as a phase is finished.</p> <p>Enhancement of areas within the 'blue line' boundary to create additional habitat for Annex 1 and Annex 2 species.</p> <p>Insertion of the following text into the wording of Policy MS-1: '<i>Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at AS-06 Great Plantation may have significant effects on species, proximity and displacement of recreation in particular.... Development proposals must either</i></p>	No

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
					<i>mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'</i>	
Hurn Court Farm Quarry, Hurn (AS-09)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Philliol's Farm, Wareham (AS-12)	No – See Sect 7.3	Extraction of sand and gravel. Creation of haul road through forestry plantation north of extraction site.	- Displacement of recreation from Wareham Forest if haul road ran through the Forest - Effects on species characteristic of European sites, including Annex 1 birds	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Routing the haul road through existing forestry plantation, avoiding existing walking routes and habitat used by Annex 1 birds. Creating a haul road entrance which is separate from the existing ride entrance. Insertion of the following text into the wording of Policy MS-1: <i>'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at.....AS-12 Philliol's Farm may have significant effects on displacement of recreation and species in particular.... Development proposals must either mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'</i>	No

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Roeshot, Christchurch (AS-13)	No – See Sect 7.3	Extraction of sand and gravel.	- Effects on southern damselfly, a priority, Annex 2 species for which the relevant sites are designated.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC	<p>Creation of a buffer strip along both banks of the river Mude.</p> <p>Improvements to existing southern damselfly habitat within or adjacent to the allocated site.</p> <p>Careful management of water resources to ensure natural flow levels and water quality are maintained in the river Mude</p> <p>Phasing of works alongside the HIOWCC allocated site to ensure only one side of the river is affected at any time.</p> <p>Insertion of the following text into the wording of Policy MS-1: <i>'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at.....AS-13 Roeshot Quarry Extension may have significant effects on species in particular.... Development proposals must either mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'</i></p>	No
Tatchell's Quarry,	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Wareham (AS-15)						
Woodsford Quarry (AS-19)	No – see Sect 7.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Station Road, Moreton (AS-25)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hurst Farm, Moreton (AS-26)	No - see Sect 7.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crushed Rock						
Swanworth Quarry Extension, Worth Matravers (PK-16)	No – see Sect 7.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recycled Aggregates						
White's Pit, Canford Heath (RA-01)	No – see Sect 7.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ball Clay						
Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham (BC-04)	No – see Sect 7.3	Sand and gravel extraction.	Species effects: potential impacts on Annex 1 birds for which the site forms part of a functional unit with the SPA.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Creation of a buffer between the allocated site and the adjacent European sites. Phased working to enable restoration of high quality heathland/acid grassland habitat immediately each extraction phase	No

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
					is complete. This will mitigate any potential effects on Annex 1 birds Insertion of the following wording into Policy MS-5: <i>'Habitats Regulations Appraisal screening indicates that development at BC-04 Trigon Hill Extension may have significant effects on species in particular. Development proposals must mitigate these effects or reduce them to non-significant levels in order for any development to take place.'</i>	
Purbeck Stone						
Blacklands Quarry Extension, Langton Matravers (PK-02)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southard Quarry, Swanage (PK-10)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downs Quarry Extension, Langton	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Option	Could the proposed site have likely significant effects on European sites	Likely activities to result as a consequence of development of the site	Likely effects if site is developed	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation	In-combination effects
Matravers (PK-15)						
Home Field, Acton (PK-17)	No – See Sect 7.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Quarry 4 Extension, Acton (PK-18)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Broadmead Field, Langton Matravers (PK-19)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gallows Gore, Harman's Cross (PK-21)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Building Stone (Apart from Portland and Purbeck Stone)						
Marnhull Quarry, Marnhull (BS-02)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Frogden Quarry, Osborne (BS-04)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whithill Quarry, Lillington (BS-05)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 3 – HRA Screening of Policies: Draft Mineral Sites 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
<p>Policy MS-1: Sites for the provision of sand and gravel</p>	<p>No – see Sect 8.2</p>	<p>Mineral voids, discharge of water from settlement lagoons, restoration of sites, related infrastructure to support mineral extraction.</p>	<p>Possible effects (in Sect 7.3) of proximity, species and displacement of recreation.</p>	<p>Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar</p>	<p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-1 stating development/allocated sites must demonstrate that: <i>‘possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.’</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/allocated sites: <i>‘should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.’</i></p>	<p>No</p>

