

Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009-2014

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Adoption Statement, August 2009



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Dorset and East Devon Coast
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001

SEA Adoption Statement

1. Introduction

This statement is prepared in accordance with Article 9 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive¹. It also covers the Sustainability Appraisal.

The SEA identified that there would be significant positive effects from the implementation of the WHS Management Plan. There are not likely to be any significant adverse impacts.

Recommendations were made which could further enhance the environmental performance of the Management Plan. This Statement has provided information as to how these measures have been taken into account in developing the Final WHS Management Plan.

2. Main issues raised in the Environmental Report

The main areas where possible impacts were identified were:

- Insufficient specific recognition of the European Natura 2000 sites within the Plan policies, in particular in relation to developments that may take place in or near the World Heritage Site.
- Clarity of wording in some policies with regards to actions being undertaken in an 'appropriate' or environmentally sensitive manner.

A number of minor recommendations have been accepted, and will be adjusted in the document. All of the changes are listed in the annex to this document: ANNEX 1: SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT.

3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Management Plan

The SEA and SA assessments set out a number of opportunities to enhance the environmental performance of policies within the Management Strategy.

3.1. Introduction

The Environmental Report that was published alongside the WHS Management Strategy Consultation Draft and identified significant environmental effects arising from the policies in the Management Strategy. Given the environmental protectionist nature of the WHS purpose, the assessment concentrated on reporting any areas where there were environmental uncertainties or areas where enhancements to performance could be made. These environmental effects were documented in the Non-Technical Summary to the Environmental Report and the Environmental Report.

3.2. Integrating the Environmental Report recommendations

The SEA process was used as an opportunity to identify the potential for further improving the environmental performance of the plan. With this in mind the Environmental Report made recommendations which included suggestions for changes to policy wording, and identified where actions needed to be considered carefully during their development.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

The Management Plan contained 121 policies in total. The environmental assessments considered that the majority of policies were not likely to lead to significant adverse environmental effects nor have significant implications for the achievement of sustainability objectives.

The assessments did highlight some policies, which when taken in isolation, might conflict with the achievement of environmental or sustainability objectives, and suggested that this was where the revisions to the plan should focus for greatest effect on overall performance. In practice the plan policies should be viewed within the context of the whole plan and all of its Aims, and not in isolation. Many of the recommendations were subtle in their wording changes, but collectively they improve the robustness and overall environmental performance and sustainability of the Management Plan.

The Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan when taken in its entirety is considered not likely to lead to significant environmental effects or prevent the achievement of sustainability objectives.

All of the recommendations in the Environmental Report have been considered and a response made as to whether they should be accepted or rejected. This is all recorded in the annex to this document: ANNEX 1: SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT. The changes to be made are clearly identified, as is the rationale when the recommendation has been rejected.

2.3.1. Incorporation of suggested policy wordings

Recommendations from the Environmental report were accepted in 36 Policies, and rejected in only 12 cases. All of the details of this can be found in ANNEX 1: SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT. This schedule contains not just the alterations to be made, but also reasons for rejecting recommendations.

4. How the opinions of consultees on the SEA and SA have been taken into account

Copies of the Environmental Report and its Non-Technical Summary were freely available to consultees on the Jurassic Coast website during the Management Plan consultation period which ran from late March to Mid-June 2009

No responses (zero) were received specifically on the Environmental Report, although 78 responses were received on the draft Management Plan.

5. The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives

The Environmental Report considered alternatives. These options were:

1. 'Do Nothing'
2. 'Business As Usual'
3. 'Best for Environment'

Preparation of an WHS Management Plan is required by the administrative process of inscription and plans must be reviewed; therefore it was not a viable option to 'Do Nothing'. Since the preparation of the first Management Plan the World Heritage Site has been subject to new influences and forces for change which have emerged over the life of the Plan. These include changes in the environment as well as changes in the policy areas affecting the site. Revisions to the Management Plan acknowledge that the WHS is not a static environment and creates a co-ordinated framework to address these forces for change.

The Environmental Report considered alternatives to management policies to improve their environmental and sustainability performance. Most of these recommendations have been taken on board in the final WHS Management Plan.

6. Details of monitoring arrangements

The purpose of SEA monitoring is to enable the early identification unforeseen adverse effects resulting from the implementation of the World Heritage Site Management Plan and enable the responsible authorities (through the WHS Steering Group) to undertake appropriate remedial action. Detailed monitoring measures were proposed in Section 9 of the Environmental Report.

This section sets out the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the WHS Management Plan. This will not be as extensive as proposed in the Environmental Report, but will focus on the targets already established within the draft Management Plan. The table below identifies the key indicators that will be taken forward to the formal monitoring commitment.

