

Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole

**Waste Plan
Pre-Submission Draft**

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

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

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Waste 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 Waste Plan.

The Plan, which will replace the adopted Waste Local Plan (2006) will set out the vision and objectives, spatial strategy, core policies and development management policies for waste development in the sub-region. In addition it will include site specific allocations to deliver the spatial strategy. The Plan covers the period up to 2033.

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

A Draft Waste Plan Update 2016 was published in May 2016. This iteration of the Plan contained six additional sites and a series of 16 sites emerging as preferred waste site allocations to address the waste management needs of the three authorities.

In February 2017, a focussed consultation on three additional site options took place¹.

The publication of the Waste Plan Pre-Submission Draft is the final stage in which comments are invited on soundness and legal compliance, before the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State. The consultation period on the Pre-Submission Draft is from 1st December 2017 – 31st January 2018.

This report provides an audit of the Waste Plan in respect of compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, to be known as the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening ('HRA Screening') of the Waste Plan. This exercise includes a screening of the allocated sites, the proposed policies, plus vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the Final Draft Plan. The HRA Screening has been undertaken internally by Dorset County Council's Senior Ecologist. It follows the Draft Guidance from Natural England², and from Scottish Natural Heritage³.

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 to 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. The present report contains the findings of this exercise. The present report is the final report in a series of iterations which have been produced to accompany the iterations of the Waste Plan.

¹ Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Draft Waste Plan: Waste Site Options in Blandford and Purbeck (February 2017)

² Natural England (2009) Revised Draft Guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents

³ 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 Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

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

It tackles the long-term decline in European biodiversity arising from the destruction and degradation of habitat as well as species persecution and exploitation and aims to maintain and restore sites to their best condition.⁴ 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 assessment of 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 maintained.⁵

The HRA comprises a number of stages as set out below. The first stage is the screening stage, which determines whether any options could have a likely significant effect on a European site, 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 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 Directive⁶
- **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.

⁴ RSPB (2007) The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: A guide to why, when and how to do it.

⁵ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment

⁶ 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):

1. **Screening:** Determining whether the plan or any policy option would have likely significant effects on a European site (either on its own or in-combination with other plans). The screening exercise should be approached on a precautionary basis and should capture any plan policies or proposals that are likely to give rise to a significant effect on a European site. Note that a significant effect can be defined as: “..any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site is designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects.” Case law (Dilly Lane/Justice Sweetman (CO/7623/2007)) has established that proposed mitigation may be considered at this stage in a Habitats 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’³. 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 Waste Plan, as recommended by Natural England

2. **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.
3. **Mitigation Measures and Alternative Solutions:** Where an option has been found to have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, there should be an investigation of mitigation measures and alternative solutions.
4. **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 overriding 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 Waste Plan

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan sets out the strategic vision and objectives for waste planning and the spatial strategy and core policies, as well as development management policies, for waste development in the sub-region. The Draft Waste Plan 2015 and Draft Waste Plan

Update 2016 included a series of site options and emerging preferred site allocations to meet the identified needs. The 2017 Site Options consultation included 3 additional sites put forward to the Waste Planning Authority for consideration. The Pre-Submission Draft contains the sites which the Waste Planning Authority wishes to allocate.

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

Sites are allocated to meet the following specific needs:

Strategic needs (likely to be best located in South-East Dorset comprising Bournemouth, Christchurch, East Dorset & Poole)

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

Local needs

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

The Plan aims to make provision for these needs whilst ensuring that Dorset's natural environment is protected.

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

All of the proposed policies of the Draft Waste Plan (2015 & 2016) and all of the site options have been screened as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. The policies and allocated sites contained within the Pre-Submission Draft have been assessed.

4. Screening Stage Methodology

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

1. Identification of European Sites
2. Screening of all site options and subsequent allocations contained within the Draft Waste Plan (2015, 2016 & 2017) for likely significant effects alone and in-combination
3. Screening of all the proposed policies, vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the Draft Waste Plan 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 Waste Plan, to determine likely significant effect on the European sites.

Natural England has been consulted on the Draft Waste Plans and invited to comment on this and previous iterations of the Habs Regs Assessment (as required in Reg 105(2)). The scope of these discussions has included:

- The nature of the effect of proposed sites on adjacent European sites, particularly in regard to emissions (NO_x, SO_x and ammonia)
- Identification of the other key ecological factors for consideration.
- Wording in Section 8.2 for inclusion in Policies 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- A site visit to Inset 4 – Site Control Centre, Canford Magna
- The adequacy of information provided on emissions at several proposed sites, and the requirement for further information and nature of what was to be requested.

The site visit took place on 26th January 2017 and all other discussions have been ongoing. In particular, meetings took place between Natural England and Dorset County Council (Waste Planning Officers and the Ecologist) on 27/5/16, 29/9/16, 20/10/16, 5/12/16, 15/6/17 and 20/9/17.

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 waste development. Therefore within the screening assessment only sites where conceivable impacts and pathways can be envisaged are referred to.

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

Table 1: European Sites Identified

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA | Solent & Southampton Water SPA |
| Dorset Heathlands SPA | Somerset Levels & Moors SPA |
| Poole Harbour SPA | Avon Valley Ramsar Site |
| Avon Valley Ramsar Site | New Forest Ramsar Site |
| Chesil Beach and The Fleet Ramsar Site | Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar Site |
| Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site | Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Site |
| Poole Harbour Ramsar Site | |