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
Policy MS-2: Sand and Gravel Area of Search	No – See Sect 8.2	Submission of unallocated sites.	Effects discussed in Sect 7.1.	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-2 stating development/ sites must demonstrate that: <i>possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/ sites: <i>should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.</i></p>	No
Policy MS-3: Swanworth Quarry Extension	No – See Sect 8.2	Creation of mineral voids and associated dust	Proximity effects via creation of dust	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-3 stating development/allocated sites must demonstrate that: <i>possible effects (including those related to</i>	No

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
					<p><i>hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.'</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/allocated sites: <i>'should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.'</i></p>	
Policy MS-4: Site for the provision of recycled aggregates	No – See Sect 8.2	Inert aggregate recycling	Possible proximity effects on European sites from dust (damaging the heathland habitat), and increased vermin levels (increased predation on	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-4 stating development/allocated sites must demonstrate that: <i>'possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-</i>	No

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
			Annex 1 and Annex 2 wildlife).		<p><i>combination with other plans or projects.'</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/allocated sites: <i>'should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.'</i></p>	
Policy MS-5: Site for the provision of ball clay	No – See Sect 8.2	Mineral voids, discharge of water from settlement lagoons, related infrastructure to support mineral winning, restoration of voids.	Effects on species (Annex 1 birds in particular)	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-5 stating development/allocated sites must demonstrate that: <i>'possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.'</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/allocated sites: <i>'should</i></p>	No

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
					<i>demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.'</i>	
Policy MS-6: Sites for the provision of Purbeck Stone	No – See Sect 8.2	Creation of mineral voids, restoration of sites.	Possible proximity effects on the European site from dust (damaging the coastal grassland)	St Albans Head to Durlston SAC	<p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-6 stating development/allocated sites must demonstrate that: <i>'possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise.....would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.'</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating development/allocated sites: <i>'should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014</i></p>	No

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
					<i>and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this plan.'</i>	
Policy MS-7: Sites for the provision of other building stone (excluding Portland and Purbeck Stone)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy MS-8: Puddletown Road Area Policy	No – See Sect 8.2	Mineral voids, discharge of water from settlement lagoons, restoration of sites, related infrastructure to support mineral extraction.	Effects discussed in Sect 7.1	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<p>Insertion additional sentence into the text of Policy MS-8 stating: <i>'Development, restoration, management or other activities will only be undertaken where it can be demonstrated that any possible effects that might result will not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'</i></p> <p>Insert additional sentence into supporting text stating: <i>'Any development, restoration, management or other activities relating to the implementation of this policy should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European and Ramsar sites. These effects are fully discussed in Policy DM5 of the</i></p>	No

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
					<i>Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014 and the supporting text of that policy, which should be read in conjunction with this Plan.'</i>	
Policy MS-9: Preventing Land-Use Conflict	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 4: Review of Other Plans

This review contains detail of relevant Development Plan Documents, inside and outside of the plan area, along with a summary of findings from accompanying Habs Regs Assessments. This information has been used to provide an initial assessment of potential in-combination effects with the Draft Waste Plan.

1. Relevant Plans/DPDs within Dorset

The Localism Act, 2011, consolidated the plan preparation process for local planning authorities across the UK. All local planning authorities are now required to have a local plan which sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted local plans provide the framework for development across England and those relevant to this document are summarised below, along with other relevant DPDs.

