

Christchurch Bay and Harbour Flood and
Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study
Technical Annex 10: SSSI Condition Assessment

Provided by
Natural England

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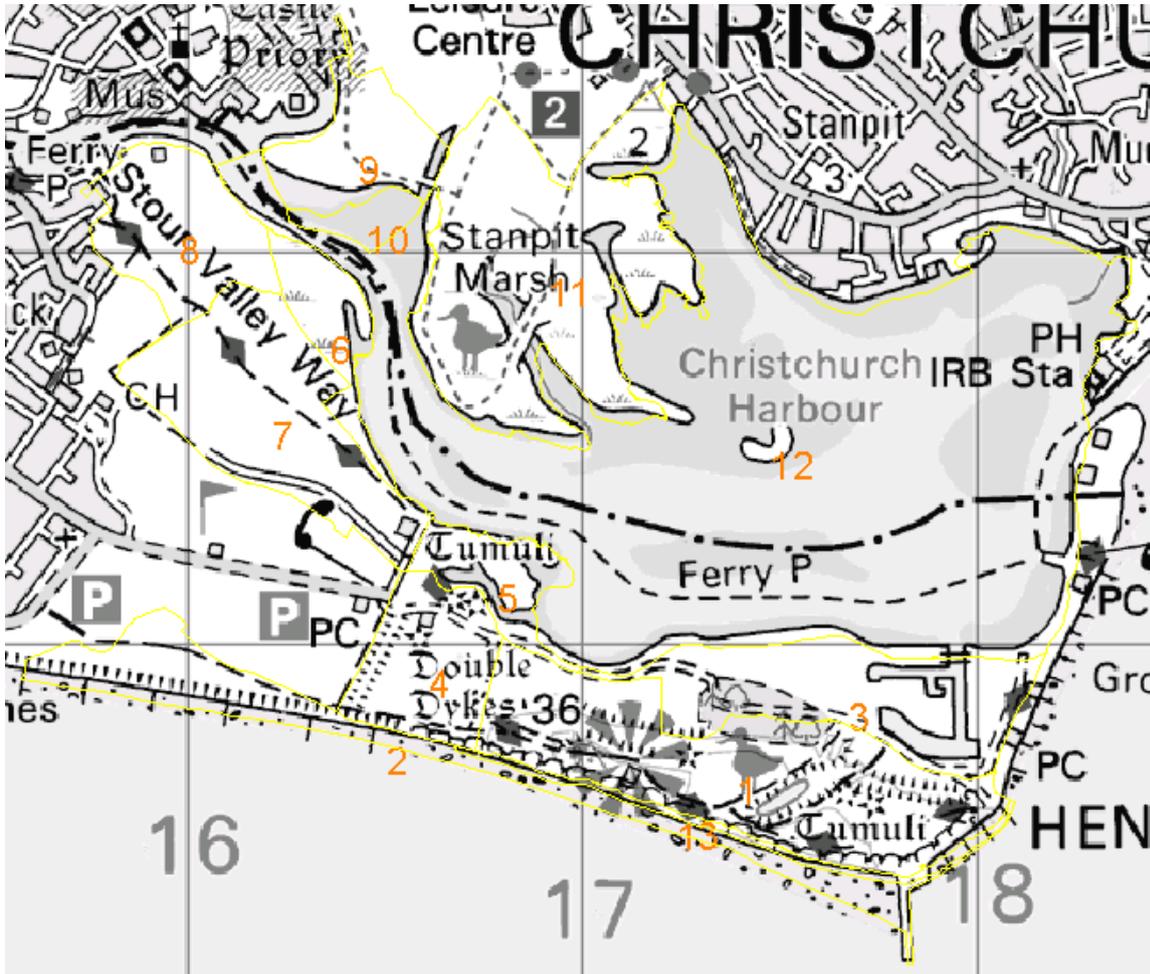
Technical Annex 10: SSSI Condition Assessment

Contents Amendment Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Revision	Description	Date	Signed
1		Draft	October 2005	N Hiorns