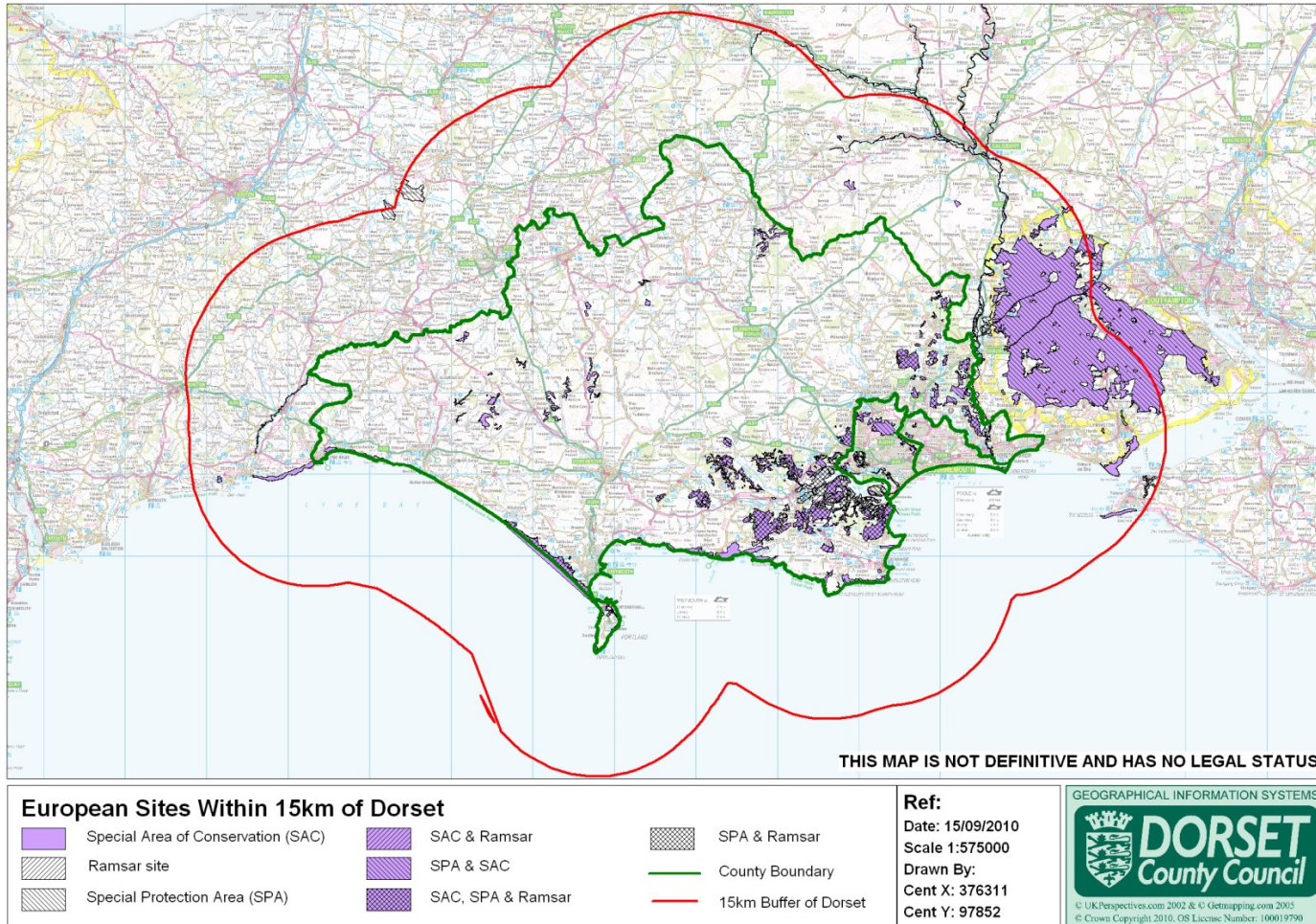
Table 2: Marine European Sites Identified

| |
|--|
| 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 Waste Plan is attached in Appendix 1. The qualifying features of each site and the key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity are set out.

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



7. Screening of Waste Plan Site Allocations

7.1 Screening of Site Options for Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

Previous iterations of this document have assessed earlier versions of the Draft Waste Plan to determine whether the site options for allocation would lead to likely significant effects on the European sites. This final version of the Habs Regs Assessment will only assess the final list of allocated sites, while referring back to previous iterations to fully explain how the conclusions presented in this document have been achieved. 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 each site allocation; which European sites could be affected; an indication of the likely effects on the European site(s) resulting from the site allocation and whether the allocated site would have a likely significant effect on one or more European sites. Mitigation measures contributing to the final conclusions are also discussed.

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

There are 3 ecological issues, identified through discussion with Natural England and first set out in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Strategy (2014), which are key factors that help to determine the likelihood of adverse effects of development on European sites:

- **Displacement of recreation:** our understanding of the impact of human and related recreational activity on European heathlands in particular, has grown in the past decade. It is now considered a serious issue which generally threatens the integrity of these sites. If there is already public access on any site to be allocated for waste development, an assessment of the existing contribution to recreation in the locality will be needed, the extent to which working would deflect existing recreation patterns towards heathlands, and what mitigation in the form of alternative areas could be brought forward
- **Proximity:** in general, the closer a waste site allocation to a European site, the more likely there are to be significant effects on that site. Such effects may result from a range of factors including habitat fragmentation, loss of dispersal corridors, and indirect effects such as dust, noise, gaseous emissions (particularly NO₂, NO_x, SO_x and ammonia) and nutrient enrichment.
- **Species:** species characteristic of European sites are often found beyond the boundaries of the sites, sometimes in considerable numbers and with functional links to the sites. This 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: woodlark and Dartford warbler must also be considered.

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

7.2 Findings of the Screening Exercise

Thirteen new or existing sites have been allocated in the Draft Waste Plan. They are listed below along with a short summary of their intended use:

- Inset 1 - Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Three Legged Cross

Waste transfer, treatment of bulky waste

- Inset 2 - Land south of Sunrise Business Park, Blandford
Waste management Centre
- Inset 3 - Land at Brickfields Business Park, Gillingham
Household Recycling Centre, waste vehicle depot
- Inset 4 - Blackhill Road, Holton Heath Industrial Estate, Wareham
Waste Transfer Facility, waste vehicle depot
- Inset 5 - Land east of Loudsmill, Dorchester
Household recycling centre
- Inset 6 - Old Radio Station, Dorchester
Waste vehicle depot, waste transfer facility
- Inset 7 - Eco-Sustainable Solutions, Parley
Intensification of existing uses, including management of non-hazardous waste
- Inset 8 - Land at Canford Magna, Poole
Intensification of existing uses, including increased tonnage of non-hazardous waste
- Inset 9 - Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate, Poole
Intensification of existing uses, plus preparation of RDF and SRF
- Inset 10 - Binnegar Environmental Park, East Stoke.
Intensification of existing uses, including management of non-hazardous waste
- Inset 11 - Land at Bourne Park, Piddlehinton
Green waste composting
- Inset 12 - Gillingham Sewage Treatment Works, Gillingham
Extension to existing sewage treatment works
- Inset 13 - Maiden Newton Sewage Treatment Works, Maiden Newton
Extension to existing sewage treatment works

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 section 7.3. The sites are:

- Inset 1 - Woolsbridge Industrial Estate
- Inset 7 - Eco Sustainable Solutions
- Inset 9 - Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate
- Inset 10 - Binnegar Environmental Park

Two additional sites, Inset 4 - Blackhill Road-Holton Heath Industrial Estate, and Inset 8 - Land at Canford Magna, Poole, were screened out at an earlier assessment stage but are discussed below in Section 7.4 to provide clarity on how this decision was made. This is because both of these sites are close to European heathlands and there are possible pathways by which these sites could be affected, based on their proximity.

