

SoCG24

**Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership Core Strategy Examination
Statement of Common Ground**

MATTER: Policy ME1 Safeguarding biodiversity and geodiversity

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

**Between the Local Planning Authorities, Natural England, Dorset Wildlife Trust
and Environment Theme Action Group**

September 2013

The Local Planning Authorities (Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council), Natural England, Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Environment Theme Action Group confirm that they agree the following:

1. Safeguarding biodiversity and geodiversity

The Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy (the Plan) include policy ME1 to safeguard biodiversity and geodiversity

Following consultation submissions and subsequent discussions, concern was raised that wording of a small part of the policy required a textual modification to ensure a consistent approach with the NPPF paragraph 118.

The parties have therefore agreed to suggest the following amendments to Policy ME1 to address these specific concerns:

Minor Amendments

Adjust the typo in criterion 1 of the second set of bullet points, 'practise' should read 'practice'.

Main Modifications

Adjust criterion 4 of the second set of bullet points with the 3 highlighted amendments of removing the word 'adequately'; changing 'may' to 'should' and moving the comma to after the word 'compensation'. It should read as follows:

"Where harm is identified as likely to result, provision of measures to ~~adequately~~ avoid or adequately mitigate that harm should be set out. Development ~~may~~ **should** be refused if adequate mitigation or, as a last resort, compensation, cannot be provided."

This Statement has been agreed by the aforementioned parties.

Dated: 23rd September 2013