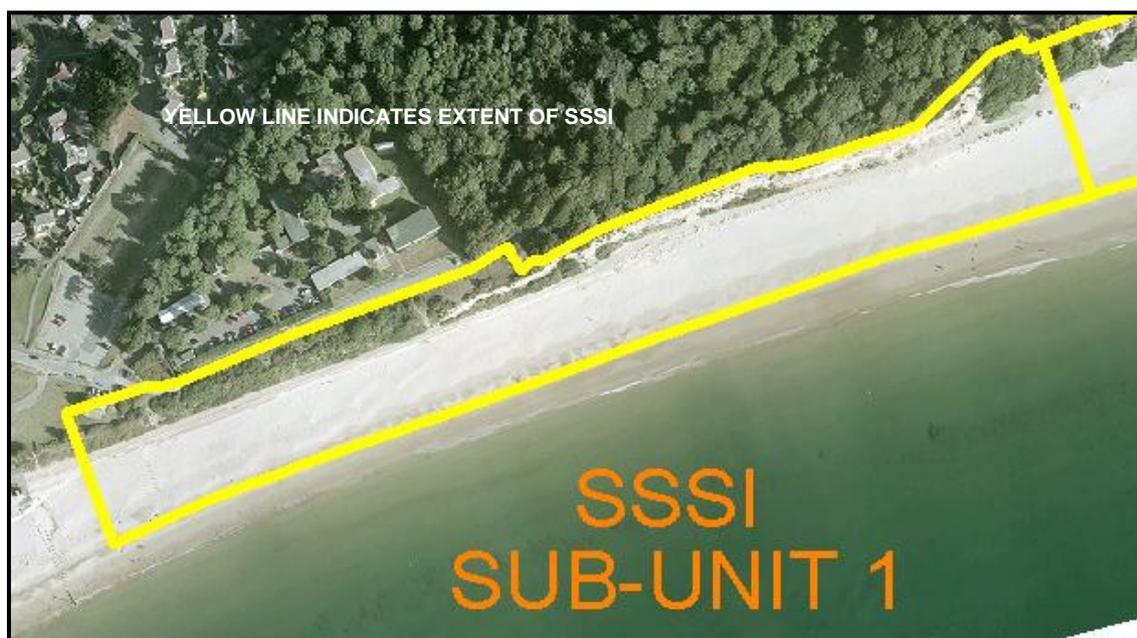
Christchurch Harbour SSSI



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CHB1 to 5
COASTAL DEFENCES	seawall & timber groynes
SSSI UNIT REF. UNIT LENGTH	Units 1 to 13
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Earth Heritage, shrub and grassland lowland, supra-littoral rock, and littoral sediment
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	Sept 1997 to Sept 2000
SSSI CONDITION	Various
COMMENTS (Nov 2002)	Harbour mainly Favourable, although sub-units also unfavourable declining and no change

