



WEST DORSET, WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND 4

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) has been produced by West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Councils' to assist the Inspector at the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan Examination.
- 1.2 The purpose of this SOCG is to clarify the councils' position with Natural England on the approach taken to development site selection in the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan.
- 1.3 West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Councils circulated this SOCG to Mr John Stobart of Natural England for agreement on 4th November 2014.

2. AGREED POSITION

- 2.1 There is a significant amount of evidence on landscape impacts through the consultations and related work done in the earlier stages of local plan preparation, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Employment Land Review and the landscape character and visual assessments.
- 2.2 To assist in accessing this information an overview report linking all the evidence together was produced, clearly explaining the process that formed the basis of housing and employment site consideration and selection as part of the joint Local Plan for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland (CD/SSBP).
- 2.3 Natural England is satisfied that the proposed West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan housing and employment allocations have the potential to be acceptable and meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, with appropriate measures designed to moderate the adverse effects of development on the landscape of the Dorset AONB. On this basis they have no outstanding objections to the proposed housing and employment sites.

- 2.4 Natural England support the Councils' positive approach to addressing concerns raised through the local plan process.
- 2.5 The position has been agreed by Mr John Stobart on 5 November 2014.