7.3 Sites where there may be Likely Significant Effect

The site options below are those where previous iterations of this assessment concluded that there was a potential for likely significant effects on the relevant European sites.

- Inset 1 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate
- Inset 7 - Eco-Sustainable Solutions, Parley
- Inset 9 – Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate
- Inset 10 – Binnegar Environmental Park

One of these sites, Inset 9 – Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate, was initially proposed as an allocation for energy from waste, involving combustion of waste to provide heat and power. This use led to the conclusion of likely significant effect on the adjacent European sites because of the potential emissions (NO_x, SO_x and ammonia) associated with this process. However, Mannings Heath has now been allocated only for intensification of existing uses, including preparation of refuse derived fuel and solid recovered fuel. These uses remove the need for assessment of emissions as they are mechanical treatments designed to move waste up the supply chain, and do not involve the production of waste gasses. Although the process may lead to an increase in pests or dust on site, the site is not considered to be close enough to the relevant European sites for this to cause likely significant effect from proximity or effects on species associated with the European sites. There are also no displacement of recreation effects. For this reason, it is concluded that the allocation of Mannings Heath within the Waste Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the relevant European sites and the screening table in Appendix 2 has been amended accordingly.

The remaining sites fall into two categories:

- Two sites where potential proximity effects are related to gaseous emissions from the allocated site affecting the European sites (Eco Sustainable Solutions and Binnegar Environmental Park).
- Two site where potential species effects are related to those on species typical of the European sites, due to disturbance or habitat loss (Woolsbridge Industrial Estate and Binnegar Environmental Park).

7.3.1 Site allocations where potential likely significant effects are related to species typical of the European sites

Inset 1 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate and Inset 10 – Binnegar Environmental Park

Woolsbridge Industrial Estate is allocated for waste transfer and/or treatment of bulky waste. The site is in proximity to the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar and the Dorset Heaths SAC and is allocated on farmland at the edge of the existing industrial estate. Nightjar, woodlark and Darftord warbler have been recorded from the adjacent European sites and it is therefore likely that the allocation supports species (eg Annex 1 birds) associated with the European sites and that development of the site may lead to likely significant effect on the European sites. However adequate mitigation, for example carrying out habitat enhancement works on land adjacent to the allocated site (including Woolsbridge Farm Carr SNCI) and including a managed habitat buffer between the development and the European sites, could, if secured, reduce these effects to a negligible level.

Binnegar Environmental Park is allocated for the management of non-hazardous waste, which could include energy from waste (effects discussed in 7.3.2 below). The site has previously been used for the extraction of sand and gravel and contains a variety of restoring/unmanaged heathland and acid grassland habitats which are known to support species (eg Annex 1 birds) typical of the European sites. Without adequate mitigation, there is a risk of likely significant

effect on the surrounding European sites from impacts on these species. However adequate mitigation, eg conservation management of adjacent areas or provision of additional habitat adjacent to the proposed development, could, if secured, reduce these effects to a negligible level.

It is agreed with Natural England that detailed analysis of the site specific effects is not possible or appropriate at this stage in the process. However, consultation with Natural England has concluded that:

- 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.
- Suitable mitigation is available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of these sites 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.

Following on from this, consultation with Natural England has resulted in the advice that the wording below should be included in Policy 3 (Sites allocated for waste management development) of the Waste Plan:

Inset 1 – Wooldsbridge Industrial Estate and Inset 10 - Binnegar Environmental Park – Policy Wording:

Applications on Inset 1 and 10 should include Phase 2 surveys for species typical of the European Sites (in particular nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler) that must assess the effects of development on the populations on site and in surrounding areas. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (those for which SPAs may be designated) then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

This policy wording is in accordance with advice contained in the Habs Regs guidance document for Scottish Natural Heritage³ 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.’

However, to give further certainty, additional safeguards have been put in place by:

- Inserting wording into the accompanying text for Policy 3 stating that proposals must comply with Policy 18 (Biodiversity and Geological Interest)
- Including ‘*Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*’ as one of the development considerations for Inset 1 and Inset 10. Policy 3 requires that the development considerations are addressed for each allocated site.

These measures are considered sufficient to ensure that, at this stage in the Plan process, there will be no likely significant effect as a result of the proposed activities described above and the screening table in Appendix 2 has been amended accordingly.

7.3.2 Site allocations which may cause likely significant effect on the European sites by proximity (from gaseous emissions)

Inset 7 – Eco-Sustainable Solutions, Parley, and Inset 10 – Binnegar Environmental Park

These two sites are allocated for the management of non-hazardous waste, which could include energy from waste. This process involves combustion of black bag waste to generate heat and power, which leads to emissions of NO, NO_x, SO_x and ammonia, as well as other pollutants and particulates. These gasses are all considered harmful to low nutrient habitats such as heathlands, with nitrogen deposition often identified as the key harmful emission. NO_x deposition raises fertility levels and leads to changes in species composition; a marked decline in *Calluna vulgaris* (ling heather) lichen and bryophyte cover and an increase in grasses and sedges. Ammonia leads to changes in pH which are also detrimental to these specialist communities.

