

DORSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY HABITAT ASSEMBLAGES

Habitat assemblage:	Species of stabilised and vegetated shingle
Broad Habitat type:	Coastlands
S41 and Priority Habitat type:	Coastal Vegetated Shingle
Composite species assemblages:	Invertebrates of stabilised and vegetated shingle Plants of open vegetated shingle Plants of shingle grassland Lichens of stabilised shingle Beach nesting birds

Habitat assemblage description:	<p>Stabilised shingle structures are a globally rare habitat and in Dorset we are fortunate in having Chesil Beach which is one of the three major shingle structures in the British Isles. There are a few other very small areas of vegetated shingle on beaches along the coast.</p> <p>The landward side of the shingle ridge are the most stable and support patchy vegetation of a few shingle specialist plants such yellow horned-poppy, sea pea and sea kale, the Chesil Beach supporting nationally important populations of the last two. Where there is sand or soil between the pebbles a more closed and species-rich maritime shingle grassland can develop. The position of Chesil Beach on the South Coast with a mild and sunny climate means there are a number of scarce and threatened invertebrates found along the beach, most notably the scaly cricket. Chesil has several important features enclosing the large saline lagoon of the Fleet plus stands of saltmarsh along the landward edges of the beach notable for its abundance of shrubby seablite.</p> <p>Parts of the beach have no access during the summer months to minimise disturbance to breeding birds, most famously the colony of little terns with small numbers of ringed plover and oystercatcher also nesting.</p>
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Other related assemblages:	Species of sand dunes
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Pressures and Threats	
PF05	Sports, tourism and leisure activities
	The Dorset coast is a tourism hotspot particularly at either end of Chesil Beach at Weymouth and West Bay. There are also car parks at Abbotsbury, West Bexington, Cogden, and Burton Bradstock. The heaviest pressure is during the summer, but the area is popular all year round. Around the car parks there is localised impact on the vegetation with the constant footfall leading to erosion and the continued disturbance of the shingle prevents plants from colonising. Boardwalks and signage can help to limit the impacts. On the landward side of the eastern half of beach the Fleet is an important site for breeding and

	wintering birds and there are issues with leisure activities causing localised disturbance.
PI02	Other invasive alien species
	Currently there are no invasive non-native species that are impacting significantly on the vegetation on the Chesil Beach. Very locally red valerian has become established at the south-eastern (Portland) end and needs monitoring.
PI03	Problematic native species
	Most of the invasive native are those found in the more closed and stable stages of the vegetation including bramble, cock's-foot and false oat-grass, these species are favoured by a combination of lack of management, enrichment and the changing climate (increased growing season).
PJ04	Sea-level rise due to climate change
	Over the long-term sea-level rise is a threat to the habitat and many of the specialist species associated with it.
PJ07	Cyclones, storms, or tornados due to climate change
	Any increase in storm events will impact on the vegetation either directly by uprooting vegetation and increasing the disturbance of the pebbles preventing vegetation from colonising.
PK04	Atmospheric N-deposition
	Shingle is a naturally nutrient-poor habitat low levels of deposition of nitrogen compounds over a long period will lead to enrichment and the increased growth of vegetation resulting in the displacement of those specialist plants requiring open, nutrient-poor substrates by more competitive and faster growing species.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Beach nesting birds

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Birds	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Ringed Plover	Red	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Birds	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	Amber	n/a	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Birds	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	Amber	n/a	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Birds	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	Amber	n/a	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Invertebrates of stabilised and vegetated shingle

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Beetles	<i>Anthicus angustatus</i>		VU	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	<i>Anthicus tristis</i>		VU	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Beetles	<i>Omophlus pubescens</i>	a darkling beetle	VU	n/a	n/a	1	PF05	PJ04	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	<i>Hylaeus annularis</i>	Shingle Yellow-face Bee	.	n/a	LC	3	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.	.	.
Grasshoppers and Bush-crickets	<i>Pseudomogoplistes vicentae</i>	Scaly Cricket	VU	n/a	n/a	1	PF05	PJ04	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spiders	<i>Heliophanus auratus</i>	a jumping spider	VU	n/a	n/a	1	PF05	PJ04	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spiders	<i>Cozyptila blackwallii</i>	a crab spider	EN	n/a	n/a	1	PA08	PI03	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spiders	<i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i>	a jumping spider	VU	n/a	n/a	1	PJ04	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spiders	<i>Phlegra fasciata</i>	a jumping spider	NT	n/a	n/a	2	PJ04	PF05	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of open vegetated shingle

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Plants	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	LC	NT	n/a	2	PF05	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Sea Pea	LC	LC	n/a	3	PF05	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of shingle grassland

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Plants	<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed	LC	VU	n/a	1	PF04	PF05	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	LC	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA08	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Phleum arenarium</i>	Sand Cat's-tail	LC	NT	n/a	2, 4	PA05	PA08	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	LC	LC	n/a	4	PF05	PJ04	PJ07	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Lichens of stabilised shingle

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Lichens	<i>Caloplaca suaedae</i>		NT	n/a	n/a	2	PJ04	PJ07