

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Dorset and East Devon Coast

World Heritage Site

Management Plan

Screening Report

A Screening Report to inform a determination under Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Consultation Draft

Prepared by



For the World Heritage Site Steering Group
March 2009

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1 Non-Technical Summary

This is a Draft Screening Report, the first stage of a Habitats Regulations Assessment, of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation Draft. It identifies whether the plan; either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; is likely to have significant impacts on any sites which are important for nature conservation in a European context.

There are 3 types of European site:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – to protect special habitats and species
- Special Protection Area (SPA) – to protect birds
- Ramsar Site– to protect wetlands and birds

Much of the World Heritage Site (WHS) is covered by these designations (known as Natura 2000 or N2K). The reasons for designation include coastal habitats such as cliffs and drift lines and the birds and plants found there. There are internationally important estuaries, harbours and rivers and rare bat populations in close proximity.

Natural England has been consulted on the methodology, scope and other plans and projects to be considered for the in combination effects.

Each draft policy was first screened for possible impacts on the European sites to identify those that would obviously have no impact. Policies which had the potential to impact were then subject to more detailed analysis to determine whether this impact was likely to be significant. This included consideration of other plans and projects which could also affect the European sites. This process also considered the draft delivery actions within the Plan.

There are 26 policies where there is considered potential for a negative effect. Many of the policies seek to reduce negative effects on the World Heritage Site but have been selected because they currently fail to sufficiently protect European interest features. Some policies encourage activities that have the potential to affect one or more European sites.

In all cases, revising the policy wording or how the policy is to be delivered is considered sufficient to remove the likelihood of a significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

In conclusion, the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan is considered to have no likely significant effects on these identified European sites, subject to the recommendations being implemented.

This version of the report is being presented for public consultation alongside the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Consultation Draft and its Strategic Environmental Assessment. It should be read alongside the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation Draft containing the full text of policies and delivery actions referred to in this report.

How to comment on this Assessment

The WHS Steering Group welcomes your views and comments this assessment. Please refer to section 2 below for the address to send comments to and the formal consultation period.

2 Introduction

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team appointed Crimson Beetle Ecological Consultants to undertake the screening stage of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation Draft.

Status of this Report

This document is a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) Screening Report on the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation Draft.

This version of the report is being presented for public consultation alongside the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Consultation Draft and its Strategic Environmental Assessment. It should be read alongside the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation Draft which contains the full text of policies and delivery actions referred to in this report.

The assessment process was undertaken on the Consultation Draft of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan.

Screening for the Management Strategy was performed by an independent consultancy, Crimson Beetle, on behalf of the World Heritage Site Steering Group (acting on behalf of the 'Competent Authorities'¹).

The screening stage (Stage 1) identifies whether a plan - either alone or in combination with other plans or projects - is likely to have significant effects on European sites.

European Commission (2001) guidance recommends that this stage should comprise:

1. determining whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of the site – if it is, then no further assessment is necessary;
2. describing the plan, and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European site;
3. identifying the potential effects on the European site; and
4. assessing the significance of any effects on the European site.

The **precautionary principle** should be used in making these determinations. If significant effects are likely to occur, then Stage 2 appropriate assessment is required.

How to comment on this Assessment

The WHS Steering Group welcomes your views and comments on this Screening Report. The consultation period is for 10 weeks, from 31st March to 9th June. Comments should be directed to:

Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team

c/o Dorset County Council

Dorchester

DT1 1XJ

Email: consult@jurassiccoast.com

Telephone: 01305 225101, ask for the Jurassic Coast Team.

Your comments should reach the Jurassic Coast Team by Tuesday 9th June 2009.

Comments on the Screening Report, received during the consultation period, will be reviewed and considered during the preparation of the final Dorset and East Devon Coast Management Plan 2009-2014.

¹ The authorities that will be formally adopting the Management Plan.

3 The Management Plan

Background

The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, commonly known as the Jurassic Coast, was inscribed on the World Heritage List following its acceptance as a Site of 'outstanding universal value' by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on 13 December 2001.

The Committee recommended the Site be accepted under the Natural criterion i) Earth's history and geological features:

outstanding examples representing major stages of the earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

Responsible Authorities	Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Dorset County Council, Devon County Council, West Dorset District Council, East Devon District Council, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, Purbeck District Council, English Heritage (as advisor to DCMS), and Natural England (for statutory designations which protect the Site and its 'buffer zone').
Plan Subjects Covered	Geodiversity, biodiversity, climate change, marine aggregate abstraction, pebble abstraction, coastal defence, cliff climbing, development, rock and fossil collecting, military activity, oil exploration and production, oil and chemical pollution, port activity, quarrying, landscape management, public access and visitor management, sustainable tourism, transport
Plan Period	2009 - 2014
Review Frequency	Every 5 years
Plan Area	<p>The Management Plan covers the designated area, but may influence decisions outside the area where these could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site.</p> <p>The boundaries of the Site have been drawn to include the continuous exposure of Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous geological strata within the coastal cliffs, and the coastal geomorphological features including beaches, lagoons, landslides, bays, stacks and raised beaches. The coast is highly dynamic: the profile of cliffs and beaches is constantly changing, and in places the rates of change are rapid. The Site's boundaries need to accommodate the natural processes of coastal evolution, and are kept under review.</p> <p>In detail the landward boundary of the Site has been defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On cliff coastline, the boundary is taken at the break in slope at the top of the most landward cliff-scarp• On coastline with no cliffs, the boundary is taken at the back of the beach• The Site includes the Fleet lagoon and the boundary will be taken at the top of the low cliffs that lie on its northern shore. <p>The seaward boundary of the Site is taken at the Mean Low Water Mark, as defined by the UK Ordnance Survey.</p>
Contacts	Jurassic Coast Team Leader - Dr Sam Rose, on behalf of Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Steering Group

Purpose and Objectives of the Dorset and East Devon Coast WHS Management Plan

3.1.1 Vision for the World Heritage Site

'Our vision is that World Heritage Status will inspire people to celebrate, enjoy, value and learn about the Dorset and East Devon Coast, and to safeguard it for future generations in the best possible condition. We wish to ensure World Heritage Status becomes a vibrant strand of the life of Dorset and East Devon, and the wider South West, benefiting local people, visitors and the environment throughout the area.'

3.1.2 World Heritage Site Aims

During initial work to review the Management Plan a series of new Aims for the JCWHS have been developed. These have evolved as a result of scoping by the Jurassic Coast Team and WHS Steering Group on the issues facing the Site, and changes to the policy context in which the Site operates. These have been widely consulted on and have been agreed by the WHS Steering Group. These Aims are:

- Aim 1 To **protect** the Site's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity by allowing the natural processes which created it to continue;
- Aim 2 To **conserve** and **enhance** the Site and its setting for science, education and public enjoyment;
- Aim 3 To strengthen **understanding** in the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site;
- Aim 4 To support communities in realising the **economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits** that World Heritage status can bring;
- Aim 5 To improve appropriate and sustainable **access** to the Site and its setting;
- Aim 6 To enable visitors to the Site and its setting to enjoy a **welcoming experience and high quality facilities**;
- Aim 7 To **raise public awareness** of the Site, its Outstanding Universal Value, and of the values of World Heritage, locally to globally;
- Aim 8 To support and demonstrate **exemplary World Heritage Site management** through inclusive partnerships, accountable governance, a secure resource base and effective administration;

These aims are supported by a series of policies, within sub-themes under these aims.

4 Legal requirements and policy

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, commonly known as the 'Habitats Directive,' provides for the protection of habitats and species of European Community importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance (or restoration), at favourable conservation status, habitats and species of European Community interest. This is partly implemented through a network of protected areas referred to as 'Natura 2000 sites' (N2K), consisting of:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - designated under the Habitats Directive;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - designated under the Wild Birds Directive².

'Ramsar sites', designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971³, are treated by the UK Government as if they were Natura 2000 sites in terms of the protection and management afforded to them and must be included in the assessment.

² Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds. The 'Wild Birds' Directive.

³ Convention on the Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971. The 'Ramsar Convention'.

Appropriate Assessment (now referred to as the Habitats Regulations Assessment) is required by the Habitats Directive Article 6 paragraphs (3) and (4) which state that:

(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

This requirement is implemented in domestic English law through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations', with Regulation 48 setting out the requirements of Article 6. The Regulations do not add any further requirements.

5 Methodology

The following methodology, after being seen and agreed by Devon and Dorset Natural England staff, has been adopted for this Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). It sets the structure for the remainder of this report.

Box 1: Screening Methodology

Screening Methodology

1. Consult Natural England (NE) on this Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) **screening methodology** and to:
 - identify any additional “in combination plans”;
 - agree the scope of the assessment; and
 - advise whether any other relevant environmental organisations should be consulted at the screening stage.
2. Collect the Evidence Base for relevant European sites (Natura 2000 or N2K sites) including their reasons for designation (Qualifying Features) and “Conservation Objectives”;
3. Finalise the HRA methodology and scope following receipt of the NE response;
4. Identify any significant effects (screening) by the following process:
 - Identify policies of the WHS management plan that have potential to affect N2K sites;
 - Identify all other plans and projects which could have in combination effects
 - Describe the characteristics of the N2K sites which could be affected;
 - Identify potential effects on the N2K sites including in combination effects;
 - Assess the significance of the effects;
 - Record the results of the screening in a summary report; and
 - Complete any *findings of no significant effects*.
5. Where significant effects *cannot be ruled out (precautionary principle)*, make recommendations to the WHS team of alterations to policy that would avoid significant impacts (and so obviate the need for a full Appropriate Assessment).
6. Provide guidance on where projects to be delivered under the Action Plans may require detailed Appropriate Assessment.

The screening was undertaken on the **policies** within the Management Plan. A precautionary approach was adopted in identifying potential effects and in assessing significance. It is important to note that the assessment considered the policies in isolation, and did not consider them in the context of the Aims or Principles of the Management Plan. This was done to ensure that the policies, if they were to be quoted in isolation would be robust enough to provide sufficient protection to Natura 2000 site interests.

Other HRA activity in the area

The following documents overlapping with the WHS area have also had an assessment under the Habitats Regulations:

- South West Regional Spatial Strategy
- East Devon AONB Management Strategy 2009-2014
- Dorset AONB Management Plan
- Exeter Core Strategy

- East Devon Local Development Framework: Issues and Options Consultation Report Dec 08

In-combination plans and projects

In terms of additional plans and projects to be considered 'in combination', the following were listed by Natural England staff:

- Local Transport Plans
- Two Bays Shoreline Management Plan (Referring to the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP2)
- Lyme Regis Coastal Defence esp. East Cliff
- Portland Gas Storage in caverns
- Portland Port
- Poole Harbour Commissioners site
- Portland Bill Mineral consent (extant and inside WHS)
- Dorset Minerals Plan
- Coastal Corridor Action Plan (in draft)
- 2012 Olympic Games
- Chesil Beach Visitor Centre (part of Jurassic Coast Framework Programme)

The full list of other plans and projects included in this assessment can be found Appendix 1.

6 Stage 1 – Screening

Requirement for Habitats Regulation Assessment

The Habitats Directive refers to 'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon' (Article 6(3)). Conversely, plans intended for the management of European and Ramsar sites or plans that only have significant positive effects will not require HRA.

In considering whether the Management Plan is 'directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site', the term 'directly' refers to measures that are conceived solely for the purpose of management of that site. The term 'management' should be treated as referring to the 'nature conservation management' of that site.⁴

The Management Plan overlaps to a large extent with European and internationally designated sites. Its aims are set out as being specifically related to promoting the features for which the WHS was inscribed. These are related almost entirely to earth science, landscape and natural beauty. The policies within the Management Plan are directed towards conservation and management of these features. Although there is much overlap, the measures 'directly connected with or necessary to the management' of the European and Ramsar sites in some cases are different.