The Localism Act also introduced neighbourhood plans as a right for local communities. Neighbourhood plans can be used to set local policies and shape development within the plan area, usually within one or a group of parishes. There are many neighbourhood plans emerging across Dorset, though most are still in the consultation stage. These are also summarised below.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy, 2014

The Minerals Strategy sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and policy framework for minerals development in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. It balances national, regional and local requirements against social, environmental and economic considerations, and runs up to the end of 2028.

An accompanying HRA was produced and published alongside the Strategy. This discussed potential Habs Regs issues such as effects on the European sites from hydrology, displacement of recreation, proximity, species, land management and restoration, and changes to the wording of Strategy policies and accompanying text were proposed and accepted. Following these changes the HRA concluded that the Strategy would not lead to any likely significant effect on the European sites.

West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan, 2015

This document sets out a long term planning strategy for the west Dorset, Weymouth and Portland administrative area and includes detailed policies and site proposals for housing, employment, leisure and infrastructure. The plan runs until 2031. It allocates a total of 15500 new homes, or @775 per year in 10 housing allocation locations (existing towns and villages). The plan also allocates a total of 60ha for employment use, in 9 employment allocation locations (around existing towns and villages).

The local plan is accompanied by a HRA which concludes that there will be no likely significant effect on the European sites, following the adoption of suggested mitigation to address issues such as: displacement of recreation, nutrient loading on Poole Harbour and compliance with international and national wildlife law.

West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood plans are emerging across this area of Dorset, although only two (Cerne Abbas and Lodgers) have been adopted. The remaining plans are in the consultation stage and will eventually contain details of housing allocations within the plan areas, to inform housing development within the Local Plan period.

Neighbourhood plans are in production for: Askerswell, Bridport, Broadwindsor, Buckland Newton, Charmouth, Chetnole & Stockwood, Chickerell, Corscombe, Halstock & District, Holwell, Leigh, Longburton, Maiden Newton, Piddle Valley, Portland, Puddletown, Sutton Poyntz, Upper Marshwood Vale, Yetminster and Ryme Intrinsica

North Dorset Local Plan, 2016

The North Dorset Local Plan runs until 2031 and allocates 5700 houses within the plan area (275 houses per year) in 5 towns and 18 villages. The plan also allocates employment areas within Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton.

An HRA accompanies the plan and concludes that, as long as the proposed minor wording amendments are adopted, the plan provides strong protection for the relevant European sites and will not lead to likely significant effect.

North Dorset Neighbourhood Plans

At present there are only three neighbourhood plans in progress within North Dorset. These are for Blandford and area, Shillingstone and Bourton. The Blandford and area plan is the largest of these, allocating around 1700 houses and an employment area. A further four neighbourhood plans are at the strategic environmental assessment stage with no details of housing/employment allocation as yet.

Purbeck Local Plan, 2012

The Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (PLP1) sets out the strategic vision and policies for Purbeck until 2026. It will be used to guide new development and determine planning applications. Since the adoption of the PLP1, the Council has started work on the Purbeck Local Plan Review. In addition, an Eastern Dorset Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was published in 2015 as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review and the Council is currently working with the other Eastern Dorset authorities to commission an update to this. However the Council is not using the 2015 SHMA when determining planning applications, and any implications of the SHMA update will be considered through the Local Plan Review.

The local plan allocates a total of 2520 houses, within the conurbation areas of Wool/Winfrith/Lulworth, Wareham, Corfe/Swanage/Langton, Lytchett Matravers, and Bere Regis, all of which are in proximity to European sites. The plan also allocates employment land at Winfrith (Dorset Green) and mentions the need to recharge Swanage beach with additional sand every 10 years.

The current review of the local plan includes the publication of a Heathland Background Paper (November 2017). This underlines the need to ensure that the plan does not lead to likely significant effect on the European sites and (after public consultation and review by an independent consultant) concludes that the current heathland mitigation strategy (enshrined in the Dorset Heathland Planning Framework SPD, 2015-2020) is still the best way to achieve this.

There is as yet no HRA for the Purbeck Local Plan Review, but the Heathland Background Paper provides much certainty about the overall precautionary approach of this authority towards protecting the European sites.