The proposed operator at each site has been asked for further information about how emissions from an energy from waste plant would be controlled to ensure there is no impact on the adjacent European sites. However, at this time, the information is still being prepared and is not available for inclusion in this assessment. Discussions with potential operators, have centred on mitigation measures to include:

- Increased stack height: effective as NO, the most damaging pollutant, degrades quickly on exposure to sunlight therefore a higher stack reduces the amount of NO deposition, as well as ensuring other pollutants are better dispersed in the air column before deposition.
- Injection of ammonia into the combustion gasses to reduce NO_x emissions
- Injection of lime into the 'scrubber' unit to reduce the acidity of combustion gasses
- Passage of gasses through a 'bag ash' or APCR processor to reduce particulate emissions

Although it is agreed with Natural England that detailed analysis of the site specific effects is not possible or appropriate at this stage in the process, it is also true that stringent measures must be put in place to ensure this analysis will take place as each site is brought forward, and that mitigation must be appropriate and sufficient. This is essential to provide certainty that no development will be allowed if it would lead to likely significant effect on the European sites. Consultation with Natural England has concluded that

- 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
- There are suitable technological solutions available to give sufficient certainty at this stage that inclusion of these sites 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

The wording below has been written in consultation with Natural England for inclusion in Policy 3 (Sites allocated for the management of non-hazardous waste) of the Waste Plan:

Inset 7 – Eco-Sustainable Solutions, Parley and Inset 10 – Binnegar Environmental Park - Policy Wording:

Applications on Inset 7 and Inset 10 should include studies that demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the features (species and habitats including lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant

load/level of the European sites then avoidance/mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.

This policy wording is in accordance with advice contained in the Habs Regs guidance document for Scottish Natural Heritage³ 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.’

However, to give further certainty, additional safeguards have been put in place by:

- Inserting wording into the accompanying text for Policy 3 stating that proposals must comply with Policy 18 (Biodiversity and Geological Interest)
- Including ‘*Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*’ as one of the development considerations for Inset 7 and Inset 10. Policy 3 requires that the development considerations are addressed for each allocated site.

These measures are considered sufficient to ensure that, at this stage in the Plan process, there will be no likely significant effect as a result of the proposals described above and the screening table in Appendix 2 has been amended accordingly.

7.4 Sites previously assessed as having likely significant effects

Two 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 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 Inset 4 - Blackhill Road, Holton Heath Industrial Estate

This allocation is for a waste transfer facility and/or waste vehicle depot and is potentially near enough to the European sites to trigger a likely significant effect. The likely effect would be from displacement of recreation, species or proximity. However, the site is already laid to hard standing and in use for light industry and for these reasons it is not considered likely that there will be any significant effect on the species associated with the European sites, or from proximity to these sites as the change of use will not represent a significant change from the present situation on site. In addition, the site is not currently in use for public recreation and it is therefore extremely unlikely that the proposed change of use will cause an effect from displacement of recreation.

7.4.2 Inset 8 - Land at Canford Magna, Poole

This allocation is for intensification of existing use, including the management of an increased tonnage of non-hazardous waste, which would be processed into recyclables, compost and refuse derived fuel. The refuse derived fuel would either be baled and taken off-site or processed on site via the consented (and now under construction) Low Carbon Energy Pyrolysis facility. The allocation is potentially near enough to the European sites to trigger a likely significant effect, but this was discounted after a site visit on the 26th January 2017 was carried out with NE, DCC and the operator, for the following reasons:

- Proximity effects: proximity to the European sites may lead to an increase in dust and pests such as rats. However current rodent control and dust control measures are working well and NE advised that this provides sufficient surety that any future works on site would not lead to an increase in these issues. Emissions from the pyrolysis

facility were assessed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations as part of the planning application for this facility. Assessments concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the European sites from construction of this facility and NE advised that this conclusion still stands.

- Species effects: as above, it is possible that ground nesting birds or reptiles associated with the European sites may be affected by pests associated with the works on site. However, surveys have shown that the site is not currently used by ground nesting birds or reptiles associated with the European sites, and the current pest control measures are working well, and will ensure there is no net increase in pest levels as a result of the proposed activity. For these reasons it was concluded that it was extremely unlikely that there would be any significant effects on the European sites.
- Displacement of recreation: the site has no current public access therefore there can be no displacement of recreation from the proposals.

7.5 No likely significant effects

It is concluded that the remaining site options being brought forward within the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan would have no likely significant effect on the European sites. This is because the impacts of 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.

8. Screening of the Draft Waste Plan Proposed Policies

8.1 Screening of Proposed Policies for Likely significant effects

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

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

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

8.2 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 1 – 9, and 11 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 and there was not sufficient certainty about which sites will be allocated to deliver the policies. These policies were then subdivided into two groups: policies 3, 4, 5 and 6 and policies 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11, according to the likely scale of impact or risk.

8.2.1 Policies 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11

Policies 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11 allow for applications for waste development to be brought forward and assume that all applications would be subject to Policy 18: Biodiversity. However, to ensure that this is fully understood and to provide the level of certainty needed for assessment under the Habs Regs, the following wording, safeguarding European sites, was proposed for

inclusion in the accompanying text of each of these policies to mitigate against likely significant effect:

'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'

8.2.2 Policies 3, 4, 5 and 6

Policies 3, 4, 5 and 6 are considered unlikely to have likely significant effect on European sites after insertion of the following clause (written in consultation with Natural England) into the policy:

'Proposals will be permitted where.....possible effects (including those related to proximity, species and displacement of recreation) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects'

This is compliant with the government's guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, 2012.

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

- Policy 3 relates to allocated waste sites. Several of these required site specific wording within the policy (sect 7.3 above). However, it is prudent to retain the more general wording as well, to apply to all other sites within this policy.
- Policy 4 relates to unallocated sites which will not have been assessed through the production of the Waste Plan. It is therefore considered necessary to include wording safeguarding the European sites in the policy rather than the accompanying text, to provide the required level of certainty specified in current Habs Regs assessment guidance³.
- Policies 5 and 6 are likely to result in larger scale developments than the other policies dealing with new facilities. Now and at earlier assessment stages, it is not known which sites would be allocated to meet the needs for these types of facilities as the Draft Waste Plan contains a range of possible site options. Some of the site options for meeting these needs were previously screened as having 'uncertain' likely significant effects (see section 7.3) and therefore a precautionary approach is adopted.