Although the Management Plan does propose policies which will influence the management of some Natura sites, it is clear that the plan is neither directly connected with nor necessary to the management of any of the identified Natura 2000 sites. Therefore it requires assessment to determine if it will have significant effects on the site(s) concerned.

⁴ European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC European Communities 2000 Para 4.3.3.

Scope of assessment

Both Devon and Dorset Natural England Offices responsible for the areas covered by the WHS were consulted by email on the methodology, scope and in combination projects and plans to be used in carrying out this HRA.

The first round of scoping considered all Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites within 15km of the World Heritage Site. It was clear that a number of N2K sites overlapped with the WHS boundary and that others had the potential to be affected by activity within the WHS because of their interest features. Natural England considered this scope to be appropriate.

Appendix 2 Site Characterisation contains details of the European sites (N2K) considered within this Screening Report and gives their qualifying features and conservation objectives as well as details on their current condition and vulnerabilities. Other N2K sites not listed have been scoped out from further consideration owing to their distance from the WHS and lack of sensitivity to impacts resulting from the Management Plan, on the advice of Natural England.

It should be noted that the consultant was made aware by Natural England, of a possible SAC off the coast of the World Heritage Site. The details of the exact location or its interest features could not be disclosed at the time of completing this assessment. This site has therefore not been included in the assessment process. Once the site is officially announced as a candidate SAC, an assessment of the impacts of the Management Plan on this site will need to be undertaken. (The law provides the same protection to candidate SACs as it does to confirmed SACs, in line with the precautionary principle).

Table 1 Summary of N2K sites considered in the assessment and their important features

Designated sites	Summary of all features of European importance
SACs wholly or partly within WHS	
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	Sea cliffs, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests, drift line vegetation
Chesil & the Fleet SAC	Coastal lagoons, drift line and stony bank vegetation, Mediterranean scrub, salt meadows
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Sea cliffs, dry grassland, drift line vegetation, early gentian
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	Sea cliffs, dry grassland, early gentian, greater horseshoe bat
SPA and Ramsar sites wholly or partly within WHS	
Exe Estuary SPA	Breeding and wintering wildfowl and their supporting habitats
Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA and Ramsar	Brent Goose, Little Tern, Wigeon and their supporting habitats
Other sites to be considered	
Beer Quarry & Caves SAC	Greater horseshoe bat, Lesser horseshoe bat and Bechstein's bat
Poole Harbour Ramsar	Estuary, plant, algae, invertebrate, various habitats, breeding and wintering wildfowl and their supporting habitats
River Axe SAC	River habitat, but only consider Sea Lamprey (<i>NE consultation</i>)
River Avon SAC	River habitat, fish, Desmoulin's whorl snail
Dawlish Warren SAC	Sand dunes, petalwort

Maps showing the boundaries of these sites can be found at www.natureonthemap.org.uk

Natural England consider that **Dawlish Warren SAC** could be scoped out of the assessment because its location on the opposite side of the Exe Estuary to the WHS and considered it reasonable to assume that any increases in visitor numbers or specific recreational activities promoted through the Management Plan would not transfer to the west of the Exe. Similarly, it is reasonable to assume that any visitor management measures in the plan would not 'displace' visitors or activities to Dawlish.

Natural England considered that for the **River Axe** the only potential impacts of the plan would be on the migratory fish species (Sea Lamprey). In order to have an impact the Management Plan would have to include policies or actions which would affect the mouth of the river or the 'harbour'. Natural England considers that increased tourist boat traffic would not be detrimental, unless the estuary mouth spit becomes a regular stopping point with frequent boats.

Natural England recommended that **Little Tern** should be considered as a feature at **Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA**. That **Poole Harbour Ramsar** was only likely to be affected with regard to dredging and the effect of that on Swanage. (Dredging is not proposed by this Management Plan). NE also considered that there would probably be no likely impact on the **River Avon SAC** so this site has been scoped out of the detailed assessment on this basis.

No additional sites were identified for assessment through the consultation with Natural England.

"In combination" plans and projects identified after consultation with Natural England are listed at Appendix 1.

Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites

The tables in Appendix 4 identify broad impacts which **could** result from the Management Plan policies, on the particular Qualifying Features of European importance (referred to as the features) for each identified N2K site.

Management Plan Policy analysis

The main purpose of preliminary or 'coarse' screening was to screen out policies which clearly had no possible negative impacts, so that fuller considerations could be focussed on those which had the potential to have effects.

During preliminary considerations one of 3 conclusions was drawn for each individual policy:

1. It has 'No Likely Significant Effects' by virtue of it not being likely to lead to activities that could cause adverse effects on the site;
2. Its effects have the **potential** to be *significant* (applying the precautionary principle). Fuller consideration is needed to establish if the effects are likely to be *significant*;
3. It has obvious 'Significant Effects' and detailed Appropriate Assessment, or removal from the Plan will be required.

For some policies the decision of No Likely Significant Effect will be obvious, and these can be screened out immediately. At the other extreme, some policies will very clearly have a Likely Significant Effect. These will need to be taken forward for 'appropriate assessment' or removed from the Management Plan. In other cases the judgement about a Likely Significant Effect will be less clear-cut. It is in these cases that it is necessary to consider further the nature of the effect, and its likelihood or risk of occurring, in deciding whether its effect is likely to be significant. These policies will be taken forward for fuller considerations.

The initial 'coarse' screening considered whether a Qualifying Feature was likely to be affected, either directly and/or indirectly by the policy, or from potential activities stemming from the policy. Any 'activity'⁵ that affects the attainment of conservation objectives will be significant. During this, reference was made to the sites' vulnerabilities, requirements to maintain favourable condition, and activities considered likely to be damaging or to lead to deterioration of the site.

⁵ The definition of 'activity' in this sense can include non-intervention, or an absence or lack of activity.

Table 2 Categories for initial screening of policies during preliminary considerations

Effect		Reasoning
None	0	The policy relates to activities which are not likely to have an effect on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of their specificity, scale, or distance from the site.
No likely (negative) effect	1	The policy is specifically intended to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and measures under this policy will not be likely to lead to negative effects on the Natura 2000 site.
	2	The policy is intended to conserve and enhance the natural, geological, built or historic environment and measures under this policy will not be likely to lead to negative effects on the Natura 2000 site.
	3	The policy is not likely to lead to activities which are likely to have a negative effect on the Natura 2000 site.
	4	The policy addresses activities which have the <i>potential</i> to affect the Natura 2000 site, but the policy itself is worded so as not to encourage activities or allow projects which would be likely to cause negative effects on the Natura 2000 site.
Potential for a negative effect	5	The policy addresses activities which have the <i>potential</i> to affect the Natura 2000 site, the effects of which may or may not be <i>significant</i> . But the policy or delivery could be reworded if necessary, so as not to support or encourage activities which would be likely to cause <i>significant</i> effects on the Natura 2000 site.
Potential for a negative effect / effects uncertain	6	The policy encourages activities which have the <i>potential</i> to affect the Natura 2000 site, but the <i>likelihood</i> and <i>risk of significance</i> of effects depends on the location, scale or design (& etc.) of individual schemes or projects. It is therefore more appropriate to screen individual schemes or projects as these come forward.
	7	The policy encourages activities in an area which have the <i>potential</i> to affect the Natura 2000 site, either directly or indirectly. Activities under this policy must be subject to assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be <i>significant</i> effects on the Natura 2000 site.
Likely Significant Effect	8	This policy makes provision for activities <i>likely</i> to have <i>significant</i> effects on the Natura 2000 site. Activities under this policy must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that the activities would not have <i>significant</i> effects on the Natura 2000 site. Or remove the policy from the Plan.

Source Adapted from David Tyldesley & Associates advice for Natural England 2006.

Preliminary screening findings

The full results of this initial screening and the reasoning behind each policy assessment are given in Appendix 3. In summary, there are 26 policies where there is potential for a negative effect. Many of the policies seek to reduce effects on the WHS but have been selected because they currently fail to ensure sufficient protection of N2K interest features. Some policies encourage activities which have the potential to affect one or more N2K sites. All other policies were considered to have No Likely Significant Effects as currently worded.

A summary of the results which focuses on those policies which require further considerations to assess the likelihood and significance of effects, and indication of the reasoning for each policy is given in the table below.

Table 3 Summary of Preliminary Screening - Policies to be taken forward for fuller consideration

Policy Code	Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	Beer Quarry and Caves SAC	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	River Axe SAC	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
1.3	5	5	0	5	0	5	5	0	5
1.8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	5
1.19	0	5	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
1.21	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0
2.3	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	0	6
2.4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
2.6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.8	0	6	5	6	6	6	6	0	0
2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.10	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	0	0
2.11	7	7	0	7	7	7	0	0	0
2.13	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1	5
3.7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
3.8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
4.3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
4.4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5
4.10	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	5
5.4	3	5	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
5.5	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	0	6
5.7	3	5	0	5	5	5	5	0	0
5.8	6	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	6
5.10	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
5.15	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
6.2	7	7	3	7	7	7	7	0	7
7.5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
7.6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6

Fuller considerations to assess significance of effects

In terms of Natura 2000 sites a 'significant' effect is one that is not inconsequential and which is likely to undermine the achievement of the site's conservation objectives⁶.

Examples of the types of effects, which are considered likely to be significant, are provided in guidance from Natural England⁷ and the European Commission⁸ shown below:

1. Causing change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series (e.g. presenting a barrier between isolated fragments, or reducing the ability of the site to act as a source of new colonisers);
2. Causing reduction in the area of habitat or of the site;
3. Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including the hydrology) or habitat within the site;
4. Causing ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the site is notified;
5. Altering community structure (species composition);
6. Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site;
7. Altering the vulnerability of populations etc. to other impacts;
8. Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change (for example its ability to respond to extremes of environmental conditions);
9. Affecting restoration of a feature where this is a conservation objective;
10. Interfering with key relationships that define the structure of the site;
11. Interfering with key relationships that define the function of the site.

It must be acknowledged that this list is not exhaustive, it is only indicative.

Judgements on the 'significance' of impacts was based upon the likely effect on qualifying features of each particular site as well as the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those impacts. The risk of these impacts occurring was also considered.

⁶ In Case C-127/02 [2004] OJ C 262/2 the European Court of Justice held that *any effect* likely to undermine the Conservation Objectives of an international site should be regarded as a likely significant effect.

⁷ English Nature, The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 HRGN3 English Nature 1999. [English Nature is now part of Natural England].

⁸ European Commission Environment DG, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

Summary of findings of significance

Consideration of significance and “in combination” effects for each N2K site are set out in Appendix 4 Significant effects matrices.

A summary of the recommended action required for each policy is given in the table below. In all cases, revising either the wording of the Policy itself or the delivery actions should remove the likelihood of significant effects either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Table 4 Summary of actions required to prevent likely significant effects

Rewording Policy is Essential	Revising Delivery Actions is Essential	Rewording Policy would improve protection	Revising Delivery Actions would improve protection	Delivery actions require HRA at the project or scheme level
1.3, 1.25, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, 2.10, 2.11, 2.13, 3.7, 3.8, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.15, 6.2, 7.6	1.4, 1.19, 1.20, 2.1, 4.3, 4.4, 5.10, 6.13	1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 1.18, 2.12	1.14, 1.16, 1.17, 2.7, 7.11, 7.12	2.3, 2.4, 3.7, 3.8, 5.7, 5.8, 5.15, 6.2

Changes to policy wording or delivery

This assessment has been undertaken on the Draft policies. At this early stage in policy development it is not considered appropriate to make specific recommendations for wording alterations. Once the Jurassic Coast WH Team has had the opportunity to consider this draft report, and the comments from the public consultation on the Management Plan, further advice can be given. The Environmental Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment, which accompanies this report and the Management Plan as part of the public consultation, incorporates the finding of this report and proposes recommendations in relation to European sites.

