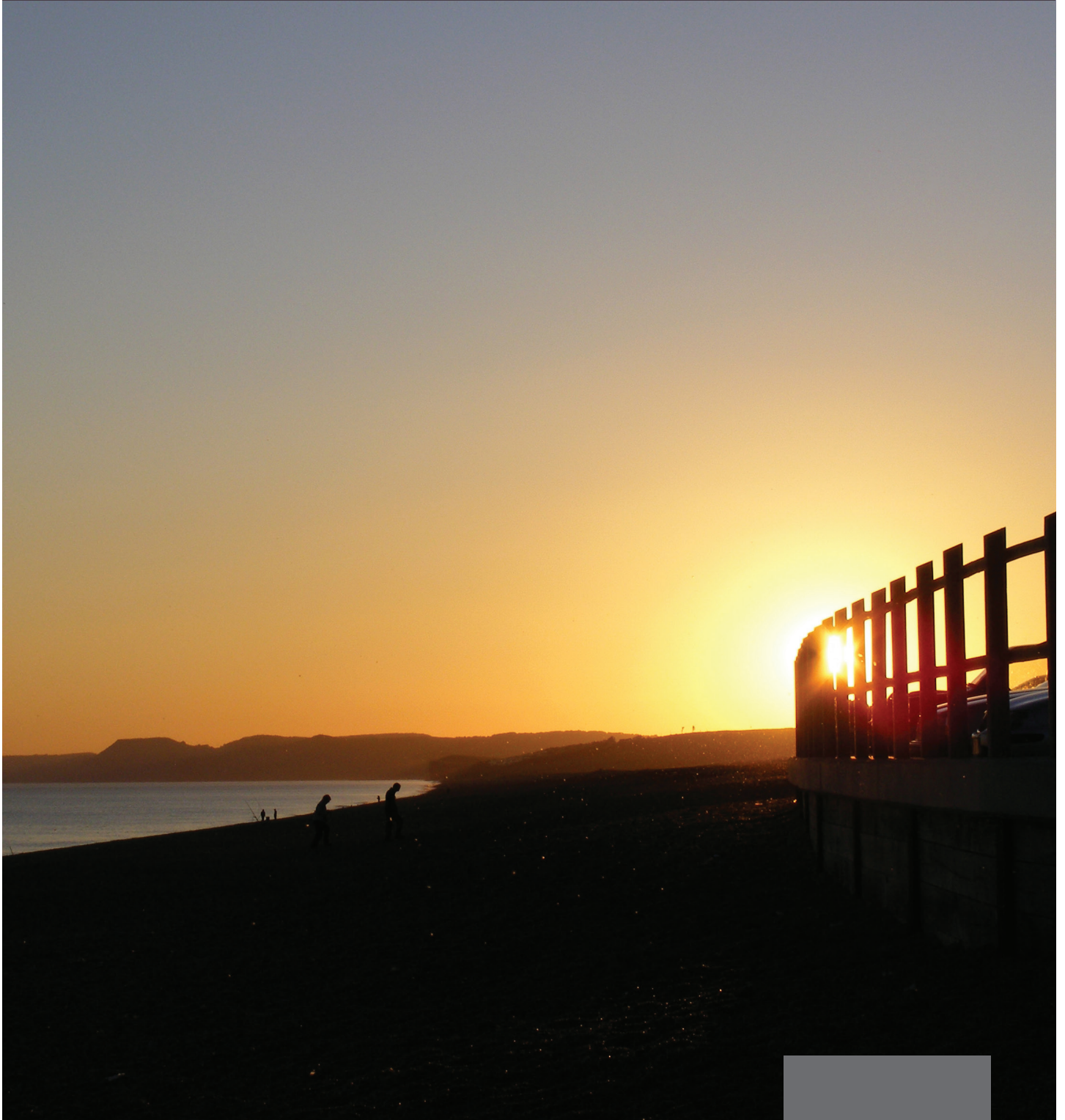


West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan Review

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Scoping Report



JULY 2016

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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1 Introduction

- 1.0.1 This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the review of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan ('Local Plan Review').
- 1.0.2 The objective of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to ensure that the Local Plan Review considers how it contributes to achieving sustainable development.
- 1.0.3 The first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process is the scoping stage. The purpose of the scoping stage is to identify the key environmental, social and economic issues for the Local Plan Review.
- 1.0.4 Once identified, these key issues are used to develop a series of sustainability objectives during the scoping stage.
- 1.0.5 The sustainability objectives are later used as criteria to test the policies which come forward through the Local Plan Review process, with the aim of ensuring that these policies contribute towards achieving sustainable development.

1.1. WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

- 1.1.1 In 1987, the World Commission ¹ provided the following definition of sustainable development:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

- 1.1.2 This definition is used in the European Union's European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006), which introduces the European wide policy framework to deliver sustainable development.

- 1.1.3 In 2005, the UK Government produced a Sustainable Development Strategy which developed the definition of sustainable development slightly further by aiming to:

"enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations."

- 1.1.4 The UK Sustainable Development Strategy also establishes the five guiding principles which form the basis for sustainable development in the UK, which are:

- **Living within environmental limits:** Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity - to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations;

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development's (the Brundtland Commission) report Our Common Future (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

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- **Ensuring a strong healthy and just society:** Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all;
- **Achieving a sustainable economy:** Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays) and efficient resource use is incentivised;
- **Using sound science responsibly:** Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values; and
- **Promoting good governance:** Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity.

1.1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework, produced in 2012, sets out the Government’s planning policy for England and breaks down the concept of sustainable development to provide an explanation of the term in the context of the planning system:

“Sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don’t mean worse lives for future generations.

Development means growth. We must accommodate the new ways by which we will earn our living in a competitive world. We must house a rising population, which is living longer and wants to make new choices. We must respond to the changes that new technologies offer us. Our lives, and the places in which we live them, can be better, but they will certainly be worse if things stagnate.”

1.1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework also identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and Environmental, and identifies the need for the planning system to perform the following roles:

- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 1.1.7 In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly provided a series of sustainable development goals and targets which also intend to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

1.2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 1.2.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment ('the SEA Directive') states that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is mandatory for plans prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes.
- 1.2.2 The SEA Directive is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), which requires the Sustainability Appraisal of local development plan documents. The Sustainability Appraisal is wider in scope than Strategic Environmental Assessment, considering the social and economic effects of plans in addition to the environmental effects required by the SEA Directive. The combined Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process is referred to as Sustainability Appraisal in this document.
- 1.2.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (2012) state that a sustainability appraisal report must be completed for Local Plan documents in accordance with section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework reiterates the requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal of Local Plan documents, stating that:
- “a sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors”.

1.3. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

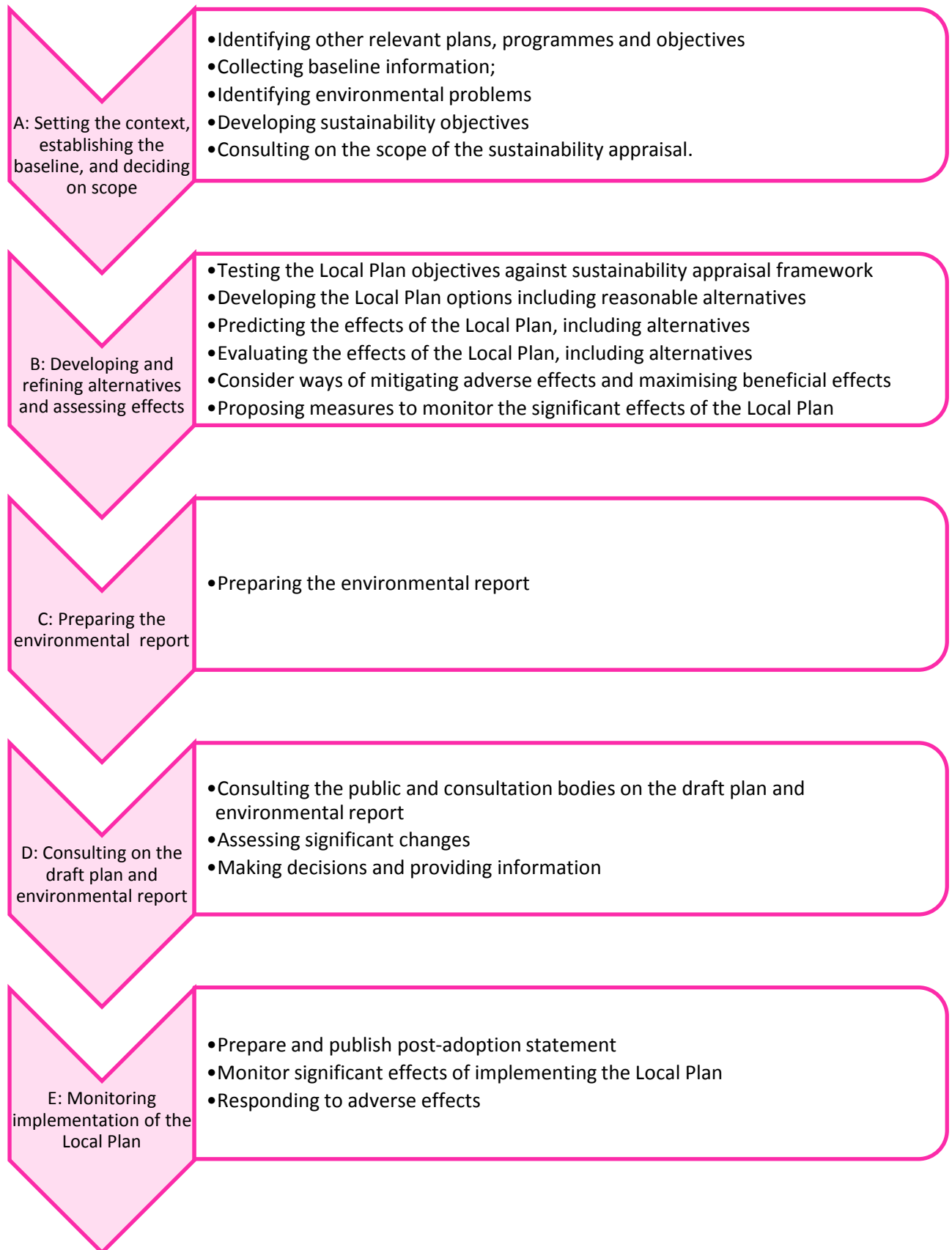
- 1.3.1 The Government's guidance² on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal sets out five key stages in the preparation of Sustainability Appraisal for Local Plans, which are shown in Figure 1.1.

² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

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Figure 1.1: The key stages of sustainability appraisal



1.3.2 The scoping stage, which is presented in this report, represents stage A of the sustainability appraisal process and involves the following steps as shown in figure 1.1

- **Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and objectives:** Reviewing the plans and programmes which are relevant to the Local Plan Review helps to identify other objectives and targets so they can be reflected in the sustainability objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal. This prevents conflict between the Local Plan and other documents, and takes advantage of the common objectives between the Local Plan and other documents.

The key messages from the review of other plans, programmes and objectives are presented for each environmental topic, with the full review of the documents presented in Appendix A.

- **Collecting baseline information:** Characterising the state of the environment in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland helps to identify the key sustainability issues that the Sustainability Appraisal should focus on, and provides a benchmark for the appraisal of the significance of effects and for the purposes of monitoring.
- **Identifying environmental problems:** The main environmental, social and economic issues and problems from the review of other plans and programmes and from the characteristics of the plan area are presented in this section. The purpose of identifying the key environmental problems is to streamline the information gathered at the previous stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process in order to help focus the sustainability objectives.
- **Developing sustainability objectives:** The sustainability objectives are informed by the findings of the review of plans and programmes, the characteristics of the plan area, and the key issues within the plan area. This ensures that the sustainability objectives are relevant and specific to the Local Plan and address the key sustainability concerns.
- **Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal:** The statutory consultation bodies and key stakeholders will be consulted on the scope of the sustainability appraisal

1.3.3 The Sustainability Appraisal process is iterative, in that the stages of the Sustainability Appraisal occur alongside the development of the review of the Local Plan, feeding into its development throughout the plan making process. Figure 1.2³ is taken from the Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal for Local Plans, and shows the key stages of the sustainability appraisal and how they fit with the Local Plan review process.

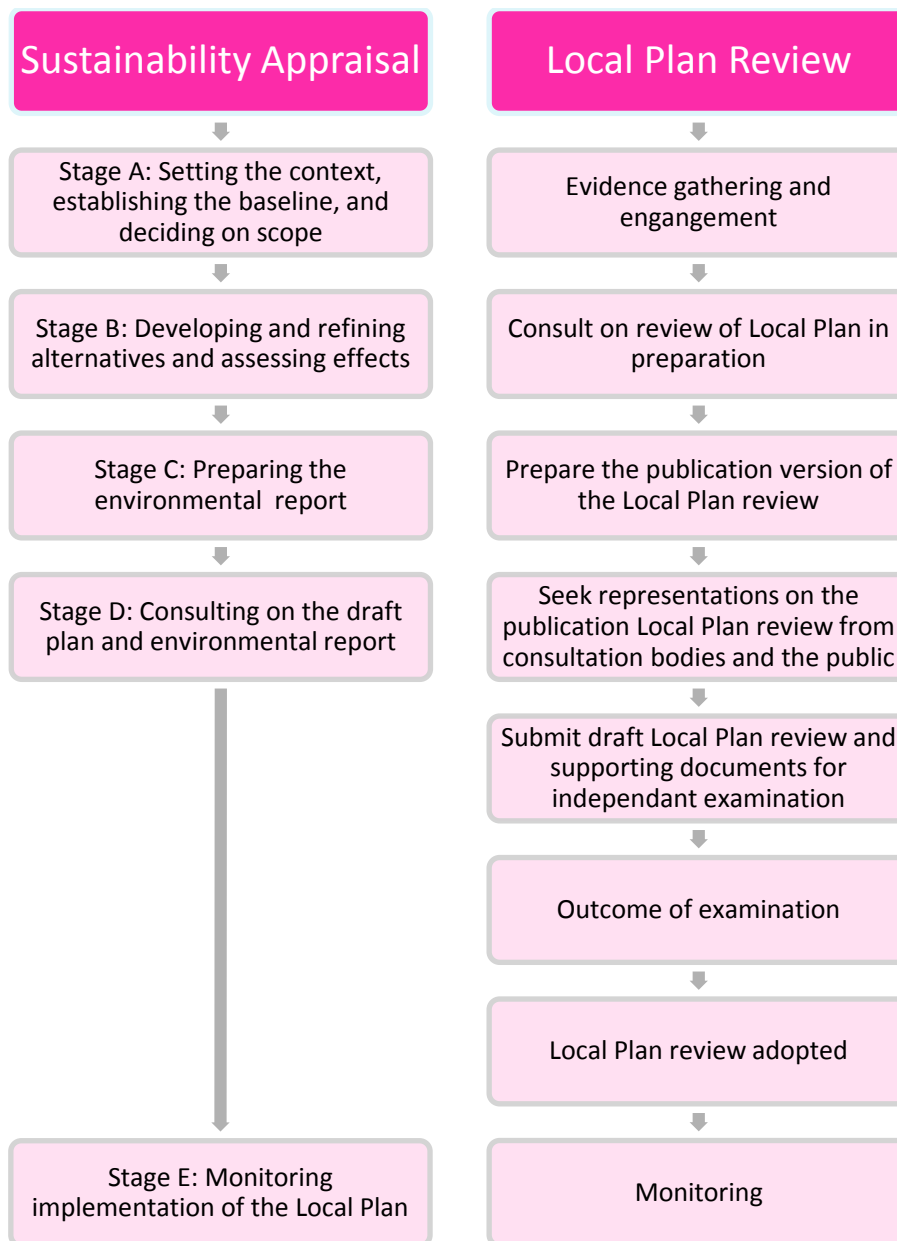
1.3.4 The scoping stage of the sustainability appraisal occurs alongside the evidence gathering and engagement stage of the Local Plan review.

³ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

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Figure 1.2: The key stages of sustainability appraisal alongside the development of the Local Plan review



1.3.5 Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) lists a series of environmental issues which the sustainability appraisal should consider, which are:

- Biodiversity;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Fauna;
- Flora;

- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage); and
- Landscape

1.3.6 This scoping report considers each of these environmental issues in turn, considering other relevant plans, programmes and objectives, collecting baseline information, and identifying environmental problems for each environmental issue before developing the sustainability objectives.

1.3.7 Consultation on the Scoping Report was undertaken in March and April 2016 with the statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) and other key stakeholders. The representations made during the consultation and the Council's response to these comments are presented in Appendix B.

1.4. THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

1.4.1 The joint West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan ('Local Plan') was adopted by West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Council in October 2015.

1.4.2 The Local Plan sets out the housing and employment land requirements for the entire administrative area of West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland. It includes visions for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland, a number of strategic objectives and sets out a strategic approach to deliver the visions and objectives. In addition, the Local Plan provides a detailed policy framework which includes policies to aid in achieving the Plan's strategic objectives.

1.4.3 The Planning Inspector, in his report following the examination in public of the Local Plan, wrote:

"I consider it is imperative that an early review is undertaken to identify additional land capable of meeting housing needs to the end of the current plan period as well as the broad location for development in the five year period thereafter.....I therefore recommend a review should be in place no later than 2021, if not earlier, to avoid development having to be allowed in locations which are not favoured or are in less sustainable locations"

1.4.4 In light of this recommendation, the Councils are proposing to begin a review of the Local Plan as soon as possible to ensure that the review is in place by 2021.

1.4.5 Considering the recommendation from the Inspector, the Councils will need to satisfy housing demands up to the period of 2036. The Local Plan review is likely to make

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provision for additional new homes to cover both the shortfall in housing up until 2031 (which amounts to 645 homes) and to meet the identified housing needs for the further five year period between 2031 and 2036 (which is 3,875 homes). Therefore, if the Local Plan Review covers the period to 2036, it will need to make provision for 4,520 new homes, on the basis of the most up-to-date evidence (the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2014).

- 1.4.6 In view of the Inspector’s recommendation, the Councils will also review the available land to meet the demand for employment. The overall levels of employment land provision in the Local Plan exceed the demand up to 2031, and may be sufficient to meet the demand for the period up to 2036. However, the need for employment land for the period up to 2036 will be assessed as part of the Local Plan Review.
- 1.4.7 The supporting text to Policy ENV3 of the Local Plan indicates that a green infrastructure network will be identified and given significant protection from development. In the light of the Inspector’s recommendation that the Local Plan should be the subject of an early review, this issue will be addressed through the Local Plan Review rather than in a separate development plan document. In establishing the green infrastructure network, the Local Plan review will review the existing designations which are listed in paragraph 2.2.26 of the Local Plan, including:
- Areas / Land of Local Landscape Importance;
 - Portland Coastline;
 - Important Open Gaps;
 - Historically Important Spaces (in Conservation Area Appraisals);
 - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest;
 - Local Nature Reserves;
 - Ancient Woodlands; and
 - Lorton Valley and Portland Quarries Nature Parks.
- 1.4.8 Policy ENV 7 indicates that Coastal Change Management Areas will be identified “*through a policy document*”. In the light of the Inspector’s recommendation that the Local Plan should be the subject of an early review, this will be the means by which this issue will be dealt with, rather than through a separate DPD, as indicated in the current LDS.
- 1.4.9 The Local Plan Review may consider revisions to other policies, in response to changes in national policy and legislation.

2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

2.0.1 This section considers the environmental issues of biodiversity, flora and fauna, and therefore focuses on the potential impacts upon habitats and species.

2.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

2.1.1 The United Nations developed a series of global development goals which aim to deliver sustainable development in the document titled **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)**. One such goal is:

- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

EUROPEAN

2.1.2 The European Union's **Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2013)** outlines the wider long term environmental vision for the European Union and includes the following aims:

- Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, including pollination, are halted, ecosystems and their services are maintained and at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems have been restored;
- Forest management is sustainable, and forests, their biodiversity and the services they provide are protected and, as far as feasible, enhanced and the resilience of forests to climate change, fires, storms, pests and diseases is improved.

2.1.3 The **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020** focuses more closely on biodiversity issues, and intends to achieve the following headline target:

- Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

2.1.4 This strategy intends to achieve this headline vision by achieving the following:

- Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services;
- Increase the contribution of agriculture to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity;
- Increase the contribution of forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity;
- Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources and achieve good environmental status;
- Help combat invasive alien species; and
- Help avert global biodiversity loss.

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2.1.5 In addition to the European strategies relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna, there is a broad range of relevant European legislation. The **EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC)** (“Habitats Directive”) and **EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC)** (“Birds Directive”) are key components of the European legal framework, and aims to protect of habitats and species through achieving the following goals:

- Maintenance of favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range
- Contributing towards ensuring biodiversity by protecting important natural habitats (approximately 220 listed in Annex I), and species of wild fauna and flora (approximately 1,000, listed in Annex II, species in need of strict protection, listed in Annex IV, and species whose taking from the wild can be restricted by European law, in Annex V) within the European Community.
- Using measures to ensure that habitats and species are maintained or restored at "favourable conservation status" in their natural range (Articles 3 and 4), through establishing a network of areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and by the management of landscape features of importance to wildlife outside SACs through land-use and development policy.

2.1.6 The **EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)** aims to protect and enhance biodiversity in the water environment through achieving the goal of:

- Preventing further deterioration and protecting and enhancing the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands.

NATIONAL

2.1.7 The **U.K Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)** has the objective of:

- Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

2.1.8 The Government’s strategic direction for biodiversity policy is presented in **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)**, which includes the following aims:

- to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

2.1.9 In terms of the planning system, this strategy intends to:

- Through reforms of the planning system, take a strategic approach to planning for nature within and across local areas. This approach will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance

natural networks. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system.

- 2.1.10 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, help to improve biodiversity. The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 2.1.11 To minimise impacts on biodiversity, the NPPF states that planning policy should:
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation.
 - promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.

LOCAL

- 2.1.12 The **Dorset Biodiversity Strategy (Mid Term review) (2010)** sets the priorities for Dorset's major biodiversity issues up until 2015, and includes the following guiding principles:
- Conserve existing biodiversity;
 - Conserve Protected Areas and other high quality habitats
 - Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species
 - Conserve and enhance local variation within sites and habitats
 - Make space for the natural development of rivers and coasts
 - Establish ecological networks through habitat protection, restoration and creation
 - Respond to changing conservation priorities
- 2.1.13 The **Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a Framework for the Future: AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019** has the following objectives relating to biodiversity:
- Restore, reconnect and manage terrestrial and freshwater habitats and associated species at a landscape scale to increase resilience to environmental change and maintain the services they provide
 - Safeguard irreplaceable biodiversity and restore lost or declining habitats and their associated species

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- Provide greater protection, conservation and understanding of marine and inter-tidal habitats in and linked to the AONB
- 2.1.14 The **Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative Catchment Plan (update) (2014)** intends to deliver improvements to Poole Harbour, for the environment and for wildlife as well as other receptors, with the aim of achieving:
- Improvements to biodiversity habitats both in the form of naturally functioning rivers, floodplains and wetlands and appropriately located woodland and low-input grassland.
- 2.1.15 **The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015-2020 (2015)** retains as its guiding principle that there is no net increase in urban pressures on internationally important heathland as a result of additional development, and intends to protect the integrity of the Dorset Heaths by:
- Improving the quality of habitat;
 - Reducing the effects of fragmentation and isolation by linking and securing sympathetic land use;
 - Implementing heathland avoidance elements of the green infrastructure

2.1. BASELINE INFORMATION

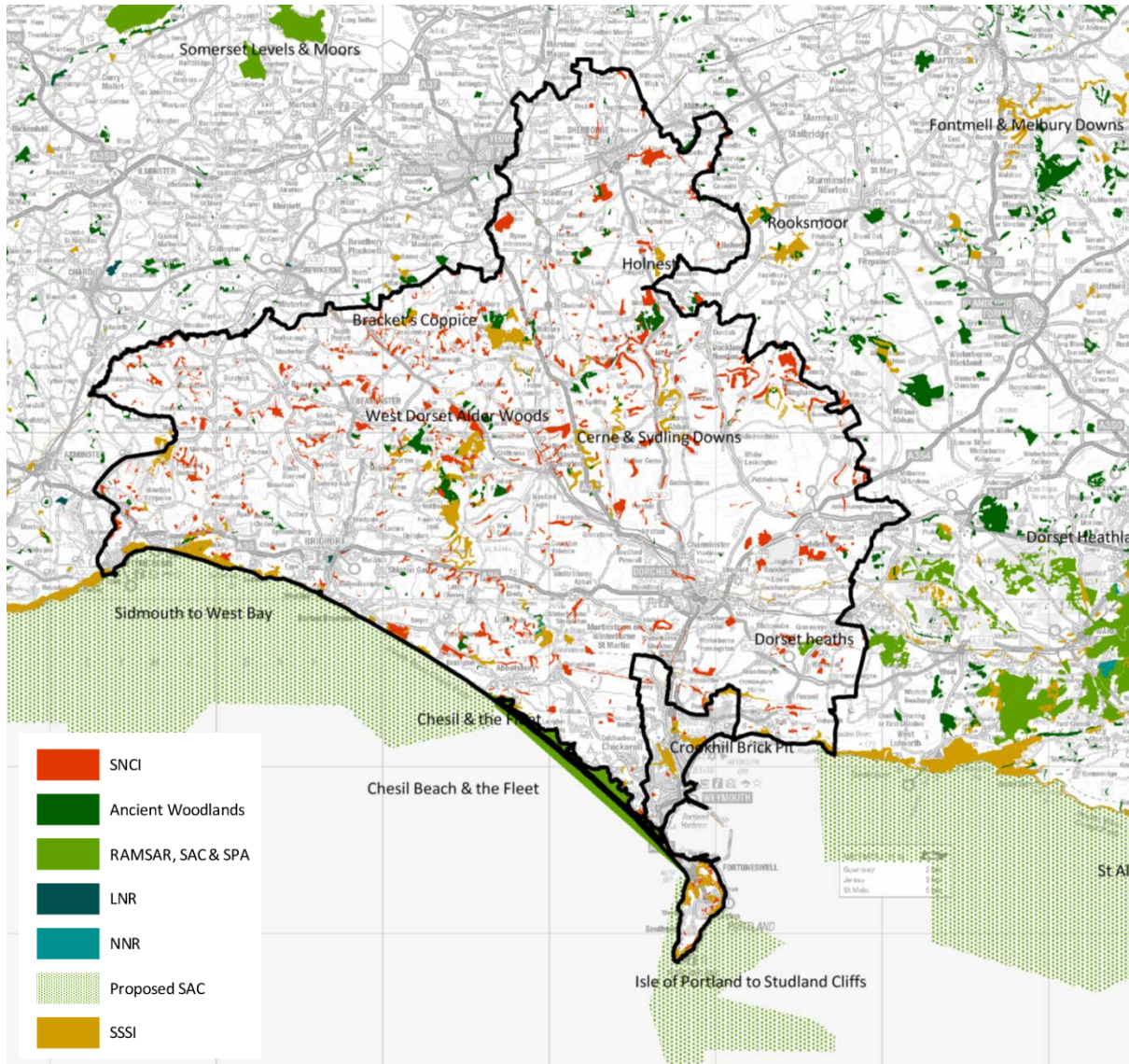
- 2.1.1 West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland is home to a diverse range of wildlife habitats and species.
- 2.1.2 The plan area, which spans the administrative areas of West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, occupies approximately 113,000ha, of which approximately 10,930ha was occupied with a local, national or international level ecological designation in 2015. Therefore, more than 9.7% of the plan area is occupied with an ecological designation (Figure 2.1).
- 2.1.3 The ecological designations within the plan area include:
- **European sites:** Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and proposed sites under consideration. Wetlands of international importance, which are designated under the Ramsar Convention, have similar status to European sites. Collectively, European sites and Ramsar sites are known as International sites. Approximately 3,200ha (2.8% of the plan area) of land is designated as International Sites within the plan area. Please note that all international sites also have SSSI status.
 - **National sites:** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are national wildlife designations and occupy approximately 4,370ha (3.9%) of the plan area.
 - **Local sites:** wildlife designations which are important on a local scale include Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) which occupy approximately 5,200ha (5.5% of the plan area) of the plan area. There are also Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and National Nature Reserves (NNR) within the plan area.

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2.1.4 The European Protected species that have been recorded within the plan area include sand lizards, great crested newts, bats, otters and water voles.

