DORSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY HABITAT ASSEMBLAGES

Habitat assemblage:	Species of soft rock and slumping cliffs
Broad Habitat type:	Coastlands
S41 and Priority Habitat type:	Maritime cliffs and slopes
Composite species assemblages:	Invertebrates of open sand and clay on slumping soft cliffs Invertebrates of seepages and flushes on slumping soft cliffs Plants of slumping clay and sand cliffs Lichens and bryophytes of slumping clay and sand cliffs

Habitat assemblage description:	There is approximately 78-kilometres of cliff habitat in Dorset of which around 37-km is composed softer sands and clays, this is approximately 14.5% of English resource of soft cliff habitat. The remaining area are composed harder rocks such as chalk and limestone and are covered by separate guidance. Soft cliffs are largely composed of sands and clays and are characterised rotational landslips which produce a characteristic 'stepped' profile. The habitat is dynamic producing a mosaic of bare ground, sparsely vegetated ground, closed grassland, seepages and scrub. Each habitat will contain its own assemblages of invertebrates and plants. The position of Dorset on the South Coast of England and the southerly aspect of the cliffs means they are particularly important for invertebrates many of which are scarce or threatened in Britain. The plant communities of soft cliffs are poorly defined but include several scarce and threatened plants most notably slender centaury in its only current British sites.

Other related assemblages:	Species of maritime cliffs, undercliffs and coastal slope Species of rich fens, basic flushes and swamps

Pressures and Threats	
PA05	**Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agro-forestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming)**
	Some undercliffs were formerly grazed as part of the farm but subsequently the cliff top has been fenced allowing scrub to develop forming a barrier between the cliff / undercliff and the cliff top. Flower-rich grassland on the cliff top and further inland are very important for foraging invertebrates.
PA08	**Extensive grazing or under-grazing by livestock**
	Sites that were historically grazed but have since been fenced resulting in an increase in scrub and coarse grassland and a reduction in bare ground features.

PA13	**Application of natural or synthetic fertilisers on agricultural land**
	Regular application of artificial fertilizers and slurry on land adjacent to the cliff top may lead to run-off and enrichment of vegetation on the cliff top or even on the undercliff.
PI02	**Other invasive alien species**
	The micro-climate of the Dorset coast makes it favourable to non-native plants that have become naturalized including cotoneaster, sycamore, holm oak, seaside fleabane and Cape fig. At present these are mainly found on cliffs close to urban areas and non-native species remain, at present, relatively rare on the majority of cliffs.
PI03	**Problematic native species**
	With a decline or cessation of grazing plus an increased growing season coarse grasses such as cock's-foot, tall fescue and tor-grass may become dominant to the detriment of smaller herbs and also reducing the amount of bare ground. In the later stages of succession quick growing species such as ivy and bramble can also be a problem.
PJ03	**Changes in precipitation regimes due to climate change**
	The changing climate is leading to more intensive rainfall events which can lead to increase landslips particularly following periods of drought.
PJ09	**Landslides, subsidence and solifluction due to climate change**
	While soft cliffs are naturally dynamic if there was a significant increase in the frequency of landslips this could be detrimental to those species that are dependent on more stable habitats.
PK04	**Atmospheric N-deposition**
	Prolonged low-level deposition of nitrogen and ammonia compounds has a fertilizing effect on the vegetation which is compounded by reduced grazing levels and an increased growing season.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Invertebrates of open sand and clay on slumping soft cliffs

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Beetles	*Drypta dentata*	a ground beetle	EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Pogonus luridipennis*	a ground beetle	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Polistichus connexus*	a ground beetle	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Sitona gemellatus*	a weevil	EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bugs	*Sciocoris cursitans*	Sand-runner Shieldbug	LC	n/a	n/a	**4**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wasps	*Mimumesa unicolor*			n/a	n/a	**4**	PA05	PJ07	PJ09	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Andrena nigriceps*	Black-headed Mining Bee	.	n/a	LC	**4**	PA05	PA14	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Andrena nitidiuscula*	Carrot Mining Bee	R	n/a	LC	**3**	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Andrena ovatula*	Small Gorse Mining Bee	.	n/a	NT(ERLB)	**2**	PA05	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Andrena similis*	Red-backed Minig Bee	.	n/a	LC	**4**	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Anthophora quadrimaculata*	Four-banded Flower Bee	.	n/a	LC	**4**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Bombus humilis*	Brown-banded Carder Bee	.	n/a	LC	**3**	PA05	PA07	PA08	PA14	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Eucera longicornis*	Long-horned Bee	.	n/a	LC	**3**	PA04	PA07	PA08	PA14	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Lasioglossum angusticeps*	Cliff Furrow Bee	.	n/a	NT(ERLB)	**3**	PJ04	PJ07	PJ09	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Lasioglossum laticeps*	Broad-faced Furrow Bee	VU	n/a	LC	**1**	PJ04	PJ07	PJ09	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Sphecodes rubicundus*	Red-tailed Blood Bee	.	n/a	NT(ERLB)	**2**	PA04	PA05	PA08	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	*Arctia caja*	Garden Tiger	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	*Litoligia literosa*	Rosy Minor	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	*Photedes morrisii*	Morris's Wainscot	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Grasshoppers	*Gomphocerripus rufus*	Rufous Grasshopper	LC	n/a	n/a	**4**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Invertebrates of seepages and flushes on slumping soft cliffs

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Beetles	*Acupalpus flavicollis*	a ground beetle	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Baris analis*	a weevil	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Cylindera germanica*	Cliff tiger beetle	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Drypta dentata*	a ground beetle	EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Eubria palustris*	a water penny beetle	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Ochthebius poweri*	Rockface Beetle	NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Sphaerius acaroides*	Mud Beetle	EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	*Tachys micros*	a ground beetle	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bugs	*Saldula arenicola*	a shore-bug	LC	n/a	n/a	**4**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	*Arctoconopa melampodia*	Banded Splay	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flies	*Idiocera sexguttata*	Six-spotted Cranefly	EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flies	*Orchisia costata*	a house-fly	VU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Flies	*Platycephala umbraculata*	a grass-fly	pVU	n/a	n/a	**1**	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wasps	*Mimumesa littoralis*		R	n/a	n/a	**4**	PA05	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	*Andrena ampla*	Water-dropwort Mining Bee	.	n/a	LC	**3**	PA08	PI03	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of slumping clay and sand cliffs

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Plants	*Centaurium tenuiflorum* subsp. *anglicum*	English Centaury	VU	.	n/a	**1**	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	*Epipactis palustris*	Marsh Helleborine	LC	NT	n/a	**2**	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	*Vicia bithynica*	Bithynian Vetch	VU	LC	n/a	**1**	PA05	PI03	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Lichens and bryophytes of slumping clay and sand cliffs

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Lichens	*Biatorella fossarum*		EN	n/a	n/a	**1**	PA05	PI02	PI03	PK04	.	.	.	.
Lichens	*Caloplaca stillicidiorum*		n/a	n/a	n/a	**3, 4**	PA05	PA08	PI03	PK04	.	.	.	.
Lichens	*Endocarpon pussilum*		NT	n/a	n/a	**2**	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Lichens	*Placidiopsis custnani*		NT	n/a	n/a	**2, 4**	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.