This report will be updated and finalised once the final policy wordings are agreed.

7 Conclusion

The preliminary screening highlighted 26 policies where there is potential for a negative effect on N2K sites. The remaining policies have no likely significant effect, however re-wording of some of these policies has been recommended in relation to Habitats Regulations issues to improve or clarify the protection to N2K sites.

There are **eight (8)** policies which set the framework for delivery actions and projects which are likely to require HRA in their own right. These are policies 2.3 (redevelopment of redundant coastal defences), 2.4 (removing derelict structures) 3.7 (residential field studies provision), 3.8 (Jurassic Coast Studies Centre near Lyme Regis), 5.7 (improving access to beaches), 5.8 (marine transport) 5.15 (development of seasonal or permanent park and ride facilities) and 6.2 (new visitor facilities).

It is concluded that the Management Plan when taken in its entirety, should have No Likely Significant Effects on the identified relevant Natura 2000 sites, provided **all** the recommendations here are acted upon. This includes ensuring the relevant schemes/projects during the delivery are assessed where highlighted as necessary.

It is considered that there is no need to proceed to a detailed Appropriate Assessment (Stages 2 and 3).

8 Limitations of the screening assessment

The Screening has been undertaken on the *Consultation Draft of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan*, and has assessed the effect of the *strategic policies*. This process also considered the proposed draft delivery actions. Provided that the delivery actions are in line with the policies there should be no likely significant effects from them.

The assessment of impacts and their significance was based on the policies in the Consultation Draft Management Plan. This version of the Management Plan does not yet include the recommendations from the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Any major changes, to these policies during the preparation of the Final Management Plan not in line with recommendations here, would require revisiting. Whether the alterations made are significant enough to warrant assessment will need to be considered, taking advice from Natural England.

A Note on the legal purpose of this assessment

It is important to note that the assessment process required under Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) is focused on the protection of **European sites**.

The findings of this assessment do not obviate the competent authorities of their statutory duty to consider **European protected species** that are not Qualifying features for European sites, also present *within* and *outside* European sites, both in the use of policies and the delivery of actions, as required by Regulation 3(4) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

9 References

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Dorset Coastal Forum; Marine Aggregates Topic Paper.

http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/s/a/Topic_Paper_Aggregates.pdf

Dorset Coastal Forum: Military Activity http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/5/f/Topic_Paper_Military.pdf

Dorset Coastal Forum: Pollution and Environmental Quality

http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/g/h/Topic_Paper_Pollution.pdf

Dorset Coastal Forum: Oil and Gas http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/g/g/Topic_Paper_Oil_& Gas.pdf

Dorset Coastal Forum: Recreation http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/g/i/Topic_Paper_Recreation.pdf

Dorset Coastal Forum: Wildlife http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/f/j/Topic_Paper_Wildlife.pdf

East Devon AONB Interpretation Strategy March 2004

English Nature, The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 Habitats regulations guidance note 3 English Nature, 1999

DCLG, Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment; Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. Department for Communities and Local Government August 2006.

Portland Harbour Authority: Harbour Management Plan 2006

South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan 2 information on coastal defences

<http://www.sdadcag.org/TechnicallyFeasibleOptions.pdf>

Tourism: Devon County Council's Role and Action Programme 2008-2011

TOURISM TOGETHER - Our plan for tourism in West Dorset 2003 – 2008 Adopted by West Dorset District Council on 15th May 2003.

TOURISM STRATEGY FOR PURBECK 2008-13 Purbeck District Council (Consultation Document)

The West Dorset Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct from Charmouth Visitor Centre website

Abbreviations

AA	'Appropriate assessment' shorthand for the whole assessment process under The Conservation (Natural, Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DEDCWHS	Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
LDD	Local Development Documents
LDF	Local Development Framework
N2K	Natura 2000 site – shorthand for European sites and Ramsar sites
NE	Natural England, formerly English Nature
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area (for Birds)
WHS	(Dorset and East Devon Coast) World Heritage Site

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 Other Relevant Plans and Projects considered “In-Combination”

Regional Development Plans

South West Regional Spatial Strategy

Land Use Planning

Devon Structure Plan 2001-2016

Devon County Minerals Local Plan 2004

Devon County Waste Local Plan 2006

Dorset Structure Plan

Dorset Minerals and Waste Development Framework – portfolio of documents including:

Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1999

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Local Plan 2006

Dorset Mineral Site Allocation Document (in preparation)

Dorset Core Strategy (in preparation)

AONB Management Plans

Dorset AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (in draft)

East Devon AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (in draft)

Unitary and District Plans

East Devon LDF Issues and Options 2008

(Seaton Regeneration Area)

West Dorset Local Plan 2006 then LDF

Weymouth and Portland Local Plan 2005 then LDF
Purbeck District Local Plan (not adopted) then LDF

Transport Plans

Dorset Local Transport Plan – includes a Jurassic Coast Transport Strategy
Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

Environment Agency plans

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS)

River Exe

Rivers Otter, Sid, Axe and Lim

Draft Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs)

East Devon (final version due Feb. 2008)

Exe (draft version due April 2008)

Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Studies

Lyme Bay and South Devon Shoreline Management Plan 1998

Portland Bill to Durlston Head Shoreline Management Plan 1998

Durlston Head to Rame Head SMP2 (in preparation)

Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP2 (in preparation)

Exe Estuary Coastal Management Study

Lyme Regis Environmental Improvements Strategy Plan, West Dorset District Council 2002

Tourism and Recreation Strategies

Towards 2015: South West Regional Tourism Strategy

Tourism: Devon County Council's Role and Action Programme 2008-2011

TOURISM TOGETHER - Our plan for tourism in West Dorset 2003 – 2008

Tourism Strategy For Purbeck 2008-13

Major Projects

East Cliff sea wall improvements, Lyme Regis

Lyme Regis Coastal Defence

Purbeck Stone mineral extraction

Port development proposals e.g. at Portland

Portland Marina (almost completed, 600 berths)

Portland Gas storage

Dredging of Poole Harbour

Portland Stone mineral extraction

2012 Olympic Games

Chesil Beach Visitor Centre (part of Jurassic Coast Framework Programme)

Other plans

Coastal Corridor Action Plan (in draft)

Appendix 2 Site Characterisation

Sidmouth to West Bay SAC (UK0019864)

Grid Reference: SY326912 Area: 897.3 Ha

Sidmouth to West Bay is an example of highly unstable soft cliff coastline subject to mudslides and landslips. It is the largest and most important landslip area on the British coast. Vegetation is varied and invades pioneer communities on recent slips, calcareous grassland and scrub on detached chalk blocks and extensive self-sown woodland dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) or sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The varied undercliffs have a wide range of habitats supporting a number of rare plants and animals. Adjoining the coastline are unusually large areas of herb-rich grassland of a type now very restricted in occurrence.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain, in favourable condition, the vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Active natural coastal processes, landslips maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat taking into account natural variation	Natural coastal processes	An important aspect of this habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities representing the vegetated sea cliffs. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan.
*9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Priority Feature)	To maintain, in favourable condition, the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	No loss of ancient woodland Active natural coastal processes, landslips Composition and structure of the stand	Coastal defence	Coastal defence outside the site can have an impact, especially where it is within the same sediment sub-cell. No erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation works. There are currently no coastal defences except for very minor ones for individual properties.
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	To maintain, in favourable condition, the annual vegetation of drift lines	No reduction in extent or area of habitat No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply	Climate Change and Coastal squeeze	Vegetated cliffs may experience coastal squeeze against adjacent land, which may be managed for agriculture as cliff face recedes. Climate Change may also mean more properties are defended against the sea.
			Non-native species	Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna, or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period.
			Grazing/browsing	Excessive browsing/grazing by even native ungulates may be considered an unnatural external factor where it leads to undesirable shifts in the composition/structure of the stand.

Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation.

Land management (including surrounding land)

The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas. Habitats are also susceptible to invasive introduced species, including as *Rhododendron* and *Cotoneaster*, and, in wet situations, parrot's feather, Australian swamp stonecrop and Himalayan balsam. Such species should be controlled and, where practical, eliminated from the site. Herbicides may be useful in targeting certain invasive species, but should be used with extreme care.

Disturbance (e.g. recreation)

Access to this site, and any recreational activities within, may also need to be managed. The South West Coast Path runs through the site.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Sidmouth to Beer Coast	14/12/04	Vegetated Sea Cliff is in FAVOURABLE condition. There are no immediate threats to the features of European Importance on this site.
Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs	4/07/01	100% of the site is in FAVOURABLE condition.
West Dorset Coast		FAVOURABLE condition for areas within the SAC.

Chesil and the Fleet SAC (UK UK0017076)

Grid Reference: SY630795 Area: 1635.05Ha (on NE website) / 1631.63 Ha (on JNCC website)

The Fleet **coastal lagoon** is the largest example of a lagoonal habitat in England, with both lagoonal inlets and percolation lagoons. It is bordered by the fossil shingle barrier of the Chesil Beach, through which seawater percolates into the lagoon. Most of its water exchange occurs through the narrow channel that links it to Portland Harbour. The relatively low freshwater input produces fully saline conditions throughout most of the Fleet. Chesil beach is a large (28km) relatively undisturbed shingle bar, and one of two examples of **annual vegetation of drift lines** on the south coast, which is dominated by Sea beet (*Beta vulgaris* ssp *maritima*). Areas of **perennial vegetation of stoney banks** support the most extensive occurrences of the rare Sea kale (*Crambe maritima*) and Sea pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) in the UK.. **Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)** forms a clear zone between the Fleet and the shingle vegetation of Chesil Bank. Much of the bar is subject to wash-over and percolation in storm conditions and is thus sparsely vegetated. The site also supports **Altantic salt meadows**.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1150 Coastal lagoons (Priority feature)	To maintain in favourable condition the lagoon, in particular the Seagrass bed communities.	No decrease in extent of any listed communities No significant change in salinity, water clarity, nutrient status	Natural coastal processes	An important aspect of this habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities representing the vegetated sea cliffs.

	bed communities, tide swept communities, subtidal course sediment communities, intertidal sediment communities and shingle spring line communities	clarity, nutrient status No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations No biological disturbance		and reduce the range of communities representing the vegetated sea cliffs. The shingle beach is sensitive to changes in natural coastal processes, which could occur through new coastal defences or changes to current structures. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan. There are coastal defences on Portland Harbour Shore SSSI, and the slope behind is eroding.
*1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	To maintain in favourable condition the Annual vegetation of drift lines, in particular the Sea Beet (<i>Beta maritima</i>) and Sea Sandwort (<i>Honkenya peploides</i>)	No decrease in linear extent or damage No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation	Surrounding land management	Run-off from surrounding land can cause water pollution.
*1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks	To maintain in favourable condition the Perennial vegetation of stony banks	No decrease in linear extent or damage	Recreation	Recreational pressure on the Fleet is small, and is not thought to represent serious concerns provided it remains at the current scale. Camping is occurring in 2 neutral grassland units, and although currently remaining in favourable condition (7/08/03) this activity needs to be monitored.
*1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	To maintain in favourable condition the Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub, in particular the shrubby sea-blite (<i>Suaeda vera</i>) communities	No decrease in linear extent or damage No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Oil pollution	The site's proximity to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes increases the risks of impacts from accidental oil spills, to which the communities would be particularly sensitive. Licence has also been granted for oil exploration nearby offshore. This is carried out under strict guidelines that take account of nature conservation interests.
			Mariculture	There is local cultivation of shellfish but this is not thought to represent serious concerns provided it remains at the current scale.
1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)	To maintain in favourable condition the Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)		Water quality	This is the main concern for the Fleet, with blooms of blue-green algae occurring. Water Framework Directive condition over the whole site is favourable.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Portland Harbour Shore	Biological components (supralittoral sediment, littoral sediment, neutral lowland grassland) of this SSSI is 100% FAVOURABLE 10/01/05, 07/07/04, 02/09/02.
Chesil and the Fleet (983.14 Ha)	FAVOURABLE 93.27%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 5.26%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 0.77%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.7%. Water Framework Directive condition is favourable. Coastal lagoon favourable in Units 23, 31 & 37 and unfavourable recovering Unit 22 owing to commencement of EA review of consents and catchment sensitive farming project. Littoral rock habitat is all favourable. Some areas of calcareous grassland are favourable, others unfavourable declining owing to water pollution from agricultural run-off. All areas of supralittoral rock are favourable.
West Dorset Coast (599.49 Ha)	FAVOURABLE 77.15%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 19.09%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 3.20%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.56%. Water Framework Directive condition is favourable.

Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA (UK9010091) and Ramsar (UK11012)

Grid Reference: SY630795 Area: 747.37 Ha

The site includes the whole of the Fleet Lagoon and the adjacent Chesil Bank. The Fleet is the largest and best example of a barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK and Chesil of one of 3 major shingle structures in the UK. The Fleet supports **15 specialist lagoonal species** (more than any other UK site), and **5 nationally scarce wetland plants** and **10 nationally scarce wetland animals**. It is an important **Bass Nursery Area**.

Up to **100 pairs** of **Little Turn (*Sterna albifrons*)** representing **5% of the British breeding population**. Up to **7000 individuals of Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*)** representing at least **1% of the north-western European population**.

The Ramsar has 1.4% of the GB population of **Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)**

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*Little Turn <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Maintain in favourable condition the habitat for the internationally important populations of regularly important Annex 1 bird species with particular reference to lagoon waters	Food availability Lagoon waters Intertidal sediment communities	Recreation	Recreational uses have the potential to disturb waterfowl. The Fleet and much of the Chesil Bank are privately owned and managed as a nature reserve. The majority is largely inaccessible to the casual visitor, the south and western part of the site known as Ferrybridge is subject to considerable visitor pressure. There is potential for recreational 'over-spill' from the Harbour into the Fleet. The Harbour Authority is a relevant authority for the European marine site and could address recreational zoning.
Wigeon <i>Anas</i>	To maintain in favourable	Food availability	Water quality	There is a relative lack of pollution in comparison to most other lagoons. However routine or

<i>penelope</i>	condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory birds species, with particular reference to intertidal sediment communities and seagrass bed communities	Lagoon waters Intertidal sediment communities Seagrass bed communities	accidental discharges arising from activities in the Harbour could affect water quality in the Fleet. The site is close to one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, and there is the risk of oil pollution from shipping accidents.
Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>)		Invasive & / non-native species	Introduction of invasive non-native species is a concern. Japanese seaweed (<i>Sargassum</i>) is cut annually.
		Mariculture	There is a shellfishery within the Fleet, cultivating oysters and cleansing mussels and other species. This poses no concerns at present. Water quality testing occurs for the designated Shellfish Waters.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Chesil and the Fleet (983.14 Ha)	FAVOURABLE 93.27%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 5.26%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 0.77%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.7%. Water Framework Directive condition is favourable. Coastal lagoon favourable in Units 23, 31 & 37 and unfavourable recovering Unit 22 owing to commencement of EA review of consents and catchment sensitive farming project. Littoral rock habitat is all favourable. Some areas of calcareous grassland are favourable, others unfavourable declining owing to water pollution from agricultural run-off. All areas of supralittoral rock are favourable.
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Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC (UK UK0019861)

Grid Reference: SY840802 Area: 1447.5 Ha

Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs together with St Albans Head to Durlston Head form a single unit of cliffed coastline of some 40km in length. Cliffs are formed of hard limestones, with chalk at the Eastern end, interspersed with slumped sections of soft cliff of sand and clays. The **vegetated sea cliffs** support species-rich **calcareous grasslands** with rare species such as wild cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *oleracea*) early spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*) and Nottingham catchfly (*Silene nutans*). The Portland Peninsula extending 8km south of the mainland, demonstrates very clearly the contrast between the exposed western and southern coasts, with sheer rock faces and sparse maritime vegetation, and the sheltered eastern side with sloping cliffs supporting scrub communities, where Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) grows in grassland. **Semi-natural dry grassland** occurs at this site in both inland and coastal locations on both chalk and Jurassic limestone. Extensive areas species-rich *Brachypodium pinnatum* occurs along with smaller areas of *Festuca ovina*-*Avenula preatensis* grassland on shallow soils of steeper slopes. The site supports long-standing populations of **Early Gentian (*Gentianella anglica*)** numbering several thousand plants.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain in favourable condition the Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Active natural coastal processes, landslips maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat taking into account natural variation	Natural coastal processes	An important aspect of this habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities representing the vegetated sea cliffs. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan.
*6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	To maintain in favourable condition the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	No reduction in habitat area Suitable grazing level to ensure no more than 5% cover of tree/scrub/woody climbers. Restrict <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> and invasive species. Sward height of 5cm or less. Trampling levels and grazing controlled so that no more than 15-20% bare ground Rabbit grazing at a level so that > 0.25ha bare ground around warrens	Coastal defence Recreation	Coastal defence outside the site can have an impact, especially where it is within the same sediment sub-cell. No erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation works. There are currently no coastal defences except for very minor ones for individual properties. Recreation can damage habitats and plant species by trampling. Recreational access often brings with it litter, which can cover and suppress vegetation growth.
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	To maintain in favourable condition the Annual vegetation of drift lines	No decrease in linear extent or damage No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures,	Grazing regime	Early gentian grows mainly on bare or thin turf that is kept open by rabbit or sheep grazing and trampling by livestock.

	<p>constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations</p> <p>No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply</p> <p>Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation</p>	<p>Invasive species</p>	<p>In dense turf early gentian becomes shaded and is unable to out compete more vigorous species such as invasive species and <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>.</p>
*1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	<p>No decrease in area of short, well grazed and bare ground where the plant can grow. Mechanism for this includes rabbits and trampling</p> <p>Not more than 5% scrub</p> <p>Stock grazing essential in some areas</p>		

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Purbeck Ridge (East)	FAVOURABLE 38.59%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 61.41% All supra littoral rock is favourable condition (20/11/06). Broadleaved woodland favourable (29/02/00). Unfavourable recovering now due to gorse and scrub control or grazing on calcareous grassland areas (1/02/05, 28/11/05, 26/11/06)
Nicodemus Heights	100% UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING Reason for declining condition is undergrazing of calcareous grassland (10/04/02, 6/08/03, 8/8/03)
South Dorset Coast	FAVOURABLE 69.33%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 25.07%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 1.09%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 4.52% All supra littoral rock is favourable condition. Areas recovering as now in stewardship (31/03/05) or scrub control implemented and more extensive grazing on calcareous grassland areas. Unfavourable no change and declining condition are owing to inappropriate scrub control and undergrazing.
Studland Cliffs	100% FAVOURABLE (20/02/00, 20/11/06, 21/11/06)
Isle of Portland	FAVOURABLE 36.19%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 40.61%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 2.96%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 20.23% This includes geological condition. Recovering condition from introduction of grazing by goats on cliff slopes. Declining condition owing to inappropriate scrub control and undergrazing on cliff slope

St Albans Head to Durlston Head (UK UK0019863)

Grid Reference: SZ006770 Area: 287.22 Ha

St Albans Head to Durlston Head with the Isles of Portland to Studland Cliffs form a single unit of cliffed coastline of some 40km in length. Cliffs are formed of hard limestones, with chalk at the Eastern end, interspersed with slumped sections of soft cliff of sand and clays. The **vegetated sea cliffs** support species-rich **calcareous grasslands** with the UK's largest population of early spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*). The site supports long-standing populations of **Early Gentian (*Gentianella anglica*)** numbering several thousand plants.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain in favourable condition the Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat No increase in linear extent or area of cliff constrained by introduced structures or landforms Maintain physical features of cliffs supporting vegetation (including management and drainage)	Natural coastal processes	An important aspect of this habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities representing the vegetated sea cliffs. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan.
*6211 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites) Priority feature	To maintain in favourable condition the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	No reduction in habitat area Suitable grazing level to ensure no more than 5% cover of tree/scrub/woody climbers. Restrict <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> and invasive species. Sward height of 5cm or less. Trampling levels and grazing controlled so that no more than 15-20% bare ground Low nutrient conditions i.e. restrict fertilizer and remove biomass Rabbit grazing at a level so that > 0.25ha bare ground around warrens	Coastal defence Grazing regime Surrounding land management	Coastal defence outside the site can have an impact, especially where it is within the same sediment sub-cell. No erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation works. There are currently no coastal defences except for very minor ones for individual properties. Cattle grazing reduces the All habitats within the site are sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, application of which should be avoided certainly within the site and preferably in adjacent areas. Maintenance of surrounding hedgerows and uncultivated field margins will be important in providing suitable foraging areas and appropriate commuting routes for bats.
*1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for	No decrease in area of short, well grazed and bare ground where the plant can	Cliff climbing	Climbers trampling sensitive cliff-tops is a threat.

	the population of Early gentian	grow. Mechanism for this includes rabbits and trampling		
1304 Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the population of Greater horseshoe bat	Maintain suitable conditions at hibernation site entrances Controlled and limited human access to hibernation sites	Recreation	Bat tunnel entrances are protected by secure grilles. Recreational disturbance should be minimised through controls on access.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

South Dorset Coast	FAVOURABLE 69.33%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 25.07%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 1.09% UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 4.52%			
	All areas of supralittoral rock are in favourable condition. But some geotextile and rubble was noted in Unit 4 (22/07/04). For Unit 7, noted 22/07/04 defences around jetty and a possibly new gabion lined ditch behind. Neutral lowland grassland is mostly in favourable condition, with some unfavourable recovering areas, following scrub removal and extensive grazing. Unfavourable declining areas of neutral grassland are undergrazed.			
	Areas of calcareous grasslands in favourable and unfavourable no change condition, with reason for unfavourable condition being inappropriate scrub control and undergrazing.			
Townsend	FAVOURABLE 100% Calcareous grassland (7/09/00) and caves for bats (21/01/03).			

Exe Estuary SPA (UK901081) and Ramsar (UK11025)

Grid Reference: Area: 2345.71 Ha

The Exe has an internationally important assemblage of wintering waterfowl. Over winter the area regularly supports 23811 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998) including **Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)**, **1.5% of the GB population of Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)**, **Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**, **Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) 13.4% of GB population**, **Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)**, **Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*)**, **Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*) 2.4% of the population** . The site contains a full sequence of intertidal habitats including tidal river and estuary; sand and mud flats with the polychaete worm *Ophelia bicornis* known only from 1 other site in Britain as well as extensive mussel beds, as well as eelgrass (*Zostera*) beds. Bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens (10%). Salt marshes and pastures, salt steppes (5%). Coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, machair (5%). The site also holds national scarce Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguinum*) and Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachyton pratense*). Noteworthy flora includes Eelgrass *Zostera spp.*

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*A046a Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	Maintain these habitats and features in favourable condition for listed Annex	No decrease in extent of habitats supporting birds as left - Losses of 5% or more	Recreation	Recreational uses have the potential to disturb waterfowl, particularly over winter. Current uses include sailing, windsurfing, power boating, canoeing kite surfing and personal hovercraft use.