Figure 2.1: The location and extent of ecological designations within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland (European sites are labelled)



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2.2. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.2.1 The key environmental issues relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna are:

- The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems through the effects of development;
- The loss of wildlife corridors which provide important links between habitats. This issue, known as habitat fragmentation, prevents species from freely migrating between important habitats, causing populations to become isolated; and

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- Maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of International sites, designated under the Bird and Habitats Directives, and through the Ramsar Convention. The impacts upon the Dorset Heaths International site as a result of additional recreational pressure from development, and the impacts upon the Poole Harbour International site from additional nitrates entering the ecosystem partly due to additional development are particularly important within the plan area. To this end, a Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken alongside the review of the Local Plan.

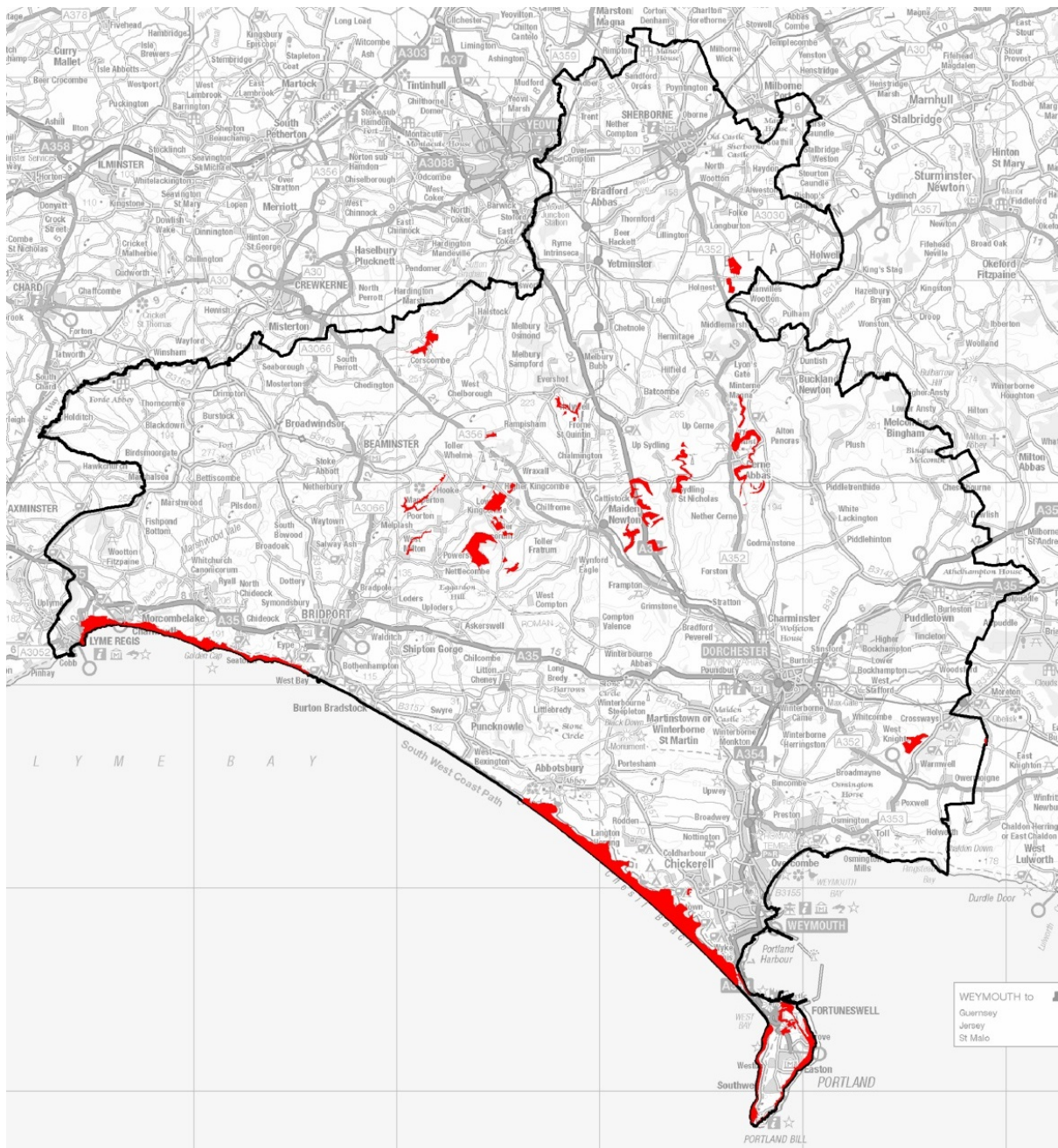
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO EUROPEAN SITES

- 2.2.2 The SEA Directive requires particular consideration to be given to the environmental problems affecting sites which have been designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- 2.2.3 These sites, known as European Sites, are designated on the basis of their importance for habitats and species, and include the following designations:
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); and
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- 2.2.4 Wetlands of international importance, designated following the Ramsar Convention, are given similar status to European sites. Collectively, European sites and Ramsar sites are known as International sites.
- 2.2.5 Approximately 3,200ha (2.8% of the plan area) of land is designated as International Sites within the plan area. Please note that all International Sites also have SSSI status. Further areas are proposed to be designated as International Sites in offshore areas.
- 2.2.6 The location and extent of the International Sites within the plan area is presented in Figure 2.2.

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Figure 2.2: A map showing the International sites within the plan area (shown in red)



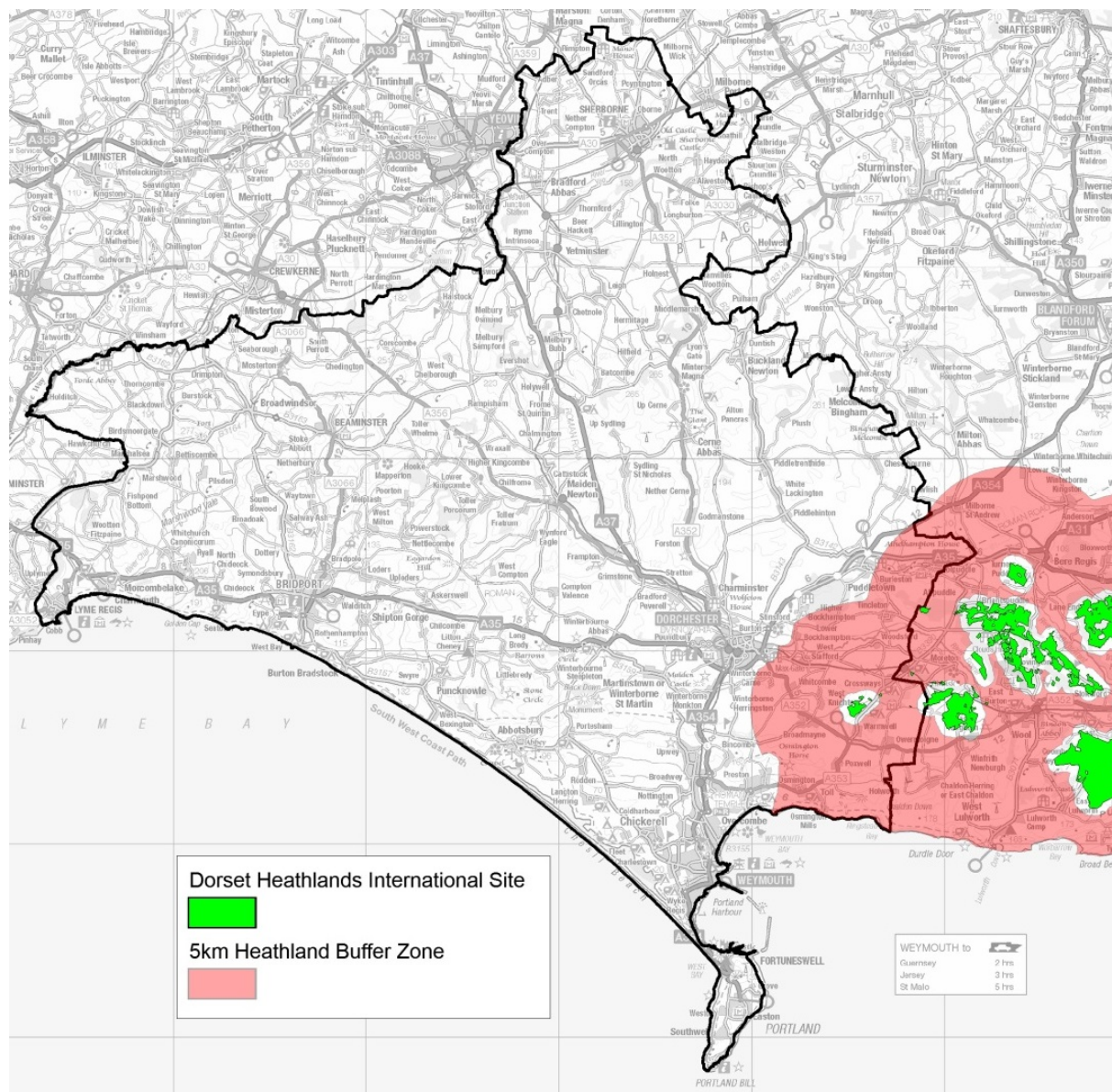
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- 2.2.7 Of the International Sites in the vicinity of the plan area, two are particularly sensitive to certain types of development. These are the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour.
- 2.2.8 The Dorset Heathlands SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites, the location of which is presented in Figure 2.3, are sensitive to additional recreational pressure and so any development involving a net increase in local residents or staying visitors could be detrimental if not mitigated.

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Figure 2.3: The Dorset Heathlands International site and 5km buffer zone



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2.2.9 Poole Harbour is a natural harbour that is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site for its nature conservation importance.

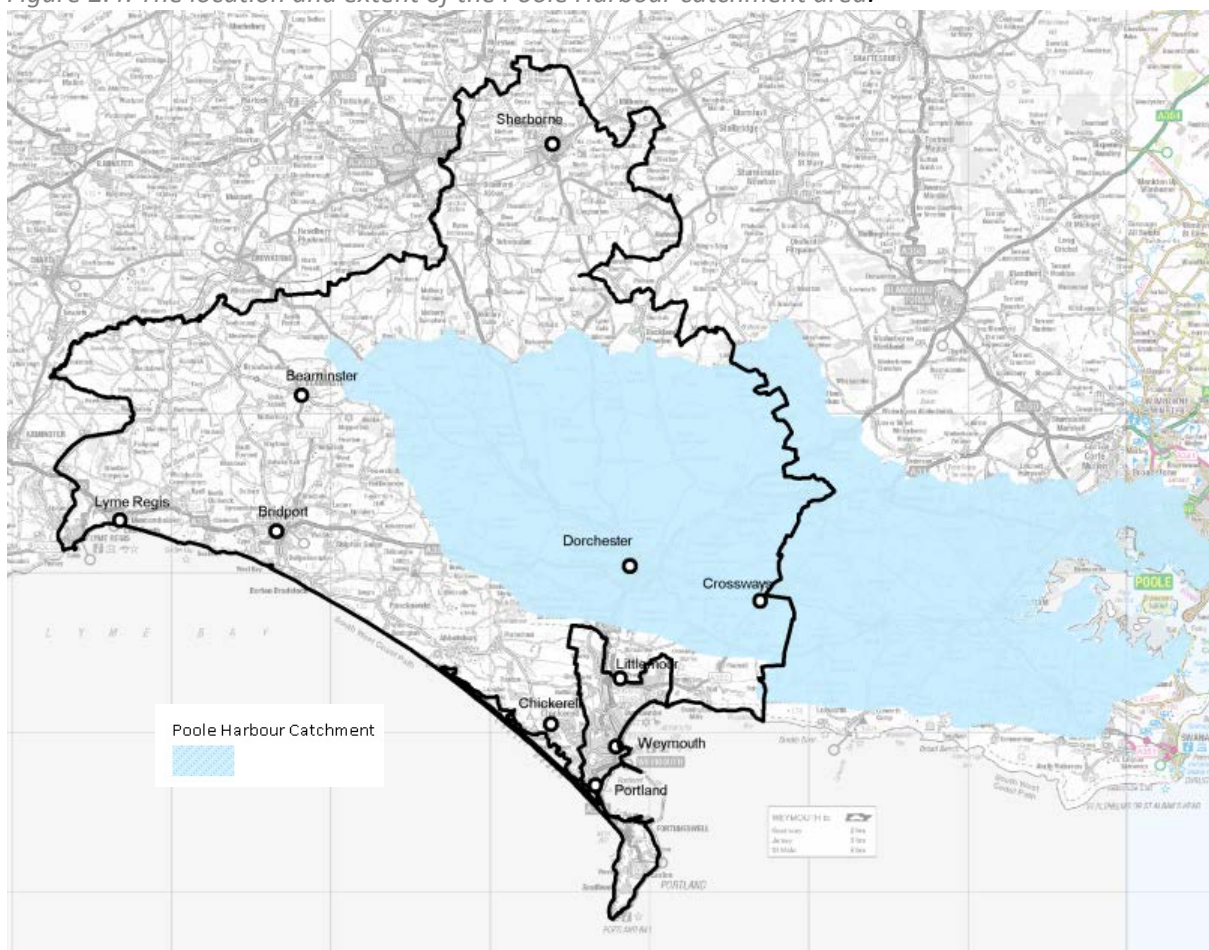
2.2.10 Scientific evidence suggests that high concentrations of nitrogen in the harbour are encouraging the growth of wide spread algal mats through the process of eutrophication. These mats restrict the availability of invertebrates, which are an important food source for wading birds and affect other important features and processes within the harbour. The extent of the algal mats has increased since the 1960s, expanding from Holes Bay to become widespread across the harbour.

2.2.11 The majority (~85%) of nitrogen entering Poole Harbour from land sources is generated by agriculture within the Poole Harbour catchment which occupies an area of 820km² and

comprise the rivers and streams which drain into Poole Harbour, as shown in Figure 2.4. However, a proportion (~15%) of the nitrogen entering Poole Harbour is from human sewage discharged within the Poole Harbour catchment, since the Sewage Treatment Works remove only part of the nitrogen from human waste.

- 2.2.12 In response to this problem, the local authorities which occupy the Poole Harbour Catchment are together developing a supplementary planning document. The objective of the document is to mitigate against the potential impacts of future development upon the Poole Harbour International Site by ensuring that new development within the Poole Harbour Catchment does not result in an increase in nitrogen entering Poole Harbour (and is therefore 'nitrogen neutral').

Figure 2.4: The location and extent of the Poole Harbour catchment area.



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3 Soil

This section covers a broad range of topics relating to soil, including agriculture, land contamination and geodiversity.

3.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

3.1.1 The United Nations developed a series of global development goals which aim to deliver sustainable development in the document titled **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)**. One such goal is:

- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

EUROPEAN

3.1.2 The European Commission's **European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)** intends to achieve balanced and sustainable development through the 'Conservation of natural resources'.

3.1.3 The European Union's **Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2013)** outlines the wider long term environmental vision for the European Union and includes the goal of ensuring that by 2020:

- land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway; and
- the nutrient cycle (nitrogen and phosphorus) is managed in a more sustainable and resource-efficient way.

NATIONAL

3.1.4 The strategy for the future of soils in England is presented in the **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England (2009)**, which sets out the following vision:

"By 2030, all of England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations".

3.1.5 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and

- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.
- 3.1.6 The NPPF also states that planning policies should aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests.
- 3.1.7 The Government's strategic direction for biodiversity is presented in **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)**, which includes the following aims with respect to agriculture:
- Priority action 3.1: Improve the delivery of environmental outcomes from agricultural land management practices, whilst increasing food production
 - Priority action 3.2: Reform the Common Agricultural Policy to achieve greater environmental benefits

LOCAL

- 3.1.8 West Dorset District Council's **Contaminated Land Strategy 2008-13 (West Dorset District Council) (2008)** aims to prevent contamination of land from causing unacceptable risks to human health or the wider environment. The Council's priorities in dealing with contaminated land (in order of priority, with 1 being the most important) are as follows:
1. To protect human health
 2. To protect controlled waters
 3. To protect designated ecological systems
 4. To protect property
 5. To protect property in the form of buildings
 6. To prevent any further contamination of land
 7. To encourage voluntary remediation
 8. To encourage the re-use of brownfield land
- 3.1.9 In terms of geodiversity, the **Dorset Local Geodiversity Action Plan (2005)** aims to:
- draw together existing information and ongoing projects concerned with the geology, geomorphology, soils and landscapes of Dorset and the East Devon Coastal Corridor, and to initiate further actions that will lead to the conservation and enhancement of the geological resource; and
 - Increasing appreciation and understanding of the geological heritage of the area.

3.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 3.2.1 The Agricultural Land Classification system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile agricultural land, according to National Planning Policy Guidance, is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a. This is the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver future crops for food and non food uses such as biomass, fibres and pharmaceuticals.
- 3.2.2 Grade 1 ('excellent') and grade 2 ('very good') agricultural land together form about 21% of all farmland in England. The overall majority proportion of the agricultural land within the

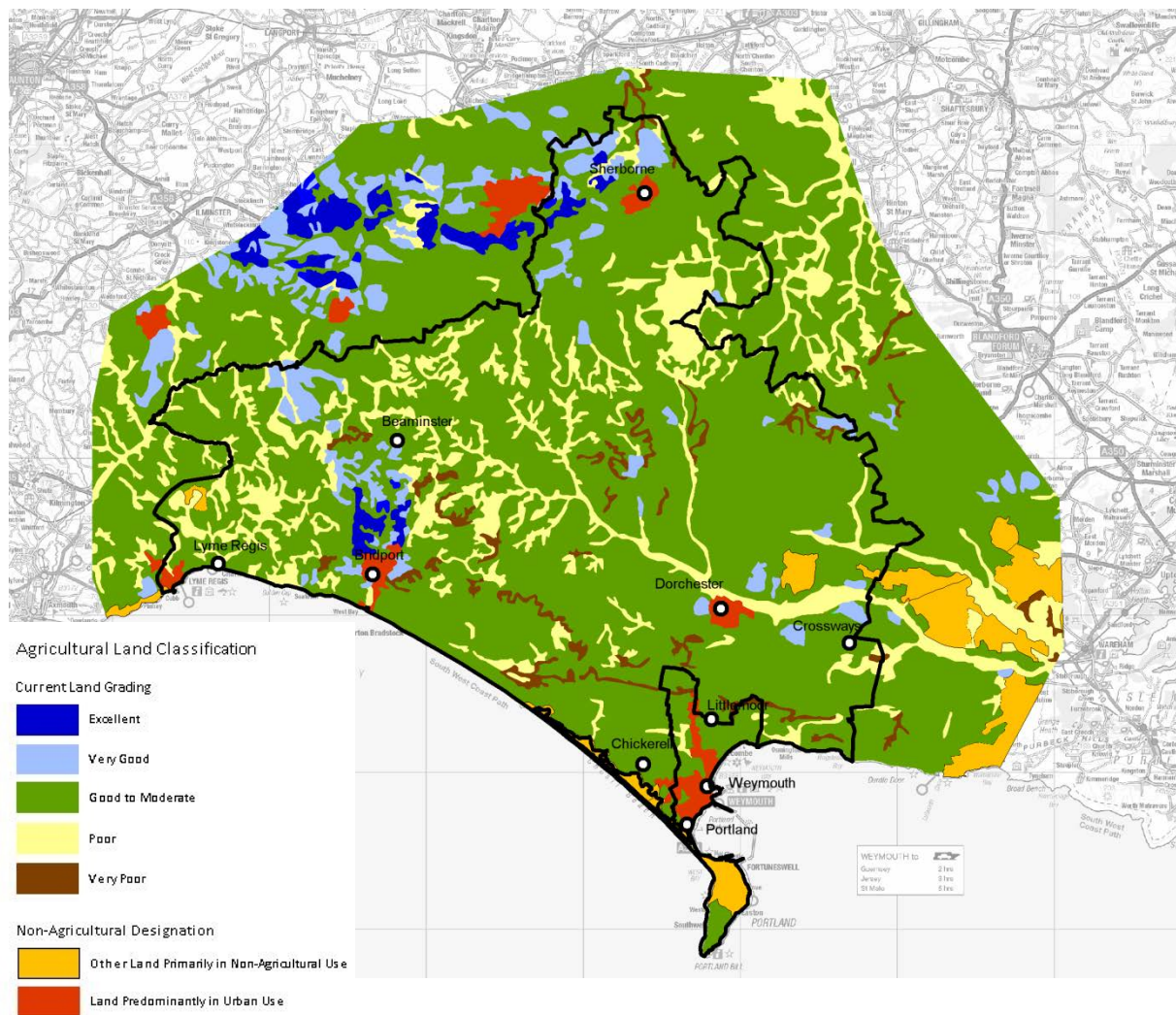
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plan area falls within the broader Grade 3 designation, representing 33.5% of the land mass (Subgrade 3a or 'good' covering approximately 21%, with grade 3b or 'moderate' covering 12.2%). The overall proportion of the agricultural land mass within the plan area of Grade 3 or higher is approximately 55%.

3.2.3 The highest grade agricultural land within the plan area is situated to the north of Bridport and to the west of Sherborne (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: The location and extent of agricultural land grades within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland



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3.2.4 West Dorset District Council published a Contaminated Land Strategy in 2000 which was updated in 2008 setting out the strategy to 2013. West Dorset District Council's Contaminated Land Strategy identifies approximately 1,100 sites of potential concern in West Dorset. These are parcels of land where, due to historic use, contaminants may be present and a pollutant linkage to a receptor exists or may arise. They include:

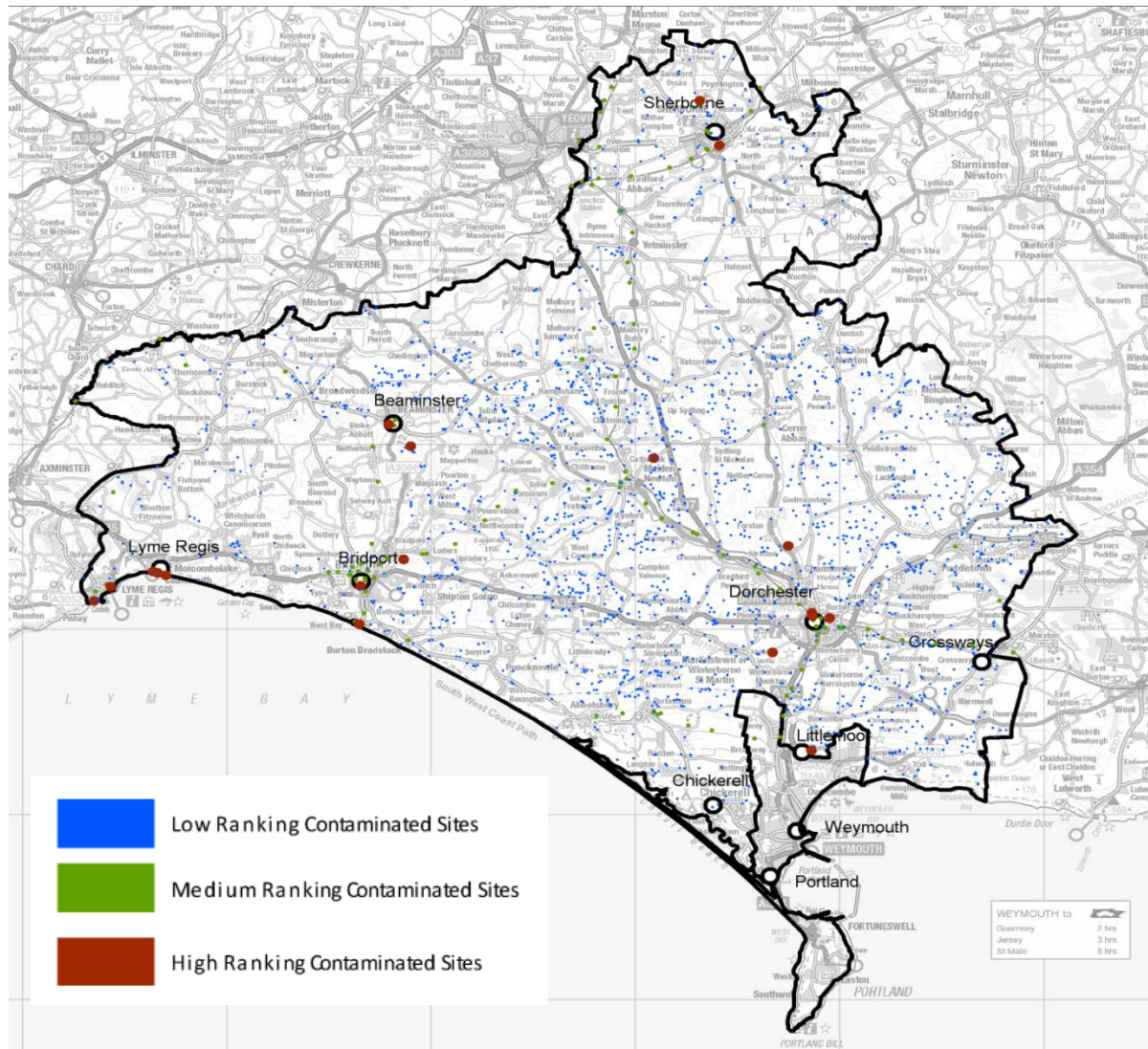
- 17 hospitals
- 24 parcels of military land

- 3 gasworks
 - 6 weapons or ammunitions dumps
 - 18 textile manufacturers
 - 4 tanneries
 - 3 foundries or metal casting works
 - 141 sewage works
 - 3 refuse tips
 - 5 sawmills
- 3.2.5 The Weymouth and Portland Contaminated Land Strategy is currently under review and is not available at the time of writing.
- 3.2.6 Local Authorities have duties and responsibilities under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to investigate land which is defined as contaminated under the terms of the act.
- 3.2.7 The location of the low, medium and high risk contaminated land sites in West Dorset are presented in Figure 3.2.
- 3.2.8 At the time of writing, in January 2016, there is currently one site on West Dorset District Council's public register of part IIA sites, indicating that it has been identified as contaminated land under the definition provided in the Environmental Protection Act (1990). This is the Former Sherborne Landfill Site at West Mill Lane, Sherborne, Dorset. The site occupies an area of approximately 5.5 ha. The site was a stream valley owned by Sherborne Castle Estates. It was leased by Sherborne Urban District Council, who culverted the stream and used the site to tip domestic refuse from 1970 onwards. The lease passed to Dorset County Council in 1974. Tipping at the site ceased in 1993. The site was formally designated by West Dorset District Council as contaminated land on 29th July 2003, and Dorset County Council obtained government funding to repair the collapsing culvert and remediate the site to current standards.

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Figure 3.2: The location and extent of low, medium and high risk Contaminated Land sites within West Dorset



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3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

3.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to soil are:

- the potential loss of the most productive soils to development, mainly situated to the north of Bridport and to the west of Sherborne. The loss of productive soils would compromise the ability to produce crops locally, affecting food security and sustainable agriculture;
- New development contributing to unacceptable emissions of pollutants to soil and causing contamination;
- The remediation of soils on contaminated sites, to prevent impacts to human health, controlled waters, property and ecological systems; and

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- The protection of geodiversity and conservation of geological interests from the impacts of new development.

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4 Water

4.0.1 This section considers a broad range of issues relating to the topic of water and the aquatic environment. This includes coastal waters (defined as water up to one mile from the coast), transitional waters (defined as surface waters in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows), freshwater, and related features such as wetlands and floodplains.

4.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

EUROPEAN

4.1.1 The European Union's **Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2013)** outlines the wider long term environmental vision for the European Union and includes the following aim:

- The impact of pressures on transitional, coastal and fresh waters (including surface and ground waters) is significantly reduced to achieve, maintain or enhance good status, as defined by the Water Framework Directive;

4.1.2 The EU **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)** establishes the European framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater with the intention of:

- Preventing further deterioration and protecting and enhancing the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands;
- Promoting sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources;
- Aiming at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment;
- Ensuring the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and preventing its further pollution; and
- Contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

4.1.3 The Water Framework Directive contains the following targets:

- Achieve good ecological & chemical status by 2015 unless there are grounds for derogation.
- Reduce & ultimately eliminate priority hazardous substances.

4.1.4 The EU **Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)** is an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural practices. The Directive aims to protect water quality across Europe by:

- preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters; and

- promoting the use of good farming practices.