Purbeck Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood plans are progressing in four areas on Purbeck. These are not yet at the stage of allocating sites for housing/employment but will, as in all other cases, be bound by the overall approach stipulated within the Local Plan for the area.

East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1, 2014

This local plan runs until 2028 and allocates around 8900 houses, and a further 80ha of employment land. The plan sets out the broad development strategy (the core strategy) of the councils and includes the main vision, objectives and planning policies to make the strategy happen. Housing is distributed between the existing urban areas, plus additional allocations at Burton, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne/Colehill, Ferndown/West Parley and Verwood. A Christchurch urban extension is also planned and is the subject of a separate masterplan. Employment allocations are centred around Parley, Blunts Farm, Bailie Gate, Verwood, Woolsbridge, Burton, Highcliffe and Christchurch.

The East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 2 will emerge from the review of Part 1 and will contain site allocations and development management policies to sit alongside the Local Plan Part 1.

An HRA was produced to inform the Local Plan Part 2. This stated that there were some uncertain or possible likely significant effects as a result of the plan which needed further investigation at the appropriate assessment stage. The concerns arose from issues such as loss of habitat associated with development and effects on the European sites (heathlands) from proximity of development. However the appropriate assessment state concluded that mitigation such as precautionary policy wording and adherence to the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework SPD would ensure that there was no adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites.

There are no neighbourhood plans within this local plan area.

Bournemouth Local Plan

The statutory Bournemouth Local Plan consists of the Bournemouth Core Strategy (adopted 2012) and the Town Centre Area Action Plan, 2013. The plan currently runs until 2026, but is being updated via the Bournemouth Local Plan Review, which is in the public consultation phase (Nov 2017). This review aims to allocate development and employment sites throughout the borough and address issues such as infrastructure, green belt land, tourism, transport, protection of the natural environment and flooding. The Core Strategy contained the policies to enable development within the local plan area, as well as allocating five separate employment areas.

An accompanying HRA was produced in 2012. This identified potential issues due to the proximity of development to the relevant European sites, and proposed wording amendments as mitigation. The HRA also states that adhering to the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework SPD will ensure there is no likely significant effect on the European sites.

There are no neighbourhood plans within this local plan area

Poole Local Plan

The Poole Local Plan will supersede the Poole Core Strategy which was adopted in 2009. The Poole Core Strategy provides for 10000 homes within the borough alongside a minimum net addition of 4600 jobs.

The local plan has recently gone out for the final pre-submission consultation and includes the vision, strategic objectives, policies and implementation and monitoring which will be needed to deliver the plan. The plan allocates housing sites for up to 14200 houses (710 houses per year), and an additional 39.6ha of employment land and will be reviewed in 2023.

Although the Poole Local Plan has not yet been adopted, it is at the end of this process and due for inspection in the near future. As the detail in the local plan is much more current than the 2009 Core Strategy, it seems sensible to focus on the detail of this more recent document in the context of this Waste Plan HRA.

The Local Plan is supported by an HRA which states that the plan will be compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations if the amendments and recommendations in the HRA are incorporated into the plan. These include minor wording changes for policies and supporting text, as well as the addition of measures to protect the European sites from effects on water quality, recreational pressure, species such as nightjar and air quality. Additional measures to enhance wider biodiversity to support the European sites are also proposed.

There are no neighbourhood plans within this local plan area

2. Relevant Plans/DPDs in adjoining areas

New Forest National Park Core Strategy, 2010

New Forest District Council Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) and Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management, 2009

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, 2013

Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy, 2009

Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy, 2009

South Somerset Local Plan, 2006

East Devon Local Plan, 2013

3. Water Catchment Plans

South West River Basin District River Basin Management Plan

Underpinned by: the water body reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGS) which identify the pressures that are impacting the status classification of water bodies, and the reasons for deterioration (RFDs) which identify the pressures that have caused the status of individual quality elements to deteriorate.