For consistency, the accompanying text for Policies 3, 4, 5 and 6 also contains the above sentence stating that these policies must comply with Policy 18.

The measures discussed above are considered sufficient to ensure that, at this stage in the Plan process, there will be no likely significant effect as a result of the Policies described above and the screening table in Appendix 3 has been amended accordingly.

8.3 No likely significant effects

There are no likely significant effects on the relevant European sites from the vision, all objectives, the spatial strategy, and Policies 12-24. These policies will not directly result in development, rather they set out points of principle and direction.

Additionally there would be no likely significant effects from Policy 10: Decommissioning & Restoration of Winfrith as restoration is likely to involve habitat creation with some recreational activity. This may benefit the nearby European sites.

It is also noted that some positive effects on the relevant European sites may occur as a result of the draft Waste Plan. Development as a result of the plan may lead to:

- more efficient management of waste within the network of existing and new waste management facilities
- reduction in vehicle movements as new waste facilities are situated in strategic locations and waste processing on site becomes more efficient
- modern sites with improved containment of waste, pest control and emissions
- increased recycling leading to a reduction in the need for raw materials (such as sand, gravel and crushed rock) produced from sites within Dorset. These sites are often in proximity to European heathland sites, with the associated risk of affecting protected habitats/species.

9 Assessment of In-Combination Effects

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

However, this assessment has included consideration of the combined effects of the Waste Plan with other relevant development planning documents (DPDs). As well, the possibility of in-combination effects between policies within the Waste 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.

The general approach of the Waste Plan has been to ensure that waste site specific policies, general development management policies and the development considerations 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 European sites can be eliminated with changes to policy wording, accompanying text and development considerations. This being the case, the likelihood of in-combination effects with other DPDs is further reduced.

The review of other relevant DPDs shows that all of 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 Waste 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. These issues include:

- Air quality from vehicle movement emissions. Although there may not be a likely significant effect from vehicle emissions associated with a particular site, a detailed examination of these effects in-combination with vehicle emissions from other development (resulting from other DPDs) will need to be made to ensure that sum of emissions does not result in an in-combination effect.
- Air quality from process emissions. This applies to the proposed energy from waste sites where the combustion process leads to emissions of N, NO_x, SO_x and ammonia, as well as other gases and particulates (as discussed in Sect 7). Although emissions from one development can be reduced below the threshold of significant effect, a detailed examination of the effect of these emissions in combination with those from other developments (resulting from other DPDs) will need to be carried out to ensure that the sum of emissions does not result in an in-combination effect.

Although the exact numbers of vehicle movements and process emissions cannot be predicted at present, the Waste Plan policy wording, accompanying text and development considerations all ensure that development cannot take place if there would be in-combination effects.

10 Conclusion

It is concluded that providing the recommended additions and changes in wording to policy, accompanying text and development considerations are incorporated as above, the pre-submission Draft Waste 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 Coppice SAC | 53.75 | Bats | Annex 1 Non-Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) Annex II Primary: Bechstein's bat <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 19hermos19l</i>) Annex I Non-Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand | 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) |

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| | | | Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | |
| Crookhill Brick Pit SAC | 4.71 | | Annex II Primary: Great crested newt Triturus cristatus | Physical Loss: Long-term risk of deterioration of the waterbodies due to lack of maintenance (data form) Biological Disturbance: Short-term risk of the introduction of invasive non-native plant species and fish (data form) |
| Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC | 2230.75 | | Annex 1 Primary: Embryonic shifting dunes Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ('white dunes') Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) *Priority feature Humid dune slacks Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix *Priority feature European dry heaths | Physical loss: development pressure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical damage: fragmentation of habitat causing edge and patch size effect • Erosion due to visitor pressure • Wildfires • Extant mineral extraction permissions •• Biological disturbance: invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially Rhododendron • Successional trend to scrub and woodland • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management |

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| | | | <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Bog woodland *priority feature Annex 1 Non Primary: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty of clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae *Priority feature Alkaline fens Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Annual vegetation of drift lines Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') Annex 2 Primary: Southern Damselfly – <i>Coenagrion 21hermos21l</i> Annex 1 Non – Primary: Great crested newt – <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> | |
| Dorset Heaths SAC | 5719.54 | | <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools. |

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| | | | <p>European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority feature Alkaline fens Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion 22hermos22l</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 damselfly is at northern limit of its European range). • Un-fragmented heathland. • Use of traditional agriculture to discourage the successional trend to scrub and woodland invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species. • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management |
| Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC | 263.09 | Lowland grassland, early gentian | <p>Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Annex II Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex II Non-Primary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i></p> | <p>Biological Disturbance: Invasive species such as nettles and ragwort due to adjacent intensive farming (data form) Over- grazing (data form) Scrub encroachment (data form)</p> |
| Holnest SAC | 54.94 | | <p>Annex II Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> | |
| Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC | 1446.45 | | <p>Annex 1 Primary:</p> | <p>Physical damage: coastal erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure |

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| | | | <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</p> <p>Annex 1 Non-Primary:</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary:</p> <p>Early gentian – <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex 2 Non-Primary:</p> <p>Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant quarrying permission • Biological disturbance: loss of grazing |
| Rooksmoor SAC | 62.46 | Lowland grassland; Lowland heath; Marsh fritillary butterfly | <p>Annex I Non-Primary:</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)</p> <p>Annex II Primary:</p> <p>Marsh fritillary butterfly</p> <p>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</p> | <p>Non Physical Disturbance: Traffic (prof judgement)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance: Scrub invasion due to lack of grazing (data form)</p> |
| Sidmouth to West Bay SAC | 897.508 | Coastal | <p>Annex I Primary:</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts_</p> <p>Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary:</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> | <p>Physical Loss: None identified</p> <p>Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement)</p> <p>Human presence (prof judgement)</p> |

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| | | | Perennial vegetation of stony banks Annex II Non-Primary: <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> <i>Gentianella anglica</i> | |
| 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 Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Annex 2 Non-Primary: Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> | Physical damage: climbing activity • Non-physical disturbance: light pollution • Human presence • Biological disturbance: scrub invasion • Threat of <i>Brachypodium</i> becoming 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: | 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) |

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| | | | Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt Triturus crystatus | |
| Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA | 747.37 | | Annex I Birds Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Migratory Species: <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> | 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) 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 |

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| | | | | <p>(March – June), but the area is also important for over-wintering raptors and other fauna.</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 |
| Poole Harbour SPA | 2313.57 | | <p>During the breeding season: Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus 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"> • Urban growth and port/marina development • 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>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 |

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| | | | <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 , Anas strepera strepera, NW Europe Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Northern pintail , Anas acuta, NW Europe Black-tailed godwit , Limosa limosa islandica, Iceland/W Europe</p> | <p>problem in Blashford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakes following restoration of gravel pits, not controlled adequately through planning consents and technically difficult to control following withdrawal of herbicide approval. |
| Chesil Beach and The Fleet Ramsar Site | 747.37 | | <p>Ramsar criterion 1 Outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat. Also supports rare saltmarsh habitats. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 15 specialist lagoonal species, five nationally scarce wetland plants and ten nationally scarce wetland animals. Also important for shingle habitats and species. Ramsar criterion 3</p> | <p>Physical damage: Changes in natural physical processes (prof judgement) Development of existing shellfish farm (data form) Non-physical disturbance: Recreational pressure (data form) MOD firing range (data form) Toxic contamination: Routine or accidental oil/chemical discharges into harbour (prof judgement) Agricultural run-off (prof judgement) Non-toxic contamination: Domestic sewage discharges (data form)</p> |

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| | | | <p>Largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK with greatest diversity of habitats and biota. Ramsar criterion 4 Important for number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle, including post-larval and juvenile bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>. Ramsar criterion 8 Nursery for bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>. Ramsar criterion 6 Overwintering Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i></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>. Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and crossleaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species,</p> | <p>Under- grazing leading to scrub invasion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid rain • Pollution – unspecified • Leaching from waste tips • Development pressure • Further fragmentation • Recreational pressure • Wildfires • Infrastructure works A31 and Bournemouth airport • Extant mineral permissions • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management |

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| | | | <p>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> | |
| 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</p> | |

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| | | | <p>community interest – Mediterranean and 30hermos Atlantic halophilous scrubs, as well as calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance. Nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common tern, Sterna hirundo and Mediterranean gull Larus melanocephalus. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta.</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, Tadorna tadorna Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica</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 | - |
| Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ | 3765.5ha | High energy intertidal rock Intertidal coarse sediment Native Oyster Pink sea fan |
| South Dorset MCZ | 19264ha (193km ²) | Subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal chalk |
| Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ | 168ha | n/k |
| The Needles MCZ | 1101ha | - |
| Axe Estuary MCZ | 32.6ha | - |
| Poole Harbour MSPA | 22.72 km ² | n/k |
| Lyme Bay and Torbay and MSAC | 313 km ² | Annex 1 habitats: Reef Submerged/partially submerged sea caves |
| Studland to Portland MSAC | 332 km ² | Annex 1 habitat Reef. |
| South Wight Maritime MSAC | 188km ² | Annex 1 habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic & Baltic coasts • Submerged/partially submerged sea caves |
| Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs MSAC | 14km ² | Annex 1 habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of Atlantic & Baltic coasts • Semi natural dry grasslands & scrubland facies on calcareous substrates/orchids) |
| 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: Lesser horseshoe bat Rhinolophus hipposideros Greater horseshoe bat Rhinolophus ferrumequinum | Physical Damage: Occasional quarrying of stone from habitat areas (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Potential for quarrying and tourism to disturb some areas of bat habitat but site management statement in place to minimise this (data form) Light pollution (prof judgement) Water Table: Flooding of caves (prof judgement) |
| Chilmark Quarries SAC | 10.4995 | | Annex II Primary: Greater horseshoe bat Rhinolophus ferrumequinum Barbastelle Barbastella barbastellus_ Bechstein`s bat Myotis bechsteinii Annex II Non-Primary: Lesser horseshoe bat Rhinolophus hipposideros | Physical Loss: Collapse of underground voids (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Human presence, noise and visual disturbance (data form) Light pollution (prof judgement) |
| Great Yews SAC | 28.8798 | | Annex I Primary: Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles * Priority feature Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) | Physical Loss: None identified |
| Isle of Wight Downs SAC | 458.087 | | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts European dry heaths Semi-natural dry grasslands and | Early gentian is associated with a grazing regime which maintains a short turf and a proportion of bare ground. • Maintenance of grazing. |

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|----------------|----------|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal air pollution – nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification. • Absence of direct fertilisation. • Well-drained soils. |
| New Forest SAC | 29253.96 | | <p>Annex I Primary: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)_ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>_ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>_ European dry heaths_ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)_ Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>_ Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)_ <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests_ Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains_ Bog woodland * Priority feature_</p> | <p>Physical Loss: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Physical Damage: Increased recreational pressure (data form) Non Physical Disturbance: Light pollution (prof judgement) Human presence (prof judgement) Water Table: Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form) Biological Disturbance: Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form) Essential grazing by commoners' animals is vulnerable to current economic trends (data form)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management to maintain or restore favourable condition and the potential effect of development on the ability to achieve such management |

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| | | | <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) * Priority feature</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary: Transition mires and quaking bogs_</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Annex II Primary: Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>_</p> <p>Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> <p><i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></p> <p><i>Myotis bechsteini</i></p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p><i>Cottus gobio</i></p> | |
| Prescombe Down | 76.2203 | | <p>Annex I Non-Primary: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>Annex II Primary: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></p> | <p>Biological Disturbance: Inappropriate grazing regimes (data form)</p> <p>Increased stocking of game birds (data form)</p> |
| River Avon SAC | 467.584 | | <p>Annex I Primary: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the</p> | <p>Physical Damage: Channel modifications causing changes to sediment processes (data form)</p> |

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| | | | <p>Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</p> <p>Annex I Non-Primary:</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p> <p>Annex II Primary:</p> <p>Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>_</p> <p>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>_</p> <p>Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>_</p> <p>Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>_</p> <p>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p> <p>Annex II Non-Primary:</p> <p>Lutra lutra</p> <p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p> | <p>Water Table: Abstraction (data form and WT comments)</p> <p>Is a serious problem already plus new development proposed at Bath, Trowbridge and Salisbury-even greater impact (NE comments)</p> <p>Toxic Contamination: Water pollution (data form)</p> <p>Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)</p> |
| River Axe SAC | 25.0997 | | <p>Annex I Primary:</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</p> <p>Annex II Primary:</p> <p>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>_</p> <p>Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>_</p> <p>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>_</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i></p> | <p>Non Toxic Contamination: Nutrient enrichment (data form)</p> |
| Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC | 37.935 | | <p>Annex I Primary:</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> | <p>Water Table: Sea-level rise- coastal defence (data form).</p> |

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| | | | Annex I Non-Primary: Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) | 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> <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> Annex II Non-Primary: <u>Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></u> | |
| Avon Valley SPA | 1351.1 | | Over winter: Bewick's Swan <i>Columbianus</i> | Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime Unpolluted water |

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| | | | <i>bewickii</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> | <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 | | 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> Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid soils. • Maintenance of grazing and other traditional management practices. • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time; • Unpolluted water. • Minimal nutrient inputs. • Low recreational pressures. A recent decline in waders, redshank, 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 | | During the breeding season: Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus</i> | Unpolluted water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of nutrient enrichment. • Absence of non-native species. • No dredging or land-claim of coastal |

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| | | | <p><i>melanocephalus</i> Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> Over winter: Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Assemblage qualification: A</p> | <p>habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low amounts of silt loss; • Maintenance of freshwater inputs for certain bird species. • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. • Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore/off shore to reduce disturbance during sensitive overwintering periods. |
| Somerset Levels & Moors SPA | 6393.72 | | <p>Annex I Birds: Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Migratory Species: Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Vanellus <i>vanellus</i> 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 Bridgewater (RSPB comments) Non-toxic contamination: Nutrient enrichment due to increased discharge from Ham Sewage Treatment facility Into River Tone above Curry Moor (data form, WT and NE comments)</p> |
| Avon Valley Ramsar Site | See above (also falls within Dorset) | | | |
| New Forest Ramsar Site | 27997.59 | Woodland; Lowland heath; Bog, fen | | Physical Loss: |

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|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | and swamp | | <p>Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species (data form)</p> <p>Physical damage:</p> <p>Recreational pressure (data form)</p> <p>Changes in management regime (prof judgement)</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance:</p> <p>Human presence (data form)</p> <p>Increased population(RSPB comments)</p> <p>Recreational pressure (RSPB comments)</p> <p>Light pollution (prof judgement)</p> <p>Water Table:</p> <p>Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry (data form)</p> <p>Biological Disturbance:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Supports 17 species of British Red Data Book invertebrates.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>97155 waterfowl</p> | <p>Physical Loss:</p> <p>Conversion of grassland to arable (data form)</p> <p>Physical Damage:</p> <p>Cutting of silage (data form)</p> <p>Water Table:</p> <p>Drainage (data form)</p> |

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| | | | <p>Ramsar criterion 6 Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan , Cygnus columbianus bewickii Eurasian teal , Anas crecca Northern lapwing , Vanellus vanellus</p> | <p>Water level management issues due to development on flood plain (WT comments) Non-toxic contamination: Nutrient enrichment due to increased discharge from Ham Sewage Treatment facility into River Tone above Curry Moor (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 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. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants. Ramsar criterion 5 Species with peak counts in winter:</p> | <p>Physical Loss: Land-claim (data form) Development pressure (prof judgement) Coastal squeeze (prof judgement) Physical Damage: Erosion (data form) Flood and coastal defence works (data form) Dredging (data form) Recreational pressure (prof judgement) Water Table: Sea level rise (prof judgement) Toxic Contamination: Industrial/oil pollution (prof judgement) Pollution from former waste disposal sites (data form) Non-toxic contamination: Sewage discharge (prof judgement)</p> |

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| | | | 51343 waterfowl Ramsar criterion 6 Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover , Charadrius hiaticula Species with peak counts in winter: Dark-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla bernicla Eurasian teal , Anas crecca Black-tailed godwit , Limosa limosa islandica | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

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 Allocated Sites: Pre-Submission Draft Waste Plan (October 17)

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site 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 |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Inset 1 – Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Three Legged Cross | No – see Sect 7.3.1 | <p>Construction of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residual waste treatment facility - Bulky waste treatment facility - <p>Increased vehicle traffic Possible dust emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p> | <p>Activities may lead to loss of foraging habitat for Annex I bird species Effect of emissions (dust) and disturbance of ground nesting birds (from rats attracted to the site) through proximity to adjacent European sites. Hydrology – runoff from the allocated site may affect the adjacent European Sites.</p> | Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar | <p>Creation of a buffer between the allocated site and the adjacent European sites to prevent dust and disturbance.</p> <p>Insertion of the following text within Policy 3: Allocated Sites <i>Applications on Inset 1 and 10 should include Phase 2 surveys for species typical of the European Sites (in particular nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler) that must assess the effects of development on the populations on site and in surrounding areas. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (those for which SPAs may be designated) then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.</i></p> | No, as wording in Section 7 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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>Inserting wording into the accompanying text stating that Policy 3 must comply with Policy 18 (Biodiversity and Geological Interest)</p> <p>Including <i>'Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017'</i> as one of the development considerations in the Inset 7 and Inset 10 site assessments</p> | |
| Inset 2 - Land south of Sunrise Business Park, Blandford | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 3 - Brickfields Business Park, Gillingham | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 4 – Land at Blackhill Road, Holton Heath Industrial Estate | No – See Sect 7.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 5 – Land east of | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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 |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Loudsmill, Dorchester | | | | | | |
| Inset 6 – Old Radio Station, Dorchester | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 7 – Eco-Sustainable Solutions, Parley | No – See Sect 7.3.2 | <p>Reconfiguration of existing uses and permitted uses, including anaerobic digestion plant.</p> <p>Construction of solid recovered fuel processing plant (small scale residual treatment facility). Increased vehicle traffic Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility</p> | <p>Impacts of increased NO_x, SO_x and ammonia on adjacent European heathlands due to intensification of existing site use.</p> <p>Potential impacts of aquatic pollution (via surface water runoff) affecting the adjacent European Sites.</p> | Dorset Heaths SAC/ Dorset Heathlands SPA/ Dorset Heathlands Ramsar | <p>Creation of a buffer zone in the south east section of the site adjacent to European heathlands to help ensure no hydrological effects on the European Sites and ensure carefully designed surface water drainage system is integral to site design.</p> <p>Insertion of the following text within Policy 3: Allocated sites <i>Applications on Inset 7 and Inset 10 should include studies that demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the features (species and habitats including lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load/level of the European sites then avoidance/mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any</i></p> | No, as wording in Section 7 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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>development in order for it to take place.</i></p> <p>Inserting wording into the accompanying text stating that Policy 3 must comply with Policy 18 (Biodiversity and Geological Interest)</p> <p>Including 'Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017' as one of the development considerations in the Inset 7 and Inset 10 site assessments</p> | |
| Inset 8 – Land at Canford Magna, Poole | No – See Sect 7.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 9 – Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate, Poole | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 10 – Binnegar Environmental Park, East Stoke | No – See Sect 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 | Management of non-hazardous waste – intensification of existing permitted uses. | Impacts of increased NO _x , SO _x and ammonia on adjacent European heathlands due to intensification of existing site use. | Dorset Heaths SAC/ Dorset Heathlands SPA/ Dorset Heathlands Ramsar | <p>Insertion of the following text within Policy 3: Allocated Sites</p> <p><i>Applications on Inset 1 and 10 should include Phase 2 surveys for species typical of the European Sites (in particular nightjar, woodlark and Dartford</i></p> | No, as wording in Section 7 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in- |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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 |
|----------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | | Possible emissions from residual waste treatment facility | Activities may lead to loss of foraging and breeding habitat for Annex I bird species. | | <p><i>warbler) that must assess the effects of development on the populations on site and in surrounding areas. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (those for which SPAs may be designated) then mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any development in order for it to take place.</i></p> <p><i>Applications on Inset 7 and Inset 10 should include studies that demonstrate that emissions from development will not impact on the features (species and habitats including lichens and bryophytes) of the nearby European sites. If it is shown that the development proposals would have a significant effect on the critical pollutant load/level of the European sites then avoidance/mitigation to reduce this to non-significant levels must be designed in to any</i></p> | combination effects. |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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>development in order for it to take place.</i></p> <p>Inserting wording into the accompanying text stating that Policy 3 must comply with Policy 18 (Biodiversity and Geological Interest)</p> <p>Including 'Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017' as one of the development considerations in the Inset 7 and Inset 10 site assessments</p> | |
| Inset 11 – Land at Bourne Park, Piddlehinton | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 12 – Gillingham Sewage Treatment Works, Gillingham | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Inset 13 – Maiden Newton Sewage Works, | No | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| Allocated Site | Could the proposed site have 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 |
|------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Maiden Newton | | | | | | |

Appendix 3 - HRA Screening of Vision, Objectives, Spatial Strategy and Policies: Pre-Submission Draft Waste Plan (October 2017)

| Proposed Policy | Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites? | Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy | Likely effects if policy implemented | European sites potentially affected | Mitigation | In-combination effects |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| A Vision for Sustainable Waste Management in Dorset | No – the vision itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 1 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 2 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 3 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 4 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 5 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Objective 6 | No – the objective itself would not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Spatial Strategy | No – the strategy itself will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 1 – Sustainable Waste Management | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>‘To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).’</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |

| 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 2 – Integrated waste management facilities | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>‘To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).’</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 3 – Sites allocated for waste management development | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy 3 stating: <i>‘Proposals will be permitted where.....possible effects (including those related to proximity, species and displacement of recreation) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects’</i> Insert additional sentence in supporting text: <i>‘To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).’</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 4 – Applications for waste management | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy 4 stating: <i>‘Proposals will be permitted</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there |

| 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 |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| facilities not allocated in the waste plan | | | | | <p><i>where.....possible effects (including those related to proximity, species and displacement of recreation) that might arise from the development 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: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i></p> | will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 5 – Facilities to enable the recycling of waste | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | <p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy 5 stating: <i>'Proposals will be permitted where.....possible effects (including those related to proximity, species and displacement of recreation) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European and Ramsar sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects'</i></p> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |

| 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 |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | Insert additional sentence in supporting text: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i> | |
| Policy 6 – Recovery facilities | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | <p>Insert additional sentence into the text of Policy 3 stating: <i>'Proposals will be permitted where.....possible effects (including those related to proximity, species and displacement of recreation) that might arise from the development 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: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i></p> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 7 – Final disposal of non-hazardous waste | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there |

| 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>sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i> | will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 8 – Inert waste recovery and disposal | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 9 – Special types of waste | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |
| Policy 10 – Decommissioning and restoration of Winfrith | No – restoration may provide benefits to European sites through habitat creation and provision of a SANG type area. Restoration must comply with Policy 23. | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 11 – Sewage treatment works | No – See Sect 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | Insert additional sentence in supporting text stating: <i>'To ensure that European wildlife sites are safeguarded from any effects of development, proposals should comply with Policy 18 (Chapter 12).'</i> | No, as wording in Section 8 ensures there will be no LSE and therefore no in-combination effects. |

| 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 |
|--|---|---|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | combination effects. |
| Policy 12 – Transport & access | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 13 – amenity and quality of Life | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 14 – Landscape & design quality | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 15 – Sustainable construction and operation of facilities | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 16 – Natural resources | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 17 – Flood risk | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 18 – Biodiversity and geological interest | No – the policy will not lead to development; this policy provides for the safeguarding of European sites and features/species associated with these sites. | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 19 – Historic environment | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 20 – Airfield safeguarding areas | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 21 – South East Dorset Green Belt | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 22 – Waste from new developments | No – the policy will not lead to development | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| Proposed Policy | Could the proposed policy have likely significant effects on European sites? | Likely activities to result as a consequence of the policy | Likely effects if policy implemented | European sites potentially affected | Mitigation | In-combination effects |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Policy 23 – Restoration, aftercare & afteruse | No – any possible effects of this policy on European sites would be covered by other policies in this plan relating to the acceptability of waste development. Policy also states that restoration, aftercare and afteruse must contribute to the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy. | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Policy 24 – Safeguarding waste facilities | No – the policy would not lead to development | 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 Loders) 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 Intrinsic

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.