NATIONAL

- 4.1.5 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability
- 4.1.6 The Government's strategic direction for biodiversity presented in **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)** includes the following priority actions with respect to water management:
- *Priority action 3.6:* Align measures to protect the water environment with action for biodiversity, including through the river basin planning approach under the EU Water Framework Directive
 - *Priority action 3.7:* Continue to promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity
 - *Priority action 3.8:* Reform the water abstraction regime. The new regime will provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem functioning. We will also take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently

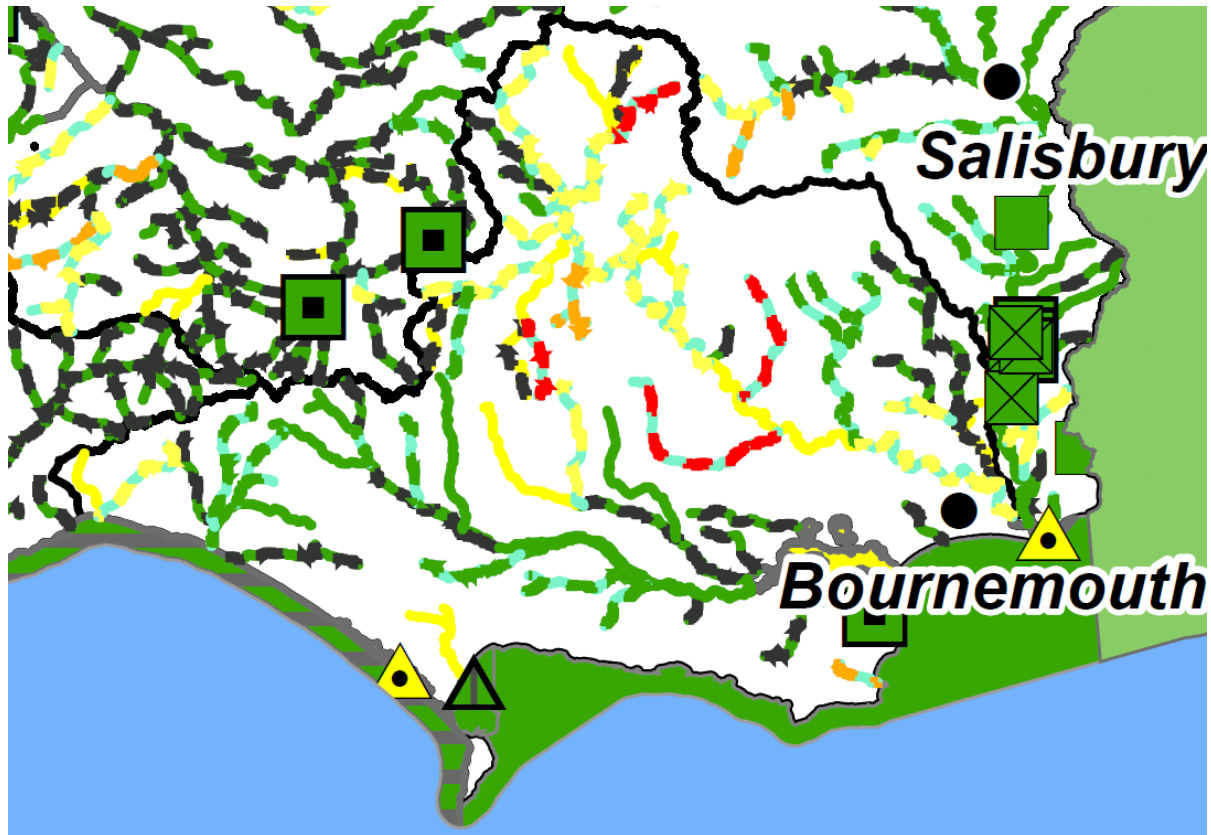
LOCAL

- 4.1.7 The **River Basin Management Plan Part 1: South West River Basin District (2015)** aims to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment, partly by informing decisions on land-use planning. The plan aims to meet the objectives of the **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**, including the following:
- to prevent deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater;
 - to achieve objectives and standards for protected areas (Figures 4.1 to 4.3);
 - to aim to achieve good status for all water bodies or, for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status;
 - to reverse any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater;
 - the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters; and
 - progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants.

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Figure 4.1: The objectives for the ecological status of water bodies in Dorset (taken from the River Basin Management Plan)



Predicted ecological status or potential:

Lakes:

- High by 2015
- Good by 2015
- Moderate by 2015
- Poor by 2015
- Bad by 2015
- High by 2021
- Good by 2021
- Moderate by 2021
- Poor by 2021
- Bad by 2021
- High by 2027
- Good by 2027
- Moderate by 2027
- Poor by 2027
- Bad by 2027

Estuary <30km2:

- High by 2015
- Good by 2015
- Moderate by 2015
- Poor by 2015
- Bad by 2015
- High by 2021
- Good by 2021
- Moderate by 2021
- Poor by 2021
- Bad by 2021
- High by 2027
- Good by 2027
- Moderate by 2027
- Poor by 2027
- Bad by 2027

Rivers, Canals, SWTs:

- High by 2015
- Good by 2015
- Moderate by 2015
- Poor by 2015
- Bad by 2015
- High by 2021
- Good by 2021
- Moderate by 2021
- Poor by 2021
- Bad by 2021
- High by 2027
- Good by 2027
- Moderate by 2027
- Poor by 2027
- Bad by 2027
- Good by 2050
- Good by 2040

Coast & Estuary:

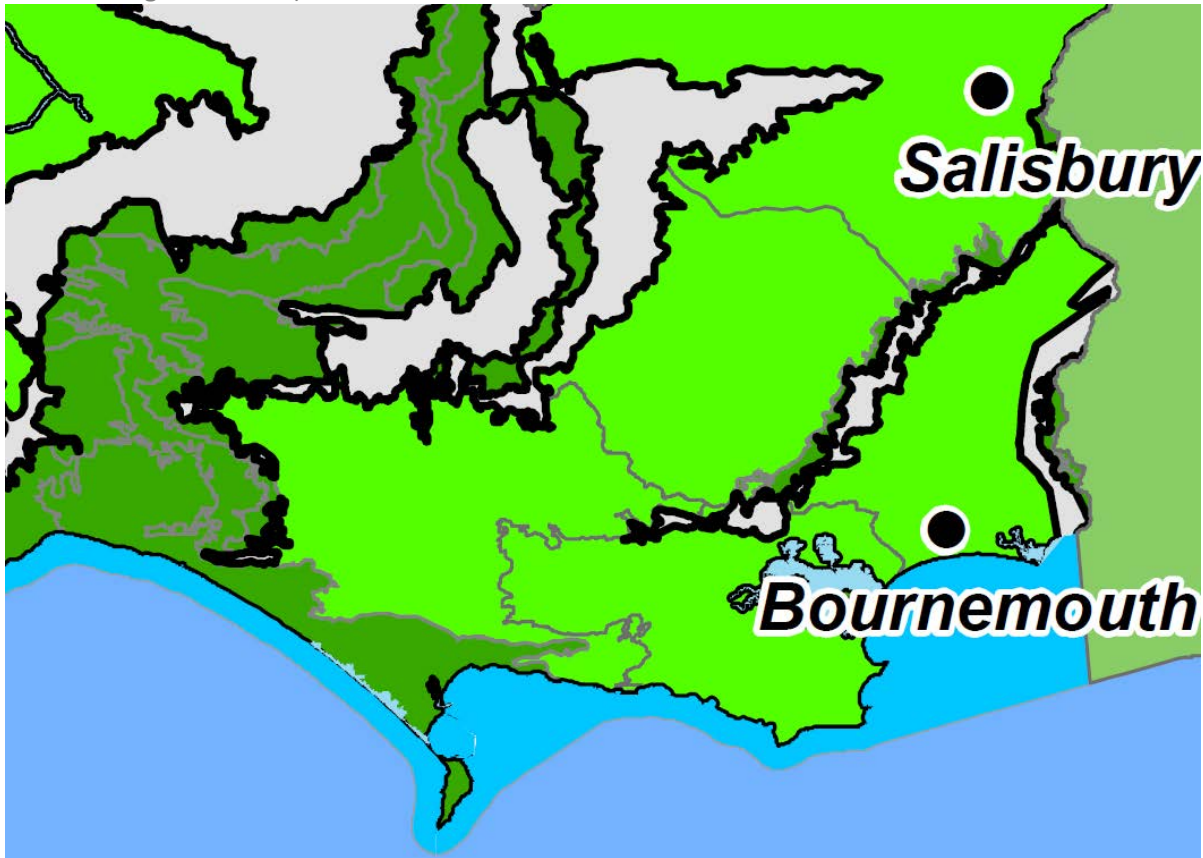
- High by 2015
- Good by 2015
- Moderate by 2015
- Poor by 2015
- Bad by 2015
- High by 2021
- Good by 2021
- Moderate by 2021
- Poor by 2021
- Bad by 2021
- High by 2027
- Good by 2027
- Moderate by 2027
- Poor by 2027
- Bad by 2027

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Figure 4.2: The objectives for the chemical status of water bodies in Dorset (taken from the River Basin Management Plan)



Groundwater predicted chemical status



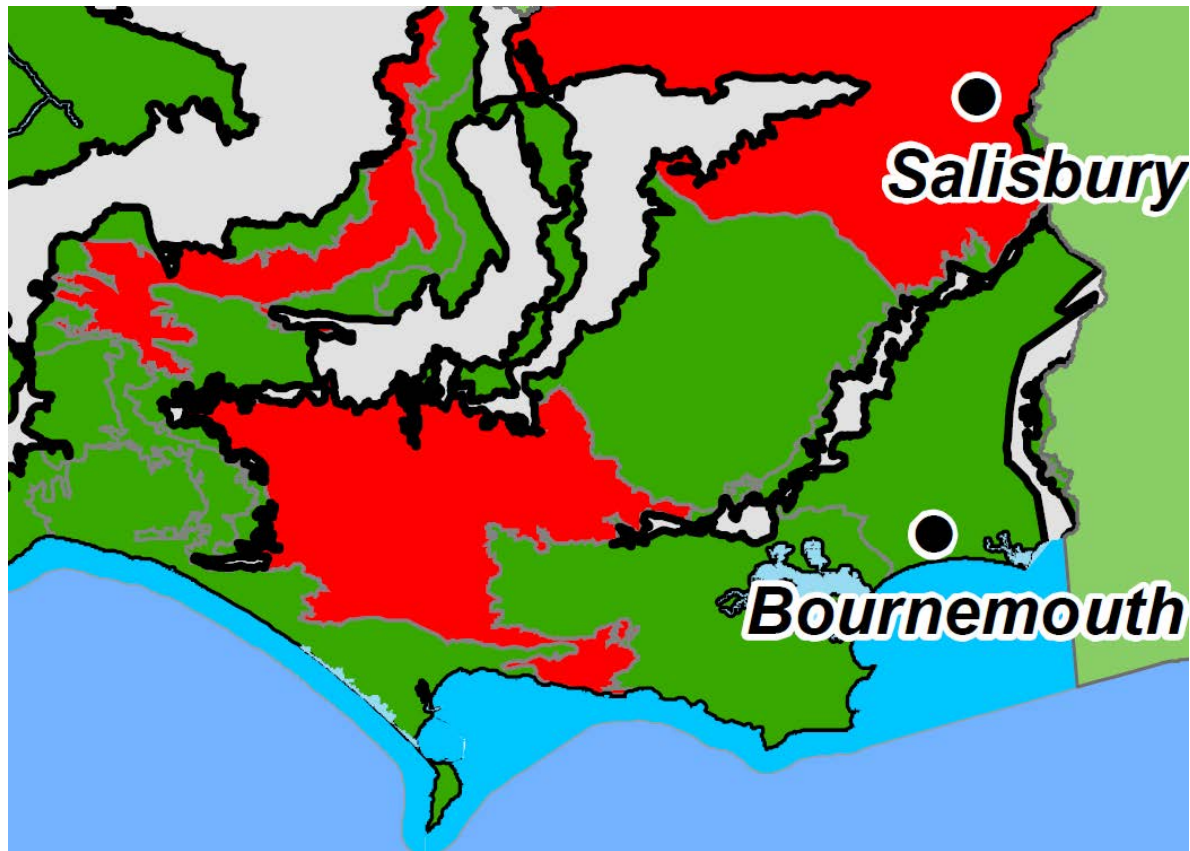
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Figure 4.3: The objectives for the quantitative status of water bodies in Dorset (taken from the River Basin Management Plan)



Groundwater predicted quantitative status

-  Good By 2015
-  Poor By 2015
-  Good By 2021
-  Good By 2027

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4.1.8 The **Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative Catchment Plan (update) (2014)** aims to protect and restore the groundwater, rivers and Poole Harbour, and contains the following visions:

- Sustainable farming, development, water use and sewage treatment that supports healthy rivers and groundwater in the Poole Harbour catchment;
- Recognition of the ecosystem services that the catchment can provide and adequate payment to those that manage the land to provide these services;
- Improvements to biodiversity habitats both in the form of naturally functioning rivers, floodplains and wetlands and appropriately located woodland and low-input grassland; and

- Achievement of national environmental standards for the benefit of wildlife and users of these waters and Poole Harbour.

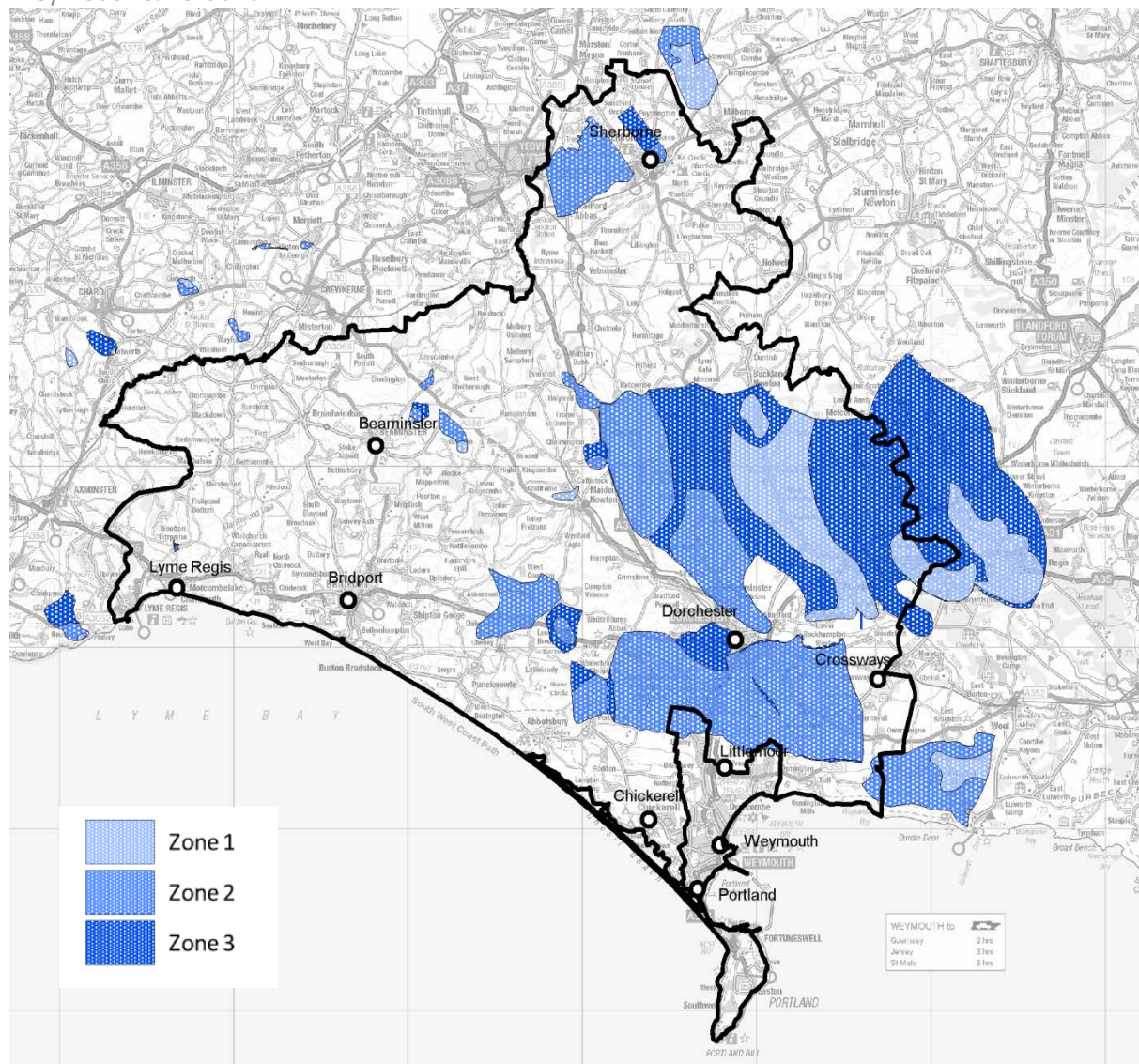
4.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 4.2.1 Groundwater serves both the public water supply and over 500 private water supplies, that generally serve the more rural and agricultural parts of the plan area.
- 4.2.2 The quality of the water supply may be adversely affected through pollution and the availability of water may be affected through surface water drainage systems, which do not allow water to percolate into the soils and replenish the underlying groundwater bodies. Some development and uses of land also have the potential to threaten the quality and availability of groundwater.
- 4.2.3 The most vulnerable groundwater sources to pollution and depletion within the plan area have been defined by the Environment Agency as Groundwater Source Protection Areas (Figure 4.4). Zone 1 denotes the most vulnerable areas in terms of the need for Groundwater protection, and occupies approximately 8% of the plan area. Approximately 13% of the plan area is within Zone 2 and approximately 7% within Zone 3.
- 4.2.4 The Groundwater Source Protection Areas are largely located in central and eastern sections of the plan area.

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Figure 4.4: The location and extent of Groundwater Source Protection Zones within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland



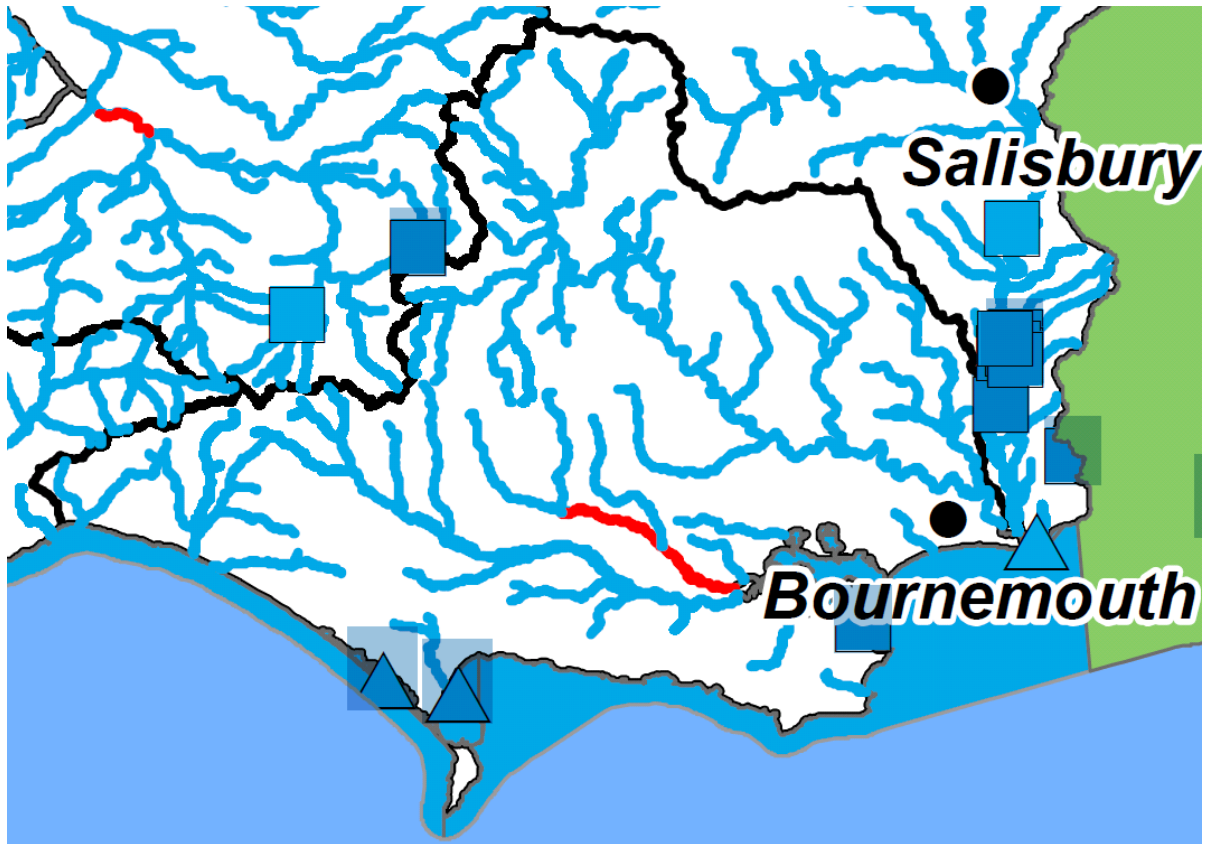
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- 4.2.5 The River Basin Management Plan Part 1: South West river basin district (2015) provides information on the chemical, quantitative and ecological status of water bodies within West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland.
- 4.2.6 The chemical status of the water bodies in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland is classified as 'good', apart from the River Piddle downstream of approximately Puddletown (Figure 4.5).

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Figure 4.5: The chemical status of water bodies in Dorset (taken from the River Basin Management Plan)



Chemical status:

Lakes

- Good
- Failing to achieve Good

Estuaries <30km²

- ▲ Good
- ▲ Failing to achieve Good

Rivers, Canals, SWTs

- Good
- Failing to achieve good

Estuarine & Coastal

- Good
- Failing to achieve Good

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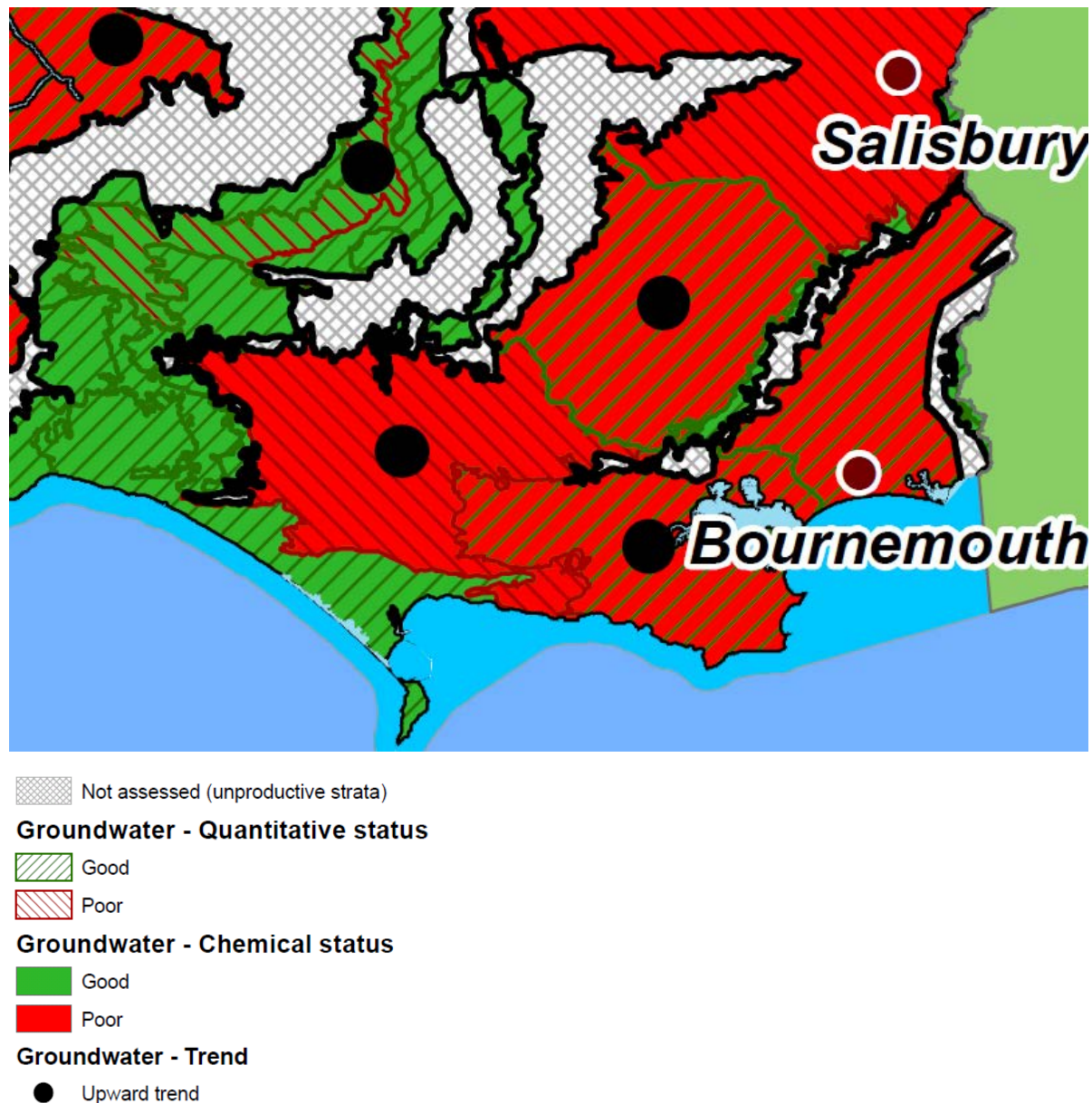
4.2.7 The quantitative and chemical status of the groundwater in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland is presented in Figure 4.6. The chemical status of the groundwater within the plan area is mainly classified as 'poor', with some areas classified as 'good' in the south and west of the plan area. The quantitative status of the groundwater in the plan area is classified as 'good' in southern, eastern and western areas and 'poor' in northern and

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central areas. There is an update trend in groundwater status across the majority of the plan area, with the exception of a southern section of the plan area.

Figure 4.6: The chemical and quantitative status of groundwater in Dorset



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4.2.8 The ecological status of the water bodies in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland is either poor, moderate or good (Figure 4.7).

4.2.9 The 'poor' status water bodies include:

- River Piddle upstream of Puddletown;
- Sections of the River Frome upstream of Dorchester;
- River Asker;

- River Wey; and
- River Lym.

4.2.10 The 'moderate' status water bodies include

- River Frome downstream of Dorchester;
- River Bride;
- the estuaries in the Weymouth area;
- the coastal areas east of Portland.

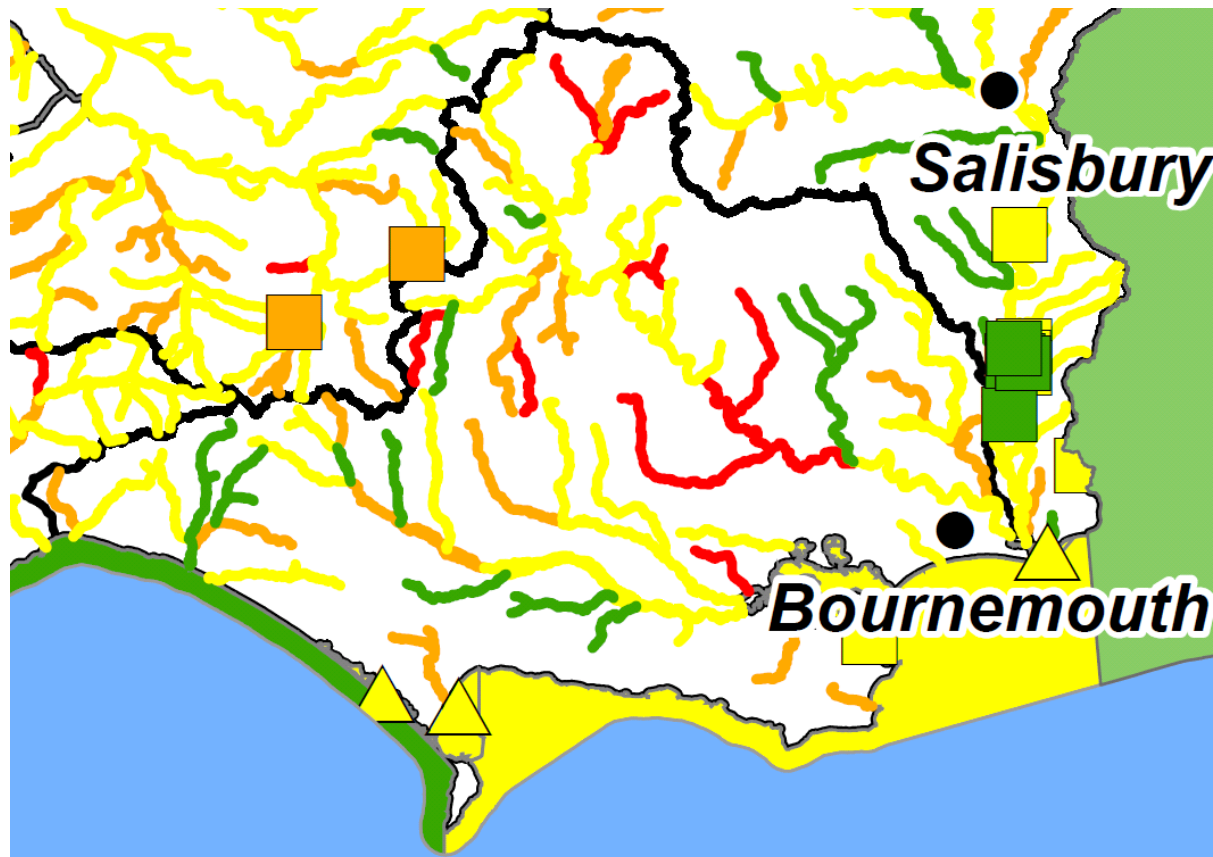
4.2.11 The 'good' status water bodies include:

- River Win,
- Tadnoll Brook,
- Sydling Water,
- River Brit in Bridport,
- the upper stretches of the River Cerne,
- the coastal areas to the west of Portland.

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Figure 4.7: The ecological status of water bodies in Dorset (taken from the River Basin Management Plan)



Ecological status or potential:

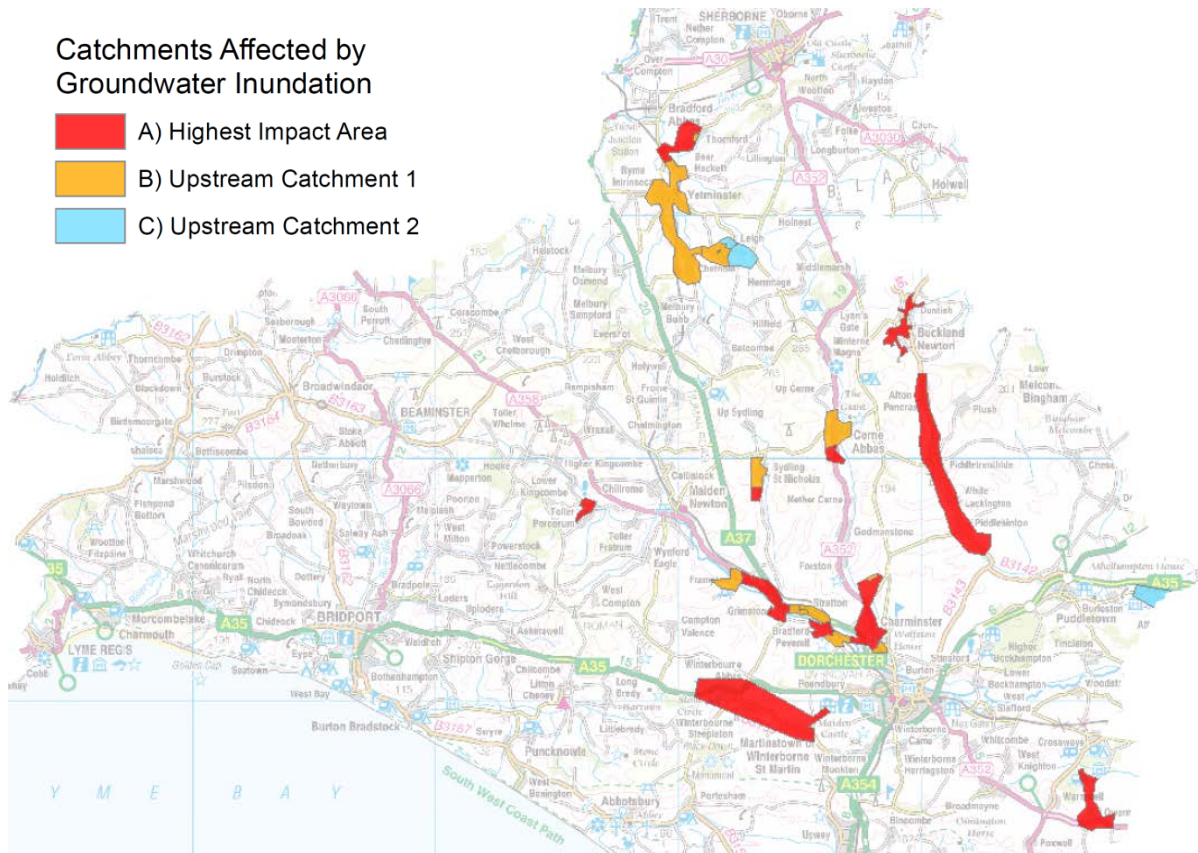
Lakes	Rivers, Canals & SWTs	Estuary <30km2	Coast and Estuary
High	High	High	High
Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Bad	Bad	Bad	Bad

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4.2.12 The Environment Agency and Wessex Water have highlighted the issue of groundwater inundation into the sewerage network in some areas of West Dorset. These are shown in Figure 4.8 alongside the associated upstream catchment.

4.2.13 The infiltration of groundwater into the foul drainage network can cause them to become inundated with water. If left unmanaged, this can cause the drains to fail leading to pollution and a deterioration in groundwater quality, or can cause foul drainage sewers to flood in downstream properties.

Figure 4.8: The areas affected by groundwater inundation of the foul drainage network within the plan area, and their associated upstream catchment



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4.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to water include:

- The ecological, chemical and quantitative status of many water bodies in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland are largely classified as 'poor'. Further deterioration of the chemical, quantitative, and ecological status of the water environment through development is a potential issue ; and
- Approximately 28% of the plan area is classified as a groundwater source protection zone, indicating the sensitivity of these areas and their importance for supplying drinking water.
- The infiltration of groundwater into the sewer network, particularly following a rainfall event, may cause it to become inundated with water. This can cause the drain to fail, leading to pollution and a deterioration in groundwater quality.

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5 Air

5.0.1 This chapter considers the issues relating to air quality, and its impact upon human health and the natural environment.

5.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

EUROPEAN

5.1.1 The European Union's **Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2013)** outlines the wider long term environmental vision for the European Union and includes the following strategic aim for air quality:

- air pollution and its impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity are further reduced with the long-term aim of not exceeding critical loads and levels.

5.1.2 The EU **Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)** is the main piece of European legislation which addresses air quality issues. It intends to tackle the environmental and health problems relating to air quality. The Directive sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.

5.1.3 Annex XI of the Air Quality Directive contains a series of limit values of concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), lead, benzene and carbon monoxide for the protection of human health.

NATIONAL

5.1.4 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability

5.1.5 The NPPF states that planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.

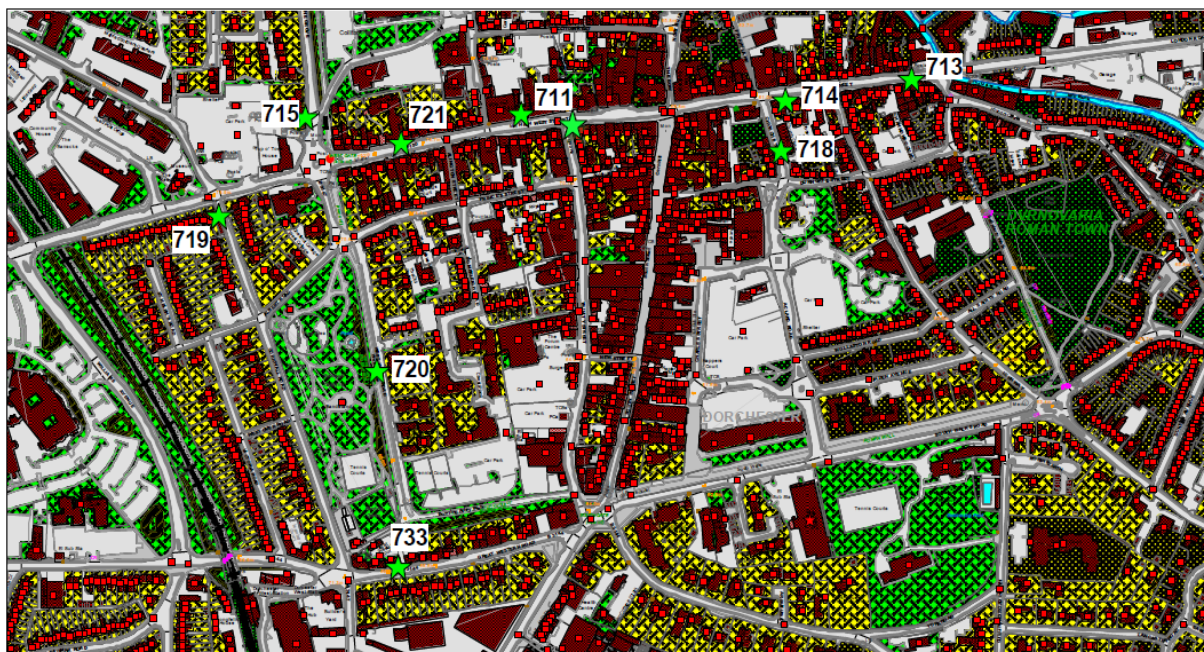
5.1.6 The Government's strategic direction for biodiversity, titled **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)**, includes the following priority actions with respect to air quality and its effects on biodiversity:

- Reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity through approaches at national, UK, EU and international levels targeted at the sectors which are the source of the relevant pollutants (nitrogen oxides, ozone, sulphur dioxide, ammonia).

5.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 5.2.1 The 2013 Air Quality Progress Report for Weymouth & Portland indicated that the major source of nitrogen dioxide in the borough of Weymouth & Portland is road transport.
- 5.2.2 The monitoring data included in this report indicates that there are no exceedances of the air quality objectives for PM₁₀ or nitrogen dioxide in the borough of Weymouth & Portland.
- 5.2.3 The 2012 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment and 2013 Progress Report for West Dorset District Council showed that nitrous dioxide concentrations exceeded thresholds in 2011 and 2012 at:
- High Street East, Dorchester;
 - East Road, Bridport; and
 - Main Street, Chideock.
- 5.2.4 Air Quality Management Areas already exist at High Street East, Dorchester and Main Street, Chideock. Air quality will continue to be monitored in Bridport also to determine whether an Air Quality Management Area should also be declared at this location.
- 5.2.5 In Dorchester, exceedances in nitrogen dioxide were observed along the B3150 High East and High West Street (Figures 5.1 and 5.2).

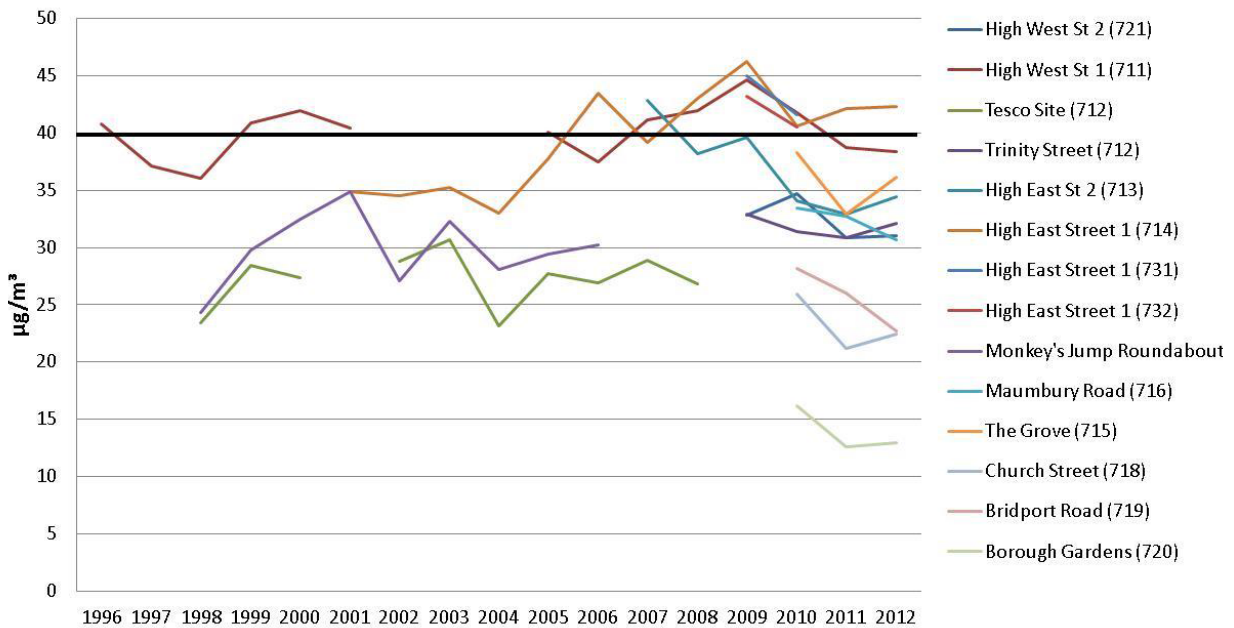
Figure 5.1: A map showing the air quality monitoring points in Dorchester (shown as green stars)