Monitoring will make the best use of environmental information already being collated on the local area by the Local Authorities and the AONB Partnerships.

The WHS specific measures will be assessed annually and the other measures will be undertaken in line with the timetables set out in the Dorset and East Devon AONB Management Plans.

Proposed monitoring of significant environmental effects (SEA)

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management AIM Key Indicators
Condition status of SSSIs	% by area of geological and geomorphological SSSI in 'favourable condition'	ENSIS & JCWHS database	Ongoing dataset - PSA Target. National dataset updated every month but individual site assessments dependent upon NE site visits	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6,
Condition status of CGR features	% of GCR interests in 'favourable condition'	ENSIS & JCWHS database	Frequency determined by JCWHT	1.3, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6,
Amount of coastal defence infrastructure that compromise the integrity ² of the SSSIs / GCRs that make up the WHS	% by length of coastal defence	Environment Agency / Defra	Coastal operating authorities are required to conduct condition surveys of coastal defence 'structures' for safety and maintenance reasons. Likely to be annual update of information	1.2, Related to AIM 1 Key Indicator
Planning consents which damage OUV, SSSIs or GCR interests	Number of planning consents against advice of JCWHT or NE	Local Planning Authorities, NE, JCWHT	Suggest annual collation	1.4

² Integrity is defined by the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in chapter 2 and in more detail in Appendix 1 of the Management Plan

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management AIM Key Indicators
Policies in Shoreline Management Plans which take full account of OUV	Length of WHS coast with No Active Intervention policy in the Shoreline Management Plan for each epoch	South Devon and Dorset Coastal Authorities Group Poole and Christchurch Bays Coastal Group	Collation will most likely need to be undertaken by the JCWHT	1.4, 1.6
Key ridges and views	Changes in key ridges and views	AONB and World Heritage Site photographic monitoring	Qualitative data.	2.3, 2.4
Change in levels of tranquillity	Change in percentage area classified as tranquil	Tranquillity mapping (Source to be determined)	Not an ongoing monitoring programme. Currently available only as a jpeg image not as an interrogatable dataset. Expectation that CPRE will release GIS data under license from Natural England in the near future. May be possible to refresh some of the datasets in the future if methodology and existing datasets are sufficiently transparent. Data has been sourced for Devon AONB Atlas work.	2.4,
Area of agricultural land under sensitive environmental management	% of land managed under all agri-environment schemes	Data available from Natural England for all classes of Environmental Stewardship agreements	This measure is indicative only and makes the assumption that land under agri-environment schemes is managed to the benefit of landscape. Monthly updates available from NE website. Data has been sourced for East Devon AONB Atlas work.	2.13, Related to AIM 2 Key indicator East Devon AONB Indicator

Proposed monitoring of significant effects on sustainability (SA)

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources of data	Comments	Relevant Policies/ Management AIM Key Indicators
Parishes and Towns with Parish/Town	Change in number of up to date Parish/Town	Local Authorities AONBs	Suggested annual frequency of monitoring	4.4 Related to indicators in East Devon and

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources of data	Comments	Relevant Policies/ Management AIM Key Indicators
Plans (or their equivalent)	Plans which have an appropriate level of regard to the WHS			Dorset AONB Management Plans
Participation in Cultural Activities related to the WHS	Change in number of traditional cultural events held by local communities Number of people attending cultural events in the DEDWHS	Dorset Local Area Agreement (target of increase of 3% by 2021)	High confidence as an indicator of performance of the WHS plan	7.5, 7.6
Organisations creating employment as a result of association with the WHS	Change in number of new employment opportunities created which are associated with the WHS	JCWHT monitoring	Will need to be collated by the JCWHT. Suggest annual monitoring.	4.2 Aim 4 Key Indicator
Businesses signed up to the Jurassic Coast Trust "Investing in the Future" programme	Change in number of businesses signed up to the Jurassic Coast Trust "Investing in the Future" programme	JCWHT monitoring	Will need to be collated by the JCWHT. Suggest annual monitoring.	4.3 Aim 4 Key Indicator
Use of local public transport	Change in number of passengers using CoastlinX53 service	Transport providers	Suggest annual collation of information.	Aim 5 Key Indicator
Traffic levels at fixed locations in the setting	Trend in traffic levels at fixed locations	Highways Authorities (Dorset County Council, Devon County Council) Recreational and car park counters are being installed at key locations in the East Devon AONB	Locations will need to be agreed with the Highways Authorities. Indicator of vehicle use, but indirectly a measure of sustainable transport decisions.	5.16, 5.17, 5.11

7. Appendices

ANNEX 1: SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT.