



Dorset Local Plan HRA report (Regulation 18)

Emily Rush & Durwyn Liley

FOOTPRINT ECOLOGY, FOREST OFFICE, BERE ROAD,
WAREHAM, DORSET BH20 7PA
WWW.FOOTPRINT-ECOLOGY.CO.UK
01929 552444



Footprint Ecology is a small, employee-owned, ecological consultancy with an ethical focus. Founded in 2004 and based in Purbeck, Dorset we are catalysts for change, collaborating with organisations that share our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. We create practical solutions to complex ecological challenges across a diverse portfolio including nature conservation, outdoor recreation and associated strategic planning.

Footprint Contract Reference: 854

Date: 24th July 2025.

Version: Final

Recommended Citation: Rush, E. & Liley, D. (2025). Dorset local Plan HRA at the Regulation 18 version of the Plan. Report by Footprint Ecology.

Summary

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) require local authorities to assess the impact of their local plan on the internationally important sites for biodiversity in and around their administrative areas. Together, these Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites are known as European sites. The task is achieved by means of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

An HRA asks very specific questions of a plan. Firstly, it 'screens' the plan to identify if there is a risk that certain policies or site opportunities may have a 'likely significant effect' on a European site, alone or (if necessary) in-combination with other plans and projects. If the risk of likely significant effects can be ruled out, then the plan may be adopted but if they cannot, the plan must be subjected to the greater scrutiny of an 'appropriate assessment' to find out if the plan will have an 'adverse effect on the integrity' of the European sites.

Following an appropriate assessment, a Plan may only be adopted if an adverse effect on the integrity of the site can be ruled out. If necessary, a plan should be amended to avoid or mitigate any likely conflicts.

This document is an initial HRA report for the Dorset Local Plan at the Regulation 18 stage. The Plan is at an early stage and this report is focussed on the site opportunities that have been identified at this early stage in the Plan. At this point in time, comprehensive screening and appropriate assessment is not possible. These can only be undertaken once the complete plan has been produced and the HRA will be updated iteratively as the Plan develops. This report therefore considers the likely issues and provides the groundwork to inform the development of the Plan (in relation to the Habitats Regulations) and any further steps needed to inform the HRA at Regulation 19.

There are a total of 45 different European sites within a 20km radius of the Dorset authority boundary and there are 440 site opportunities being considered. These opportunities include sites for residential and employment and some are brought forward from existing plans. 240 of the sites are new opportunities for residential development and together potentially provide for 44,714 new homes. The scale of growth and range of European sites means the issues are wide-ranging and complex.

At this stage in the HRA work we identify the following pathways as ways likely significant effects would be triggered:

- Habitat loss and land-take, including coastal squeeze
- General urban effects
- Mobile species and impacts to functionally-linked land
- Recreation
- Water quality
- Water quantity

- Air quality

Each of the above is considered in turn within this report and a range of criteria applied to check which site opportunities (alone or in-combination) have the potential to undermine the conservation objectives for each European site.

From this we have identified a range of further work, evidence gathering and checks necessary to inform a more complete assessment. The scale and distribution of growth will be a challenge to accommodate within the context of the designated European sites in and around Dorset. The potential impacts will need to be taken into account as the Local Plan progresses towards submission.

Contents

Summary	ii
Contents.....	iv
Acknowledgements	v
1. Introduction.....	1
The Dorset Local Plan.....	1
Habitat Regulations Assessment process	1
European sites.....	2
Process	3
Definitions, references to case law and guidance.....	6
Role of the competent authority	8
2. European sites in and around Dorset	9
Overlapping site boundaries	10
Potential impact pathways.....	14
European sites and impact pathways.....	15
Sites excluded from further consideration	15
3. Screening for Likely Significant Effects	24
What constitutes a likely significant effect?.....	24
Screening of site opportunities at Regulation 18	25
4. Habitat loss and land-take, including coastal squeeze.....	27
Approach to screening.....	27
Screening outcomes	27
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan	31
5. General urban effects	33
Approach to screening	33
Screening outcomes	33
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan	34
6. Mobile species and impacts to functionally-linked land.....	35
Approach to screening.....	35
Screening outcomes	36
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan	38
7. Recreation	41
Approach to screening.....	41
Screening outcomes	41
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan	46
8. Water quality.....	47
Approach to screening.....	47

Screening outcomes	48
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the plan	49
9. Water quantity	51
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the plan	52
10. Air Quality	53
Approach to screening	53
Screening outcomes	53
Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan	57
11. Discussion.....	58
Scale of potential growth	58
Planning reform	59
Further evidence gathering and work to inform further HRA work.....	59
Habitat loss.....	59
General urban effects	60
Mobile species and impacts to functionally linked land	60
References	62
Appendix 1: Summary of European sites	64
Appendix 2: Site opportunities screened in for general urban effects.....	84
Appendix 3: Site opportunities with potential for likely significant effects in relation to mobile species.....	95
Appendix 4: Particularly large site opportunities with recreation risks.....	106
Appendix 5: Site opportunities below 300 dwellings and within 400m of European sites	109
Appendix 6: Residential site opportunities and Gypsy & Traveller sites within nutrient neutrality catchments	112

Acknowledgements

This report has been commissioned by Dorset Council and our thanks to Oliver Rendle and Terry Sneller for overseeing the commission, comment and discussion.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) report to accompany the Dorset Local Plan ('the Plan') at the draft plan stage ('Regulation 18'). The report has been prepared by Footprint Ecology on behalf of Dorset Council. An HRA assesses the implications of a plan for legally protected European sites. The HRA will be finalised at the point at which the Plan is ready for adoption.

The Dorset Local Plan

- 1.2 The Plan will set out planning policies and propose site opportunities to meet needs across the whole of the Dorset Council area. It will look ahead until at least 2043 in order to ensure provision for growth for 15 years upon adoption. The aim of the Local Plan will be to contribute to achieving sustainable development by meeting Dorset's needs. This will include the provision of homes, commercial development, and supporting infrastructure.
- 1.3 Work commenced on the Dorset Local Plan at the point that Dorset Council was formed in 2019. A consultation on a draft of the Plan was produced by the Council in January 2021. Work on the Plan was then paused to align with the publication by the Government of new regulations, policy and guidance, with a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced in 2024 and a new plan-making system anticipated to commence in 2025.
- 1.4 A series of site opportunities have been identified for consideration in the plan making process, which have been assessed through this report. At this stage the Plan comprises over 400 potential site opportunities that have been selected for possible future development. Details on these sites were provided to Footprint Ecology by Dorset Council in May 2025 in the form of spreadsheets and accompanying GIS data. These sites form the focus for this HRA report. It is important to note that this report does not therefore consider a complete plan with site policy allocations or other detailed land use policies.

Habitat Regulations Assessment process

- 1.5 The designation, protection and restoration of European wildlife sites is embedded in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as

amended, which are commonly referred to as the ‘Habitats Regulations’. These are domestic law and remain in place post-Brexit. The most recent amendments (the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹) take account of the UK's departure from the EU.

- 1.6 Regulation 105 *et seq* addresses the assessment of local plans and determines the scope of this HRA alongside recent Government Guidance on the interpretation and application of the Regulations².

European sites

- 1.7 ‘European sites’ are those over which the provisions of the Habitat Regulations exert an influence, through statute or policy. They are the top tier of protected sites in the UK and are of international importance for nature conservation. Prior to Brexit, these were part of the Natura 2000 network of sites which formed the largest global network of protected sites.
- 1.8 Sites that are afforded statutory protection and included within regulation 8 of the Habitats Regulations are now part of the ‘national network’ and referred to as Habitats sites. Habitats sites comprise of the following:
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the 1992 Habitats Directive;
 - Sites of Community Importance (SCI) included on the list of such sites compiled by the European Commission and submitted before the UK left the EU;
 - Candidate SACs (cSACs), submitted by the UK government to the European Commission before Exit day as eligible for selection as an SCI;
 - Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the 1979 Birds Directive;
 - Potential SPAs (pSPAs) include potential sites as designated by the European Commission under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (2009).

¹ The amending regulations generally seek to retain the requirements of the 2017 Regulations but with adjustments for the UK's exit from the European Union. See Regulation 4, which also confirms that the interpretation of these Regulations as they had effect, or any guidance as it applied, before exit day, shall continue to do so.

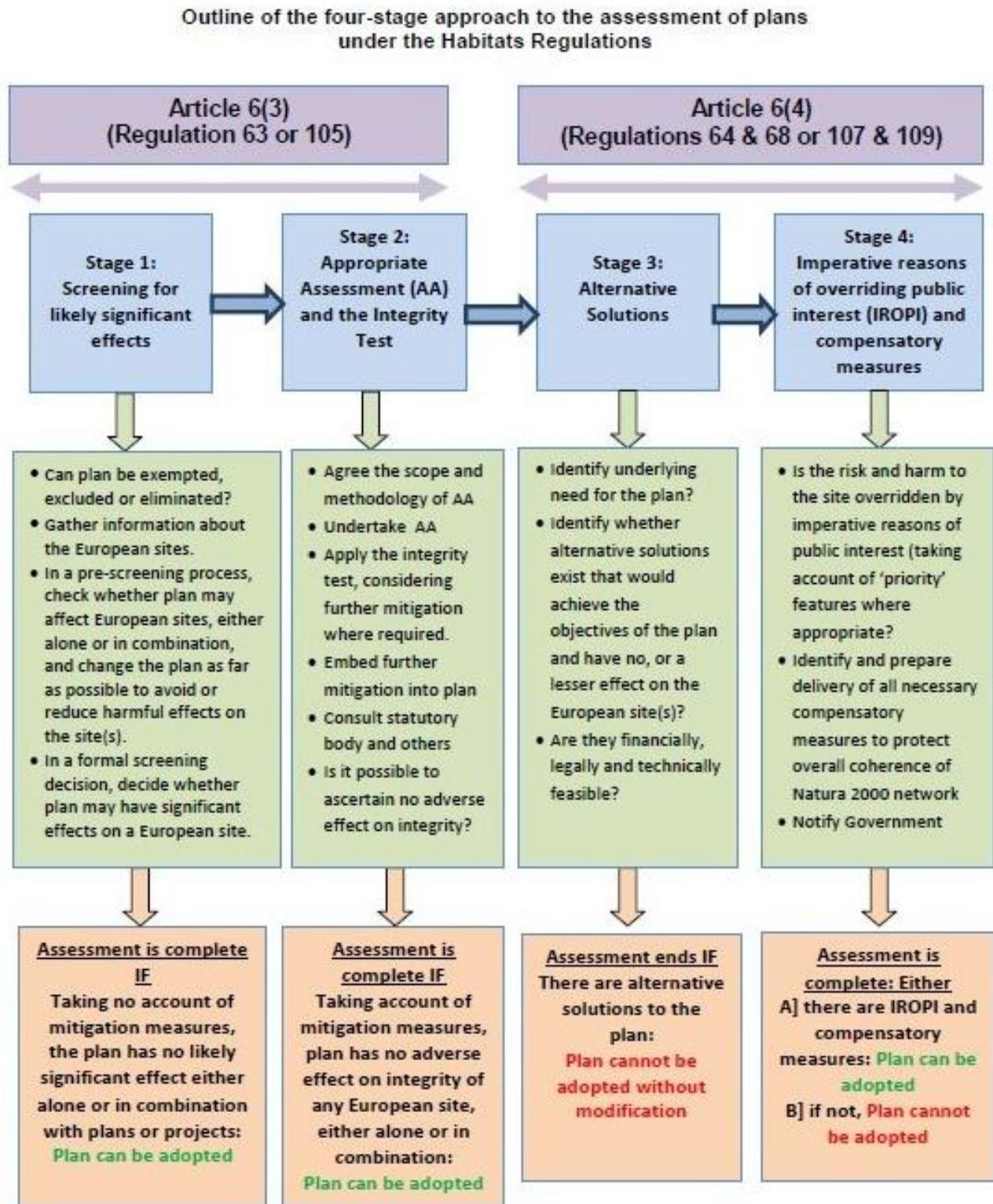
² Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site. Defra and Natural England. 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

- Areas providing formal compensation for damage to a European site.

- 1.9 In accordance with the NPPF, 'Wetlands of International Importance' (or Ramsar sites) are afforded the same level of protection although these do not form part of the national network.
- 1.10 The overarching objectives of the national network are to maintain, or where appropriate, restore habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive to a Favourable Conservation Status. They also contribute to ensuring, in their area of distribution, the survival and reproduction of wild birds and securing compliance with the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive.
- 1.11 The appropriate authorities must have regard to the importance of protected sites, coherence of the national site network and threats of degradation or destruction (including deterioration and disturbance of protected features) on SPAs and SACs.

Process

- 1.12 Plans and projects which are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site may be exempt from the HRA process. For all other plans and projects, assessment proceeds through a step-by-step process. The step-by-step process of HRA is summarised in Figure 1.



Extract from *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, www.dtapublications.co.uk
 © DTA Publications Limited (October 2018) all rights reserved
 This work is registered with the UK Copyright Service

Figure 1: Outline of the assessment of plans under the Habitat Regulations. Though dated prior to the latest amendments to the Regulations, the same tests still apply and it remains valid.

- 1.13 Throughout all stages, there is a continual consideration of the options available to avoid and mitigate any identified potential impacts. A competent authority may consider that there is a need to undertake further levels of evidence gathering and evaluation at the appropriate assessment stage in order to provide the necessary certainty. At this point the competent authority may identify the need to add to or modify the plan in order to adequately protect the European site, and these mitigation measures may be added through the imposition of particular restrictions and conditions.
- 1.14 For plans, the stages of HRA are often quite fluid, with the plan normally being prepared by the competent authority itself. This gives the competent authority the opportunity to repeatedly explore options to prevent impacts, refine the plan and rescreen it to demonstrate that all potential risks to European sites have been successfully dealt with.
- 1.15 When preparing a plan, a competent authority may therefore go through a continued assessment as the plan develops, enabling the assessment to inform the development of the plan. For example, a competent authority may choose to pursue an amended or different option where impacts can be avoided, rather than continue to assess an option that has the potential to significantly affect European site interest features.
- 1.16 After completing an assessment, a competent authority should only adopt a plan where it can be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site(s) in question. In order to reach this conclusion, the competent authority may have made changes to the plan, or modified the project with restrictions or conditions, in light of their Appropriate Assessment findings.
- 1.17 Where adverse effects cannot be ruled out, further exceptional tests are set out in Regulation 107. In exceptional cases, this allows a plan to be taken forward where there are no 'alternative solutions', where 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' apply and where compensation can be delivered. It should be noted that meeting these tests is a rare last resort and ordinarily, competent authorities seek to ensure that a plan or project is fully mitigated for, or it does not proceed.
- 1.18 In such circumstances where a competent authority considers that a plan should proceed under Regulations 107, they must notify the relevant Secretary of State. Normally, planning decisions and competent authority duties are then transferred, becoming the responsibility of the Secretary of State, unless on considering the information, the planning authority is

directed by the Secretary of State to make their own decision on the plan or project at the local level. The decision maker, whether the Secretary of State or the planning authority, should give full consideration to any proposed 'overriding reasons' for which a plan or project should proceed despite being unable to rule out adverse effects on European site interest features, and ensure that those reasons are in the public interest and are such that they override the potential harm. The decision maker will also need to secure any necessary compensatory measures, to ensure the continued overall coherence of the European site network if such a plan or project is allowed to proceed.

Definitions, references to case law and guidance

- 1.19 This HRA follows principles of case law, both UK and EU. It also refers as appropriate to the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013), to which Footprint Ecology subscribes. We also follow relevant government guidance.
- 1.20 Drawing on the Handbook, other relevant guidance and case law, we clarify the following terms used in the flow chart (Figure 1).
- 1.21 In Stage 1, a **'likely significant effect'** following Waddenzee³, is a *'possible significant effect; one whose occurrence cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information'*. It is a low threshold and simply means that there is a risk or doubt regarding such an effect. The screening stage is a preliminary examination, sometimes described as a coarse filter, or following Sweetman⁴, as *'a trigger for the obligation to carry out an appropriate assessment'*. There should however be credible evidence to show that there is a real rather than a hypothetical risk of effects that could undermine a site's conservation objectives. This was amplified in the Bagmoor Wind⁵ case where *'if the absence of risk... can only be demonstrated after a detailed investigation, or expert opinion, [then] the authority must move from preliminary examination to appropriate assessment'*.

³ Waddenzee: European Courts C-127/02 Waddenzee 7th September 2004, reference for a preliminary ruling from the Raad van State.

⁴ Sweetman: European Court C – 258/11 Sweetman 11th April 2013, reference for a preliminary ruling from the Supreme Court of Ireland

⁵ Bagmoor Wind: UK courts Bagmoor Wind v The Scottish Ministers, Court of Session [2012] CSIH 93

- 1.22 Following the *People Over Wind* judgement⁶, when making screening decisions for the purposes of deciding whether an appropriate assessment is required, competent authorities cannot take into account any measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects upon a European site.
- 1.23 Stage 2 involves the **appropriate assessment and integrity test**. Here a plan can only be adopted if the competent authority can demonstrate that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site. This is precautionary approach and means it is necessary to show the absence of harm.
- 1.24 Following *Champion*⁷ '**appropriate**' is not a technical term but simply indicates that the assessment needs to be appropriate to the task in hand.
- 1.25 The **integrity** of a European site has been described as the 'coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified⁸. An alternative definition, after *Sweetman*⁹, is 'the lasting preservation of the constitutive characteristics of the site'.
- 1.26 In terms of the burden of proof, the HRA of development plans was first made a requirement in the UK following a ruling by the European Court of Justice in *EC v UK*¹⁰. However, the judgement¹¹ recognised that any assessment had to reflect the actual stage in the strategic planning process and the level of evidence that might or might not be available. This was given expression in the High Court (*Feeney*)¹² which stated: "*Each ... assessment ... cannot do more than the level of detail of the strategy at that stage permits*".
- 1.27 The need to consider possible **in-combination** effects arises at stage 1 – the screening and also at stage 2 – the appropriate assessment and integrity test. The effects of the plan in-combination with other plans or projects are the cumulative effects which will or might arise from the addition of the effects of other relevant plans or projects alongside the plan under

⁶ *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (323-17) [2018] PTSR 1668

⁷ *R (on the application of Champion v North Norfolk District Council)* [2015] 1 WLR 3170 at para 41

⁸ Para 20 of the ODPM Circ. 06/2005

⁹ *Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála* (C-258-11) [2014] PTSR 1092 at paragraph 39

¹⁰ *Commission v UK* (C-6/04) [2005] ECR I-9017

¹¹ *Commission of the European Communities v UK* Opinion of Advocate General Kokott

¹² *Feeney v Oxford City Council* [2011] EWHC 2699 Admin at paragraph 92

consideration. If during the stage 1 screening it is found the subject plan would have no likely effect alone but might have such an effect in-combination, then the appropriate assessment at stage 2 will proceed to consider cumulative effects. Where a plan is screened as having a likely significant effect alone, the appropriate assessment should initially concentrate on its effects alone.

Role of the competent authority

- 1.28 Although this HRA has been prepared to help the Council discharge its duties under the Habitats Regulations, the Council is the competent authority, and it must decide whether to accept this report or otherwise. Further, it should be noted that this HRA has been prepared for the purposes of preparing and examining the Plan. If site opportunities progress to local plan site allocations they will further need to be reviewed when they become the subject of an individual planning application, to ensure that if further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is necessary, it is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of appropriate assessment.

2. European sites in and around Dorset

- 2.1 We have used a 20km boundary from the County boundary as an initial area of search (20km providing a reasonable area of search within which policies could reasonably be considered to generate measurable effects). Air quality impacts at plan level are typically considered to relate to a 10km distance (Chapman & Kite, 2021) while generic analysis of Footprint Ecology visitor data to countryside sites in the UK (Weitowitz et al., 2019) indicates that the majority of visitors originate within a 12.6km radius. The choice of 20km is therefore precautionary.
- 2.2 Sites that fall within this initial area of search are listed in Table 1 and shown in Map 1 (SACs), Map 2 (SPAs) and Map 3 Ramsar. There are a total of 45 European sites within the 20km radius. These are also listed in Appendix 1, which lists the relevant qualifying features and other site background, including links to the conservation objectives for each site.

Table 1: European sites within a 20km radius. Sites in italics are entirely outside the Dorset area.

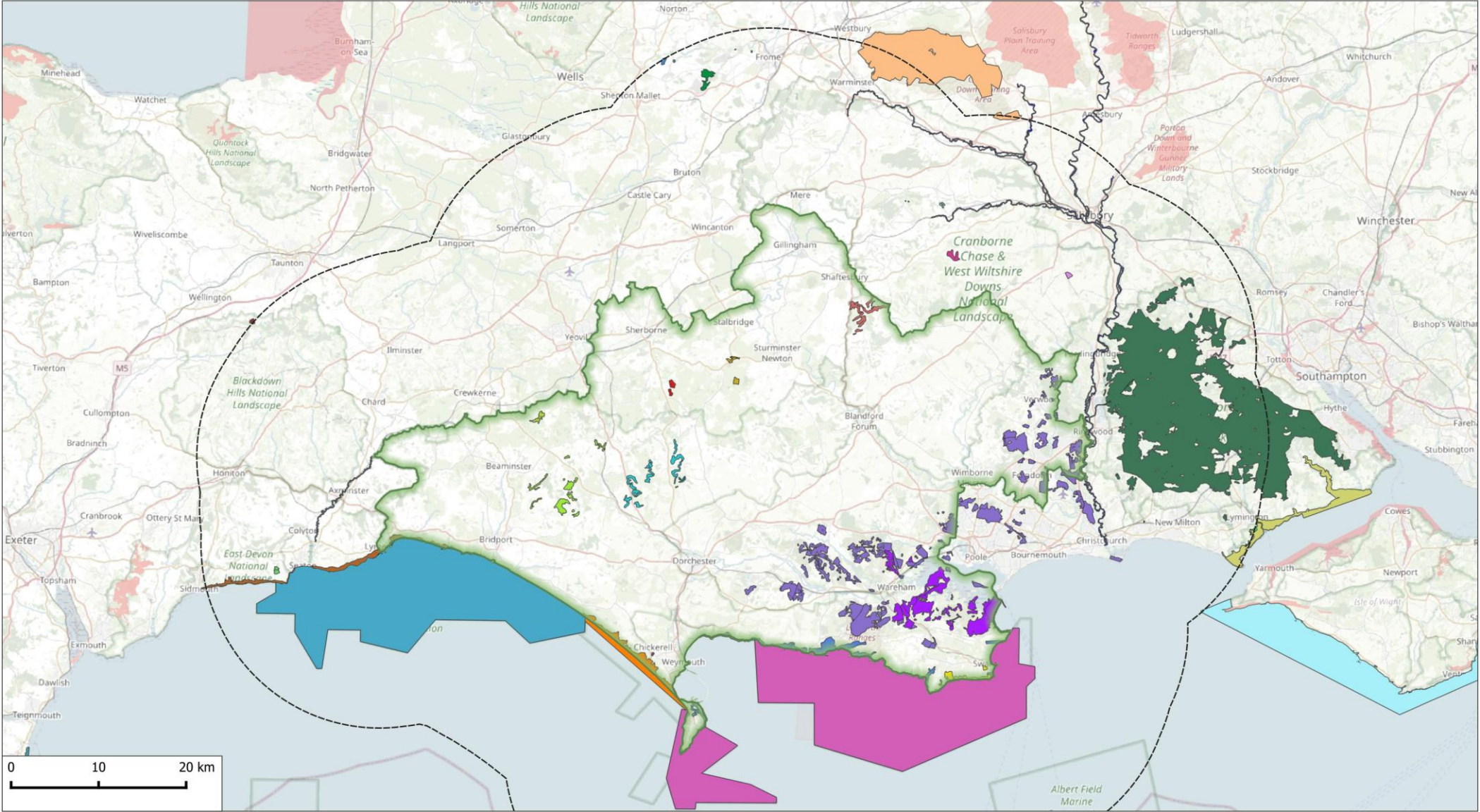
SAC	SPA	Ramsar
<i>Beer Quarry & Caves</i>	Avon Valley	Avon Valley
Bracket's Coppice	Chesil Beach & the Fleet	Chesil Beach & the Fleet
Cerne & Sydling Downs	Dorset Heathlands	Dorset Heathlands
Chesil & the Fleet	<i>New Forest</i>	<i>New Forest</i>
<i>Chilmark Quarries</i>	Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour
Crookhill Brick Pit	<i>Salisbury Plain</i>	<i>Solent & Southampton Water</i>
Dorset Heaths	<i>Solent & Southampton Water</i>	<i>Somerset Levels & Moors</i>
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes	Solent & Dorset Coast	
Fontmell & Melbury Downs	<i>Somerset Levels & Moors</i>	
<i>Great Yews</i>		
Holnest		
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs		
Lyme Bay and Torbay		
<i>Mells Valley</i>		
<i>Mendip Woodlands</i>		
<i>Prescombe Down</i>		
<i>Quants</i>		
River Avon		
River Axe		

SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Rooksmoor		
<i>Salisbury Plain</i>		
Sidmouth to West Bay		
<i>Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons</i>		
<i>Solent Maritime</i>		
<i>South Wight Maritime</i>		
St Albans Head to Durlleston		
Studland to Portland		
<i>The New Forest</i>		
West Dorset Alder Woods		

Overlapping site boundaries

- 2.3 The Dorset Heaths comprise a series of different heathland patches running across the county, from just to the east of Dorchester to the Hampshire boundary. These cover some 40 different SSSIs and multiple European sites. Where relevant and for simplicity, we use 'Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar' as an umbrella term for the following European sites: Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC; Dorset Heaths SAC; Dorset Heathlands SPA; and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar.
- 2.4 Similarly, we use the 'Chesil Beach & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar' when referring to Chesil and the Fleet SAC, Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA and Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar together.

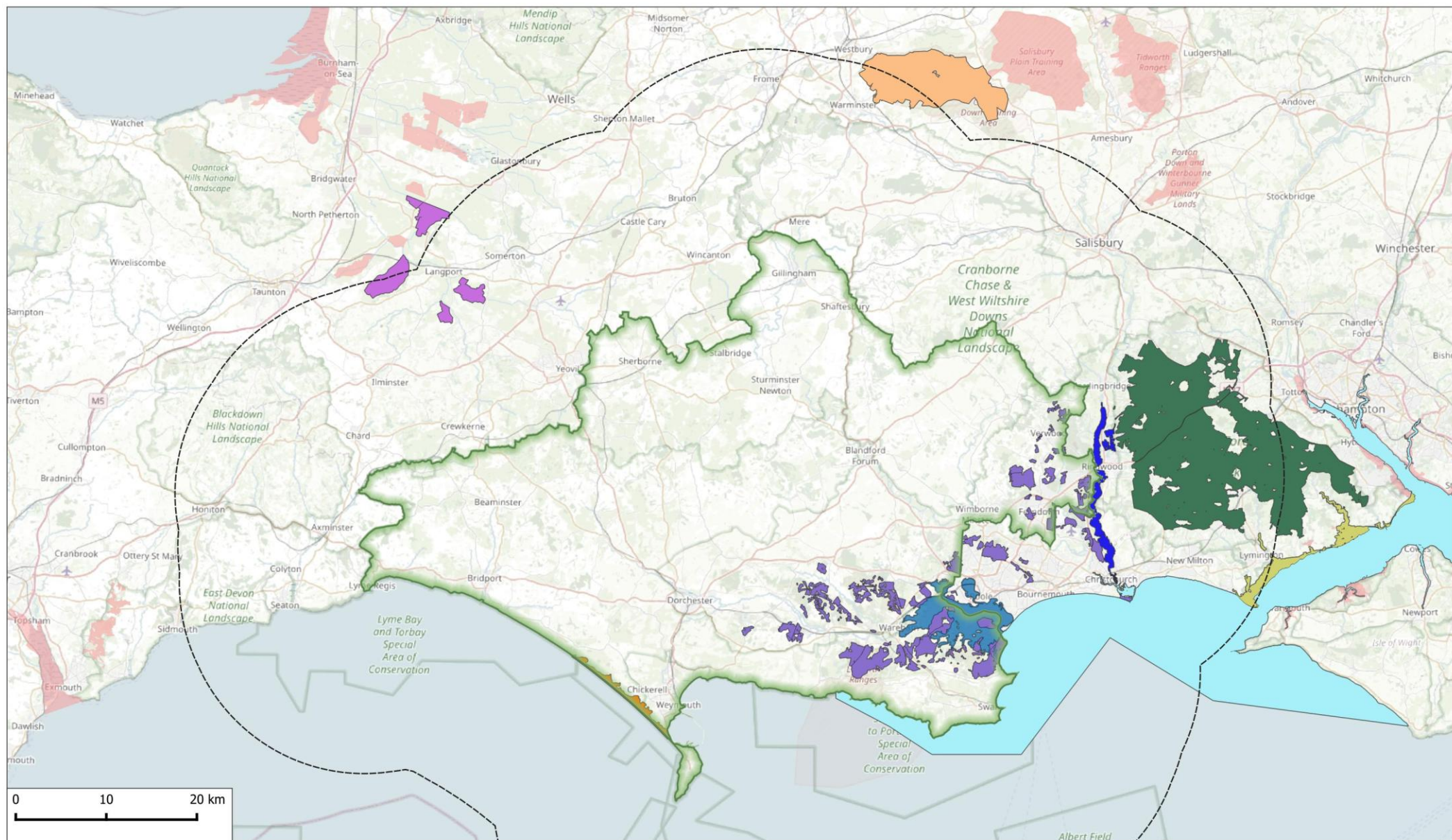
Map 1: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 20km of Dorset County boundary



Legend

Dorset County Boundary	Chesil & The Fleet	Great Yews	Prescombe Down	Sidmouth to West Bay	The New Forest
20km buffer of Dorset boundary	Chilmark Quarries	Holnest	Quants	Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons	West Dorset Alder Woods
SACs within 20km boundary:					
Beer Quarry & Caves	Crookhill Brick Pit	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs	River Avon	Solent Maritime	SACs outside 20km boundary
Bracket's Coppice	Dorset Heaths	Lyme Bay and Torbay	River Axe	South Wight Maritime	Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology.
Cerne & Sydling Downs	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes	Mells Valley	Rooksmoor	St Albans Head to Durlston Head	
	Fontmell & Melbury Downs	Mendip Woodlands	Salisbury Plain	Studland to Portland	

Map 2: Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within 20km of Dorset County boundary

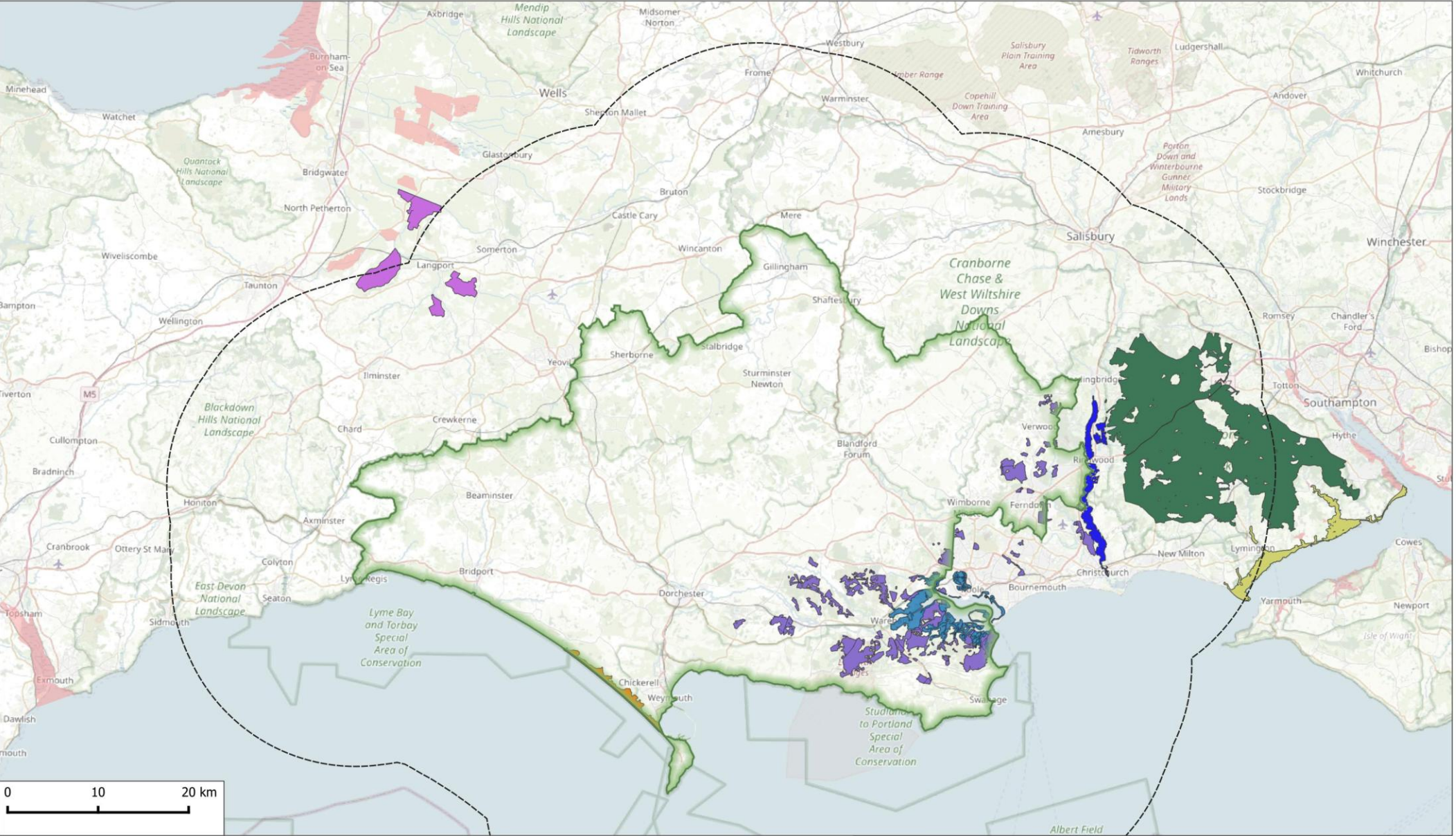


Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dorset County Boundary | Dorset Heathlands | Solent and Dorset Coast |
| 20km buffer of Dorset boundary | New Forest | Somerset Levels & Moors |
| SPAs within 20km boundary: | | |
| Avon Valley | Poole Harbour | Salisbury Plain |
| Chesil Beach & the Fleet | Solent & Southampton Water | |
| | | SPAs outside 20km boundary |

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology.

Map 3: Ramsar sites within 20km of Dorset County boundary



Legend

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dorset County Boundary | Cheshil Beach & the Fleet | Solent & Southampton Water |
| 20km buffer of Dorset boundary | Dorset Heathlands | Somerset Levels & Moors |
| Ramsar sites within 20km boundary: Avon Valley | New Forest | Ramsar sites outside 20km boundary |
| Poole Harbour | | |

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology.

Potential impact pathways

2.5 Drawing on the background information relating to European sites, potential impact pathways, i.e. ways in which elements of the Plan might conceivably impact on the relevant European sites and trigger likely significant effects, could include:

- **Habitat loss and land-take, including coastal squeeze**, i.e. the direct loss of land within European sites with coastal squeeze an issue for coastal sites with habitats such as saltmarsh. Relevant for European sites within the Dorset authority area where development could result in loss of habitat;
- **General urban effects**, covering impacts associated with development in very close proximity to European sites, through for example light pollution, noise, domestic cats, spread of invasive species etc. This pathway would only be relevant where European sites are within Dorset. Also only relates to sites with existing boundaries with extensive urban fringe or qualifying features potentially vulnerable to cat predation (e.g. heathland birds, herptiles) or to the presence of nearby buildings (e.g. Stone Curlew);
- **Mobile species and impacts to functionally-linked land**, i.e. impacts to supporting habitat or species moving outside European site boundaries. Relevant species are potentially Marsh Fritillary, bats, Nightjar, Great-crested Newt, migratory fish, waterbirds);
- **Recreation**, covering impacts relating to public access to sensitive areas, including disturbance, increased fire risk and contamination from dogs. Relevant where sites are accessible to the public and the accessible areas include habitats vulnerable to recreation/fire, such as heathland, chalk grassland, reedbeds, vegetated shingle, sand dunes or particular species (ground-nesting birds, colonial waterbirds, Dartford Warbler, wintering waterbirds etc.);
- **Water quality**, covering the impacts from increased nutrients and pollution and relevant for European sites with water-dependent qualifying features and catchment within Dorset;
- **Water quantity**, covering impacts relating to abstraction of water and a reduction in the amount of water available, relevant for European sites with water-dependent qualifying features;
- **Air quality**, covering the impacts of air pollution including those associated with increased traffic. Relevant to European sites with roads within 200m and qualifying features potentially vulnerable to changes in air quality.

2.6 These are simplified, umbrella terms to facilitate screening and simplify a range of complex issues. The European sites have different qualifying

features and as such impacts are relevant for different sites. The local geography and distance from Dorset and the site opportunities will also determine which European sites are vulnerable in which ways.

European sites and impact pathways

2.7 Potential impact pathways are summarised by European site in Table 2. This table provides the context for the screening for likely significant effects and shows which site could be relevant and the pathways that need to be checked when screening the c.400 site opportunities identified at this stage in the Plan.

2.8 The table denotes potential impact pathways with A, B or C (and blank cells indicate that the pathway isn't relevant for a particular European site):

- "A" is used to indicate sites where there is a strategic mitigation scheme in place (or requirement for nutrient neutrality), i.e. an existing, recognised pathway likely to be strategic in nature.
- "B" indicates sites and pathway combinations where there is a clear risk that needs to be checked in the screening
- "C" indicates a possible or uncertain pathway, included on a more precautionary basis.

Sites excluded from further consideration

2.9 Drawing on Table 2, the following 12 sites can be excluded from further consideration and screened out as there is no plausible way they could be affected by the Plan:

- Beer Quarry & Caves SAC;
- Chilmark Quarries SAC;
- Great Yews SAC;
- Mells Valley SAC;
- Mendip Woodlands SAC;
- Quants SAC;
- Salisbury Plain SAC;
- Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC;
- Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar;
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA;
- Solent Maritime SAC;
- South Wight Maritime SAC.

2.10 A total of 45 European sites were originally identified as lying within 20km of the Dorset boundary, after eliminating the 12 bulleted sites above, there are

33 European sites that need to be the focus for further consideration and the screening.

Table 2: Potential impact pathways for each European site within 20km. Distance outside boundary column reflects linear distance between the European site and the Dorset authority boundary (those with blank cells are within the Dorset boundary). For the different impact pathways: A = strategic mitigation scheme in place (or requirement for nutrient neutrality), clear impact pathway; B = impact pathway relevant to the site; C = impact pathway possible or uncertain.

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Avon Valley Ramsar		B	C	C	C	A		C	Gadwall only relevant mobile species and potentially vulnerable to disturbance but from recreation risks low
Avon Valley SPA		B	C	C	C			C	Gadwall and perhaps Bewick Swan (though latter now very rare) only relevant mobile species; both potentially vulnerable to disturbance but risks from recreation low
Beer Quarry & Caves SAC	11.4								Consultation zones (defining the areas used by foraging bats) do not extend into Dorset; no public access to roost which is well outside Dorset, therefore no credible risks from recreation. Distance rules out any risks from air quality
Bracket's Coppice SAC		B		B		C	C	C	Bechstein's Bat a feature and will move outside SAC boundary; relatively remote site with limited access on existing trails, so no credible recreation risks; rush pasture interest potentially vulnerable to changes in water quality or quantity
Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC		B		C	C			C	Marsh Fritillary relevant as a mobile species; grassland habitat potentially vulnerable to trampling damage and contamination (recreation)
Chesil & The Fleet SAC		B	C		A	A	B	C	Existing urban edge towards Weymouth so potential for urban effects.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar		B	C		A	A	B	C	Existing urban edge towards Weymouth so potential for urban effects.
Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA		B	C	B	A	A	C	C	Existing urban edge towards Weymouth so potential for urban effects.
Chilmark Quarries SAC	10.6								Distance precludes risks for bats (mobile species) as most use will be focused in proximity to roost and beyond distance at which air quality might be relevant.
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC		B	B	B	B	C		C	Small site and Great-crested Newts may spread outside boundary; urban effects relevant (e.g. fish introductions); site has public footpath along periphery so potential recreation issues given small size and location; Pits are predominantly rainwater fed, however run-off from adjacent land may pose a risk.
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar		B	A		A	B		A	Wetland habitats are predominantly rainwater fed; water quality a risk from run-off.
Dorset Heathlands SPA		B	A	B	A			A	Nighthjar can roam widely outside SPA boundary.
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC		B	A		A	B		A	Wetland habitats are predominantly rainwater fed; water quality a risk from run-off.
Dorset Heaths SAC		B	A		A	B		A	Wetland habitats are predominantly rainwater fed; water quality a risk from run-off.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC		B			C			B	Grassland habitat potentially vulnerable to trampling damage and contamination (recreation).
Great Yews SAC	8								Recreation not a concern as site is privately owned and there is no public access inside the wood. Wood off beaten track and no parking nearby. No road within 200m.
Holnest SAC		B		C		C	C	C	Site comprises two separate patches, newts moving between these or in wider landscape could be vulnerable as mobile species. Site adjacent to a road but no public access so no risk from recreation. The site is vulnerable to changes in water levels (due to changes in drainage) as well as water quality.
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC		B	B		B			C	Recreation a risk due to trampling damage and contamination; water quality unlikely to be a concern but run-off could be a risk for the vegetated sea-cliff feature.
Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC						C			Sea cave interest would be vulnerable to recreation, however these are well outside Dorset area; water quality a low risk as marine habitat and dilution effects.
Mells Valley SAC	19.5								Distance precludes risks for mobile species as most use by bats will be focused in proximity to roost; distance also precludes risks from recreation.
Mendip Woodlands SAC	14.8								Distance precludes risks from recreation.
Poole Harbour Ramsar		B	B	B	A	A		C	Wintering waterbird feature may use range of sites outside site boundary; existing nutrient neutrality requirements.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Poole Harbour SPA		B	B	B	A	A		C	Wintering waterbird feature may use range of sites outside site boundary; existing nutrient neutrality requirements.
Prescombe Down SAC	4.7			C	C				Marsh Fritillary relevant as a mobile species, distance probably precludes risk; grassland habitat potentially vulnerable to trampling damage and contamination (recreation) but distance and steep slopes mean risk is low.
Quants SAC	19.8								Marsh Fritillary relevant as a mobile species, distance precludes risk for all pathways.
River Avon SAC			C	B	C	A	B	C	Urban fringe area around Avon Castle could mean risks of urban effects and housing in close proximity; mobile species interest are fish; recreation a concern in relation to wild swimming, kayaks etc; existing requirement for nutrient neutrality with new development.
River Axe SAC				B	C	A	B	C	Existing requirement for nutrient neutrality with new development; recreation a concern in relation to wild swimming, kayaks etc.
Rooksmoor SAC		B		C	C	C	C	B	Marsh Fritillary relevant as a mobile species; recreation possibly a risk at Lydlinch with respect to grazing animals (dogs off lead), trampling and contamination; Purple Moor Grass Rush Pasture feature could be vulnerable to changes in water quality or quantity; Habitats and species (Marsh Fritillary) could be impacted by air quality as main road junction in centre of Lydlinch Common.
Salisbury Plain SAC	16.5								Marsh Fritillary relevant as a mobile species, distance however precludes risk in relation to mobile species, recreation etc.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Salisbury Plain SPA	16.5								Stone Curlew relevant as a mobile species, distance precludes risk in relation to mobile species, recreation etc.
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC		B	C		C	C		C	Urban effects possible in terms of garden waste and non-native species; recreation risks relate to vegetated shingle interest; water quality unlikely to be a concern but run-off could be a risk for the vegetated sea-cliff feature.
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	19.6								Distance precludes risk for all pathways.
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	17.2								Wintering waterbird interest could use areas outside site boundary, but distance precludes risk.
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	17.2								Wintering waterbird interest could use areas outside site boundary, but distance precludes risk.
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA				C	C				Terns may switch breeding locations and sites such as Lodmoor relevant and outside SPA network – risks therefore possible for mobile species and from disturbance; water quality unlikely to impact terns (feeding on small fish); air quality not a concern given offshore site.
Solent Maritime SAC	17.6								Distance precludes risk for all pathways.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar	11.9					A	B		Wintering waterbird interest could use areas outside site boundary, but distance precludes risk; catchment extends into Dorset so hydrological links and nutrient neutrality a current requirement.
Somerset Levels & Moors SPA	11.9					A	B		Wintering waterbird interest could use areas outside site boundary, but distance precludes risk; catchment extends into Dorset so hydrological links and nutrient neutrality a current requirement.
South Wight Maritime SAC	19.8								Marine site, distance precludes risk.
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC		B		B	B			C	Greater Horseshoe Bat feature relevant as a mobile species; recreation risks relevant in terms of trampling and contamination; water quality unlikely to be a concern but run-off could be a risk for the vegetated sea-cliff feature.
Studland to Portland SAC					C	C			Only qualifying feature is reefs. Recreation possible a risk from mooring but very low risk (e.g. Swanage Bay); water quality a low risk as marine habitat and dilution effects.
The New Forest Ramsar	2.8				A			C	No hydrological links to Dorset area so no risks from water quality or quantity.
The New Forest SAC	2.8				A			C	No hydrological links to Dorset area so no risks from water quality or quantity.
The New Forest SPA	2.8			C	A			C	Nightjar relevant as a mobile species, however individuals from New Forest unlikely to regularly forage in Dorset area.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Distance outside boundary (km)	Habitat loss and land-take	General urban effects	Mobile species & functionally-linked land	Recreation	Water quality	Water quantity	Air quality	Notes
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC		B		B		C	C	C	Great-crested Newt and Marsh Fritillary relevant as mobile species; no risks from recreation as woodlands damp and access limited; potentially vulnerable to changes in water quality or quantity.

3. Screening for Likely Significant Effects

- 3.1 The screening is the initial stage in the four-stage process of HRA. The screening for likely significant effects of a plan involves checking all aspects of a plan and identifying any areas of potential concern, which are then examined in more detail in the appropriate assessment (stage 2) of the HRA. The check for likely significant effects therefore provides an initial test. It is undertaken to enable the plan maker as competent authority to do two things. Firstly, it narrows down and highlights those elements of the plan that may pose a risk to European sites. Secondly, where an option poses a risk but is a desired element of the plan, the screening identifies where further assessment is necessary in order to determine the nature and magnitude of potential impacts on European sites and what could be done to avoid, cancel, reduce or eliminate those risks. Early, initial screening of the Plan can allow the Plan maker to refine the Plan or commission further research/modelling work and incorporate the necessary mitigation.

What constitutes a likely significant effect?

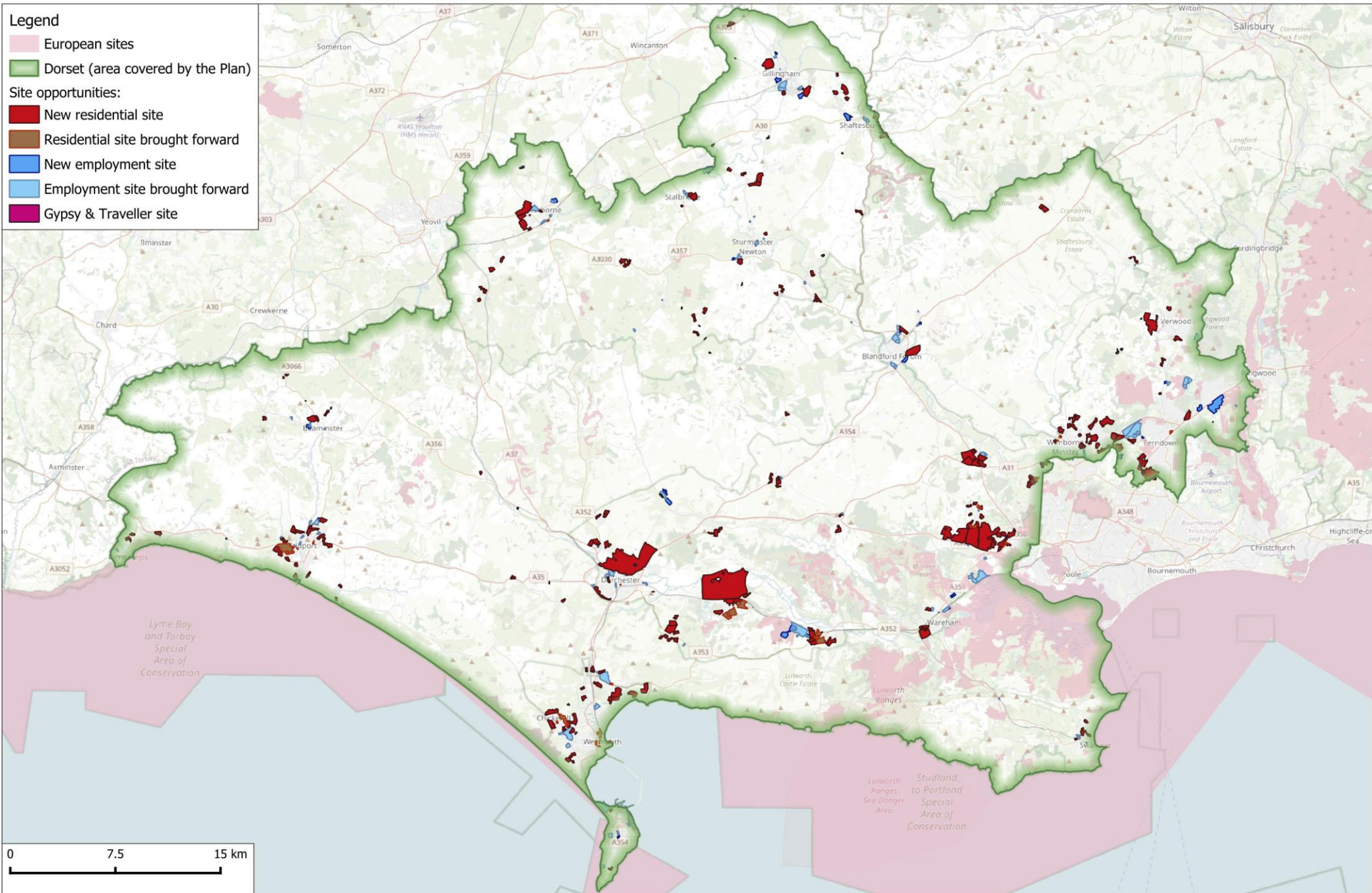
- 3.2 Where the screening identifies risks that cannot be avoided with simple clarifications, corrections or instructions for project level HRA, a more detailed assessment is undertaken to gather more information about the likely significant effects and give the necessary scrutiny to potential mitigation measures. This is the appropriate assessment stage of HRA.
- 3.3 A likely significant effect could be concluded on the basis of clear evidence of risk to European site interest, or there could be a scientific and plausible justification for concluding that a risk is present, even in the absence of direct evidence. The latter is an example of the precautionary approach, which is embedded through the HRA process. The precautionary principle should be applied at all stages in the HRA process and follows the principles established in domestic and EU case law.
- 3.4 The screening must also consider policies prior to any avoidance/reduction/mitigation measures, in line with People Over Wind¹³; mitigation can only be considered at Appropriate Assessment stage.

¹³ People Over Wind: European Court Case C-323/17 People Over Wind & Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta 12 April 2018

Screening of site opportunities at Regulation 18

- 3.5 Map 4 shows the site opportunities within the Plan, showing the broad distribution of potential growth in relation to the council boundary and European sites. There is a total of 440 site opportunities included in the Regulation 18 consultation. At this stage in the Plan, we provide an initial check of these against 33 European sites and 7 different impact pathways.
- 3.6 Our approach to this initial screening has been to calculate the distance from each site opportunity to each European site (measured at the closest parts on the boundary of each). We have then used a range of geographic criteria to highlight which site opportunities might be relevant to which European sites and the relevant impact pathways. These workings are provided in a separate Excel document and have been shared alongside this report.
- 3.7 Each impact pathway is discussed in separate sections below. Further assessment including checks for in-combination effects are also discussed below, however it is not clear at this stage which site opportunities will progress with the Plan. Therefore, at this stage, in both the screening and appropriate assessment all site opportunities are considered.

Map 4: Site opportunities



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology.

4. Habitat loss and land-take, including coastal squeeze

- 4.1 Habitat loss will occur where development results in a loss of qualifying habitat or habitat supporting qualifying species. Coastal squeeze relates to the loss of coastal habitat through the hardening of sea defences and development along the coast, providing no scope for habitats such as saltmarsh to shift with sea-level rise and climate change.
- 4.2 This impact pathway solely relates to direct habitat loss and land within European site boundaries. While closely linked, impacts to mobile species and loss of functionally-linked land is treated separately.

Approach to screening

- 4.3 Site opportunities could have likely significant effects alone if they fulfil any of the following criteria:
- Site opportunity boundary overlaps any European site;
 - Site opportunity within 500m of coastal European sites with features vulnerable to coastal squeeze (Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar, St Albans to Durlston SAC and Sidmouth to West Bay SAC).

Screening outcomes

- 4.4 A total of 14 opportunity site boundaries either touched or overlapped a European site boundary (Table 3). These mostly related to the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar but also included the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, the Poole Harbour Ramsar and Crookhill Brick Pit SAC. A total of 35 site opportunities are within 500m of coastal European sites with features vulnerable to coastal squeeze (Table 4). For these sites risks relate to the overall loss of habitats such as vegetated shingle or saltmarsh.

Table 3: Site opportunities where GIS boundary apparently touches or overlaps a European site

Site Ref	Opportunity site name	Site type	European sites
EL/FERN/001	Ferndown Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/WMOO/001	Gundrymoor Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/VERW/007	Woolsbridge Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/VERW/005	Woolsbridge Employment Site opportunity	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/WINF/001	Dorset Innovation Park	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/WINF/003	Enterprise Zone	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar
EL/SLSI/003	Land at Brocks Pine	New employment site opportunity	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA
EL/WARE/002	Land at Sandford Lane	New employment site opportunity	Dorset Heaths SAC, Poole Harbour Ramsar
EL/FERN/013	Land at Ticketts Nursery, Hilltop	New employment site opportunity	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA
EL/WASM/001	Holton Heath Trading Park	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA
ShouldEL/WARE/001	Sandford Lane Estate	Employment site brought forward	Dorset Heaths SAC, Poole Harbour Ramsar
LA/CHIC/002/a,004/a	Land at Chickerell	New residential site opportunity	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC
EL/PORT/011	Additional Land at Portland Port	New employment site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/002	Portland Port	Employment site brought forward	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC

Table 4: Site opportunities where GIS boundary is within 500m of European sites potentially vulnerable to coastal squeeze.

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Site type	European sites
LA/CHIC/011	Former Training Camp	New residential site opportunity	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar
LA/WEYM/021	Land at Mountbatten Close	New residential site opportunity	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar
EL/CHIC/004	Lynch Lane Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRID/010	West Bay Caravan Site	New residential site opportunity	Chesil & the Fleet SAC, Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/004,011	Bere Farm (East)	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/012	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 4)	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/022	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 10)	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/PORT/003	Portland Hospital	New residential site opportunity	Chesil & the Fleet SAC
UPTON	Land at Policemans lane, Upton (phase 2)	Residential site allocation brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/WARE/002	Land at Sandford Lane	New employment site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/PORT/007	Osprey Quay	Employment site brought forward	Chesil & the Fleet SAC
EL/WASM/001	Holton Heath Trading Park	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/LMUP/001	Factory Road Trading Estate	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Site type	European sites
EL/WARE/001	Sandford Lane Estate	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/WASM/004	Romany Works Estate	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/WASM/002	Admiralty Park	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BURT/001	Land off Common Lane	New residential site opportunity	Chesil & the Fleet SAC
LA/LMUP/013	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 5)	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA
LA/LMUP/LM1	Land east of New Rd - LM1 greenbelt review	New residential site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA
LA/LYME/002	West of Woodberry Down	New residential site opportunity	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/LYME/004	Timber Vale Caravan Park	New residential site opportunity	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/LYME/008	Strawberry Fields, Charmouth Road, Lyme Regis	New residential site opportunity	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/PORT/017/a	South of Southwell	New residential site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
LA/SWAN/018	Swanage Farm - land north of Washpond Lane and west of Darkie Lane	New residential site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
LA/WEYM/071	Land north of Bowleaze Coveway	New residential site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/011	Additional Land at Portland Port	New employment site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/010	Stone Firms Masonary Works, 99 Easton St	New employment site opportunity	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/WASM/006	Camp Farm	New employment site opportunity	Poole Harbour SPA

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Site type	European sites
EL/PORT/005	Inmosthay Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/003	Tradecroft Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/004	Southwell Business Park	Employment site brought forward	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/PORT/002	Portland Port	Employment site brought forward	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
EL/WARE/003	John's Road Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	Poole Harbour SPA
EL/SWAN/003	Kings Court Business Centre	Employment site brought forward	St Albans to Durlston Head SAC

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan

- 4.5 The site opportunities that have initially been screened in have been included on a largely precautionary basis and include those where the boundary of the site touches the European site boundary, and therefore there may not necessarily be any land take or habitat loss. For those site opportunities that touch or overlap a European site, further checks will be necessary. Prior to a future iteration of the Plan, it should be possible to resolve risks through site checks and amendments to boundaries. Where risks remain, policy will need to ensure any master plan or site design addresses risk.
- 4.6 For those 35 site opportunities within 500m of coastal European sites and with features vulnerable to coastal squeeze, screening is highly precautionary. Policy wording around coastal development, climate change and erosion are likely to provide further clarification, once available. The risks are that new development will require additional coastal defence. If the Plan includes (or needs to be dependent upon) any coastal defence or shoreline management that is inconsistent with the HRAs of the Shoreline Management Plan 'SMP' (and its derivatives, if any), then coastal squeeze is a

threat. Further checks will therefore be necessary around these specific site opportunities and any associated coastal protection.

5. General urban effects

- 5.1 Urban effects relate to impacts associated with development in very close proximity to European sites, through for example light pollution, noise, domestic cats, spread of invasive species etc. These can have implications for species present within the sites and impact habitats. General urban effects can arise with in-filling or new development around the European site boundary.

Approach to screening

- 5.2 All site opportunities that were within or partly within 500m of relevant European sites (see Table 2) were screened in as having the potential for likely significant effects. The choice of 500m is a pragmatic one. There is an established development exclusion zone around the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar of 400m (for background see Liley et al., 2007; Riley et al., 2016), as such 500m is precautionary. Risks will decrease with distance from the European site and evidence suggests some variability for some effects, for example cat roaming behaviour is different in rural compared to very urban environments (e.g. Hall, 2016). 500m is used as a development exclusion zone around some European sites, such as Burnham Beeches SAC and the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC and is used in the screening to ensure all potential locations of concern are screened in.
- 5.3 All site opportunities, including employment sites were included within the screening. While some urban effects, such as cat predation, are likely to be much more related to residential development, impacts from noise, dust and the spread of invasive species can relate to employment sites.

Screening outcomes

- 5.4 A total of 69 site opportunities were identified that were within or partly within 500m of one or more relevant European sites. Of these, 33 were new residential site opportunities, three were residential site opportunities brought forward, eight were new employment site opportunities and 25 were employment site opportunities brought forward. There were no Gypsy & traveller site opportunities within 500m of relevant sites. No site opportunities were identified within 500m of the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, but for all other European sites risks were identified and therefore are potentially vulnerable.

- 5.5 Site opportunities and distances to relevant European sites are listed in Appendix 2.

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan

- 5.6 The 69 site opportunities will need to be assessed in detail to check for urban effects, either alone or in-combination. Where detailed checks do not serve to eliminate risk, the site opportunity will need to be dropped, the boundary amended (i.e. development set back from the European site) or mitigation secured. Many of the site opportunities relate to the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar and some are for residential site opportunities within the 400m exclusion zone already in place. These site opportunities in particular will need to be carefully considered, with measures applied to avoid or mitigate potential impacts, as the Local Plan progresses towards submission.

6. Mobile species and impacts to functionally-linked land

- 6.1 European site boundaries are inevitably drawn up to enclose discrete areas. Many of the qualifying features of the relevant European sites are highly mobile and may move outside the boundary, for example to access different feeding areas or roost sites. Such movements can occur at certain times of year or in response to certain conditions.
- 6.2 Sometimes areas of land outside the designated site boundary can form an important role or function in supporting those species. The term functional linkage refers to the role or function that land or sea beyond the boundary of a European site might fulfil in terms of ecologically supporting the populations for which the site was designated or classified (see Chapman and Tyldesley, 2016 for discussion and definition). The term is often used to refer to foraging areas or roost sites that provide important functions for qualifying species.
- 6.3 This impact pathway therefore relates to any changes that might impede how species move in the landscape and to supporting habitat around European sites. This includes changes to flyways or routes that species may use to access areas or move across the landscape. Examples of the kinds of impacts include:
- Wiers or other obstructions that may impeded passage for migratory fish;
 - Loss of foraging habitat for bats or Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*;
 - Loss of hedgerows or tree lines that may provide flightlines for bats or other species to move through the landscape;
 - Wind turbines or other structures that might impeded flight lines or result in the mortality of mobile species;
 - Loss of open, wet areas that may provide foraging or roost sites for wintering waterbirds associated with an SPA/Ramsar;
 - Development surrounding European sites in such a way that movement for species is inhibited.

Approach to screening

- 6.4 Site opportunities were checked in GIS and screened in on a precautionary basis, where risks for mobile species or functionally-linked land might be relevant. We drew on the local knowledge of the HRA team, species data where available and GIS information reflecting potential characteristics of

the site opportunities, such as the habitats. No detailed site checks, survey work or other detailed assessments were carried out.

Screening outcomes

- 6.5 Visual checks of GIS data revealed no locations which might pose risks for mobile fish species or for Marsh Fritillary. The latter are distributed across the chalk and selected wet grassland sites in the north and west of the Dorset area. Map 5 shows the distribution of Marsh Fritillary records across the county, as held by the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) and covering the period 2000-2020. There are no large site opportunities that appear to fragment or sit between key sites for the species.
- 6.6 We did identify the potential for likely significant effects for 111 site opportunities, these are listed in Appendix 3. For most of these site opportunities, risks related to either Greater Horseshoe Bat or to Nightjar, with some site opportunities also flagged for potentially supporting or being close to areas (outside the designated sites) but used by wintering waterbirds (associated with Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar) and therefore posing disturbance risks.
- 6.7 Greater Horseshoe Bats are long-lived and display great faithfulness to commuting and foraging corridors (typically making use of established hedgerows, lines of trees and waterways) and a limited range of roosts. Detailed guidance has been produced by Dorset Council¹⁴. It appears to be accepted wisdom that the majority of foraging takes place within 4km of roosts but there is also evidence they also make use of much larger areas beyond these core sustenance zones. They are very intolerant to a wide range of artificial lighting. Correspondingly, corridors and foraging habitat, perhaps several kilometres from roosts can be easily severed by insensitive development and associated infrastructure (notably roads) with potentially harmful effects on the conservation status of the species. Such effects can be challenging to avoid or mitigate.
- 6.8 There is a major roost near Blandford, at Bryanston, and while this is SSSI (rather than SAC) there are records of bats moving to this roost from

¹⁴ See

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/35024/291228/Section+4,+Bryanston+greater+horseshoe+bat+SSSI+v2.pdf/76e29ebe-f489-c2b8-9054-44232459f602>

Purbeck (Flanders and Jones, 2009), and it must therefore be assumed that these bats are features of SACs such as the St Albans to Durlston Head SAC. Data from DERC (Map 5) indicates a wide scatter of records across the landscape, but particularly in the area around Purbeck (where there are known roosts at the coast near Worth Matravers and at Corfe Castle) and around Blandford. Site opportunities within 4km of these roosts have been screened in on a precautionary basis.

- 6.9 Nightjar are a qualifying feature of the Dorset Heathlands SPA and are widely distributed across the Dorset Heaths and adjacent (undesigned) conifer plantations such as parts of Wareham Forest. Radio-tracking studies of Nightjar have shown that birds will fly a considerable distance (up to 7km away) away from the breeding sites to feed at night (Alexander and Cresswell, 1990; Cresswell, 1996; Evens et al., 2017). These showed that at night the birds were leaving the conifer plantations and heathland areas where they were known to be nesting to feed in a range of habitats. The work in Dorset (Cresswell, 1996) highlighted the importance of deciduous woodland, orchards, village gardens and that Nightjar also used wetland sites such as streams, small ponds and water meadows and even saltmarsh.
- 6.10 More recent advances in technology have allowed the use of GPS tags, which do not require surveyors to 'track' the radio signal but automatically log the locations of birds. Nightjar have now been tagged at a number of different sites and data span multiple years. HRA work undertaken for the Borough of Poole Local Plan in 2018 (see Hoskin, Liley, & Underhill-Day, 2018) drew on GPS tracking, commissioned by developers (Souter, 2017, 2016). Results highlighted that Nightjar were using areas outside the heaths, often for extended periods. Multiple birds were using some locations (a disused area of gravel pit was particularly favoured) and individuals often returned to favoured locations. There was also evidence of some long flights, including birds moving to other heathland patches.
- 6.11 The issues are complex as Nightjar are summer migrants and present on the heaths from May through to August and September. During this time, it is likely that different areas and habitats will be important for foraging. Different areas are likely to be important depending on the weather (for example some areas will be more sheltered than others), prey abundance (different insects will peak at different times and in different habitats) and for individual Nightjar (for example requirements may be different just after migration or when feeding chicks), as such it is expected that a range of habitats are likely to be important. Loss of foraging habitat or disruption of

routes to reach feeding areas could undermine the conservation objectives of the SPA in terms of the population of Nightjar and its distribution. Map 5 shows the New Forest SPA and the Dorset Heathlands SPA – with both areas supporting Nightjar across their extent. Nightjar are also present outside the SPAs, on forestry plantations such as Wareham Forest and Ringwood Forest.

- 6.12 Great-crested Newt will roam away from ponds used for breeding and can be found under logs, debris etc. Newts may need to cross land to reach breeding ponds and therefore development in close proximity or adjacent to European sites (with Great-crested Newt as a qualifying feature) could impact the ability of the newts to move in the landscape. The opportunity site 'Land at Chickerell' was therefore identified as a potential risk for Crookhill Brick Pit SAC.

- 6.13 The opportunity sites west of Wareham, near Worgret are on land that is above, and slopes down towards the River Frome. The floodplain here (and to the north, in the Piddle Valley) can hold large numbers of waterbirds in certain conditions, particularly species such as Black-tailed Godwit and Curlew. These birds move out from Poole Harbour SPA to feed and depend on areas of terrestrial habitat (such as the grazing marshes in the river valleys) (Durell et al., 2006). Risks from development would relate to increased disturbance, light, noise etc.

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan

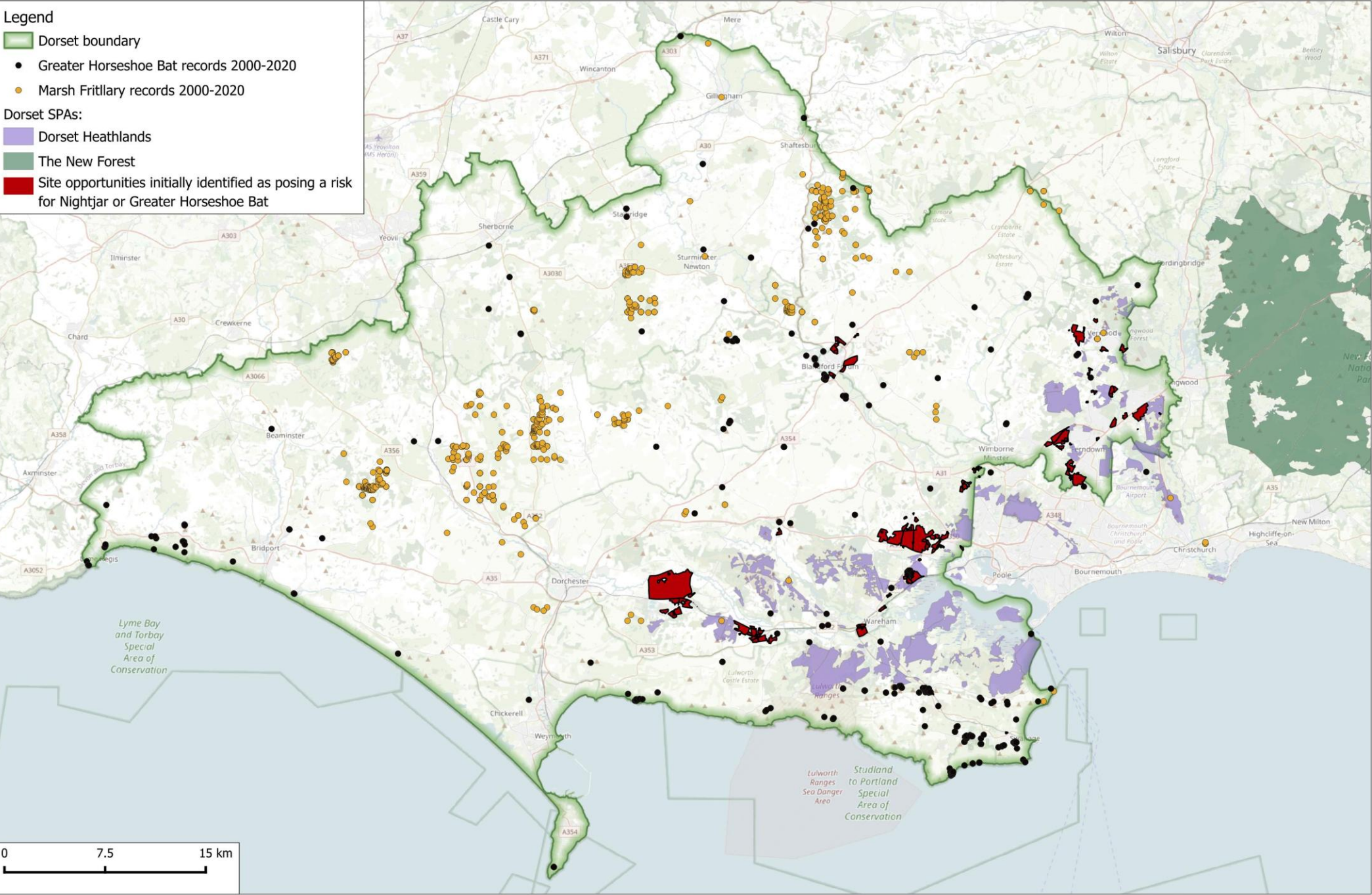
- 6.14 Given the volume of site opportunities proposed in the Plan and their distribution, a better understanding of the flightlines and key foraging areas for Greater Horseshoe Bat is necessary, to ensure risks can be properly identified and addressed. This will require a collation of recent data, input from local bat specialists and – for some site opportunities – bat surveys to check use by Greater Horseshoe Bats. Site opportunities may need to be carefully designed to avoid or retain particular landscape features and there may be a need to secure specific measures around lighting to be incorporated into site design and layout.

- 6.15 For Nightjar, the large site opportunities that will result in the loss of open countryside and potential foraging opportunities will need to be carefully assessed. Subject to the progress of the Plan and site opportunities, survey data may be necessary to better understand if and how the birds use

particular areas and this may have implications for the scale of development and layout/design at particular site opportunities.

- 6.16 At Chickerell it will be necessary to understand the importance of adjacent land for Great-crested Newt and the potential risks that might be associated with growth adjacent to the SAC. This will need to involve survey work and habitat assessment.
- 6.17 Subject to the Plan's progression, the site opportunities to the west of Wareham, near Worgret may need detailed survey work and more data prior to more detailed assessment. Survey work would need to be conducted over multiple years and seasons (as bird use of the area varies markedly in relation to water levels, weather and tide).

Map 5: Mobile species



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology. Species records provided by DERC, the Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

7. Recreation

- 7.1 Recreation impacts relate to recreational activities, such as walking, riding, sports, organised activities etc. Any increase in local residential accommodation will result in more people and the risk of direct disturbance of species by people, dogs or vehicles, trampling, erosion, fire, vandalism, fly tipping etc.

Approach to screening

- 7.2 There is a potential for likely significant effects for European sites where:
- The qualifying features are potentially vulnerable to recreation; and
 - There is public access to key parts of the site, such that there is a clear spatial overlap between recreation use and the relevant qualifying features.
 - Site opportunities are within the relevant zone of influence.
- 7.3 Zones of influence were based on either the existing zone applied for the strategic mitigation schemes (or the latest available data) or where no scheme is in place, from recent visitor survey data or an estimate based on data from similar sites and the likely draw of the European site.

Screening outcomes

- 7.4 A number of the larger individual site opportunities and some in particularly sensitive locations pose particular recreation risks. These site opportunities (listed in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5) will need to be screened in for impacts alone and will require very careful scrutiny and possibly bespoke mitigation to rule out effects alone. In some cases, this may not necessarily be possible. These sites will need to be a focus for the appropriate assessment at subsequent iterations of the Plan. We have included employment site opportunities within Appendix 5, as while these potentially pose different recreation threats to residential development, employment sites in close proximity to European sites may result in impacts from recreation, for example through people on their lunch break or commuting across the sites in question.
- 7.5 In-combination effects of recreation will relate to the cumulative levels of growth proposed in the Plan. Recreation impacts are already recognised, and

a strategic mitigation scheme is in place for the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar, The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar and Chesil Beach and the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar. As such, these sites clearly need to be considered in the screening, and any site opportunities that fall within the relative zones of influence for these European sites are automatically screened in. These European sites and all others considered potentially vulnerable to recreation are listed in Table 5, and the scale of growth (number of opportunity sites) is also summarised, in terms of the number of the projected number of residential dwellings, the number of residential site opportunities and the change expressed as a percentage when compared to the housing levels in 2025.

- 7.6 It can be seen that the combined site opportunities would mean low cumulative levels of growth and minimal percentage change in the number of residential dwellings around the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar and Prescombe Down SAC, the River Avon SAC and the River Axe SAC. These sites can be screened out at this stage from further consideration given the levels of growth in the site opportunities considered here.
- 7.7 The percentage change figures in Table 5 potentially give a very approximate guide to the level of change in recreation use that might be anticipated – as a result of the Plan alone. It can be seen that the sites with existing strategic mitigation schemes all have a potential level of change above 7% (as a result of the Dorset Local Plan alone), apart from the New Forest, where the 13.8km zone of influence mostly comprises other authorities apart from Dorset. Particularly notable is the level of change identified for Crookhill Brick Pit (34.5% change within 2km) and for the level of change for Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC (36.9% change within 15km).
- 7.8 We flag the following sites as ones where there is currently no strategic mitigation scheme. The levels of new growth are potentially so marked (within a potential zone of influence) that some kind of mitigation approach is likely to be necessary to address the risks, subject to the Plan's progression:
- Crookhill Brick Pit SAC;
 - Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC;
 - Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC;
 - Rooksmoor SAC;
 - Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC.

Table 5: European sites vulnerable to recreation impacts and scale of growth proposed in plan. Category column taken from Table 2: A = strategic mitigation scheme in place, clear impact pathway; B = impact pathway relevant to the site; C = impact pathway possible or uncertain. Sites are ranked alphabetically by category. .

European site	Category	Suggested zone (km)	Reference and notes on zone distance	Total projected dwellings a in zone (in site opportunities)	Total number of site opportunities	Number of current residential dwellings	% change
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	A	7.3	Liley et al. (2022)	7,679	69	47,424	16.2
Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	A	7.3	Liley et al. (2022)	4,898	44	37,077	13.2
Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	A	7.3	Liley et al. (2022)	4,898	44	37,077	13.2
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	A	5	Existing strategic approach.	26,125	136	260,956	10
Dorset Heathlands SPA	A	5	Existing strategic approach.	25,532	133	267,898	9.5
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	A	5	Existing strategic approach.	7,204	33	47,555	15.1
Dorset Heaths SAC	A	5	Existing strategic approach.	25,708	130	262,300	9.8
Poole Harbour Ramsar	A	5	Caals <i>et al.</i> (2025) gives 75% of visitors within 4.6km, distance rounded up.	7,817	39	99,821	7.8
Poole Harbour SPA	A	5	Caals <i>et al.</i> (2025) gives 75% of visitors within 4.6km, distance rounded up.	7,817	39	99,811	7.8
The New Forest Ramsar	A	13.8	Liley <i>et al.</i> (2020); Liley <i>et al.</i> (2023)	5,043	27	503,719	1

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Category	Suggested zone (km)	Reference and notes on zone distance	Total projected dwellings a in zone (in site opportunities)	Total number of site opportunities	Number of current residential dwellings	% change
The New Forest SAC	A	13.8	Liley <i>et al.</i> (2020); Liley <i>et al.</i> (2023)	5,207	29	503,719	1
The New Forest SPA	A	13.8	Liley <i>et al.</i> (2020); Liley <i>et al.</i> (2023)	5,043	27	527,828	1
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	B	2	No visitor data, small site and local access only so 2km used.	1,827	13	5,296	34.5
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	B	15	Drawn from Liley <i>et al.</i> (2022) and rounded up to nearest km.	26,343	125	248,609	10.6
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	B	15	Drawn from Liley <i>et al.</i> (2022) and rounded up to nearest km.	2,786	12	73,824	3.8
Avon Valley Ramsar	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	312	4	81,947	0.4
Avon Valley SPA	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	312	4	81,947	0.4
Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	C	15	Visitor survey report (Liley <i>et al.</i> , 2022) found 75 th percentile figure was 20.2km, however very low levels of use from local settlements and small sample size. This adjusted down to reflect zone more consistent with other areas.	18,398	97	49,837	36.9
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	C	15	Visitor survey report (Liley <i>et al.</i> , 2022) found 75 th percentile figure was 20.2km, however very low levels of use from local settlements and small sample size. This adjusted down to reflect zone more consistent with other areas.	5,890	49	40,561	14.5
Prescombe Down SAC	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	0	0	1,397	0

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Category	Suggested zone (km)	Reference and notes on zone distance	Total projected dwellings a in zone (in site opportunities)	Total number of site opportunities	Number of current residential dwellings	% change
River Avon SAC	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	312	4	146,873	0.2
River Axe SAC	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	0	0	15,306	0
Rooksmoor SAC	C	5	No survey data. Any regular use likely to be local.	1,241	17	5,090	24.4
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	C	15	No visitor data available. Distance likely to be similar to other parts of Dorset coast.	3,771	36	90,126	4.2
Studland to Portland SAC	C		Marine with risks to reefs so no site opportunities relevant.	0	0		

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan

- 7.9 The scale of growth being considered in the site opportunities would represent a very marked uplift for many of the European sites. For those with existing strategic mitigation schemes (the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar, Chesil and the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar and The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar) it will be necessary to ensure the strategic mitigation is secured for the necessary duration (i.e. in-perpetuity), is effective and can address the scale of growth proposed. The potential levels of growth being considered will need to be taken into consideration when reviewing and updating the existing strategies.
- 7.10 A particular area of focus will need to be mitigation measures to deflect access away from certain parts of the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar. The Morden Bog/Wareham Forest area is particularly vulnerable given the site opportunities proposed near Lytchett Minster, to the west of Wareham and at Bere Regis, while Winfrith and Tadnoll are vulnerable given the growth proposed at Crossways and at Wool. Dependent on the Plan's progression strategic heathland infrastructure projects are likely to be required.
- 7.11 Subject to the progression of the Plan, site opportunities elsewhere (around Crookhill Brick Pit SAC; Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC; Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC; Rooksmoor SAC; Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC) the scale of housing proposed could trigger the need for mitigation to allow a conclusion of no adverse effects on site integrity to be reached. Dependent on the Plan's progression, strategic mitigation approaches may be required.

8. Water quality

- 8.1 Wastewater or sewage can be very damaging to water bodies as it can contain large amounts of nutrients (such as phosphorus and nitrates), ammonia, bacteria, harmful chemicals and other damaging substances. Issues arise where sewage treatment technology to adequately reduce levels of phosphorus and harmful chemicals is not in place, where leakages occur from privately owned septic tanks and, in wet weather, storm overflows can discharge untreated sewage. Poorly installed domestic washing machines and even washing cars at home can, in places, also add to the pollution load. Outcomes can include increased turbidity, algal blooms, reduced dissolved oxygen and an overall increase in the nutrient status of receiving waterbodies. Simply, increases in housing increase pressure on the sewage network and the volume of wastewater.
- 8.2 The pollution of inland and coastal waters has received greater recognition in recent years and the significance of such potential impacts and the need to mitigate has been given emphasis by Natural England's demands. These state that new development affecting vulnerable water bodies must achieve 'nutrient neutrality', i.e. avoid any net increase in nitrate and phosphate pollution. Whilst this relates primarily to the disposal of foul water, run-off from hard surfaces can also be a factor. This reflects contemporary case law (the Dutch case) which makes clear that where water quality targets of European sites are not being met, further inputs of pollutants should not be allowed.

Approach to screening

- 8.3 Natural England GIS data showing nutrient neutrality catchments¹⁵ were used to identify which site opportunities fell within the surface water catchment area of relevant designated sites. Relevant catchments were:
- Chesil and the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar
 - Poole Harbour SPA
 - The River Parrett (Somerset Levels and Moors SPA/Ramsar)
 - The River Avon SAC
 - The River Axe SAC

¹⁵ <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/nutrient-neutrality-catchments-england/about>

- 8.4 All residential site opportunities within these catchments will have potential likely significant effects in relation to water quality.
- 8.5 In addition, any development that has a direct hydrological link to a European site or is sufficiently close to the European site such that run-off or pollution from sewage overflows (e.g. as a result of flooding or storm surges) could be a risk, will need to be screened in.

Screening outcomes

- 8.6 Residential site opportunities and opportunities for Gypsy & Traveller pitches have been identified within multiple nutrient neutrality catchments, notably a total of 20,833 dwellings (including those on site opportunities brought forward) within the Poole Harbour catchment. The number of site opportunities within each catchment are summarised in Table 6 and the potential number of dwellings proposed in each catchment are given in Table 7. Relevant locations are shown in Map 6.

Table 6: Number of site opportunities by nutrient neutrality catchment.

Type of site	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Parrett Catchment	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	River Axe SAC	River Avon SAC	Total
New residential site opportunity	6	11	71	3	6	97
Residential site allocation brought forward	0	1	11	0	1	13
Gypsy & Traveller site	1	1	7	1	1	11
Total	7	13	89	4	8	121

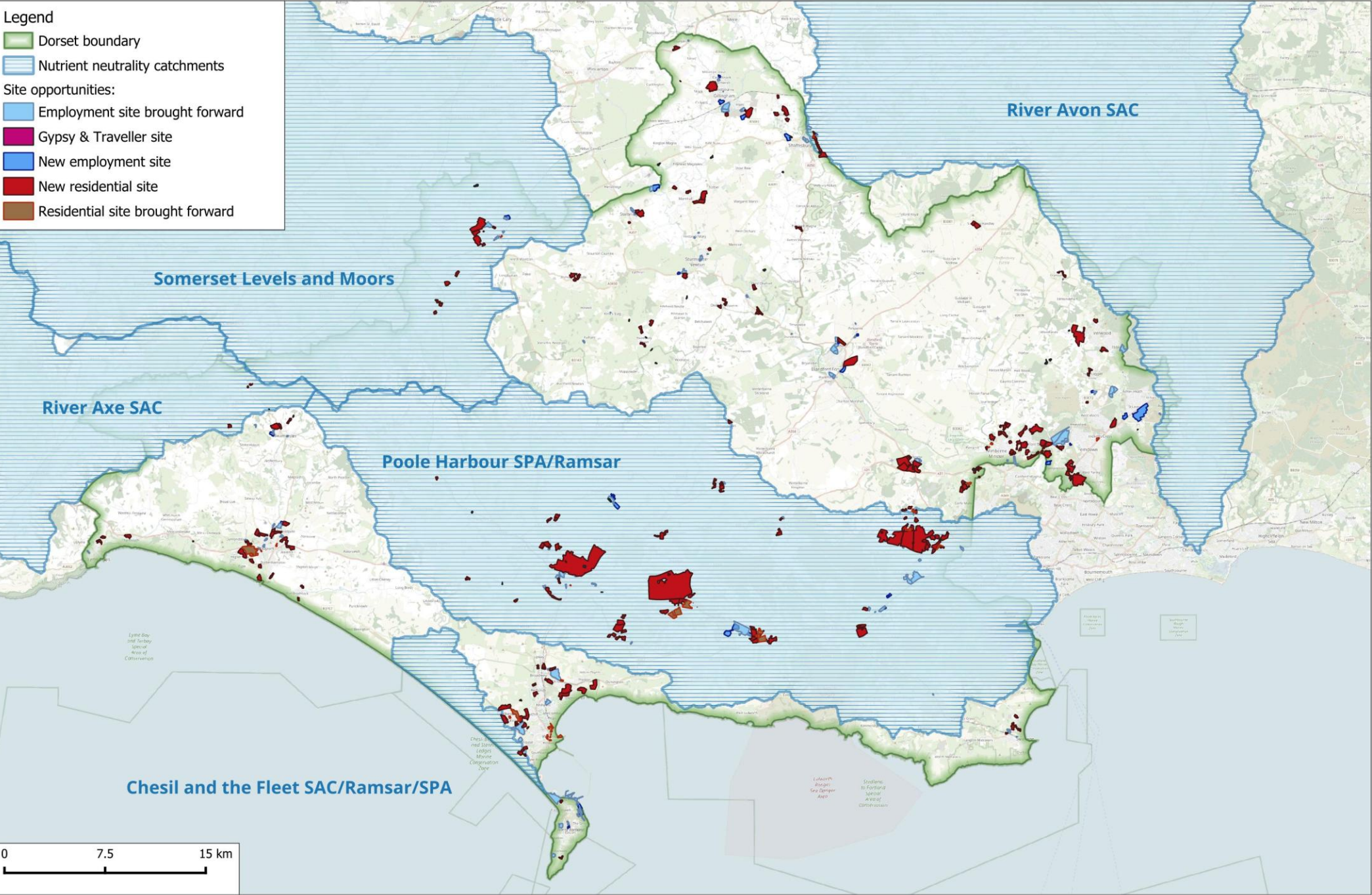
Table 7: Number of potential dwellings (and pitches for Gypsy & Traveller sites) within relevant nutrient neutrality catchments.

Type of site	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Parrett Catchment	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	River Axe SAC	River Avon SAC	Total
New residential site opportunity	718	2,462	19,052	148	735	23,115
Residential site allocation brought forward	0	45	1,781	0	60	1,886
Gypsy & Traveller site	4	2	24	1	0	31

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the plan

- 8.7 It should be noted that the totals above are extracted by surface water catchments, and no attempt has been made to ascertain the number of dwellings likely to connect to each wastewater treatment works. As the Plan proceeds it will be necessary to ascertain the potential for the wastewater treatment system to accommodate the scale of growth proposed without further damage to the European sites. Mitigation in relation to nutrient neutrality will need to be secured on a large scale and this will need to be checked as part of further appropriate assessment.
- 8.8 A number of individual sites will need to be checked for impacts alone in relation to run-off, contamination and flooding risks. For example, the site opportunities around Lytchett Minster have previously been identified as posing a risk in terms of flooding and water quality for Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar (see White et al., 2008 for further detail).

Map 6: Catchments for sites requiring nutrient neutrality



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and Database Right 2025. Contains map data © OpenStreetMap contributors. Terms: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Designated site boundaries download from the Natural England website © Natural England. Map produced by Footprint Ecology. Species records provided by DERC, the Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

9. Water quantity

- 9.1 Where European sites are dependent on water to support the qualifying features then changes in the water levels or flow have the potential to undermine the conservation objectives. Impacts could result from increased abstraction or changes to surface water flow (e.g. drainage).
- 9.2 It is the role of the Environment Agency to make sure that abstraction is sustainable and does not damage the environment. Water abstraction is managed through a licensing system originally introduced by the Water Resources Act 1963.
- 9.3 The Environment Agency oversees the publication of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). These set the legally binding locally specific environmental objectives that underpin water regulation. They set out how the management of water bodies will be undertaken, the roles of relevant bodies and the steps undertaken to ensure environmental targets are met.
- 9.4 The most recent South West River Basin Management Plan was updated in 2022¹⁶. The Plan commits the Environment Agency to assess all licence applications and only issue licences that adequately protect and improve the environment; where necessary each should be subject to an individual HRA. The Agency will only grant replacement licences where the abstraction is environmentally sustainable, and abstractors can demonstrate they have a continued need for the water, and it will be used efficiently. In addition, for existing licences, the Agency will prioritise actions to protect and improve European sites and address the most seriously damaging abstractions during this plan period. All abstractors in surface water and groundwater bodies where serious damage is occurring or could occur without action should expect that their licences will be constrained over the next 6 years. The South West River Basin Management Plan was subject to HRA¹⁷ which determined that the RBMP was not likely to have any significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/south-west-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022>

¹⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/635246fae90e07768c1a73a2/South_west_river_basin_management_plan_2022_HRA.pdf

- 9.5 The Water Act 2003 introduced a legal requirement into the Water Industry Act 1991 for water companies to prepare, publish and maintain Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs). These take place on a five-year cycle and set out how public water supply will be maintained over a minimum of 25 years in a way that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Wessex Water's most recent Water Resources Management Plan (dated 2024) was subject to HRA¹⁸, which concluded that adverse effects on integrity could be ruled out for all European sites as a result of the WRMP.
- 9.6 According to government guidance¹⁹, Dorset Council can defer to Wessex Water's HRA and rely on its conclusions if there is no information or evidence that may lead to a different conclusion, if the previous assessment is relevant, thorough and correct, the conclusions are rigorous and there is no new case law that might be relevant. The key consideration will relate to whether the scale (and rate) of growth accounted for within the WRMP (across multiple authorities) is up to date and reflects that coming forward in the Plan. The issues in terms of abstraction are therefore more strategic in nature and relate to the overall levels of growth and whether these can be supported without harm to European sites (including any potential new infrastructure that might be required).

Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the plan

- 9.7 As the plan progresses, it will be necessary to check that the conclusions made in the Wessex Water WRMP HRA are valid and, should the level of growth in the Plan be higher, further assurance and liaison with Wessex Water will be necessary.

¹⁸ <https://corporate.wessexwater.co.uk/media/bm4lqybt/wrmp24-habits-regulations-assesment.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site#make-decision-making-quicker>

10. Air Quality

- 10.1 The primary impact mechanism for air quality relates to increased traffic emissions. Development is typically associated with increased traffic and emissions which can increase the airborne concentration of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and ammonia (NH₃), and the subsequent rate of nitrogen deposition from the atmosphere. This can lead to the nutrient enrichment and acidification of soils, encouraging more tolerant ruderal species at the expense of sensitive plant, lower plant and invertebrate communities. In high concentrations, ammonia can result in direct toxic effects on vegetation, a factor which may also be true of NO_x. Larger animals, such as small mammals and birds are considered immune to direct effects but can be vulnerable to change in their supporting habitats. Furthermore, it can exacerbate the effects of other factors such as climate change or pathogens, for example.

Approach to screening

- 10.2 European sites within a 10km radius of a local planning authority boundary are potentially relevant (Chapman & Kite, 2021). Air quality impacts decline with distance away from the road, and it is therefore only where a road goes through a European site or is within 200m of the site, that impacts are likely (CIEEM, 2021 for background and discussion on the application of the 200m distance; see Natural England, 2018). Furthermore, only certain sites, where the qualifying features are potentially vulnerable to changes in air quality need to be considered.

Screening outcomes

- 10.3 Table 8 summarises the European sites potentially vulnerable to air quality impacts from traffic and gives the length of road and area of the European site affected. The final two columns give the percentage of the area of the European site within 200m of any road and within 200m of an A road. Most traffic use will be focussed along the A roads, and therefore the latter figure is a good indication of the scale of risk. Map 7 shows relevant road sections.
- 10.4 At this stage in the Plan, we consider there is potential for likely significant effects from the cumulative effects of increased traffic associated with the Local Plan for all the sites identified. As further evidence is gathered and the Plan revised, it may be possible to further screen some sites out.

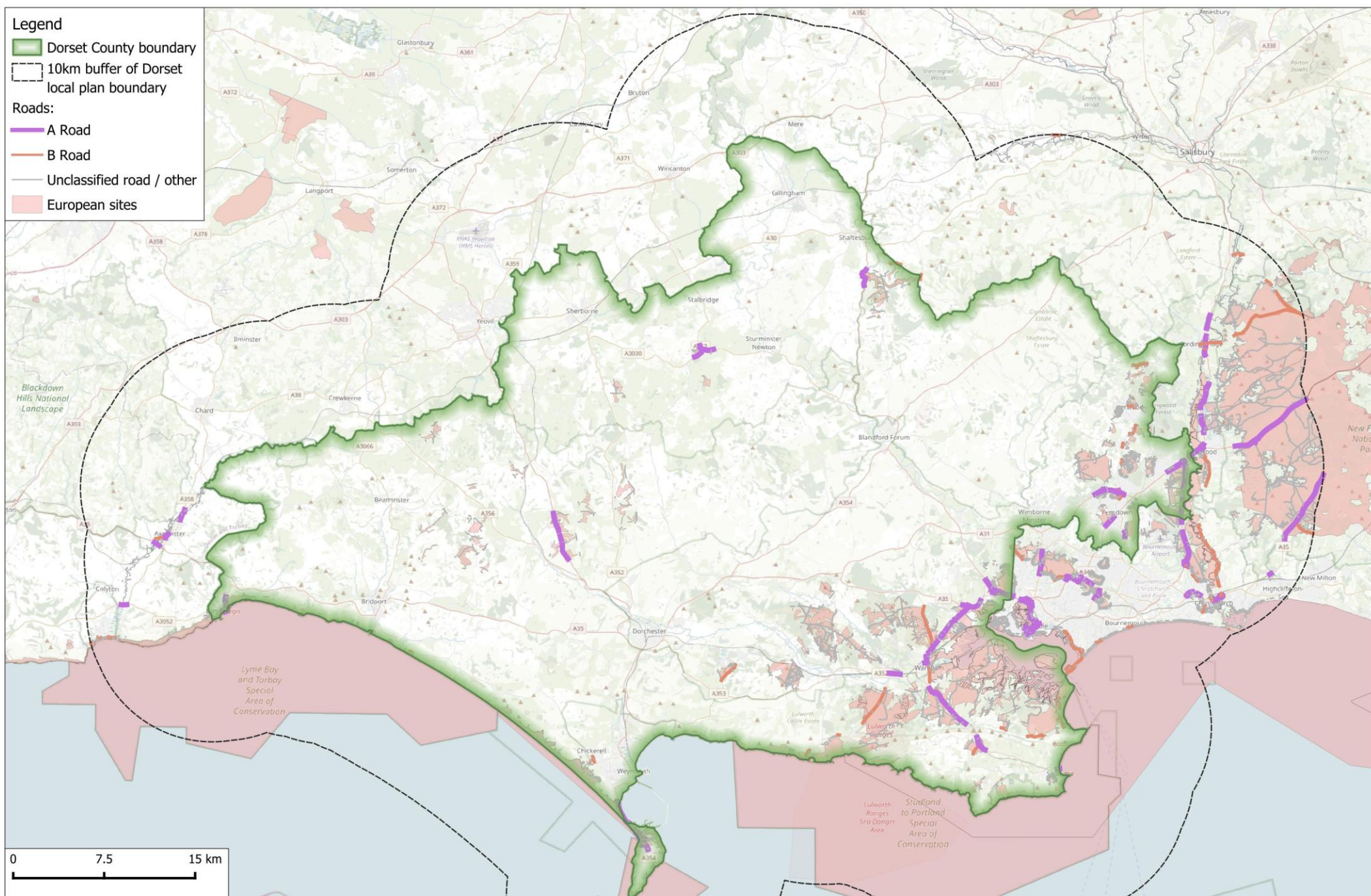
Table 8: Summary of European sites where air quality a potential risk, with details of the length of road within 200m of the European site and the area of the European site that is within 200m of a road. Area figures taken from the protected area spreadsheets on the JNCC website.

European site	Area of European site (ha)	Length (km)				Area (ha)				% within 200m	% within 200m of A road
		A road	B road	Other roads	Total length of road within 200m	A road	B road	Other roads	Total area within 200m		
Avon Valley Ramsar	10.3	9.1	60.9	80.3	64.8	76.4	348.9	490.0	1385.1	35	5
Avon Valley SPA	10.3	7.9	57.8	75.9	64.8	72.2	330.9	467.9	1351.1	35	5
Bracket's Coppice SAC	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	19.2	19.2	53.8	36	0
Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	3.1	0.0	14.2	17.3	14.2	0.0	95.7	109.9	371.8	30	4
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	6.0	0.3	19.6	25.9	69.1	1.7	125.5	196.2	1634.9	12	4
Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	1.3	0.0	7.4	8.7	15.6	0.0	62.9	78.4	748.1	10	2
Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	1.3	0.0	7.4	8.7	15.6	0.0	62.9	78.4	747.4	10	2
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	0.0	0.5	1.2	1.7	0.0	1.7	2.4	4.1	4.6	89	0
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	36.1	24.6	411.8	472.5	262.2	217.3	2564.8	3044.2	6730.2	45	4
Dorset Heathlands SPA	52.5	25.3	548.0	625.8	352.3	254.1	3182.6	3789.0	8185.0	46	4
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	6.6	4.0	84.6	95.1	73.9	17.4	759.8	851.2	2230.5	38	3
Dorset Heaths SAC	47.5	24.7	496.6	568.8	287.1	247.2	2453.9	2988.3	5719.5	52	5
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	1.2	1.8	9.9	12.8	10.1	6.5	43.5	60.0	263.1	23	4
Holnest SAC	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	29.5	29.5	54.8	54	0
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	2.0	1.1	59.0	62.1	10.9	12.9	378.4	402.2	1441.8	28	1

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Area of European site (ha)	Length (km)				Area (ha)				% within 200m	% within 200m of A road
		A road	B road	Other roads	Total length of road within 200m	A road	B road	Other roads	Total area within 200m		
Poole Harbour Ramsar	11.1	6.7	75.1	92.9	55.0	54.1	299.9	409.1	2439.2	17	2
Poole Harbour SPA	10.1	6.5	65.7	82.3	74.2	74.9	349.7	498.8	4157.5	12	2
River Avon SAC	10.0	9.1	63.7	82.8	22.3	17.9	61.3	101.5	416.6	24	5
River Axe SAC	2.5	0.9	8.5	11.9	2.4	1.2	6.6	10.2	22.9	44	10
Rooksmoor SAC	7.1	0.0	4.2	11.2	26.2	0.0	6.4	32.7	62.2	52	42
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	1.4	0.1	15.1	16.6	7.7	0.7	97.7	106.0	895.6	12	1
New Forest Ramsar	22.8	11.6	223.6	258.0	472.4	306.4	4354.5	5133.4	28002.8	18	2
The New Forest SAC	15.5	11.6	256.3	283.4	512.0	320.1	4561.4	5393.5	29213.6	18	2
New Forest SPA	22.8	11.6	223.6	258.0	472.4	306.4	4354.5	5133.4	27969.0	18	2
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	0.0	0.0	11.8	11.8	0.0	0.0	104.0	104.0	329.1	32	0

Map 7: Roads across Dorset and within 10km within 200m of a European site



Implications for appropriate assessment and later stages of the Plan

- 10.5 When considering air quality impacts, a process contribution of 1% of the relevant critical load or level, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is used to identify an effect as potentially significant. Air quality modelling work to generate process contribution data for all roads and European sites identified above would represent a significant undertaking but is likely to be necessary for some European sites.
- 10.6 Prior to commissioning the necessary air quality modelling, it may be possible to eliminate credible risk based on traffic modelling and checks as to whether the distribution of growth is likely to result in marked increases in traffic. Changes of 1,000 annual average daily traffic flows (AADT) or 200 heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) from traffic modelling would provide an indicative threshold to screen sites in for in-combination effects. Furthermore, checks of the distribution of vulnerable features and the habitats at risk within 200m of roads may also provide further insights and indicate no risks. This will require collation of existing data and potentially site visits to check features on the ground.
- 10.7 As the Plan progresses it will be necessary to have an understanding of the likely scale of change in traffic flows along the relevant roads for all the European sites identified in Table 8. It will also be necessary to check each European site for the distribution of vulnerable features in relation to the road.
- 10.8 As sites and policies are further refined and the plan progresses, traffic modelling for the relevant sections of road and further review of data will therefore be necessary prior to commissioning air quality modelling. Depending on the results of the modelling, mitigation may need to be secured in order to allow a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity to be reached.
- 10.9 For the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar a mitigation strategy for air quality has already been established and it will be necessary to review this and potentially update the strategy as necessary to ensure it is adequate to enable a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity to be reached.

11. Discussion

- 11.1 This report provides the groundwork and initial basis for further assessment as the Dorset Local Plan progresses towards submission. As further evidence becomes available it may be necessary to revise the impact pathways and the approach to screening may also need to adapt. In due course it may be possible to screen out sites that are identified as having potential likely significant effects here and equally it may be that some sites might need to be screened in. The HRA will continue to be refined and updated as the Plan proceeds and a complete rescreening of all site opportunities alongside all policies will need to take place alongside the next version of the Plan.

Scale of potential growth

- 11.2 The UK government has set ambitious targets for house building over the current parliament. The scale of growth proposed in the Dorset Plan reflects a very large and marked uplift across the County. Given Dorset's exceptional importance for nature conservation and the wide range of European sites, the HRA work that needs to accompany the Dorset plan is complex and the potential impacts wide ranging.
- 11.3 It should be noted that many of the site opportunities have been considered in previous HRA work and dropped by the relevant authority in part as a result of the particular nature conservation risks they posed. For example, the growth proposed in this current Plan around Lytchett Minster is higher than that included in the South West Draft Regional Spatial Strategy in 2008 and the nature conservation issues were set out in detail by White *et al.* (2008), whose conclusions remain relevant today. HRA issues associated with a lower level of growth in the area were subsequently considered by Liley *et al.* (2010), and concerns remained. The site opportunities to the west of Wareham, near Worgret were also considered by Liley *et al.* (2010). The report concluded that the development may not currently be possible within Purbeck without contravening the Habitats Regulations.
- 11.4 The HRA will be finalised at the point at which the Plan is ready for adoption, and this report has been undertaken at an early stage in the plan making. This report is therefore not a complete HRA, but merely an initial report that sets the foundation for further assessment work and highlights where further evidence gathering and information will be necessary in order to complete the HRA.

Planning reform

- 11.5 The draft Planning and Infrastructure Bill²⁰ is proposed to speed up and streamline the delivery of new homes, with a focus on strategic mitigation to enable development. The Bill proposes that a delivery body (like Natural England) is responsible for the production of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs), determining standardised levels of environmental mitigation needed for certain types and scales of development in a specific area. Where an EDP exists, developers will have the option to pay into a new 'Nature Restoration Fund', which the delivery body will use to fund appropriate mitigations, including by pooling contributions from multiple developers. It is proposed that contributions to the Nature Restoration Fund will mean that HRAs will not need to assess the implications of a particular development in respect to the particular impact pathway the EDP is addressing. It is likely that EDPs will cover strategic issues such as nutrient neutrality, recreation or air quality.
- 11.6 Until such time as the Bill becomes law and further clarity is available on how EDPs might work and when the Nature Restoration Fund might be operational, it will be necessary to assume that Dorset Council, as the competent authority, must assess all impact pathways. The Plan will need to be assessed in light of the legislation and legal requirements in place at the time, and as such it is necessary to ensure all impacts are identified in the early stages of the Plan and necessary mitigation identified and secured.

Further evidence gathering and work to inform further HRA work

- 11.7 We flag the following evidence gathering and other steps necessary to inform further updates of the HRA and to inform the progression of the Plan.

Habitat loss

- Revision of site opportunity boundaries or clear policy wording for individual sites to ensure no direct habitat loss (i.e. where site opportunity boundary shows it overlaps a European site).
- Clear policy wording around coastal defences to ensure Plan is consistent with the SMP and HRA work that accompanies the SMP.

²⁰ The bill is yet to receive Royal Assent, see <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3946> for background and details of progress.

General urban effects

- Site opportunities identified as a risk, particularly those within 400m of the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar reviewed and boundaries amended, or policy wording inserted (ensuring development set back an appropriate distance).

Mobile species and impacts to functionally linked land

- A review of Greater Horseshoe records, mapping of flightlines/sustenance zones and work to ascertain where development may undermine the conservation objectives for the relevant SACs (the St Albans to Durlston Head SAC in particular). Key areas to focus on will be how bats move between the coast, Corfe Castle, Holton Heath, Blandford and the other key roosts.
- For Nightjar, a number of site opportunities have been identified where there are potential risks and these will require additional data and potentially survey work (potentially using acoustic monitoring, GPS tags or field surveys) to ascertain use by foraging Nightjar.
- Detailed work is required for the site opportunity west of Wareham in relation to functionally-linked land and use by waterbirds associated with Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar. This will need to include survey work over multiple years and assess the use of the marshes below the site opportunity as well as the fields themselves.

11.8 Recreation

- The existing strategic mitigation schemes (the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar, Chesil and the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar and The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar) will need to be updated and reviewed as necessary to ensure the strategic mitigation is secured for the necessary duration (i.e. in-perpetuity), is effective and can address the scale of growth proposed. Many of these schemes will require a significant update and major change to ensure they can meet these challenges.
- Modelling work and application of visitor survey data should be used to ascertain key locations that will be vulnerable on the Dorset Heaths as a result of the Local Plan (and other Plans in combination), to ensure mitigation is adequate and targeted to the right areas.
- Mitigation measures associated with the new growth will need to be checked in detail to ensure it is sufficient and in the right locations to address the cumulative impacts of the new housing. Significant mitigation measures, potentially in the form of strategic

SANG, are likely to be necessary and particularly vulnerable sites are the Wareham Forest area and the Winfrith/Tadnoll area.

- The following European sites will need work to check recreation impacts and identify mitigation measures or other steps to address risk (that may relate to specific site opportunities or need to be delivered strategically): Crookhill Brick Pit SAC; Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC; Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC; Rooksmoor SAC; Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC.

11.9 **Water quality**

- Checks with Wessex Water to ascertain the potential for the wastewater treatment system to accommodate the scale of growth proposed without undermining the conservation objectives of European sites.
- Mitigation in relation to nutrient neutrality secured on a large scale.
- A number of individual site opportunities will need to be checked for impacts alone in relation to run-off, contamination and flooding risks. This includes the site opportunities around Lytchett Minster where risks have long been recognised with respect to Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar.

11.10 **Water quantity**

- Check that the conclusions made in the Wessex Water WRMP HRA are valid and, should the level of growth in the Plan be higher, further assurance and liaison with Wessex Water will be necessary.

11.11 **Air quality**

- Traffic modelling to ascertain possible changes in traffic flow on relevant roads as a result of the Plans.
- Detailed work on each of the European sites identified in Table 8 to ascertain the distribution of vulnerable features in relation to the areas potentially affected by increases in traffic.
- Air quality modelling commission as relevant (building on steps above).
- Potential need for mitigation depending on results of air quality modelling.
- Review of the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar air quality mitigation strategy to ensure it is adequate to address the risks identified.

References

- Alexander, I., Cresswell, B., 1990. Foraging by Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* away from their nesting areas. *Ibis* 132, 568–574.
- Chapman, C., Tyldesley, D., 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects – a review of authoritative decisions (Natural England Commissioned Report No. NECR207). Natural England.
- CIEEM, 2021. Advice on Ecological Assessment of Air Quality Impacts. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
- Cresswell, B., 1996. Nightjars - some aspects of their behaviour and conservation. *British Wildlife* 7, 297–304.
- Durell, L.V. dit S.E.A., Stillman, R.A., Caldow, R.W.G., McGrorty, S., West, A.D., Humphreys, J., 2006. Modelling the effect of environmental change on shorebirds: A case study on Poole Harbour, UK. *Biological Conservation* 131, 459–473.
- Evens, R., Beenaerts, N., Witters, N., Artois, T., 2017. Study on the foraging behaviour of the European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* reveals the need for a change in conservation strategy in Belgium. *Journal of Avian Biology* 48, 1238–1245. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jav.00996>
- Flanders, J., Jones, G., 2009. Roost Use, Ranging Behavior, and Diet of Greater Horseshoe Bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) Using a Transitional Roost | *Journal of Mammalogy* | Oxford Academic. *Journal of Mammalogy* 90, 888–896.
- Hall, C., 2016. Mitigating the impacts of pet cats (*Felis catus*) on urban wildlife (phd). Murdoch University.
- Hoskin, R., Liley, D., Underhill-Day J., 2018. Poole Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Modifications to the Pre-submission Draft (No. 488). Footprint Ecology / Borough of Poole.
- Liley, D., Clarke, R.T., Underhill-Day, J., Tyldesley, D.T., 2007. Evidence to support the Appropriate Assessment of development plans and projects in south-east Dorset. Footprint Ecology / Dorset County Council.
- Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J., Cruickshanks, K., Fearnley, H., White, J., Hoskin, R., 2010. Purbeck Core Strategy, Implications of Additional Growth Scenarios for European Protected Sites. Footprint Ecology / David Tyldesley Associates.
- Natural England, 2018. Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations (NEA No. 001). Natural England.
- Riley, J., Down, G., Hoffman Heap, I., Jackson, S., Honey, J., 2016. Exploring Heathland Mitigation in Purbeck. Unpublished report by Aecom for Purbeck District Council.
- Souter, R., 2017. Canford Heath, Poole Nightjar Resource Use Study. Unpublished report by EPR for W.H. White Ltd.
- Souter, R., 2016. Canford Heath Poole: Nightjar GPS Study. Unpublished report by EPR for W.H. White Ltd.
- Tyldesley, D., Chapman, C., 2013. The Habitats Regulations Handbook, November 2024 update. ed. DTA Publications.

White, J., Hoskin, R., Liley, D., Sharp, J., Underhill-Day, J., Tyldesley, D., 2008. Nature Conservation Representations to the Secretary of State with regard to the Regional Spatial Strategy Proposed Changes on behalf of Purbeck District Council. Footprint Ecology / David Tyldesley Associates / Purbeck District Council.

Appendix 1: Summary of European sites

Summary of European sites and their interest features. Links in the site column relate to the conservation objectives page on the Natural England website for each site. # in the interest features column denotes an interest feature for which the UK has a special responsibility. Qualifying features are drawn from the Natural England designated site view; descriptions reflect text on the designated sites view page or that used in other relevant documents (such as the site improvement plan).

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Avon Valley Ramsar	Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> - Wintering Mixed floodplain habitats Wetland invertebrate assemblage Wetland plant assemblage	The site encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. The Avon valley has a greater range of habitats and a more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river in Britain. The valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadow.
Avon Valley SPA	Bewick's swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> - A037, nb Gadwall, <i>Mareca strepera</i> - A051, nb	See above Ramsar description
Beer Quarry & Caves SAC	S1303 <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> : Lesser horseshoe bat S1304 <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> : Greater horseshoe bat S1323 <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> : Bechstein's bat	This complex of abandoned mines in south-west England is divided in two by a road, with a working quarry to the north and a disused quarry and cave system to the south. This site supports important populations of hibernating bats. Its use as a hibernation site by the Bechstein's Bat is the primary reason for its designation as a SAC. The area also supports a significant presence of both the Lesser Horseshoe Bat and the Greater Horseshoe Bat which are both qualifying features but are not primary reasons for the site's selection.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Brackets Coppice SAC	S1323 <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> : Bechstein's bat H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows	Bracket's Coppice lies close to Corscombe in the vales of West Dorset. The site comprises oak and ash woodland, wooded stream valleys, and a mosaic of herb rich grassland and fen-meadow contained within small fields bounded by tall native hedges. The site is designated for Bechstein's bat and Purple moor-grass <i>Molinia</i> meadow. One of the first maternity colonies of Bechstein's bat was discovered using bat-boxes in this small woodland.
Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	S1065 <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> : Marsh fritillary butterfly H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC consists of a large area of semi-natural dry grassland on the west Dorset chalk. Dry valley slopes with a variety of aspects support extensive examples of CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland in the south-west of its UK range. A particular feature of this site is the presence of the <i>Succisa pratensis</i> – <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> sub-community, especially on south- and west-facing slopes. This type of calcareous grassland is almost entirely restricted to parts of Wiltshire and Dorset. On south-west-facing slopes, the nationally scarce dwarf sedge <i>Carex humilis</i> can be abundant in this sub-community. This site supports a large marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> metapopulation composed of two large and one smaller sub-populations which regularly expand into other nearby areas in favourable years. These colonies occupy calcareous downland situations and complement the wet grassland habitats of the other Dorset strongholds.
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks H1150# Coastal lagoons H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	A long linear shingle beach enclosing a brackish lagoon on the south coast of England in Dorset. The site comprises of the Fleet, the largest and best example of a barrier-built saline lagoon and Chesil Bank, one of the three major shingle structures in the UK. The salinity gradient, peculiar hydrographic regime and varied substrates, together with associated reedbed

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		and intertidal habitats have resulted in the Fleet being extraordinarily rich in wildlife. Chesil Bank supports important shingle plant communities.
Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	<p>Criterion 1: The Fleet is an outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat and is the largest of its kind in the UK. In Europe lagoons are classified as a priority habitat by the EC Habitats and Species Directive. The site also supports rare saltmarsh habitats.</p> <p>Criterion 2: The Fleet supports 15 specialist lagoonal species – more than any other UK site – and five nationally scarce wetland plants as well as ten nationally scarce wetland animals. Chesil Bank is one of the most important UK sites for shingle habitats and species.</p> <p>Criterion 3: The site is the largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK, and has the greatest diversity of habitats and of biota.</p> <p>Criterion 4: The site is important for a number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle including post-larval and juvenile bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>.</p> <p>Criterion 8: The site is important as a nursery for bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>.</p>	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 is one of the three major shingle structures in the UK. The salinity gradient, peculiar hydrographic regime and varied substrates, together with associated reedbed and intertidal habitats and the relative lack of pollution in comparison to most other lagoons, have resulted in the Fleet becoming extraordinarily rich in wildlife. Outstanding communities of aquatic plants and animals are present, supporting large numbers of wildfowl and waders. Chesil Bank is of great significance to the study of coastal geomorphology and supports nationally important populations of shingle plants and invertebrates. It is also an important breeding site for seabirds.
Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A050(NB) <i>Anas penelope</i> : Eurasian wigeon	A long linear shingle beach enclosing a brackish lagoon on the south coast of England in Dorset. The site supports large numbers of wintering waterbirds, including Wigeon. Chesil Bank is an important breeding site for Little Terns.
Chilmark Quarries SAC	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> S1308 Barbastelle bat, <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Chilmark Quarries SAC comprises two separate SSSIs situated in the Chilmark vale to the west of Salisbury: Chilmark Quarries and, 2½ miles further west, Fonthill Grottoes. They form a complex of abandoned mines and subterranean follies regularly used by an important assemblage of bat species

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
	S1323 Bechstein's bat, <i>Myotis bechsteini</i>	as a hibernation site. The extensive system of undisturbed mines, with their constant temperature and humidity, and the varied construction of the grottoes, provide suitable conditions for large numbers of wintering bats. The SSSIs are located in a varied landscape with a mix of woodland, pasture, parkland, river and hedgerows providing good quality foraging and commuting habitat.
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i> : Great crested newt	A disused brickpit which has important geological features and contains several ponds that support Great Crested Newts. The Site also contains a variety of habitats used by the newt, including grassland, scrub and quarry spoil.
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Fens and fen meadows (including Alkaline Fens, Molinia meadows, Calcareous Fens) Northern Atlantic wet heaths Southern Atlantic wet heaths Valley mires (and associated spring fed mires, bog pools, soakaways and transitions to swamp and saltmarsh) Wetland invertebrate assemblage Wetland plant assemblage	Extensive and fragmented, these heathland areas are centred around the estuary of Poole Harbour and are adjacent to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. The heathland contains numerous examples of wet heath and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are among the best of their type in lowland Britain. There are also transitions to coastal wetland and fen habitat types. The wetland flora and fauna includes a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce species, especially invertebrates.
Dorset Heathlands SPA	A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> : European Nightjar A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i> : Woodlark A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i> : Dartford Warbler A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i> : Hen Harrier A098(NB) <i>Falco columbarius</i> : Merlin	The Dorset heathlands is an extensive lowland heathland area in southern England. Formerly a single tract divided only by river valleys it is now fragmented. The heathlands comprise a wide range of different habitat types related to variation in soils, hydrology, water chemistry and land use history.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	<p>H4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>H2150# Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes H2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p>H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")</p> <p>H3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p>H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>H4020# Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></p> <p>H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>H91D0# Bog woodland</p> <p>S1044 <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>: Southern damselfly</p> <p>S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>: Great crested newt</p>	See SPA text above.
Dorset Heaths SAC	<p>H4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p>	See SPA text above.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
	<p>H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></p> <p>H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>S1044 <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>: Southern damselfly</p> <p>S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>: Great crested newt</p>	
Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	<p>H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i>: Early gentian</p>	<p>A large site, comprising of the edge of the north-east Dorset chalk escarpment. It supports a variety of scrub communities and dry calcareous grasslands. The variety of slope, soil and aspect provide habitats for a range of notable plant species such as Early gentian, Bastard toadflax and species of Orchids including Frog orchid, Fragrant orchid and Lesser butterfly orchid. Mosaics of grassland and scrub and a herb-rich sward provide the ideal conditions for rare and declining butterflies including; Duke of Burgundy, Silver Spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue and Marsh Fritillary.</p>
Great Yews SAC	<p>H91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles</p>	<p>Great Yews SAC is situated on gently sloping ground on the upper Chalk south of Salisbury, Wiltshire and comprises an extensive area of almost pure yew woodland with around 300 old trees, including many large and impressive individuals. The site has a long history as yew woodland and demonstrates the full structural and functional range expected of yew stands.</p>
Holnest SAC	<p>S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>: Great crested newt</p>	<p>Holnest encompasses around 20 ponds set in a mosaic of terrestrial habitats, including areas of semi-improved grassland, scrub and woodland bounded by fences and hedgerows. The ponds exhibit a range of sizes, profiles and origins, and include some recently-created ornamental ponds as well as traditional farm ponds. A large population of Great crested newts <i>Triturus</i></p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		cristatus is present, with over 200 individuals having been recorded at one pond in spring 2003. The woodland areas also provide ideal hibernation habitat.
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i> : Early Gentian	Jurassic and Cretaceous sea cliffs recognised as a World Heritage Site overlooking the English Channel in Dorset. The outstanding geology supports extensive swathes of calcareous grassland with early spider orchid and the endemic early gentian; sea cliff vegetation on hard rocks and a diversity of habitat on seepage rich slumping clays. A highly ephemeral drift line is present on sandy shingle throughout the site.
Lyme Bay & Torbay SAC	H1170 Reefs H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	The two sections of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC off the Devon coast of England contain a greater diversity of habitats than found in other existing SACs in the Western English Channel and Celtic Sea. Within the Lyme Bay Reefs portion, bedrock and stony reef, boulders and cobble and sediments comprise a type of reef uncommon in the region. This complex and diverse reef habitat supports particularly high species richness. Hydroids, anemones, sea squirts, sponges and corals populate the area to the extent the area has been identified as a marine biodiversity 'hotspot.' The pink sea fan and the nationally rare southern cup coral is found throughout the site. The diverse geology of the 'Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs' in Torbay, limestone reefs and outcrops, sandstone, slate reef, granite outcrops, and stony reef, supports a similarly rich assemblage of animal communities, including an extensive coverage of kelp and blue mussel communities on shallower reefs, and species of sponge, anemone, soft corals and crustaceans on the deeper reefs. The area also contains a diversity of wave-eroded sea caves at Babbacombe to Hopes Nose and Broad Sands to Berry Head. The freshwater and saltwater mix in these caves makes them some of the best examples of

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		coastal solution caves in the UK. The caves also support a richness of animal life including many nationally significant species such as sponges, pink sea fingers, burrowing anemones and southern cup coral.
Mells Valley SAC	H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>), (note that this includes the priority feature 'important orchid rich sites') H8310 Caves not open to the public S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	The Mells Valley SAC lies at the eastern end of the Mendip Hills in the County of Somerset. The site has three component sites: The Old Ironstone Works Mells, St. Dunstan's Well Catchment and Vallis Vale. The primary interest of the site is the maternity roost of Greater Horseshoe Bats <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> originally located in the Old Ironstone Works Mells site. Subsidiary interests are caves not open to the public located on the other two sites and an area of limestone grassland on the St Dunstan's Well Catchment site. The caves are used as a hibernacula by some of the bats from the maternity roost.
Mendip Woodlands SAC	H9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	The SAC comprises 4 individual woods in Somerset, all located on the southern slope of the Mendip Hills. 3 of the woods, Cheddar Wood, Ebbor Gorge and Rodney Stoke lie in the west of Mendip while Asham Wood lies in the east. Asham Wood and Ebbor Gorge are both associated with limestone gorges while Cheddar Wood and Rodney Stoke lie on the steep southern slope of the hills. Only one of the woods, Asham, has permanent streams running through it. All four woods are dominated by ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> while both Cheddar Wood and Rodney Stoke have a high population of small-leaved lime <i>Tilia cordata</i> . Notable species present include Purple gromwell <i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i> , Lily of the valley <i>Convallaria majalis</i> and Wild daffodil <i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> . All the woodlands were managed by coppicing and many were gradually reverting to high forest.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Poole Harbour Ramsar	<p>Criterion 1: The site is the best and largest example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics (a natural harbour) in Britain.</p> <p>Criterion 2: The site supports two species of nationally rare plant and one nationally rare alga. There are at least three British Red data book invertebrate species.</p> <p>Criterion 3: The site includes examples of natural habitat types of community interest - Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, in this case dominated by <i>Suaeda vera</i>, as well as calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i>. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance as few such examples remain in Britain. The site supports nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common Tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>.</p>	<p>Poole Harbour is a bar-built estuary covering an area of nearly 4000 hectares. The Harbour occupies a shallow depression in the acidic, tertiary deposits towards the south-western extremity of the Hampshire Basin and has been formed over the last 5000 years by a rise in sea level. The unusual micro-tidal regime means that a significant body of water is retained throughout the tidal cycle. The site therefore exhibits many of the characteristics of a lagoon. There are extensive intertidal mudflats supporting internationally important numbers of waterfowl in winter. These are fringed on the landward side by saltmarshes or reedbeds. The river valleys of the lower Frome and Piddle support grazing marsh which is also important for wintering waterfowl. Much of the catchment along the western and southern shores comprises the internationally important Dorset heathlands and there are unusual transitions from saltmarsh to valley mire. The Harbour is separated from Poole Bay by the internationally important Studland dunes and the site includes Littlesea, a large dune slack lake also important for wintering wildfowl.</p>
Poole Harbour SPA	<p>A026 <i>Egretta garzetta</i>; Little Egret (NB)</p> <p>A034 <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>; Eurasian Spoonbill (NB)</p> <p>A048 <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common Shelduck (NB)</p> <p>A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied Avocet (NB)</p> <p>A156 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed Godwit (NB)</p> <p>A176 <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>; Mediterranean Gull (B)</p> <p>A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Sandwich Tern (B)</p> <p>A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common Tern (B) Waterbird assemblage</p>	<p>Poole Harbour is a large natural harbour comprising of extensive tidal mudflats and saltmarshes, together with associated reedbeds, freshwater marshes and wetland grassland. It has a narrow entrance and a small tidal range and as a result, although classified as an estuary (several rivers flow into it) it has many of the qualities of a large lagoon.</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Prescombe Down SAC	<p>H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>), (note that this includes the priority feature 'important orchid rich sites')</p> <p>S1065 Marsh fritillary, <i>Eurodryas aurinia</i></p> <p>S1654 Early gentian, <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p>	<p>Prescombe Down is a botanically rich downland site in south Wiltshire, with a flora characteristic of the south and south-west chalk grassland. The site consists of a deep, forking, coombe system eroded into an escarpment of the Upper Chalk. The steep sides of the dry valleys exhibit a variety of aspect which is reflected in the species composition of the turf. The calcicolous NVC community represented at Prescombe Down is CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland. The site also includes areas of the mesotrophic grassland community MG5 <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> and transitions between the two.</p> <p>Prescombe Down holds a significant population of early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>. It is likely to be one of the two largest populations in Britain and in some years the site may have the highest population of this species. The downland also supports a rich butterfly community, including scarce species such as Adonis blue <i>Polyommatus belargus</i> and marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>.</p>
Quants SAC	<p>S1065 Marsh fritillary, <i>Eurodryas aurinia</i></p>	<p>The Quants SAC occupies the steep north westerly facing slopes of a spur of the Blackdown Hills around 8 miles south-west of Taunton. Situated close to the point at which the Greensand Springline meets the Keuper Marl, the site has a complex hydrology with some of the slopes being heavily flushed.</p> <p>Unimproved neutral grassland at this site contains the butterfly food plant devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> along with many other species including cowslip <i>Primula veris</i> and common bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> in a species- rich sward. The grassland is surrounded by woodland making this a</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		very sheltered site which supports a medium-sized population of Marsh Fritillary butterflies <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> .
River Avon SAC	H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> : Desmoulin`s Whorl Snail S1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> : Sea Lamprey S1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> : Brook Lamprey S1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> : Atlantic Salmon S1163 <i>Cottus gobio</i> : Bullhead	The River Avon SAC is one of the richest chalk rivers in Europe. It is important for its fish population, invertebrate, which include populations of Desmoulin's Whorl Snail and its in-river plant community habitat as well as bankside habitats.
River Axe SAC	H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot S1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> : Sea Lamprey S1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> : Brook Lamprey S1163 <i>Cottus gobio</i> : Bullhead	The lower reaches of the River Axe feature a mixed catchment geology of sandstones and limestones giving rise to calcareous waters and associated Water-Crowfoots <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and Water-Starworts <i>Callitricho batrachion</i> . The river also supports the significant presence of Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Bullhead and Atlantic Salmon.
Rooksmoor SAC	H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) S1065 <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> : Marsh Fritillary butterfly	Rooksmoor lies in the Blackmore Vale and comprises a series of species rich meadows and copses on heavy neutral to acidic soils over clay. Such agricultural unimproved grassland is now extremely scarce in Dorset and rare nationally. Rooksmoor represents approximately 5% of the remaining neutral grassland in Dorset. The grassland and adjoining woodland supports important assemblages of butterflies including probably the largest English population of the nationally scarce marsh fritillary and part of the only Dorset colony of the nationally scarce Brown Hairstreak.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Salisbury Plain SAC	<p>H5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calc grasslands</p> <p>H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia), (note that this includes the priority feature 'important orchid rich sites')</p> <p>S1065 Marsh fritillary, <i>Eurodryas aurinia</i></p>	<p>Salisbury Plain SAC is located in central Wiltshire. Salisbury Plain is an extensive and open rolling chalk plateau, with Parsonage Down on the southern edge of this and Porton Down to the south-west. The three constituent sites are located on chalk geology, cut by the tributaries of the Hampshire Avon. The soils are generally alkaline and free-draining, apart from places with overlying clay-with flints and long-term rainwater leaching and lessivage, which are more acidic.</p> <p>The defining habitat type is chalk grassland, also some secondary and ancient woodland is present. Juniper scrub is significant on parts of Salisbury Plain and much of Porton Down. Salisbury Plain is managed as part of an extensive military Training Area (SPTA). Porton Down forms part of the wider Porton Down Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (Dstl). Parsonage Down is part of a National Nature Reserve run by Natural England.</p>
Salisbury Plain SPA	<p>Hen harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i> - A082, nb</p> <p>Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i> - A099, b</p> <p>Quail, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> - A113, b</p> <p>Stone-curlew, <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> - A133, b</p>	See above.
Sidmouth to West Bay SAC	<p>H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>H9180# <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base rich soils associated with rocky slopes</p>	<p>Sidmouth to West Bay is an example of a highly unstable soft cliff coastline subject to mudslides and landslips. The principal rock types are soft mudstones, clays and silty limestones, with a small chalk outlier in the west. Vegetation is very varied, and includes pioneer communities on recent slips in addition to short-lived ephemeral and perennial species, calcareous grassland and scrub on detached chalk blocks, and extensive self-sown woodland dominated by ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> or sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>. This</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		mosaic of habitats makes this site rich in invertebrates, especially bees and wasps. The Red Data Book lichen <i>Parmelia quercina</i> occurs on ash Fraxinus excelsior trees.
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	H1150 Coastal lagoons	The Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC encompasses a series of coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes eight lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven to Lymington area, one lagoon at Farlington Marshes in Langstone Harbour, four lagoons located behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and one lagoon at Gilkicker, near Gosport. Each lagoon has its own unique conditions with salinities varying from brackish to hypersaline and substrates ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle. These sheltered conditions support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort (<i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i>), the nationally rare lagoon sand shrimp (<i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>) and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone (<i>Nematostella vectensis</i>).
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i> - Breeding Common tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> - Breeding Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i> - Wintering Estuary Little tern, <i>Sternula albifrons</i> - Breeding Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - Wintering Roseate tern, <i>Sterna dougallii</i> - Breeding Sandwich tern, <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> - Breeding Sheltered channel between island/mainland Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i> - Wintering Waterbird assemblage - Wintering	See SPA text below.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
	Wetland invertebrate assemblage Wetland plant assemblage	
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> - A616, nb Common tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> - A193, b Dark-bellied Brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> - A675, nb Little tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i> - A195, b Mediterranean gull, <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i> - A176, b Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - A137, nb Roseate tern, <i>Sterna dougallii</i> - A192, b Sandwich tern, <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> - A191, b Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i> - A704, nb Waterbird assemblage	<p>The Solent and Southampton Water is located in one of the only major sheltered channels in Europe, lying between a substantial island (the Isle of Wight) and the mainland, on the south coast of England. It stretches from Hurst Spit to Hill Head across Hampshire, and on the north coast of the Isle of Wight from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay.</p> <p>This area is a complex major estuarine system consisting of coastal plain estuaries including the Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, and the Hamble. Bar-built estuaries including Newtown Harbour and Beaulieu also occupy the Special Protection Area (SPA). The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their unusual tidal regime, including double tides and long periods of tidal stand at high and low tide.</p> <p>The Solent and Southampton Water is composed of extensive intertidal mudflats and sandbanks, inter- and subtidal rock, areas of saltmarsh, coastal lagoons, coastal reed beds, shingle banks, and grazing marsh.</p> <p>Estuarine sediments within the site support rich populations of invertebrates that provide an important food source for wintering birds. The Solent as a whole exceeds 90,000 waders annually and the mudflats, coastal lagoons, shingle and saltmarsh provide vital feeding and roosting grounds for these. The shingle banks also provide important breeding grounds for terns. The Solent also supports 10-13% of world's population of dark-bellied Brent geese, and 30% of the UK population. Besides using the mudflats and grazing marshes to feed, they also rely on farmland with cereals and pasture, and amenity grasslands outside the SPA boundary.</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	A191 (B) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich Tern A193 (B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ; Common Tern A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little Tern	Proposals to classify this SPA were approved in 2020. The SPA encompasses coastal areas used by feeding terns. Conservation objectives for the site are not available yet.
Solent Maritime SAC	H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time H1130 Estuaries H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide H1150 Coastal lagoons H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand H1320 Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('White dunes') S1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	<p>The Solent Maritime SAC is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their unusual tidal regime, including double tides and long periods of tidal stand at high and low tide. As a result, the Solent Maritime SAC is a unique suite of functionally linked estuaries and dynamic marine and estuarine habitats.</p> <p>The site has the largest number of small estuaries in the tightest cluster anywhere in Great Britain, with examples of coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore and Hamble) and bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). It is located in one of the only major sheltered channels in Europe, lying between a substantial island (the Isle of Wight) and the mainland.</p> <p>Sediment habitats within the site include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats, often supporting eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i> species), subtidal sandbanks, saltmarsh and natural shoreline transitions such as drift line vegetation. The Solent Maritime SAC is of particular interest as it is the only site to support all four species of cordgrass (<i>Spartina</i>) found in the UK, including the rare native small cordgrass (<i>Spartina maritima</i>).</p> <p>The Solent Maritime SAC also includes a number of coastal lagoons, sand dunes at East Head and at the time of designation supported a population of the rare Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>).</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar	<p>17 species of red-listed invertebrate (under criterion 2)</p> <p>Waterfowl assemblage of international importance (under criterion 5)</p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance (under criterion 6):</p> <p><i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian Teal</p> <p><i>Vanellus vanellus</i>: Northern Lapwing</p>	See SPA text below.
Somerset Levels & Moors SPA	<p>A142(NB) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>: Northern Lapwing</p> <p>A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick Swan</p> <p>A140(NB) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>: European Golden Plover</p> <p>A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian Teal</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage</p>	<p>The Somerset Levels and Moors are located in south-west England and are one of the largest and richest areas of traditionally managed wet grassland and fen habitats in lowland UK. The SPA is within this area and covers about 35,000 ha in the floodplains of the Rivers Brue, Parrett, Tone and their tributaries. The majority of the site is only a few metres above mean sea level and drains through a large network of ditches, rhynes, drains and rivers. Flooding may affect large areas in winter depending on rainfall and tidal conditions. Parts of the site in the Brue Valley include areas of former raised peatbog that have now been substantially modified by agricultural intensification and peat extraction. This has created areas of open water, fen and reedbed. The site attracts important numbers of waterbirds (swans, ducks and waders) in winter.</p>
South Wight Maritime SAC	<p>H1170 Reefs</p> <p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</p>	<p>The South Wight Maritime SAC runs the full length of the south coast of the Isle of Wight, from the impressive sea stacks of the Needles in the west to Bembridge Point in the east.</p>

European site	Qualifying features	Description
		<p>South Wight Maritime was designated as a SAC in recognition of its outstanding reef marine habitats and pristine sea cave systems. This European Marine Site is a dynamic site that boasts a variety of different types of reef including chalk, limestone, sandstone, clay/mudstone, greensand bedrock and boulder reef. South Wight Maritime SAC is also the only known location of subtidal chalk caves in the UK. These sea caves are of ecological importance with many hosting algal communities which are restricted to this type of habitat.</p> <p>The site's geological variety continues landward with Cretaceous hard cliffs, semi-stable soft cliffs and mobile soft cliffs featuring along its length. The exposed chalk cliff tops to the west support important assemblages of nationally rare lichens, including <i>Fulgensia fulgens</i>. The vegetation communities within the site include a mixture of acidic and mesotrophic grasslands, with some scrub and maritime species such as thrift (<i>Armeria maritima</i>). These cliffs are minimally affected by sea defence works and together they form one of the longest lengths of naturally developing soft cliffs on the UK coastline.</p>
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	<p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) S1304 <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>: Greater Horseshoe Bat S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i>: Early Gentian</p>	<p>Jurassic and Cretaceous sea cliffs recognised as a World Heritage Site overlooking the English Channel in Dorset. The outstanding geology supports extensive swathes of calcareous grassland with early spider orchid and the endemic early gentian; sea cliff vegetation on hard rocks and a diversity of habitat on seepage rich slumping clays. Sea caves and mine adits, a legacy of the stone quarrying industry, have created habitat for the greater horseshoe bat and a highly ephemeral drift line is present on sandy shingle throughout the site.</p>

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
Studland to Portland SAC	H1170 Reefs	The site is important for the outstanding diversity of its Annex 1 reef habitats. The site is situated on the south Dorset coast and extends from the Isle of Portland in the west to Swanage Bay in the east. Bedrock reef is the dominant reef type throughout the Studland to Portland SAC. It occurs in a variety of complex geomorphologic forms, including exposed chalk bedrock; exposed shales and clays; limestone and cementstone ledges; flat bedrock; areas of fragmented rock; and rugged limestone boulders providing deep gullies and overhangs. This mosaic of reef habitats support a diverse range of marine life including cup corals, sponges, anemones, nudibranchs and hydroids. Dense mussel <i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds are found to occur on bedrock associated with strong currents off the eastern side of Portland Bill. <i>Mytilus edulis</i> also occurs in high numbers in the infralittoral zones of the eastern reefs amongst kelp forests.
The New Forest Ramsar	<p>Criterion 1: Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.</p> <p>Criterion 2: The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.</p> <p>Criterion 3: The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and</p>	The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones. The suite of mires is regarded as the <i>locus classicus</i> of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK. The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, <i>Sphagnum</i> bog-mosses, Cross-Leaved Heath, Bog Asphodel, Common Cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
	scare wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.	
The New Forest SPA	<p>A072(B) <i>Pernis apivorus</i>: European honey-buzzard</p> <p>A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen Harrier</p> <p>A099(B) <i>Falco subbuteo</i>: Eurasian Hobby</p> <p>A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European Nightjar</p> <p>A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</p> <p>A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford Warbler</p> <p>A314(B) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>: Wood Warbler</p>	The New Forest is a large and complex ecosystem and one of the largest remaining relatively wild areas in the South of England attracting enormous numbers of visitors each year. The SPA supports an extensive and complex mosaic of habitats which hold internationally important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds.
The New Forest SAC	<p>H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>H3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p>H3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></p> <p>H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>H4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion roburipetraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)</p> <p>H9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</p> <p>H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy</p>	The New Forest is a large and complex ecosystem and one of the largest remaining relatively wild areas in the South of England attracting enormous numbers of visitors each year. The New Forest SAC supports an extensive and complex mosaic of habitats including wet and dry heaths and associated bogs and mires, wet and dry grasslands, ancient pasture woodlands, frequent permanent and temporary ponds and a network of streams and rivers. These habitats support an exceptional variety of flora and fauna including notable species such as southern damselfly, stag beetle and great crested newt.

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

European site	Qualifying features	Description
	<p>plains</p> <p>H91D0# Bog woodland</p> <p>H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>S1044 <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>: Southern damselfly</p> <p>S1083 <i>Lucanus cervus</i>: Stag beetle</p> <p>S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>: Great crested newt</p>	
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	<p>H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p>H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland</p> <p>H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>); Alder woodland on floodplains</p> <p>S1065 <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>: Marsh Fritillary butterfly</p> <p>S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>: Great Crested Newt</p>	<p>The SAC comprises mixed ash-alder woods found along the sinuous valleys in West Dorset. They have developed along the headwaters of alkaline streams and seepages having their origin in the chalk downland and issuing from the underlying Upper Greensand at its junction with the Gault Clay. The wetter woods or carr form transitions to drier oak-ash woodland as well as associated further transitions to base-rich fens, reedswamp, fen meadow and acid grassland. This mosaic of grassland and scrub habitat supports a population of Marsh fritillary species and combined with aquatic habitat in parts of the SAC provides ideal breeding and foraging conditions for the great crested newt.</p>

Appendix 2: Site opportunities screened in for general urban effects

The table below gives all site opportunities within 500m (or partly within 500m) of European sites potentially vulnerable to general urban effects. Values in the table reflect the distance (km) and only those of 500m or less shown in the table. Conditional formatting indicates distance, from low (red) to higher (green).

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/ARNE/004	Worgret Manor Farm	New residential site opportunity					0.09							
LA/BERE/010	Land South of Bere Regis - southern site	New residential site opportunity					0.35	0.35		0.35				
LA/BRID/010	West Bay Caravan Site	New residential site opportunity	0.16											0.24

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/BURT/001	Land off Common Lane	New residential site opportunity	0.14											
LA/CHIC/002/a,004/a	Land at Chickerell	New residential site opportunity				0								
LA/CHIC/011	Former Training Camp	New residential site opportunity	0.43	0.45	0.45									
LA/CMUL/007	Land at Blandford Road	New residential site opportunity					0.41	0.32		0.32				
LA/CMUL/012/a	Land East of Haywards Lane	New residential site opportunity						0.42		0.42				
LA/CMUL/026	Land east of Pine Road	New residential site opportunity					0.49	0.5		0.49				
LA/CROS/002	Land West of Crossways	New residential site opportunity					0.47	0.47		0.47				

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/FERN/011,012,015	North west of Longham roundabouts	New residential site opportunity						0		0				
LA/FERN/023, 024, 025,025a	Land between Award Road and Stapehill Road	New residential site opportunity						0.44		0.44				
LA/HORT/002	Crane Valley Golf Club	New residential site opportunity					0.39	0.04		0.04				
LA/LMUP/001,005,009,010	Bere Farm (West)	New residential site opportunity					0.4	0.4						
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm	New residential site opportunity					0.12	0.12		0.12		0.16	0.26	
LA/LMUP/004,011	Bere Farm (East)	New residential site opportunity					0.09	0.09		0.37		0.15	0.18	
LA/LMUP/012	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 4)	New residential site opportunity					0.47	0.47				0.35	0.35	

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/LMUP/013	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 5)	New residential site opportunity											0.03	
LA/LMUP/016,017	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm	New residential site opportunity					0.16	0.16		0.16				
LA/LMUP/022	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 10)	New residential site opportunity										0.25	0.03	
LA/LMUP/LM1	Land east of New Rd - LM1 greenbelt review	New residential site opportunity											0.5	
LA/LYME/002	West of Woodberry Down	New residential site opportunity												0.43
LA/LYME/004	Timber Vale Caravan Park	New residential site opportunity												0.14
LA/LYME/008	Strawberry Fields, Charmouth Road, Lyme Regis	New residential site opportunity												0.37

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/PORT/003	Portland Hospital	New residential site opportunity	0.37								0.25			
LA/PORT/017/a	South of Southwell	New residential site opportunity									0.26			
LA/SWAN/018	Swanage Farm - land north of Washpond Lane and west of Darkie Lane	New residential site opportunity									0.48			
LA/VERW/013,017,019	North of Edmondsham Road	New residential site opportunity						0.45		0.45				
LA/VERW/016,021	Land West of Manor Road, Land West of Manor Road	New residential site opportunity					0.34	0.34		0.34				
LA/VERW/024	Land to the west of Albany Drive	New residential site opportunity					0.29	0.29		0.29				

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
LA/WEYM/021	Land at Mountbatten Close	New residential site opportunity	0.45	0.47	0.47									
LA/WEYM/071	Land north of Bowleaze Cove way	New residential site opportunity									0.14			
LA/WMOO/004	Land to the south of Gulliver's Farm	New residential site opportunity					0.3	0.3		0.3				
UPTON	Land at Policemans lane, Upton (phase 2)	Residential site allocation brought forward					0.28	0.28		0.28		0.31	0.01	
CM2	Lockyer's School and Land North of Corfe Mullen (South of Wimborne Road)	Residential site allocation brought forward					0.4	0.4		0.4				
CHIC3	CHIC3: Land off Rashley Rd	Residential site allocation brought forward				0.36								

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
EL/PORT/011	Additional Land at Portland Port	New employment site opportunity									0			
EL/WMOO/004	Land adjacent to Stanford House	New employment site opportunity					0.17	0.17		0.17				
EL/PORT/010	Stone Firms Masonary Works, 99 Easton St	New employment site opportunity									0.33			
EL/SLSI/004	Guppy's Yard	New employment site opportunity					0.44	0.44		0.44				
EL/SLSI/003	Land at Brocks Pine	New employment site opportunity						0		0				
EL/WASM/006	Camp Farm	New employment site opportunity					0.22	0.22	0.38	0.22		0.4		
EL/WARE/002	Land at Sandford Lane	New employment site opportunity					0.47	0.47	0.47	0		0	0.05	

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
EL/FERN/013	Land at Ticketts Nursery, Hilltop	New employment site opportunity						0		0				
EL/CHIC/005	Link Park	Employment site brought forward				0.35								
EL/CHIC/004	Lynch Lane Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward	0.5	0.5	0.5									
EL/PORT/005	Inmosthay Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward									0.09			
EL/PORT/003	Tradecroft Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward									0.08			
EL/PORT/004	Southwell Business Park	Employment site brought forward									0.01			
EL/PORT/007	Osprey Quay	Employment site brought forward	0.01								0.39			

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
EL/WASM/001	Holton Heath Trading Park	Employment site brought forward					0.01	0	0.46	0		0.04	0.04	
EL/LMUP/001	Factory Road Trading Estate	Employment site brought forward										0.46	0.47	
EL/WARE/001	Sandford Lane Estate	Employment site brought forward					0.35	0.35	0.35	0		0	0.14	
EL/WASM/004	Romany Works Estate	Employment site brought forward					0.08	0.01		0.01		0.01	0.34	
EL/CCAS/002	Old Milk Depot	Employment site brought forward					0.31			0.31				
EL/VERW/003	Ebblake Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward					0.01	0.01		0.01				
EL/FERN/001	Ferndown Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
EL/WMOO/001	Gundrymoor Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				
EL/VERW/007	Woolsbridge Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				
EL/VERW/004	Ebblake Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward					0.22	0.22		0.22				
EL/FERN/003	Land East of Cobham Road	Employment site brought forward						0.3		0.3				
EL/SLSI/001	Military Vehicle Testing Ground	Employment site brought forward						0		0				
EL/FERN/002	Blunt's Farm Employment Site opportunity	Employment site brought forward					0.01	0.01		0.01				
EL/VERW/005	Woolsbridge Employment Site opportunity	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site_name	Type	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	Chesil Beach & the Fleet Ramsar	Chesil Beach & the Fleet SPA	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands SPA	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar	Poole Harbour SPA	Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
EL/WASM/002	Admiralty Park	Employment site brought forward					0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01		0.23	0.23	
EL/PORT/002	Portland Port	Employment site brought forward									0			
EL/WINF/001	Dorset Innovation Park	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				
EL/WINF/003	Enterprise Zone	Employment site brought forward					0	0		0				
EL/WARE/003	John's Road Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward										0.17		

Appendix 3: Site opportunities with potential for likely significant effects in relation to mobile species

Site opportunities selected where there are risks for mobile species.

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/ARNE/002,005,008	Little Farm	New residential site opportunity	142	Potential impacts to waterbirds associated with Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/003	Field west of railway line at Worgret	New residential site opportunity	57	Potential impacts to waterbirds associated with Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/004	Worgret Manor Farm	New residential site opportunity	300	Potential impacts to waterbirds associated with Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BERE/010	Land South of Bere Regis - southern site	New residential site opportunity	158	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/002,010	Coventry Lodge and West of Pardy's Hill	New residential site opportunity	72	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/003	Hillview and Moonfleet	New residential site opportunity	25	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/005	Lake Farm	New residential site opportunity	67	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/007	Land at Blandford Road	New residential site opportunity	30	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/CMUL/012/a	Land East of Haywards Lane	New residential site opportunity	210	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/014	Land West of Haywards Lane	New residential site opportunity	138	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/022	Part of Candys Farm (DC)	New residential site opportunity	170	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CMUL/026	Land east of Pine Road	New residential site opportunity	24	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/COLE/002	Canford Bottom & Udden's (east)	New residential site opportunity	220	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CROS/002	Land West of Crossways	New residential site opportunity	150	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CROS/004	Woodsford Fields	New residential site opportunity	400	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/FERN/002,007,032	south west of Longham roundabout	New residential site opportunity	208	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/FERN/003	Land opposite Dudsbury Golf Course	New residential site opportunity	60	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/FERN/011,012,015	North west of Longham roundabouts	New residential site opportunity	325	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/FERN/016,029,039	South east of Longham roundabouts	New residential site opportunity	637	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/FERN/023, 024, 025,025a	Land between Award Road and Stapehill Road	New residential site opportunity	168	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/FERN/033	Misty Meadows	New residential site opportunity	43	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/HORT/002	Crane Valley Golf Club	New residential site opportunity	984	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LALB/001	Land north of Wimborne Road	New residential site opportunity	800	Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
LA/LMAT/001	Land south of Middle Road	New residential site opportunity	41	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
LA/LMAT/003,012,020,024,027	South of Deans Drove	New residential site opportunity	69	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMAT/005,013	West of Wareham Road	New residential site opportunity	39	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
LA/LMAT/009	Land east of Foxhills Road	New residential site opportunity	48	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
LA/LMAT/029	North of Halls Road. Land south of LMAT 13 (inc lmat/026)	New residential site opportunity	150	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/001,005,009,010	Bere Farm (West)	New residential site opportunity	2718	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm	New residential site opportunity	care home	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/LMUP/004,011	Bere Farm (East)	New residential site opportunity	1,720	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/008	Post Green Farm	New residential site opportunity	96	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/012	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 4)	New residential site opportunity	144	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/013	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 5)	New residential site opportunity	250	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/014	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 6)	New residential site opportunity	140	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/015	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 7)	New residential site opportunity	79	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/016,017	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm	New residential site opportunity	192	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/022	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 10)	New residential site opportunity	30	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/LMUP/LM1	Land east of New Rd - LM1 greenbelt review	New residential site opportunity	77	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/MORE/003	Land adjacent to Deer Leap House	New residential site opportunity	40	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/MORE/007	Land west of Station Road	New residential site opportunity	107	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/PIMP/006/a	Hammetts Farm	New residential site opportunity	200	Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
LA/SWAN/005	Land north of High Street	New residential site opportunity	42	Within 4km of GHB roost St Albans to Durlston Head SAC
LA/VERW/013,017,019	North of Edmondsham Road	New residential site opportunity	139	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/VERW/016,021	Land West of Manor Road, Land West of Manor Road	New residential site opportunity	195	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/VERW/024	Land to the west of Albany Drive	New residential site opportunity	118	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WMOO/002	Land north of Azalea roundabout	New residential site opportunity	100	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WMOO/004	Land to the south of Gulliver's Farm	New residential site opportunity	48	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOD/001	Upper Woodsfords	New residential site opportunity	4,000	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/001	Brayton Plot	New residential site opportunity	51	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/006	Land at Wool 4	New residential site opportunity	186	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/007,009	Land at Wool 5 and Pug Pit	New residential site opportunity	98	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
LA/WOOL/010	Seven Stars Inn	New residential site opportunity	89	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/013	Land at Wool 2 - East of Burton Road	New residential site opportunity	248	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/014	Chalk Pitt	New residential site opportunity	43	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/WOOL/015	Land west of Burton Cross roundabout	New residential site opportunity	140	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LIS_F17	Land at Green Worlds	Residential site allocation brought forward	15	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
CRS1	Land at Crossways	Residential site allocation brought forward	500	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
WOOL3	North of railway line, Wool	Residential site allocation brought forward	35	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LYMT2	East of Wareham Road, Lytchett Matravers	Residential site allocation brought forward	95	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
UPTON	Land at Policemans lane, Upton (phase 2)	Residential site allocation brought forward	92	Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
CM2	Lockyer's School and Land North of Corfe Mullen (South of Wimborne Road)	Residential site allocation brought forward	138	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
CRS2	Redbridge Pit, Moreton Station	Residential site allocation brought forward	490	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
WOOL1	West of Chalk Pit Lane / Oakdene Road, Wool	Residential site allocation brought forward	320	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
WOOL1	North West of Burton Cross Rdbt	Residential site allocation brought forward	30	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
WOOL1	North East of Burton Cross Rdbt	Residential site allocation brought forward	90	Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/WINF/004	Playing field at Monterey Avenue	New employment site opportunity		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/BLFO/001	Land north of Blandford Bypass	New employment site opportunity		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/WMOO/004	Land adjacent to Stanford House	New employment site opportunity		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/SLSI/004	Guppy's Yard	New employment site opportunity		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/SLSI/003	Land at Brocks Pine	New employment site opportunity		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/LALB/002	Land south of Wimborne Road	New employment site opportunity		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/WASM/006	Camp Farm	New employment site opportunity		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
EL/WARE/002	Land at Sandford Lane	New employment site opportunity		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
EL/PIMP/003	Land north of Yarde Lane	New employment site opportunity		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/FERN/013	Land at Ticketts Nursery, Hilltop	New employment site opportunity		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/CROS/002	Hybris Business Park	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/CROS/001	Land at Crossways	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/WASM/001	Holton Heath Trading Park	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/LMUP/001	Factory Road Trading Estate	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/WARE/001	Sandford Lane Estate	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
EL/WASM/004	Romany Works Estate	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/CCAS/002	Old Milk Depot	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Corfe Castle
EL/LMAT/002	Freeland Busienss Park, Wareham Road	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath
EL/LMAT/003	Axiom Centre	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
EL/VERW/003	Ebblake Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/FERN/001	Ferndown Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/WMOO/001	Gundrymoor Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/VERW/007	Woolsbridge Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/VERW/004	Ebblake Industrial Estate	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/FERN/003	Land East of Cobham Road	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/SLSI/001	Military Vehicle Testing Ground	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/FERN/002	Blunt's Farm Employment Site opportunity	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/VERW/005	Woolsbridge Employment Site opportunity	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/BLFO/002	Holland Way	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/BLFO/003	Blandford Heights and Clump Farm	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
EL/BLFO/004	Sunrise Business Park	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/DURW/001	Old brewery workshops	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/BLSM/001	The Brewery	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/BLSM/002	Stour Park	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/WASM/002	Admiralty Park	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/WINF/001	Dorset Innovation Park	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
EL/BLFO/005	Land off Shaftesbury Lane	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/PIMP/001	Blandford Road	Employment site brought forward		Within 4km of Bryanston GHB roost
EL/WINF/003	Enterprise Zone	Employment site brought forward		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
GT/CMUL/001	County Farm - Candy's Lane	Gypsy & Traveller site		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
GT/SLSI/001	51 Wayside	Gypsy & Traveller site		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
GT/WOOL/001	Land between Meadow View and Lancresse	Gypsy & Traveller site		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Reason
GT/WLAN/001	Chipping Depot Woodlands	Gypsy & Traveller site		Potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
GT/LMUP/001	Land adjacent to Telephone Exchange	Gypsy & Traveller site		Within 4km of GHB roost at Holton Heath & potential impacts to Nightjar flight lines or foraging routes
LA/CHIC/002/a,004/a	Land at Chickerell	New residential site opportunity	165	Adjacent to Crookhill Brick Pit SAC

Appendix 4: Particularly large site opportunities with recreation risks

The table below gives all site opportunities of 300 dwellings or more that fall within the potential zones of influence or established zones of influence (see Table 5) and therefore pose particular risks in terms of scale of growth in a particular location. Values reflect the distance (km) from the edge of the site opportunity to the European site. 300 is chosen as a fairly arbitrary cut-off; with a typical occupancy of 2.4 people per dwelling it potentially represents 720 new residents. Grey cells indicate values below 1km and therefore particularly close. Site opportunities are ranked in order of size (number of dwellings).

Site ref	Site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heath's SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Rooksmoor
LA/WOOD/001	Upper Woodsfords	4,000	New residential site opportunity	11.3			1.5		7.2			
LA/STLB/006	North of Dorchester	3,500	New residential site opportunity	6.4					8.9			
LA/LMUP/001,005,009,010	Bere Farm (West)	2,718	New residential site opportunity				0.4		12.7	0.8		
LA/LMUP/004,011	Bere Farm (East)	1,720	New residential site opportunity				0.1		12.7	0.2		
LA/SHER/001	Barton Farm Extension	1,157	New residential site opportunity	13.1								
LA/SMAR/005,006,007	Land at Sturminster Marshall	1,000	New residential site opportunity				3.1					
LA/HORT/002	Crane Valley Golf Club	984	New residential site opportunity				0.0				8.4	
LA/GILL/005	Land North of Wavering Lane	800	New residential site opportunity					9.9				
LA/LALB/001	Land north of Wimborne Road	800	New residential site opportunity					9.6				
LA/FERN/016,029,039	South east of Longham roundabouts	637	New residential site opportunity				0.9		15.0		9.9	

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site ref	Site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Rooksmoor
LA/COLE/004,017,033	Land Adjacent to Pilford Heath Road	609	New residential site opportunity				1.3				13.0	
LA/WEYM/012	Wyke Oliver Farm (North)	554	New residential site opportunity		5.2				0.7			
LA/SHER/005,007	Land south of Bradford Road	540	New residential site opportunity	12.0								
LA/SMAR/014	Land west of A350	522	New residential site opportunity				4.0					
CRS1	Land at Crossways	500	Res. site allocation brought forward	14.3			0.6		6.1			
LA/FERN/019,031	Land to north of Ham Lane, Colehill	498	New residential site opportunity				1.2				12.3	
LA/BRWK/015	Land to the West of Knighton Lane (B)	490	New residential site opportunity	12.8			1.7		4.4			
CRS2	Redbridge Pit, Moreton Station	490	Res. site allocation brought forward	14.5			0.9		7.0			
LA/COLE/034	Land at Leigh Road	410	New residential site opportunity				2.8					
LA/CROS/004	Woodsford Fields	400	New residential site opportunity	13.5			1.4		7.1			
CHIC2	CHIC2: Chickerell Urban Extension East	393	Res. site allocation brought forward		1.4	0.7			4.6			
LA/SYMO/004	Land at South of A35 Higher Eype	372	New residential site opportunity		2.2				1.0			
LA/WEYM/070	Land south of Preston Road	361	New residential site opportunity		7.1				0.6			
LA/BEAM/003,004,006,007	Land at Tunnel Road	360	New residential site opportunity	13.9					10.8			
LA/CHIC/009/a	North Bank Farm	335	New residential site opportunity		1.0	1.0			5.0			
LA/CHIC/014	Land west of Southill	325	New residential site opportunity		1.8	1.2			3.8			
LA/FERN/011,012,015	North west of Longham roundabouts	325	New residential site opportunity				0.0				10.6	
WOOL1	West of Chalk Pit Lane / Oakdene Road,	320	Res. site allocation brought forward				1.6		4.4			
LA/WEYM/071	Land north of Bowleaze Coveyway	316	New residential site opportunity		6.2				0.1			
LA/COLE/014	Land off Willow Drive	306	New residential site opportunity				1.7				12.6	

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site ref	Site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar	The New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Rooksmoor
LA/STAL/008,010	Land east of Stalbridge Nature Reserve	305	New residential site opportunity					12.3				3.9
LA/ARNE/004	Worgret Manor Farm	300	New residential site opportunity				0.1		5.5	1.0		
LA/CANN/003	Land at Cannfield Farm	300	New residential site opportunity					1.6				
LA/MARN/007	Land east of Salisbury Street	300	New residential site opportunity					7.6				
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm		New residential site opportunity				0.1		12.0	0.2		

Appendix 5: Site opportunities below 300 dwellings and within 400m of European sites

Site opportunities in the table below are all within 400m of European sites that are vulnerable to recreation and therefore pose particular risks due to their proximity. Values give distance (km) for the European sites at risk. The site opportunities listed in the table below include those above 300 dwellings and therefore some also appear in Appendix 4.

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/004	Worgret Manor Farm	300	New residential site opportunity			0.0		
LA/BERE/010	Land South of Bere Regis - southern site	158	New residential site opportunity			0.3		
LA/BRID/010	West Bay Caravan Site	168	New residential site opportunity	0.1			0.2	
LA/BURT/001	Land off Common Lane	47	New residential site opportunity	0.1				
LA/CMUL/007	Land at Blandford Road	30	New residential site opportunity			0.3		
LA/HORT/002	Crane Valley Golf Club	984	New residential site opportunity			0.0		
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm		New residential site opportunity			0.1		0.1
LA/LMUP/004,011	Bere Farm (East)	1,720	New residential site opportunity			0.0		0.1
LA/LMUP/012	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 4)	144	New residential site opportunity					0.3
LA/LMUP/013	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 5)	250	New residential site opportunity					0.0

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/016,017	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm	192	New residential site opportunity			0.1		
LA/LMUP/022	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 10)	30	New residential site opportunity					0.0
LA/LYME/004	Timber Vale Caravan Park	72	New residential site opportunity				0.1	
LA/LYME/008	Strawberry Fields, Charmouth Road, Lyme Regis	108	New residential site opportunity				0.3	
LA/PORT/003	Portland Hospital	51	New residential site opportunity	0.3			0.2	
LA/PORT/017/a	South of Southwell	38	New residential site opportunity				0.2	
LA/VERW/016,021	Land West of Manor Road, Land West of Manor Road	195	New residential site opportunity			0.3		
LA/VERW/024	Land to the west of Albany Drive	118	New residential site opportunity			0.2		
LA/WEYM/071	Land north of Bowleaze Coveaway	316	New residential site opportunity				0.1	
LA/WMOO/004	Land to the south of Gulliver's Farm	48	New residential site opportunity			0.3		
UPTON	Land at Policemans lane, Upton (phase 2)	92	Residential site allocation brought forward			0.2		0.0
CM2	Lockyer's School and Land North of Corfe Mullen (South of	138	Residential site allocation brought forward			0.4		
CHIC3	CHIC3: Land off Rashley Rd	50	Residential site allocation brought forward		0.3			
EL/WMOO/004	Land adjacent to Stanford House	0	New employment site opportunity			0.1		
EL/PORT/010	Stone Firms Masonary Works, 99 Easton St	0	New employment site opportunity				0.3	
EL/WASM/006	Camp Farm	0	New employment site opportunity			0.2		
EL/CHIC/005	Link Park	0	Employment site brought forward		0.3			
EL/PORT/005	Inmosthay Industrial Estate	0	Employment site brought forward				0.0	
EL/PORT/003	Tradecroft Industrial Estate	0	Employment site brought forward				0.0	

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site opportunity site name	Number of dwellings	Type	Chesil & the Fleet SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Coastal SACS	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
EL/PORT/004	Southwell Business Park	0	Employment site brought forward				0.0	
EL/PORT/007	Osprey Quay	0	Employment site brought forward	0.0			0.3	
EL/WASM/001	Holton Heath Trading Park	0	Employment site brought forward			0		0.0
EL/WASM/004	Romany Works Estate	0	Employment site brought forward			0.0		0.0
EL/CCAS/002	Old Milk Depot	0	Employment site brought forward			0.3		
EL/VERW/003	Ebblake Industrial Estate	0	Employment site brought forward			0.0		
EL/VERW/004	Ebblake Industrial Estate	0	Employment site brought forward			0.2		
EL/FERN/003	Land East of Cobham Road	0	Employment site brought forward			0.3		
EL/FERN/002	Blunt's Farm Employment Site opportunity	0	Employment site brought forward			0.0		
EL/WASM/002	Admiralty Park	0	Employment site brought forward			0.0		0.2
EL/WARE/003	John's Road Industrial Estate	0	Employment site brought forward					0.1

Appendix 6: Residential site opportunities and Gypsy & Traveller sites within nutrient neutrality catchments

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
CRS1	Land at Crossways	Residential site allocation brought forward	500	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
CRS2	Redbridge Pit, Moreton Station	Residential site allocation brought forward	490	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
DOR6	Maltings and Maltings Mews, Brewery Square, Dorchester	Residential site allocation brought forward	76	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/BEAM/002	Shady Side, Axnoller Lane	Gypsy & Traveller site		River Axe SAC
GT/FRAM/001	Land to the north west of Marl House	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/LMUP/001	Land adjacent to Telephone Exchange	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/PIWL/001	Piddlehinton Gypsy Site	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/SAOR/001	By the Ford , also known as Land to the north of Moorway Lane	Gypsy & Traveller site		Parrett
GT/STLB/001	North of Dorchester	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/WEYM/003	Redundant Army Camp, Wyke Regis	Gypsy & Traveller site		Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
GT/WOOL/001	Land between Meadow View and Lanresse	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
GT/WSTA/002	Former highway north of B road	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
GT/WSTM/001	Valley View, Land south of Bridport Road	Gypsy & Traveller site		Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/002,0 05,008	Little Farm	New residential site opportunity	142	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/003	Field west of railway line at Worgret	New residential site opportunity	57	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/ARNE/004	Worgret Manor Farm	New residential site opportunity	300	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BERE/003	Land bounded by Snow Hill Lane (NP site opportunity_	New residential site opportunity	38	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BERE/010	Land South of Bere Regis - southern site	New residential site opportunity	158	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BROA/001	Land adj Folly Cottage	New residential site opportunity	89	River Axe SAC
LA/BRWK/001	Land adjacent to Broadmead	New residential site opportunity	80	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/003,0 06	Land at 3 South Drove & Land rear of 10 Martell Close	New residential site opportunity	70	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/004	Land between Osmington Drove & Friarmayne Farm	New residential site opportunity	105	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/007,0 12	Land south west of Recreation ground & Osmington Drove	New residential site opportunity	85	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/009	Land off Knighton Lane	New residential site opportunity	90	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/014	Land to the West of Knighton Lane (A)	New residential site opportunity	260	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/BRWK/015	Land to the West of Knighton Lane (B)	New residential site opportunity	490	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/CHIC/002/a, 004/a	Land at Chickerell	New residential site opportunity	165	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/CHIC/009/a	North Bank Farm	New residential site opportunity	335	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/CHIC/011	Former Training Camp	New residential site opportunity	30	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/CHIC/016,01 7	Land at Mandeville Road (combined)	New residential site opportunity	48	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/CHTR/002	Land at Herrison (Parcel B)	New residential site opportunity	60	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/003,0 04	Land west of Charminster	New residential site opportunity	200	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/008	Forston Clinic	New residential site opportunity	90	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/009/a	Land at Herrison (Parcel A)	New residential site opportunity	70	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/014	Land at Wanchard Lane (Phase 5)	New residential site opportunity	140	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/015	Ellerslie Close	New residential site opportunity	140	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/016	Dorchester Vineyard	New residential site opportunity	50	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CHTR/017	Charminster Depot	New residential site opportunity	30	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CROS/002	Land West of Crossways	New residential site opportunity	150	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/CROS/004	Woodsford Fields	New residential site opportunity	400	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/DORC/001	South of Castle Park	New residential site opportunity	120	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

D o r s e t L o c a l P l a n H R A (R e g u l a t i o n 1 8)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/DORC/004	Damers School Site, Trust HQ & West Annex, Dorset County Hospital	New residential site opportunity	95	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/DORC/012	Wessex Water Site	New residential site opportunity	30	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/DORC/016	South-West of Dorchester within bypass	New residential site opportunity	250	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/FRVA/001	Land betwixt former Railway and Chilfrome Lane	New residential site opportunity	46	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/001	Land south of Middle Road	New residential site opportunity	41	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/003,0 12,020,024,027	South of Deans Drove	New residential site opportunity	69	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/004	Dyetts Fields	New residential site opportunity	36	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/005,0 13	West of Wareham Road	New residential site opportunity	39	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/007	Land at Blaneys Corner	New residential site opportunity	35	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/009	Land east of Foxhills Road	New residential site opportunity	48	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMAT/029	North of Halls Road. Land south of LMAT 13 (inc lmat/026)	New residential site opportunity	150	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/001,0 05,009,010	Bere Farm (West)	New residential site opportunity	2,718	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/002	Frenches Farm	New residential site opportunity	care home	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/004,0 11	Bere Farm (East)	New residential site opportunity	1720	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/008	Post Green Farm	New residential site opportunity	96	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/LMUP/012	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 4)	New residential site opportunity	144	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/013	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 5)	New residential site opportunity	250	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/014	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 6)	New residential site opportunity	140	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/015	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 7)	New residential site opportunity	79	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/016,017	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm	New residential site opportunity	192	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/022	Land at Lytchett Minster & Bere Farm (Parcel 10)	New residential site opportunity	30	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/LMUP/LM1	Land east of New Rd - LM1 greenbelt review	New residential site opportunity	77	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/001	Land west of Milton Road Close	New residential site opportunity	41	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/003	Land south of Blandford Hill	New residential site opportunity	97	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/005	Land north of Blandford Hill	New residential site opportunity	47	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/006	Land south of A354	New residential site opportunity	34	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/007	Land west of Bladen View	New residential site opportunity	58	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/009	Farm buildings and Land at Manor Farm	New residential site opportunity	30	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILB/010	Land to the west of Milborne Business Centre	New residential site opportunity	35	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MILT/004	Land at Catherines Well	New residential site opportunity	60	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/MORE/003	Land adjacent to Deer Leap House	New residential site opportunity	40	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MORE/007	Land west of Station Road	New residential site opportunity	107	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/MOST/002	Land adjoining the Bushels	New residential site opportunity	21	River Axe SAC
LA/MOST/004	Whites Meadow	New residential site opportunity	38	River Axe SAC
LA/PUDD/001	Athelhampton Road (adjoining Chapel Ground)	New residential site opportunity	100	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/PUDD/005	Land off Athelhampton Road (Rod Hill Lane)	New residential site opportunity	102	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/PUDD/007	The Coombe	New residential site opportunity	56	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/SHER/001	Barton Farm Extension	New residential site opportunity	1,157	Parrett
LA/SHER/004	Land north of Bradford Road	New residential site opportunity	240	Parrett
LA/SHER/005,007	Land south of Bradford Road	New residential site opportunity	540	Parrett
LA/SHER/006,008	Land south of Lenthay Road	New residential site opportunity	63	Parrett
LA/SHER/010a	Yeatman Hospital and Newell House	New residential site opportunity	53	Parrett
LA/SHER/011	Aldhelmsted East School	New residential site opportunity	30	Parrett
LA/STLB/006	North of Dorchester	New residential site opportunity	3,500	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/THOR/003	Land at Longford Road	New residential site opportunity	105	Parrett

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/THOR/004	Land at Pound Road	New residential site opportunity	74	Parrett
LA/WARE/011	Land West of Westminster Road Industrial Estate	New residential site opportunity	120	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WEKN/003	Land west of Highgate Lane	New residential site opportunity	70	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WEYM/021	Land at Mountbatten Close	New residential site opportunity	40	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/WEYM/024	Land at Lanehouse Rock Road	New residential site opportunity	100	Chesil and the Fleet SAC/Ramsar/SPA
LA/WIAB/002,003,004	North west of Winterbourne Abbas	New residential site opportunity	50	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOD/001	Upper Woodsfords	New residential site opportunity	4,000	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/001	Brayton Plot	New residential site opportunity	51	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/006	Land at Wool 4	New residential site opportunity	186	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/007,009	Land at Wool 5 and Pug Pit	New residential site opportunity	98	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/010	Seven Stars Inn	New residential site opportunity	89	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/013	Land at Wool 2 - East of Burton Road	New residential site opportunity	248	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/014	Chalk Pitt	New residential site opportunity	43	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WOOL/015	Land west of Burton Cross roundabout	New residential site opportunity	140	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LA/WSTM/002	North of Park Farm	New residential site opportunity	40	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
LA/YETM/001	Land east of Thornford Road	New residential site opportunity	85	Parrett
LA/YETM/002	Land North of Chapel Meadow	New residential site opportunity	60	Parrett
LA/YETM/004	Land west of Melbury Road	New residential site opportunity	55	Parrett
LYMT2	East of Wareham Road, Lytchett Matravers	Residential site allocation brought forward	95	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LYMT3	Blaney's Corner, Lytchett Matravers	Residential site allocation brought forward	25	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
LYMT4	East of Flowers Drove, Lytchett Matravers	Residential site allocation brought forward	28	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
SHER4	SHER4: Former Gasworks	Residential site allocation brought forward	45	Parrett
UPTON	Land at Policemans lane, Upton (phase 2)	Residential site allocation brought forward	92	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
WOOL1	West of Chalk Pit Lane / Oakdene Road, Wool	Residential site allocation brought forward	320	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
WOOL1	North West of Burton Cross Rdbt	Residential site allocation brought forward	30	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
WOOL1	North East of Burton Cross Rdbt	Residential site allocation brought forward	90	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar
WOOL3	North of railway line, Wool	Residential site allocation brought forward	35	Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar

Dorset Local Plan HRA (Regulation 18)

Site Ref	Site Name	Type	Dwellings	Catchment
GT/SHAF/002	'Orchid View'	Gypsy & Traveller site		River Avon SAC
EL/SHAF/002	Wincombe Business Park	Employment site brought forward		River Avon SAC
LA/CANN/003	Land at Cannfield Farm	New residential site opportunity	300	River Avon SAC
EL/SHAF/004	Blackmore Creamery	Employment site brought forward		River Avon SAC
EL/SHAF/001	Land North of Blackmore Vale Dairy	New employment site opportunity		River Avon SAC
	Land SE of Wincombe Lane	Residential site allocation brought forward	60	River Avon SAC
LA/SHAF/014	Land south of Wincombe Lane	New residential site opportunity	130	River Avon SAC
LA/SHAF/011	Land north of Mampitts Lane	New residential site opportunity	82	River Avon SAC
LA/SHAF/010	Land south of Mampitts Lane	New residential site opportunity	90	River Avon SAC
LA/SHAF/007	Wessex Saleground, north of Salisbury Road	New residential site opportunity	90	River Avon SAC
LA/SHAF/004	Land between Higher Wincombe Farm and Wildflower Lane	New residential site opportunity	43	River Avon SAC