A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	1 bird species: littoral sediment (intertidal sand and mudflats & seagrass beds)	are unacceptable Lack of bird disturbance when feeding/roosting	Dredging	Maintenance dredging occurs in the estuary approach channel that could have adverse impacts on sediment movement patterns and Dawlish Warren Sandspit. Dredging operations are subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations.
A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Supralittoral sediment (Saltmarsh), fen, marsh and swamp, improved grassland, coastal cliff and foreshore.	Lack of obstructions to bird view lines on coastal/estuarine habitats	Natural coastal processes/coastal defence	New or improved coastal defences as might be required to protect new infrastructure or other developments.
*A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		Food availability for birds (Eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> spp. beds)	Coastal squeeze	
A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		Good water and sediment quality	Wildfowling	Wildfowling is controlled by leases from the Crown Estate, but is also undertaken on private land.
A007 Slavonian Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>				
A132 Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Exe Estuary 17/12/01 FAVOURABLE 100%.

Poole Harbour SPA (UK9010111) and Ramsar Site (UK11054)

Grid Reference: SZ 000890 Area: SPA 2271.99 Ha, Ramsar 2439.2 Ha

The site is the best example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics (natural harbour) in Britain. The site holds **over 24,000 wintering waterfowl** including an average of 2.7% of the GB population of **Common Shelduck (*Tadoma tadorna*)** and 4.9% of the population of **Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*)**.

Extensive intertidal mudflats support nationally important numbers of waterfowl in winter. There are fringed on the landward side by saltmarsh or reedbed. The river valleys of the lower Frome and Piddle support grazing marsh, which is also important for wintering wildfowl. The Harbour is separated from Poole Bay by the internationally important Studland dunes and the site includes Littlesea, a large dune slack also important for wintering wildfowl. The site includes natural habitats of community interest Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, dominated by *Suaeda vera*.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability
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*A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, the listed Annex 1 species and Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species in particular: shallow inshore waters, intertidal sediment communities, saltmarsh and reedbed.	No physical loss or damage to habitats by siltation or abrasion for example Lack of non physical visual or noise disturbance Lack of pollution e.g. by pesticides, heavy metals Lack of pollution e.g. by pesticides, heavy metals Lack of contamination by nutrient or organic loading No changes in turbidity or salinity	Recreation	Recreational activities, particularly water based, such as windsurfing, water-skiing, wildfowling, the use of personal watercraft and wider access to the foreshore from the land may cause disturbance especially when carried out during the winter months. The Harbour is used heavily for watersports, sailing and boating are the most frequent.
Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			Eutrophication	Nutrient enrichment is an issue for the site, compounded by the site's poor flushing. There is evidence of extensive algal mats covering intertidal mudflats during the summer months. Algal mats over mudflats can decrease diversity and abundance of bird prey. The Waste Water Treatment Works is the largest point source discharge. This now has nitrate- stripping.
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>			Wildfowling	All wildfowling is under the control of the Dorset Wildfowling Association. Private estates also shoot on their own land (i.e. above Mean High Water), but much of the shoreline above MHWM is controlled by conservation organisations.
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			Bait collection and fishing	Bait collection occurs at a few places along the shoreline, where there is good access. The eastern end is a designated Bass Nursery Area.
One of best examples of a natural harbour in Britain containing an assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species including invertebrates, plants, hydroids and algae				

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Poole Harbour	FAVOURBLE 76.6%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 15.92%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 5.10%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 2.3% But one unit of 4.4 ha with degraded shoreline and hard sea defence was classed as favourable only because assumed to be favourable at notification and has not changed and there is no scope for improving management. Reedbed areas are favourable, but more rank than previous assessment in 1996. 9/08/06 UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING owing to rhododendron clearance. But still more than 20% gorse cover. 28/02/01 UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE reason for unfavourable condition is water pollution – agriculture/run-off or inappropriate coastal management and ditch management 24/03/03 UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING on Long Island from inappropriate scrub control.
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Beer Quarry and Caves SAC (UK0012585)

Grid Reference: SY215892 Area: 31.1 Ha

The site is divided in two by a road, with an active quarry to the north and a disused quarry and cave system to the south. This complex of abandoned mines in South West England is regularly used as a hibernation site by small numbers of **Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*** as well as an important assemblage of other bat species including **Greater Horseshoe and Lesser Horseshoe**. *Myotis bechsteinii* is one of the rarest bats in western Europe, and is regarded as endangered in several countries, with a population decrease being reported over most of its European range. It is one of the UK's rarest mammals, recorded from only a small number of sites in southern England and Wales.

Dry grassland. Steppes (10%) Improved grassland (50%). Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (5%). Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (35%).

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1323 Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> in favourable condition To maintain the caves in favourable condition as a hibernating bat roost	No significant shading of the main roost area by trees (& etc) so that solar heating can occur. No artificial lights shining on entrance or associated flight paths No significant unplanned change to ventilation or temperature regime. Caves cool (8-12°C) and dark, once beyond the entrance zone	Disturbance	Some parts of the 'cave' system are open to the public with no restriction on access, in others areas access is controlled by well-designed secure grille. Other areas (those on the other side of the road from the show cave) have no protection at all (other than the danger signs on the entrance to the quarry). Access to the site must remain under control of the owner/occupier or site secured against unauthorised access. Parts of the cave system are open to the public, but disturbance is minimal as they are only open during the summer months. A site management statement has been agreed with the quarrying company. Natural England is currently in the process of carrying out a study to try and determine whether limited access to the caves in winter would be damaging through increased disturbance. The tunnels lie in the Beer Stone, below the chalk, and future quarrying operations (c. 20 years) will not extend so far as to destroy the tunnels. Permission for geological study or quarrying should only be granted outside period of bat hibernation to avoid unnecessary disturbance.
1303 Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> in favourable condition		Artificial lighting (in caves, at entrances and on flight paths)	There are artificial lights in the caves, but these are restricted to a fraction of the total tunnel network. Presence of artificial lights can impact on behavior, but the current level of lighting does not appear to be an issue. No artificial lights should shine on access(es).

1304 Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> in favourable condition	Management of surrounding land	Vegetation around the entrance can alter solar heating and ventilation of the caves. Bats require good suitable habitat surrounding the caves in order to approach and leave safely, and to forage. This includes woodland, uncultivated field margins and extensively managed pasture. Lesser horseshoe prefers sheltered valleys with extensive deciduous woods or dense scrub, close to roost sites. Where habitat is fragmented, linear features such as hedgerows are important commuting corridors between roosts and foraging areas. This is particularly important in spring when bats will be emerging from hibernation and will need to build fat reserves for the breeding season.
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Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Beer Quarry and Caves	<p>10/01/03 Unit 1 UNFAVOURABLE, NO CHANGE and were up until recently subject to active quarrying, some parts have collapsed and are filled with spoil. Some parts of this system are draughty and exposed, but have potential for enhancements for bats by blocking off entrances to improve conditions.</p> <p>10/01/03 Unit 2 UNFAVOURABLE, NO CHANGE No security grilles or fencing, access unrestricted. Site only visited occasionally for Health and Safety reasons. Disturbed up until recently by active quarrying. Opportunity for enhancement for hibernating bats.</p> <p>10/01/08 Unit 3 FAVOURABLE Entrance protected by well-designed secure grille. Parts open to the public have electric lighting this is only a small fraction of the tunnel system. Disturbance is minimal and restricted to safety checks by the manager.</p> <p>10/01/08 Unit 4 FAVOURABLE Although part of the tunnels are open to the public, access is controlled and restricted to the summer. Meets all Favourable Condition Target attributes for bats.</p> <p>Quarry tunnels in northern part of site require some work to improve conditions for hibernating bats – currently sub-optimal.</p>
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River Axe SAC (UK0030248)

Grid Reference: SY267961 Area: 25.78Ha

The Axe is a south-western example of sub-type 2 of **plain to montane levels water courses**, found on substrates ranging from lime-rich substrates such as oolite, through soft sandstone and clay to more mesotrophic and oligotrophic rocks. Only the lower reaches of the main river are designated, where the mixed catchment geology of sandstones and limestones gives rise to calcareous waters where *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* dominates, giving way to *R. fluitans* further downstream. Short-leaved water-starwort *Callitriche truncata* is an unusual addition to the *Ranunculus* community and gives additional interest. The site also holds brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*, which has declined in parts of the UK, although it is still widespread. This species is the most abundant and widespread of the British lampreys and is often found in the absence of the other two species, for example above a barrier that precludes the presence of the migratory species. The sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* occurs in estuaries and easily accessible rivers over much of the Atlantic coastal area of western and northern Europe (from northern Norway to the western Mediterranean) and eastern North America. It has declined in some parts of its European range. It remains reasonably widespread in UK rivers being common in some places, but has declined in parts of its range and has become extinct in a number of rivers.

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition /	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability
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(Primary* & non-primary)		conservation status	
*3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Calliricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation	<p>To maintain, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for:</p> <p>floating formations of water crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>) of plain and sub-mountainous rivers</p> <p>populations of sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</p> <p>populations of brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</p> <p>populations of bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)</p>	<p>Flow regime should be characteristic of the river. As a guideline, at least 90% of the naturalised daily mean flow should be maintained throughout the site at all times of year.</p> <p>Channels dominated by clean gravels.</p> <p>Annual average suspended solids $\geq 25 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ (based on EC Freshwater Fish Directive)</p> <p>Zero exploitation of Lampreys until further notice.</p>	<p>Hydrological regime / water abstraction</p> <p>River flow affects a range of habitat factors of critical importance to these fish species, including current velocity, water depth, wetted area, substrate quality, dissolved oxygen levels and water temperature. The maintenance of both flushing flows and baseflows, based on natural hydrological processes, is vital. Headwater sections are particularly vulnerable to abstraction, and downstream migration of perennial heads, other than in drought conditions, is a sign of unfavourable condition. Widening or deepening of channels, and extensive artificial reinforcement of banks, are indicators of unfavourable condition. Headwater sections are particularly vulnerable to reprofiling.</p> <p>Restoration of degraded channels to a more characteristic state should be undertaken, where practical, within a strategic framework and using techniques that work with nature. This may include removal of structures within rivers, after individual assessment. Features such as weirs and dams, as well as polluted sections of river, may impede fish migration to spawning grounds.</p>
1905 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>			<p>Land use of surrounding area</p> <p>Changes in surrounding land use could impact on volume run-off and sediment and nutrient inputs. This is currently contributing to unfavourable condition.</p>
1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>			<p>Changes in turbidity/silt levels (e.g. ball clay, run-off from arable land and land trampled by livestock, sewage and industrial discharges.)</p> <p>Sediment volumes in run-off. Elevated levels of suspended solids can clog the respiratory structures of the listed species. Siltation of riverine sediments, caused by high particulate loads and/or reduced scour within the channel, is a major threat to interest features. Elevated silt levels can interfere with the establishment of <i>Ranunculus</i> plants, and with egg and fry survival in lampreys and bullhead.</p> <p>The requirements of species vary depending upon use of the substrate. Some relate to the level of aeration within the substrate and some to the ability of the substrate to physically catch eggs or plant fragments in surface interstices.</p>
1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>			<p>Water quality</p> <p>Generally, the water quality should not be injurious to any life stage. Areas of poor water quality can create a barrier to migration preventing Sea lampreys from reaching their spawning grounds.</p>
			<p>Introductions of other species, native and non-native</p> <p>Bullheads are relatively sedentary and interactions between populations in different parts of the catchment and in different catchments are likely to be limited, suggesting the existence of genetically discrete populations. It is uncertain whether there are significant genetic differences between lamprey populations of the same species. Since they are of no angling interest, deliberate transfers between sites are unlikely to have been undertaken in the past, such that the genetic integrity of populations is likely to be intact.</p> <p>The presence of artificially high densities of salmonids and other fish will create unacceptably high levels of predatory and competitive pressure on juvenile and adult bullhead and lampreys.</p>