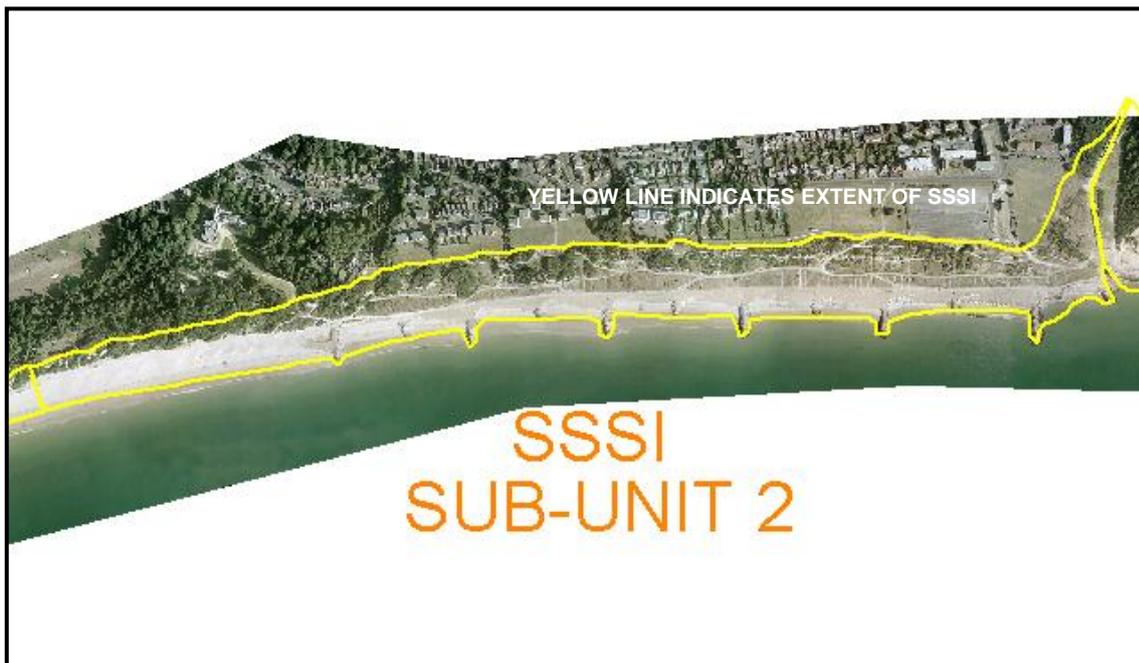
Main habitat	Unit No.	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Condition	Reason for adverse condition
Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1	36.14	03/11/04	Favourable	
Supralittoral rock	2	20.30	03/11/04	Unfavourable declining	Inappropriate weed control
Supralittoral rock	2	20.30	03/11/04	Unfavourable declining	Undergrazing
Littoral sediment	3	21.16	03/11/04	Favourable	
Acid grassland - lowland	4	12.4	03/11/04	Unfavourable no change	
Littoral sediment	5	6.83	03/11/04	Unfavourable declining	
Littoral sediment	6	6.9	10/02/2000	Favourable	
Acid grassland - lowland	7	24.60	03/11/04	Favourable	
Neutral grassland - lowland	8	13.93	03/11/04	Favourable	
Neutral grassland - lowland	9	10.52	26/08/03	Favourable	
Littoral sediment	10	2.61	10/02/2000	Favourable	
Littoral sediment	11	41.60	03/11/04	Favourable	
Littoral sediment	12	152.55	26/03/04	Favourable	
Earth heritage	13	2.98	26/09/2000	Favourable	

Highcliffe to Milford Cliffs SSSI



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY2
COASTAL DEFENCES	Seawall & timber groynes / undefended cliffs
SSSI UNIT REF.	SSSI Sub Unit 1
LENGTH / AREA	505 metres / 3.3 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Earth Heritage
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	1 st February 2001
SSSI CONDITION	Favourable
COMMENTS (FEB 2002)	Cliff with good exposures although minor build up of material at foot of cliff masks some of the lower exposures. Some Holm Oak present.

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO FEB 2001 CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	Do Nothing (cliff erosion following seawall failure)			•	
2	Hold the line (replace seawall following failure)		•		
3	Hold the line (recharge beach to west & maintain seawall) *		•		* Preferred option



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY2
COASTAL DEFENCES	undefended cliffs / rock groyne, rock revetment, cliff stabilisation (including slope re-profiling)
SSSI UNIT REF.	SSSI Sub Unit 2
LENGTH / AREA	1842 metres / 26.51 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Earth Heritage
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	14 th June 2000
SSSI CONDITION	Unfavourable – no change
COMMENTS (June 2000)	Inappropriate coast-defence works, effectively obscuring interest and preventing further erosion of cliff face.

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO JUNE 2000 CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	Do Nothing			●	
2	Managed retreat (reduce length or remove strongpoints)			●	
3	Hold the line (recharge beach & maintain strongpoints) *		●		<i>*preferred option</i>



MANAGEMENT UNIT CBY3 / CBY4

COASTAL DEFENCES Undefined cliffs (CBY3) / defended cliffs (CBY4) : rock strongpoints, rock revetment, cliff stabilisation (& re-profiling)

SSSI UNIT REF. LENGTH / AREA SSSI Sub Unit 3
3640 metres / 45.09 ha

SSSI TYPE / HABITAT Earth Heritage

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION 16th May 2001
(An additional unofficial inspection was undertaken in Nov 2002, these comments are highlighted in dark red)

SSSI CONDITION Unfavourable – No change

(Western section (undefended Naish Cliffs) - Favourable
Eastern section (defended cliffs) : Unfavourable – no change)

COMMENTS May 2001 & additional unofficial inspection Nov 2002 Earth science feature obstructed. Presence of beach huts and inappropriate drainage / stabilisation works in central section at Barton have obscured much of the lower exposures in cliff.

(Western section (undefended cliffs): Freely slumping cliff profile providing partial exposures of A2 and extensive exposures of A3 – F of the Barton Formation. Units above F poorly exposed. Note that the foreshore exposures were covered in a thick layer of sand.
Eastern section (defended cliffs): Re-graded cliffs and weighted toe obscure exposure throughout unit. D-H of Barton Clay Formation obscured. Small exposures of unit H present at the eastern extremity of defences and in number of fresh scars generated by recent small-scale slips.)

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO MAY 2001 CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	CBY3 Do Nothing (cliff continues to erode)		•		
2	CBY4 Managed retreat (remove strongpoints & revetments)			•	
3	CBY4 Hold the line (maintain existing coastal defences)		•		
4	CBY4 Hold the line (maintain existing coastal defences, recharge beach, cliff drainage scheme) *		•		<i>*preferred option</i>



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY5 / CBY6
COASTAL DEFENCES	Undefended cliffs (CBY5) / defeneded cliffs (CBY6) : seawall, timber groyne, rock revetment
SSSI UNIT REF. LENGTH / AREA	SSSI Sub Unit 4 3109 metres / x 38.49 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Earth Heritage
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	12 December 2001 (An additional unofficial inspection was undertaken in Nov 2002, these comments are highlighted in dark red)
SSSI CONDITION	Unfavourable – no change (Western section (Becton Bunny to Parish Boundary): favourable, Eastern section (Parish Boundary to Milford): unfavourable – declining?)
COMMENTS Dec 2001 & additional unofficial inspection Nov 2002	Earth Science feature obstructed. Eastern third of this unit (Hordle & Rook Cliffs) are fronted by a double row of beach huts and the lower slopes immediately behind have slumped and are densely vegetated to within 10-20 ft from the cliff top - only the very upper section is visible. (Western section: Coastal processes active and providing continuously renewed exposure. Although the outfall at Becton Bunny is messy, it does not impact on the succession. This might change if a new outfall is installed. Units I - K of the Barton Clay Formation and lower part of Headon Formation well exposed. Eastern section: Increasingly wide beach eastwards (beach feeding?) with little toe erosion to the cliffs. Therefore the cliffs are vegetating up. Beach huts in front of cliffs and concrete promenade in extreme east of unit. Upper part of Headon Formation intermittently exposed.)

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO DEC 2001 CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	CBY5 - Do nothing (cliff will continue to erode) *			●	<i>*preferred option</i>
2	CBY6 - Do nothing (increase in cliff erosion following revetment / seawall / groyne failure)			●	
3	CBY6 - Hold the line (maintain defences & beach recharge)*		●		<i>*preferred option</i>

Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary SSSI



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY7
COASTAL DEFENCES	Seawall, timber groynes rock revetment
SSSI UNIT REF. AREA	SSSI Sub Unit 2 171.32 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Littoral sediment
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	27 th August 2003
SSSI CONDITION	Unfavourable - declining
COMMENTS (AUG 2003)	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing signs of extensive saltmarsh erosion indicative coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There are undoubtedly also signs of Spartina die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO PRESENT CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	Do Nothing	●			
2	Hold the line (extend rock revetment)		●		
3	Hold the line (recharge beach/beach management plan) *		●		<i>*preferred option</i>



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY7
COASTAL DEFENCES	Seawall, timber groynes rock revetment, open shingle beach
SSSI UNIT REF. AREA	SSSI Sub Unit 31 23.92 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Littoral rock
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	20 th January 1998
SSSI CONDITION	Favourable
COMMENTS (JAN 1998)	None

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO PRESENT CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	Do Nothing	●			
2	Hold the line (extend rock revetment)		●		
3	Hold the line (recharge beach/beach management plan) *		●		*preferred option



MANAGEMENT UNIT	CBY7
COASTAL DEFENCES	Shingle re-curve / undefended
SSSI UNIT REF. AREA	SSSI Sub Unit 32 7.81 ha
SSSI TYPE / HABITAT	Littoral rock
DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	10 th November 2000
SSSI CONDITION	Favourable
COMMENTS (NOV 2000)	None

CHRISTCHURCH BAY STRATEGY OPTIONS		LIKELY IMPACT ON SSSI WITH RESPECT TO PRESENT CONDITION			
		Decline	Maintain	Improve	
1	Do Nothing	●			
2	Hold the line (extend rock revetment)		●		
3	Hold the line (recharge beach/beach management plan) *		●		*preferred option