		<p>Bullhead densities have been found to be negatively correlated with densities of non-native crayfish in the River Great Ouse, suggesting competitive and/or predator-prey interactions. Escapes from fish farms are a form of uncontrolled introduction and should be prevented. Signal crayfish are known to be on the Axe.</p> <p>Invasive alien plants such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.</p>
	Exploitation	<p>Lampreys have recently become popular in the UK as bait for pike-fishing. There are also indications that UK populations are sought after as a delicacy in Europe, where stocks are declining. Zero exploitation of Lampreys until further notice.</p>
	In river structures (e.g. weirs, waterfalls)	<p>Sea lampreys seem to be relatively poor at ascending obstacles to migration, and are frequently restricted to the lower reaches of rivers. Natural barriers to the movement of fish (such as waterfalls) should be left alone. Where artificial modifications have occurred - such as weirs and impoundments, embankment, straightening and dredging – the restoration of natural channel profiles and dynamics is desirable where appropriate. Any new infrastructure, such as road and rail bridges should be carefully designed to avoid the constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain.</p>

Additional parameters to consider within appropriate assessments (from Conservation Objectives)

A range of specific parameters may be relevant to the assessment of the likely impact of a plan or project in addition to those specified in the favourable condition table. This should not be considered as an exhaustive list but indicates some key areas of concern.

Water column parameters Consideration of the effects of heavy metals, herbicides, pesticides (particularly sheep dip chemicals) and hydrocarbons is essential.

Effects on temperature regime may have important consequences for a number of species.

Substrate quality Elevated sediment phosphorus levels may lead to excessive growths of tolerant rooted-macrophytes and benthic algae, and may also result in enhanced release of soluble phosphorus to the water column.

Sediment oxygen levels are important to the survival of, lamprey eggs and ammocoetes and probably bullhead early life stages. Inorganic silt can interfere with aeration within coarse substrate, but in both coarse and fine substrate the sediment oxygen demand is a key consideration, driven by the presence of degradable organic matter. In siltbeds, levels of organic matter that generate anoxia or near-anoxia will make the habitat unsuitable for lampreys.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

River Axe	<p>18/11/02 OVERALL ASSESSMENT (Units 2&3) = UNFAVOURABLE Water quality - unfavourable - due to significant failure on phosphate target (0.3 or 0.4 mg/l where target is 0.06). Meeting RE2 and GQA 'a' in 1999.</p> <p>Flow - favourable - no major abstractions and no known impacts.</p> <p>Siltation - UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING - known siltation problems but Axe Valley project just initiated to tackle this.</p> <p>Channel structure FAVOURABLE - no major dredging, small scale blockstone revetment and maintenance dredging around bridges.</p> <p>Management - UNFAVOURABLE - due to widespread stock access causing bank erosion (high stocking rates probably exacerbate further). Otherwise in-channel and bankside management is ok.</p> <p>Biological disturbance - UNFAVOURABLE - problem species include alder <i>Phytophthora</i> disease, which is being tackled by EA (coppicing of infected trees leads to healthy regrowth) and <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> (Himalayan Balsam) which is currently not being addressed - EA hope to encourage anglers to help in eradication by pulling.</p> <p>Access (Unit 2)- UNFAVOURABLE for non-salmonid SAC species - Town Weir, Axminster and Weycroft Weir are both barriers to the migration of Lamprey and there are currently no</p>
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plans to modify or by-pass them. Reasons for Unfavourable condition include inappropriate weed control, siltation, water pollution - agriculture/run off Access (Unit 3) - FAVOURABLE - no barriers to migration of Lamprey or salmonids.

Dawlish Warren SAC (UK0030130)

Grid Reference: SX984792 Area: 58.84 Ha

Dawlish Warren is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for humid dune slacks. It is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*) (2000 resident) that is restricted to 19 sites in total.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
2110 Embryonic shifting dunes		Natural coastal processes Less than 5% scrub	Recreation	Dawlish Warren is an extremely popular seaside resort and human visitor pressure is considerable. Can cause erosion and trampling issues.
2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")		Natural coastal processes	Erosion	Erosion problems affect the shifting dunes along the shoreline, and consequently fencing is required to direct visitors.
2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") (Priority Feature)			Fluctuations in water table	The humid dune slacks have suffered from a declining water-table in recent years but the installation of a wind turbine to recharge the slack should reverse this trend.
2190 Humid dune slacks		Groundwater levels	Surrounding land management	Much of the fixed dune grassland is a golf course and is subjected to wear, whilst modifications to tees, greens and fairways can have an impact on adjoining species-rich grassland, for example, by spray-drift of chemicals.
1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)		Active humid dune slacks	Coastal management	Inappropriate coastal management. Groyne and gabions can stabilise dune systems. Dune stabilisation leading to natural succession can effect Petalwort populations.
			Invasive species	Invasive species can stabilise the dune systems.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Dawlish Warren 21/03/05 Units in UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE, and unfavourable declining conditions. Reasons for adverse condition included: drainage, inappropriate coastal management, inappropriate weed control, inappropriate scrub control.

Appendix 3 Preliminary Screening matrix

Policy Code	Exe Estuary SPA/ Ramsar	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	Beer Quarry and Caves SAC	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	River Axe SAC	Poole Harbour SPA/ Ramsar
1.1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1.2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1.3	5	5	0	5	0	5	5	0	5
1.4	4	4	0	4	0	4	4	0	4
1.5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1.6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4
1.7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
1.8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	5
1.9	0	4	0	4	4	4	4	0	4
1.10	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2
1.11	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4
1.12	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4
1.13	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0
1.14	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4
1.15	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
1.16	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1.17	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0
1.18	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	0	4
1.19	0	5	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
1.20	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	4
1.21	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0
1.22	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1.23	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	0	3
1.24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.3	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	0	6
2.4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
2.5	0	4	0	4	4	4	4	0	0
2.6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.7	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	0
2.8	0	6	5	6	6	6	6	0	0
2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.10	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	0	0
2.11	7	7	0	7	7	7	0	0	0
2.12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.13	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1	5
2.14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Policy Code	Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	Beer Quarry and Caves SAC	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	River Axe SAC	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
3.8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
3.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
4.4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5
4.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.10	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	5
5.1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
5.2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.4	3	5	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
5.5	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	0	6
5.6	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	4
5.7	3	5	0	5	5	5	5	0	0
5.8	6	6	0	6	6	0	0	0	6
5.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.10	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
5.11	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.15	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
5.16	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.17	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.18	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.19	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.20	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Policy Code	Exe Estuary SPA/ Ramsar	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	Beer Quarry and Caves SAC	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	River Axe SAC	Poole Harbour SPA/ Ramsar
6.1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
6.2	7	7	3	7	7	7	7	0	7
6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.9	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
6.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.11	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6.12	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
6.13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
7.1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
7.6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6
7.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.11	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7.12	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

All policies under Aim 8 are considered to have No Likely Significant Effects for any of these sites.

Appendix 4 Significant effects matrices

Table 5 Sidmouth to West Bay SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain, in favourable condition, the vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Active natural coastal processes, landslips maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat taking into account natural variation. Allow the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints.	Coastal defence, cliff stabilization, indirect impact from off-site development	Current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K interests	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences e.g. at Lyme Regis	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
				New field studies centre near Lyme Regis may damage habitat, directly, and indirectly through potential increased access to the site	3.8	Yes Development of national centre unlikely to be within the site		Not with revised delivery wording	Revise Delivery to ensure exploration and development takes full account of N2K and the appropriate EIAs are undertaken
				New or improved facilities may damage habitat, directly, and indirectly through potential increased access to the site	6.2	Yes facilities proposed at Lyme Regis		Not with revised delivery	Revise Delivery to ensure development takes full account of N2K and the appropriate EIAs are undertaken
			Any development interfering with natural rates of erosion	Access maintenance and improvements could interfere with erosion rates	5.5, 5.7	Yes		Not with revised wording and delivery	Revise Policy all projects should undergo screening assessment in liaison with NE
			Damage to habitats and habitat loss	Depending on the location of derelict structures, their removal or restoration of derelict structures could damage features during access for removal	2.3	Yes	Coastal defence e.g. at Lyme Regis	Not with revised wording and delivery	Revise Policy Revise Delivery – all projects must undergo screening assessment in liaison with NE

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
				Core sampling	2.10	Unlikely to be significant unless core sampling is extensive and permission for core sampling within site must be obtained from NE	Cliff climbing	Not with revised wording and delivery	Revise Policy as a precaution Recommend that delivery seeks to revise Code of Conduct for Geological Fieldwork to have explicit regard for N2K features or provide a local document that does this
			Cliff climbing	Insufficient control of climbing in sensitive locations, or protection for habitats	1.21	Yes		Not with revised delivery	Revise Delivery
			Fossil collection – particularly digging in cliffs	Insufficient guidance on fossil collection to avoid impacts	2.8, 2.5, 2.6	Yes	Cliff climbing	Yes	Include N2K considerations in guidance on fossil collection
*9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Priority Feature)	To maintain, in favourable condition, the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	No loss of ancient woodland	Removal to allow access, development etc	Removal to allow access, development etc	5.7	Yes		Not with revised wording	Revise Policy Individual projects may require HRA
		Active natural coastal processes, landslips	Coastal defence, developments	Current wording ineffective in preventing harm to N2K interests	1.3 1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences e.g. at Lyme Regis	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		Composition and structure of the stand - appropriate woodland management, restrict new tree planting and introduced species, control pollution	Inappropriate management	Outside scope of Management Plan					
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	To maintain in favourable condition	No reduction in linear extent or area of habitat	Beach recharge, beach cleaning	Insufficient guidance on beach cleaning given to avoid impacts	2.11	Yes (particularly if beach cleaning is mechanical)	Beach recharge proposed at a number of locations Pebble extraction	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy Revise Delivery

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
				Depending on the location of derelict structures, their removal or restoration of derelict structures could damage features	2.3, 2.4	Yes	Beach recharge Beach cleaning	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
			Pebble extraction removal on a significant scale – habitat loss	No	1.19	Not alone	Planning permission to pick beach pebbles at Rousdon Beach. NE and Devon CC considered this unlikely to be activated	No	No need to revise policy for this site
			Abrasion from boating and angling	Boat trips promoted	5.8, 5.9, 5.10	Yes	Marina development at Portland	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence structures	Not alone. Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites.	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences e.g. at Lyme Regis	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
		No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply.	Coastal defence operations	Not alone. Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites.	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences e.g. at Lyme Regis Beach nourishment	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
		Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation.	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance e.g. from beach access or visitor centre, potential for increased litter from visitors	3.7, 5.4, 5.8, 7.5, 7.6	Yes	Devon Tourism Programme promotes WHS visitor centres in East Devon	Yes	Revise Policy Revise Delivery

Table 6 Chesil and the Fleet SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations	
1150 Coastal lagoons *Priority feature	Subject to natural change, maintain the lagoon in favourable condition, in particular: seagrass bed, tide-swept, subtidal coarse sediment, intertidal sediment, shingle spring line communities	No decrease in extent of any listed communities	Coastal development, disposal of dredging spoil	No. Insufficient guidance on marine aggregate extraction	1.8	Not alone	Marine aggregate extraction	Not with revised wording	Revise wording	
		No significant change in salinity, water clarity, nutrient status	Outfalls, agricultural run-off, water abstractions	Policy restricted to dealing with impacts on coastal cliff habitat	2.13	Yes	Blue green algal blooms are occurring at The Fleet	Yes unless problems addressed	Revise Policy to encompass all interest features	
				No	1.9	Not alone	Yes, with an oil exploration or shipping incident	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy to include reference to N2K, rather than rely on 'natural beauty,	
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence / management	No	1.10, 1.11 1.12, 1.14	No	Gravel import and export at Portland			
				Not alone. Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defence / shoreline management	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery	
		No biological disturbance	Selective extraction of species (e.g. bait digging, wildfowling, commercial & recreational fishing)	No. Outside scope of Management Plan						
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition, in particular: <i>Beta</i>	No decrease in linear extent or damage	Increased trampling through visitor pressure, harvesting	Increased trampling through visitor pressure	5.4, 5.7, 7.6	Yes		Not with revised wording	Revise Policy	

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
	in particular: <i>Beta vulgaris maritima</i> (sea beet) - <i>Atriplex</i> (orache) communities and <i>Honkenya peploides</i> (sea sandwort) - <i>Cakile maritima</i> (sea rocket) communities			Increased visitors from new Visitor Centre could lead to increased trampling	6.2	The project proposes to reduce its impact on the beach by the provision of raised boardwalk, and the Visitor Centre building is not located within this site			
			Abrasion from boating and angling	Boat trips promoted	5.8, 5.9, 5.10	Yes	Marina development at Portland	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
			Beach recharge, beach cleaning, pebble extraction	Insufficient guidance on beach cleaning given to avoid impacts	2.11	Yes (particularly if beach cleaning is mechanical)	Beach recharge proposed at a number of locations	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy and Delivery
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence structures	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites.	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply.	Coastal defence operations	No	1.3	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation.	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance	5.4, 7.6	Yes	New Visitor facilities		Revise Policy
				Support for provision of new visitor facilities at Chesil Beach could lead to increased use of site	6.2	Yes		Not with revised wording and appropriate delivery	Revise Policy and ensure local delivery partnerships undertake the appropriate environmental assessments

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
			Toxic contamination e.g. from oil spills and non-toxic contamination from marine and land based litter	No	1.10 - 1.12, 2.13	No			
1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks		No decrease in linear extent or damage	Increased trampling through visitor pressure	Increased trampling through visitor pressure	3.7, 3.8, 5.4, 5.7, 7.6, 6.2	Yes	2012 Olympic Games – increased visitors Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy Revise Delivery
			Abrasion from boating and angling	Boat trips promoted	5.8, 5.9, 5.10	Yes	Marina development at Portland	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
			Beach recharge, beach cleaning, pebble extraction	Insufficient guidance given	2.11	Yes	Beach recharge proposed at a number of locations	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence structures	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites.	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply	Coastal defence operations	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites.	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
		Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle.	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance	Increased visitor numbers and disturbance	5.4, 7.5, 7.6, 6.2	Yes		2012 Olympic Games	5.4 Revise Policy 7.5, 7.6 Revise Delivery 6.2 Revise Policy and Delivery

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
		Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation	Toxic contamination e.g. from oil spills and Non-toxic contamination from marine and land based litter	No	1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 2.13	No		No	
1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition, in particular: Shrubby sea-blite (<i>Suaeda vera</i>) communities	No decrease in linear extent or damage	Increased trampling through visitor pressure	Increased trampling through visitor pressure	3.7, 3.8, 5.4, 7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympic Games- increased visitors		3.7, 3.8 Revise Delivery 5.4 Revise Policy
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence structures	Current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sites	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
			Path infrastructure	Current wording ineffective in preventing harm	5.5	Yes	Chesil Visitor Centre	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	Overlap with Chesil SPA conservation objectives								

Table 7 Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
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Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
Little tern <i>Sterna albibifrons</i>	Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species, with particular reference to: lagoon waters	Frequency and abundance of food species (crustaceans, annelids, fish and molluscs) during breeding period is adequate	Off-shore developments	No	1.14	No	Offshore development		Strengthen Policy
		No visual or noise disturbance	Boat activity	Marine transport promoted	5.8, 5.10	Yes	Port and marina development at Portland	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
			Recreational activity e.g. watersports	No. Outside scope of Management Plan				2012 Olympic Games	
Dark bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, with particular reference to: intertidal sediment communities; seagrass bed communities	No decrease in extent or distribution of <i>Zostera</i> (seagrass)	Boat activity	Marine transport promoted	5.8	No			
		No disturbance from human activities leading to reduction or displacement of birds	Increased visitor numbers	Policy fails to protect interest features	5.4, 7.5, 7.6	Yes			Revise Policy
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, with particular	No decrease in extent of intertidal sediment	Off-shore developments	No	1.14	No			
			Marine aggregate extraction	Policy fails to protect interest features from marine aggregate extraction	1.8	Not alone	Gravel import and export from Portland Harbour	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
	with particular reference to: intertidal sediment communities; seagrass bed communities	No disturbance from human activities leading to reduction or displacement of birds	Increased visitor numbers	Policy 5.4 maintains existing beach access. Policies 7.5 and 7.6 encourages visits from groups and schools	5.4, 7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympics, West Dorset tourism strategy	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Table 8 Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Maintain in favourable condition	Maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat	Coastal defence, cliff stabilization, indirect impact from off-site development e.g. quarrying, underground mining, onshore oil extraction	Underground mining encouraged in favour of surface quarrying	1.17	Not alone	Minerals operations at Portland	No	Clarify that 'unacceptable impacts' will include impacts on SAC features
				Current wording ineffective in preventing harm to interest features, during works to remove structures	2.4	Yes (proposed at e.g. Perveril Point, Osmington Mills)	Shoreline management, coastal defence	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy Ensure individual scheme proposals are assessed for impacts from works
		No increase in linear extent or area of cliff constrained by introduced structures or landforms		1.3, 1.4	Not alone	Shoreline management, coastal defence	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy and delivery	
		Maintain physical features of cliffs supporting vegetation (including management and drainage)		1.16	Not alone	Quarrying activities			
				1.18	Not alone	Onshore oil extraction e.g. Kimmeridge	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy to include specific reference to N2K rather than relying on 'natural beauty'	
				1.16	Yes	Quarrying activities LDF housing target – need for local stone to retain local distinctiveness in AONB		Revise Policy	

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
			Cliff climbing	Insufficient control of climbing in sensitive locations	1.21	Yes	Existing problems from cliff climbing at Portland Fossil collecting 2012 Olympic Games (impacts from watching sailing events from cliffs around Weymouth)	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy and Delivery
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition	No reduction in habitat area	Removal for access or developments e.g. quarrying, path infrastructure etc	Removal for access or developments	1.16	Yes	Quarrying activities LDF housing target – need for local stone to retain local distinctiveness in AONB	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
		Suitable grazing level to ensure no more than 5% cover of tree/scrub/woody climbers. Restrict <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> and invasive species. Sward height of 5cm or less.	Conflict between grazing and human visitors	Increased numbers visiting in groups and schools	5.7, 7.5, 7.6	No	Dorset Tourism Strategy 2012 Olympic Games Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery Individual proposals may require HRA
		Trampling levels and grazing controlled so that no more than 15-20% bare ground	Changes in visitor numbers	Increased numbers visiting in groups and schools	5.7, 7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympic Games (impacts from watching sailing events from cliffs around Weymouth)	Not with appropriate delivery	Ensure delivery recognises and avoids possible conflict between activities and N2K interest features
		Low nutrient conditions i.e. restrict fertilizer and remove biomass	None	No Policy currently restricted to coastal cliffs habitats	2.13	No	Environmental Stewardship	No	Revise Policy to include all habitats to improve performance
		Rabbit grazing at a level so that > 0.25ha bare ground around warrens	None	No					

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	Maintain in favourable condition	No decrease in linear extent or area (but natural variation as a result of dynamic coastal processes)	Coastal defence, cliff stabilization, indirect impact from off-site development	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing harm to interest features	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defence, LDF, development	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
				Access improvements could interfere with erosion rates (e.g. boardwalks)	5.7	Yes if policy interpreted alone, however Aim 5 sets out framework for sustainable and appropriate access, so impacts unlikely	ROWIPs Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
		No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures, landforms or operations	Coastal defence operations	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K interests	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
		No increase in number, extent and location of coastal defence operations which will disrupt sediment supply.	Coastal defence operations	Current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K interests	1.3	Not alone	Coastal defences	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
		Sufficiently low levels of human disturbance to allow drift line to complete its vegetation cycle. Artificial debris not suppressing vegetation.	Change in visitor numbers	Increased numbers of visitors in groups and schools, could lead to trampling and increased litter	7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympics likely to result in more visitors Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
			Beach recharge, beach cleaning	Insufficient guidance in policy to avoid impacts	2.11	Yes	Beach recharge proposed at a number of locations	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy Revise Delivery
1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	Maintain the habitats for the population of Early gentian	No decrease in area of short, well grazed and bare ground where the plant can grow. Mechanism for this includes rabbits and trampling	Changes in visitor numbers – trampling rates	Increased numbers visiting in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	Yes	No	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
		Not more than 5% scrub	No						
		Stock grazing essential in some areas	Conflict between grazing and human visitors	Increased numbers visiting in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	Yes	No	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Table 9 St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Maintain in favourable condition	Maintain overall length and/or area of cliff habitat	Removal to achieve public access	Works to achieve access to beaches and viewpoints may have impacts	5.7	Yes	ROWIPs	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
				Core sampling	2.10	Unlikely to be significant unless core sampling is extensive and permission for core sampling within site must be obtained from NE	Cliff climbing	Not with revised wording and delivery	Revise Policy as a precaution Recommend that delivery seeks to revise Code of Conduct for Geological Fieldwork to have explicit regard for N2K features or provide a local document that does this
		No increase in linear extent or area of cliff constrained by introduced structures or landforms	Coastal defence, cliff stabilization, indirect impact from off-site development	Current wording ineffective in preventing harm to N2K interests	1.3 1.4	Not alone	Coastal defences, shoreline management	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy and Delivery
		Maintain physical features of cliffs supporting vegetation (including management and drainage)	Cliff climbing	Insufficient control of cliff climbing in sensitive locations	1.21	Yes	Fossil collecting	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
6211 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates	Maintain in favourable condition	No reduction in habitat area	Removal to achieve public access	Works to achieve access to beaches and viewpoints may have temporary and permanent impacts	5.7	Yes	ROWIPs Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations	
(Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) * Priority feature		Suitable grazing level to ensure no more than 5% cover of tree/scrub/woody climbers. Restrict <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> and invasive species. Sward height of 5cm or less.	Conflict between grazing and human visitors	Increased numbers of visitors in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	No	2012 Olympics likely to result in more visitors?	Not with revised wording	Revise wording or add new policy	
		Trampling levels and grazing controlled so that no more than 15-20% bare ground	Changes in visitor numbers	Increased numbers of visitors in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympics likely to result in more visitors?	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy or add new policy	
		Low nutrient conditions i.e. restrict fertilizer and remove biomass		No						
		Rabbit grazing at a level so that > 0.25ha bare ground around warrens		No						
1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	Maintain the habitats for the population of Early gentian	No decrease in area of short, well grazed and bare ground where the plant can grow. Mechanism for this includes rabbits and trampling	Change in visitor numbers	Increased numbers of visitors in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympics likely to result in more visitors	Not with revised wording	Revise wording or add new policy	
		Not more than 5% scrub		No						

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
		Stock grazing essential in some areas	Conflict between grazing and human visitors	Increased numbers of visitors in groups and schools	7.5, 7.6	Yes	2012 Olympics likely to result in more visitors	Not with revised wording	Revise wording or add new policy
1304 Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Maintain the habitats for the population of Greater horseshoe bat	Maintain suitable conditions at hibernation site entrances		No					
		Controlled and limited human access to hibernation sites	Increased visitor numbers	Increased visitor numbers - where are the hibernation sites?	7.5, 7.6	Unknown			Revise wording

Table 10 Exe Estuary SPA and Ramsar

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant effects with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant effects with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
*A046a Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	Maintain these habitats and features in favourable condition for bird species listed to left: littoral sediment (intertidal sand and mudflats & seagrass beds) Supralittoral sediment (Saltmarsh), fen, marsh and swamp improved grassland, coastal cliff and foreshore.	No decrease in extent of habitats supporting birds as left - Losses of 5% or more are unacceptable.	Boat access to Exe Estuary	Marine transport and boat trips promoted	5.8	No. Natural England considers that increased tourist boat traffic is unlikely to be detrimental, unless the estuary mouth spit becomes a regular stopping point with frequent boats	LDF developments = increased population around estuary Devon tourism programme encourages more winter visitors	Yes	Revise Delivery to ensure feasibility study considers environmental impacts on N2K features
A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		Lack of bird disturbance when feeding/roosting	Dog and human disturbance of birds	Dog and human disturbance of birds	5.4	Yes	LDF developments = increased population around estuary Devon tourism programme encourages more winter visitors	Yes	Revise Policy
A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		Lack of obstructions to bird view lines on coastal/estuarine habitats	Coastal erosion from coastal flood defence	Policy 1.4 current wording ineffective in preventing coastal defence harmful to N2K sitesr	1.4	Not alone	Coastal defence	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery
*A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		Food availability for birds	Change in water levels	No					
A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		Good water and sediment quality	Indirect effect from development, oil spills	Boat trips promoted - increased pollution risk from increase in marine transport	5.8	No	LDF developments in East Devon and Exeter Maintenance of channel dredging		

Table 11 Poole Harbour SPA & Ramsar

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant impact with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant impact with other plans & projects?	Recommendations	
Internationally important assemblage of wintering wildfowl	Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, the listed Annex 1 species and Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species in particular: shallow inshore waters, intertidal sediment communities, saltmarsh and reedbed.	No physical loss or damage to habitats by siltation or abrasion for example	Increased boat activity, new jetties and slipways	Marine transport promoted	5.8, 5.10	Yes	Port developments	Not with revised wording	Ensure delivery of 5.8 is linked to Policy 5.10	
			Coastal defence, shoreline management	Policy not sufficiently strong to avoid effects	1.3, 1.4	Not alone	Coastal defence	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy 1.3 Revised Deliver of 1.4	
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> *A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			Damage to habitat from removal and access for removal of coastal defence structures	Removal of defence structures may change siltation rates. Access for removal works	2.3, 2.4	Yes		Not with appropriate delivery	Revise Policy Delivery actions must be assessed at scheme level	
			Overgrazing and trampling of saltmarsh and reedbed by deer	No						
			Lack of non physical visual or noise disturbance	Boat traffic	Marine transport promoted	5.8	Yes	2012 Olympic Games Cultural Olympiad ROWIPs	Not with revised wording	Ensure delivery of 5.8 is linked to Policy 5.10
				Recreational activities such as windsurfing, water-skiing, wildfowling, the use of personal watercraft and wider access to the foreshore from the land may cause disturbance especially when carried out during the winter months.	Not specifically addressed but healthy living initiatives linked to sporting values of 2012 Olympic Games is being promoted – could include sailing & windsurfing	4.10	Yes	2012 Olympic Games Cultural Olympiad Dorset Healthy Living Initiatives Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Ensure Delivery
				Increase in visitor numbers	Encouraging outdoor learning and facilities Rights of Way maintenance and improvements	3.7, 3.8, 6.2, 7.5, 7.6, 5.5	Yes - risk depends on location	2012 Olympic Games Cultural Olympiad Dorset Healthy Living Initiatives Marine and Coastal Access Act when passed	Not with revised wording	Revise Delivery Ensure scheme level assessments
				Increased public access to Poole Harbour from the landward side could result in disturbance to bird roosting and breeding sites.	No					

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant impact with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant impact with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
One of best examples of a natural harbour in Britain containing an assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species including invertebrates, plants, hydroids and algae		Lack of pollution e.g. by pesticides, heavy metals	Pollution incidents, run-off	Policy restricted to dealing with impacts on coastal cliff habitat	2.13	Not alone	Catchment Sensitive Farming, Environmental Stewardship	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy to encompass all interest features
		Lack of contamination by nutrient or organic loading	Eutrophication	Policy restricted to dealing with impacts on coastal cliff habitat	2.13	Not alone	Catchment Sensitive Farming Environmental Stewardship	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy to encompass all interest features
		No changes in turbidity or salinity	Dredging increases turbidity	Policy fails to protect N2K interests from marine aggregate extraction which temporarily increase turbidity	1.8	Not alone	Marine aggregate extraction Dredging of Poole Harbour	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Table 12 River Axe SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant impact with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant impact with other plans and projects?	Recommendations
*3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callirichthys Batrachion</i> vegetation	To maintain, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for: floating formations of water crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>) of plain and sub-mountainous rivers	Flow regime should be characteristic of the river. As a guideline, at least 90% of the naturalised daily mean flow should be maintained throughout the site at all times of year. Channels dominated by clean gravels. Annual average suspended solids >=25 mg/l (based on EC Freshwater Fish Directive)		None (NE consultation)		No			
1905 Sea lamprey <i>Petroyzon marinus</i>	To maintain, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for populations of sea lamprey		Policies or actions which would affect the mouth of the river. Increased boat traffic.	Marine transport promoted	5.8	Yes	Devon Tourism programme	Not with revised wording	Revise wording
1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	To maintain, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for populations of brook lamprey			None (NE consultation)		No			
1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	To maintain, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for populations of bullhead			None (NE consultation)		No			

Table 13 Beer Quarry and Caves SAC

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts	Specific impacts from plan	Relevant Policies	Risk of significant impact with current wording?	Possible 'in combination' impacts?	Risk of significant impact with other plans & projects?	Recommendations
*1323 Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> in favourable condition	No significant increase in human disturbance	Disturbance from increased visitor numbers including to see fossils	disturbance from increased visitor numbers including to see fossils	2.8, 3.7, 3.8, 7.5, 7.6	Fossil interest in separate areas to those used by bats so should unlikely to be significant. NE stipulate permission for geological study or quarrying should only be granted outside period of bat hibernation to avoid unnecessary disturbance.	Quarrying	Not with revised wording	Revise Policy For 2.8 Revise Delivery
	To maintain the caves in favourable condition as a hibernating bat roost	Entrances remain unobstructed; no unplanned new entrances causing a change to ventilation		No					
		No change in entrance size sufficient to affect air-flow and internal temperature		No					
1303 Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> in favourable condition	No significant shading of the main roost area by trees (& etc) so that solar heating can occur. No artificial lights shining on entrance or associated flight paths	Loss of bat roosts supporting the Beer Quarry Caves colony	Removal of derelict structures that could hold bat roosts	2.4	Yes		Not with revised wording	Revise Policy
1304 Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	To maintain the population of <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> in favourable condition	No significant unplanned change to ventilation or temperature regime. Caves cool (8-12°C) and dark, once beyond the entrance zone	Loss of bat roosts supporting the Beer Quarry Caves colony	Removal of derelict structures that could hold bat roosts	2.4	Yes		Not with revised wording	Revise Policy

Appendix 5 Consultation with Natural England

Consultation on scope and methodology

The local Natural England Offices for Devon and Dorset were sent a copy of the proposed methodology for the screening of the Dorset and East Devon WHS Management Plan. This included a list of provisional sites for consideration by Natural England. This provisional list was obtained by performing a 15km buffer search from the WHS boundary.

The report layout and wording has been specifically devised with the client (The WHS Steering Group and Competent Authorities adopting the plan) in mind so as to provide advice to the Jurassic Coast WH Team Officers who will be using the report findings to amend the Management Plan policies and prepare committee agenda items for the Local Authorities who will be adopting the Management Plan. The methodology and report follows the European Commission's guidance and accepted practice.

Amanda Newsome (Devon) considered that **Dawlish Warren** could be safely removed from the list *"since it is on the other side of the estuary so it is probably safe to assume that any increases in visitor numbers or specific recreational activities promoted through this plan would not transfer to the west of the Exe. Similarly it is probably safe to assume that any visitor management measures in the plan would not 'displace' visitors or activities to Dawlish."*

She considered that at the **River Axe** *"the only potential impacts of the plan would be on the migratory fish species (so this is Sea Lamprey because Salmon is an SSSI but not a SAC interest feature). In order to have an impact the MP would have to include policies or actions which would affect the mouth of the river or the 'harbour'. I don't think that increased tourist boat traffic would be detrimental, unless the estuary mouth spit becomes a regular stopping point with frequent boats, and that is the only obvious impact I can think of."*

Rachel Waldock (Dorset) recommended that **Little Tern** should be included as a feature at Chesil Beach. She considered that **Poole Harbour** was only likely to be affected with regard to dredging and the effect of that on Swanage. She considered that there would probably be no impact on the **River Avon SAC**.

Consultation on screening

Dorset NE office sought the inclusion of the 2012 Olympics as part of the 'in-combination' assessment, citing that there could be impacts from increased visitor numbers, particularly around Weymouth. With regards sailing activities during the Olympics, there is potential for impacts to cliff and beach habitats from spectators.

NE also considered that the list of major projects should include the proposed visitor centre at Chesil Beach as this has potential for significant impacts from recreation and is likely to happen in the next year and a half. The project proposes to reduce its impact on the beach by the provision of raised boardwalk, and the Visitor Centre building is not located within the Chesil Beach and the Fleet SAC.

Regarding the relevant plans and programmes NE also identified the Coastal Corridor Action Plan for Dorset, which is currently in draft form.

Appendix 6 Disclaimer

The assessment screening and reporting was undertaken by Alison Slade, MIEEM, and Vicky Tanner-Tremaine MIEEM, Crimson Beetle, with all reasonable skill, care and due diligence, and taking account of the staff time and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. This report is confidential to the client, and Crimson Beetle accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known, unless formally agreed by Crimson Beetle beforehand. Any such party relies upon the report entirely at their own risk.

Crimson Beetle disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

A Note on the legal purpose of this assessment

It is important to note that the assessment process required under Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) is focused on the protection of **European sites**.

The findings of this assessment do not obviate the competent authorities of their statutory duty to consider **European protected species** present *outside* European sites, both in the use of policies and the delivery of actions as required by Regulation 3(4) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

The fact that a proposed project is in line with the Management Plan policies does not relieve the competent authorities of their statutory duty under by Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) when consenting to projects within or affecting the World Heritage Site, that could also affect any Natura 2000 site.