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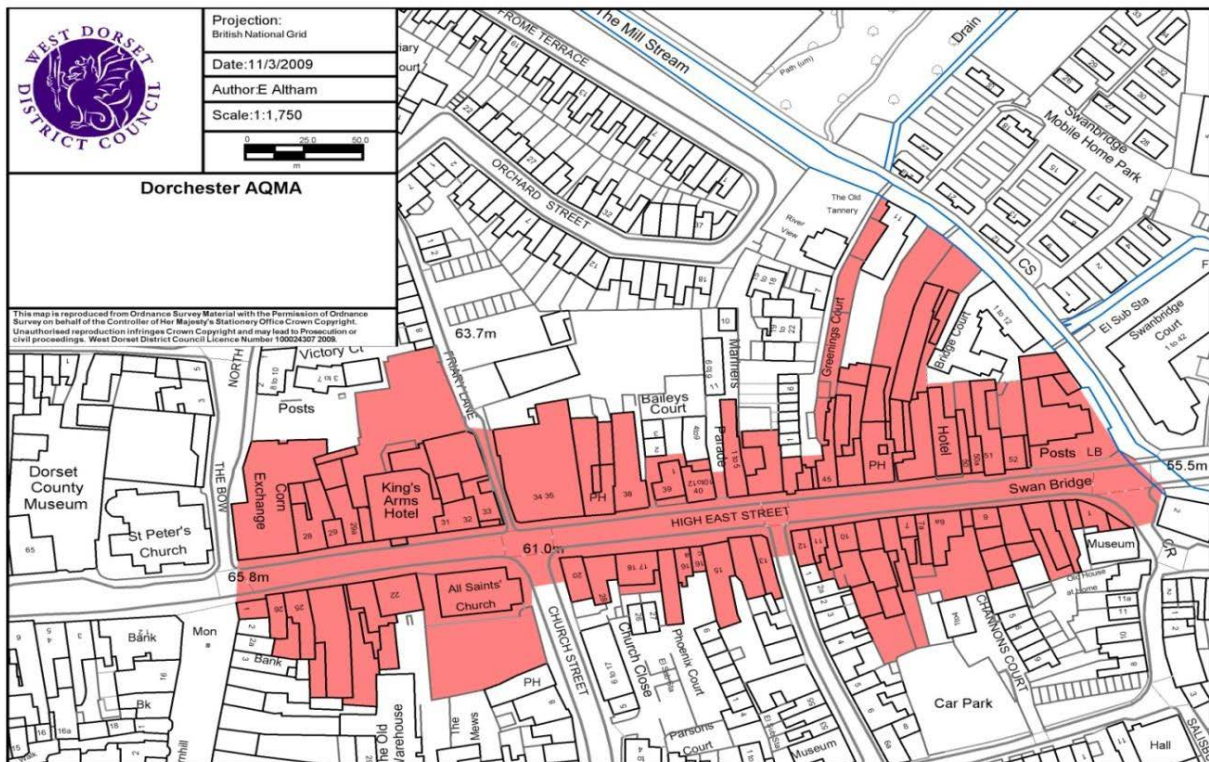
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Figure 5.2: A graph showing the annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide in Dorchester



5.2.6 Due to these exceedances an Air Quality Management Area was declared on the 5th May 2009 along High East Street, the extent of which is shown in Figure 5.3.

Figure 5.3: A map showing the extent of the Air Quality Management Area in Dorchester



5.2.7 In Chideock, dwellings are situated either side of the A35 (trunk road) going through the village with dwellings immediately adjacent to a steep incline leaving the village going west (Figures 5.4 and 5.5).

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Figure 5.4: A map showing the air quality monitoring points in Chideock

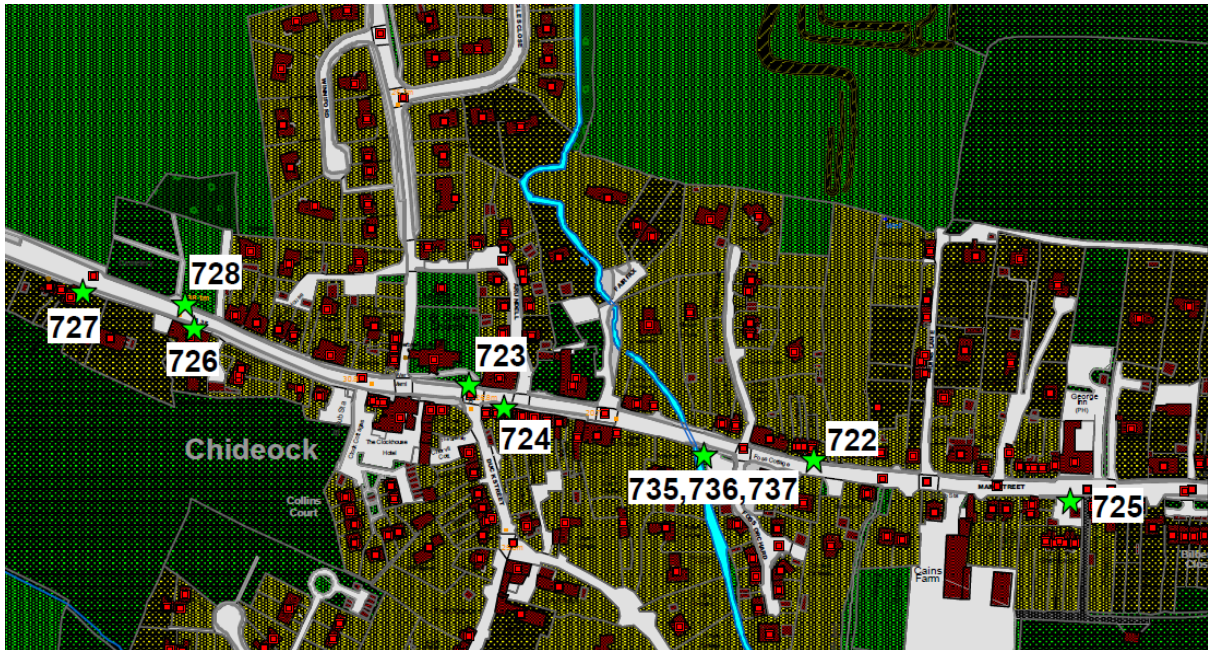
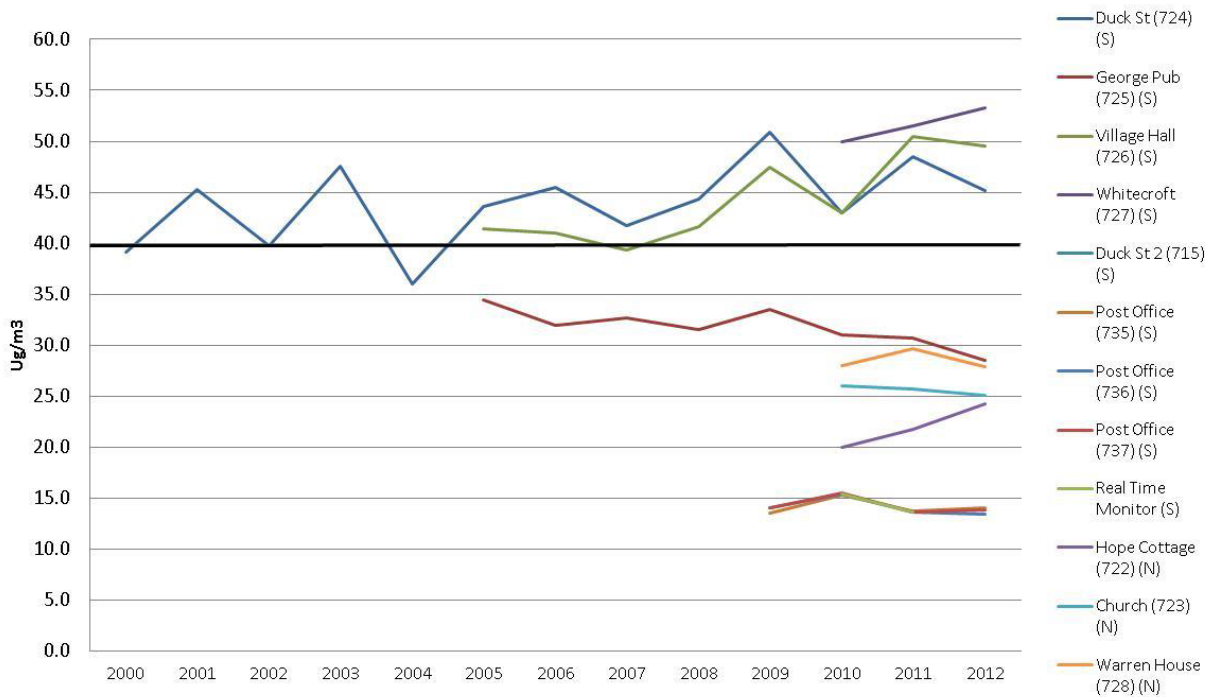


Figure 5.5: Trend in annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide in Chideock

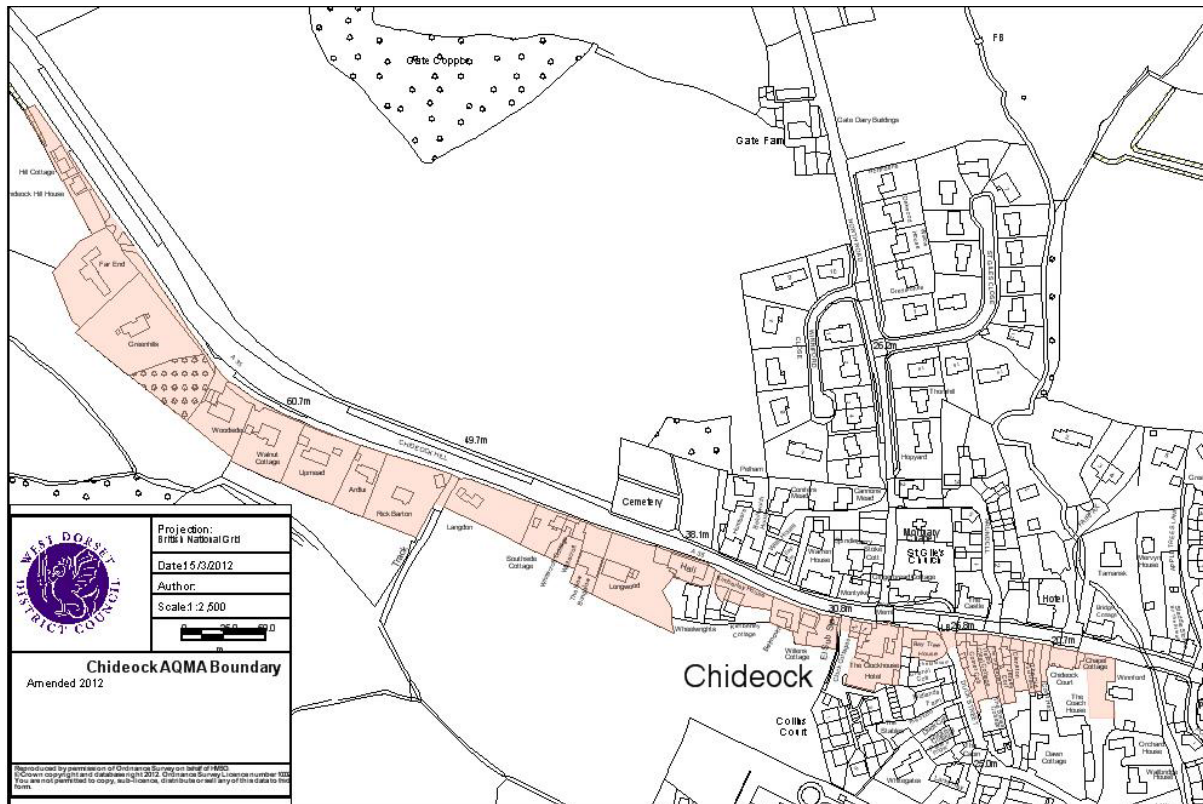


5.2.8 An air quality management area for nitrogen dioxide has been declared along the A35 in Chideock as annual average nitrogen dioxide concentrations exceeded the threshold concentrations in this area (Figure 5.6).

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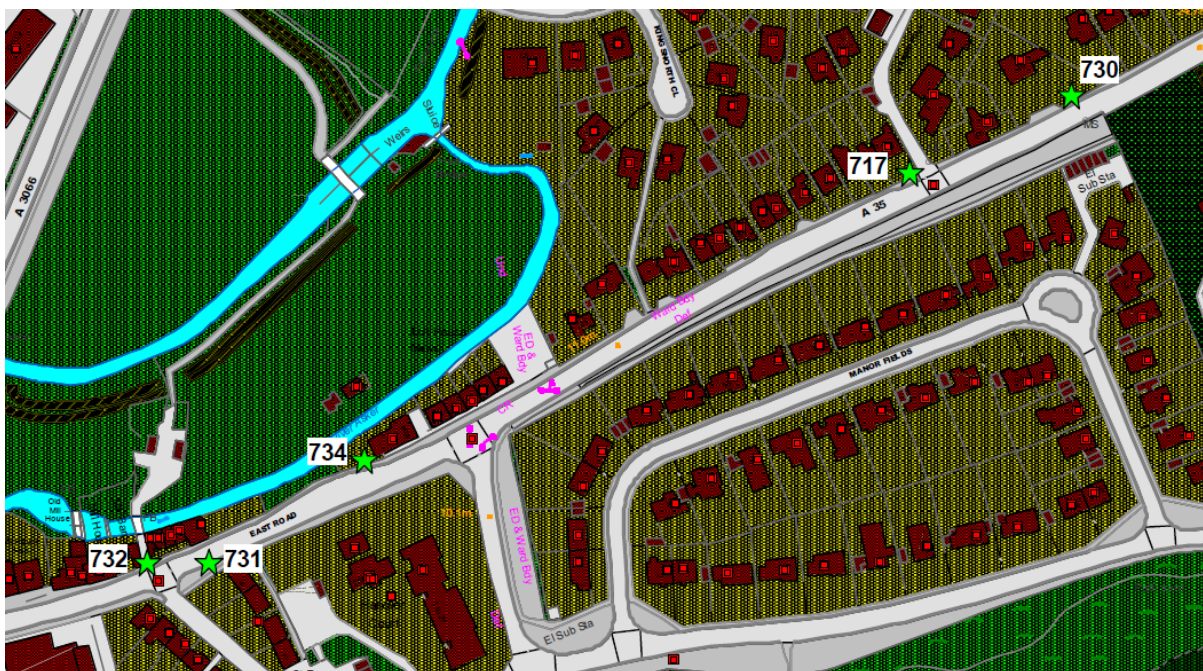
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Figure 5.6: A map showing the extent of the Air Quality Management Area in Chideock



5.2.9 The monitoring of air quality within the plan area has also shown exceedances in nitrogen dioxide at East Road, Bridport, adjacent to the A35 along East Road (Figures 5.7 and 5.8).

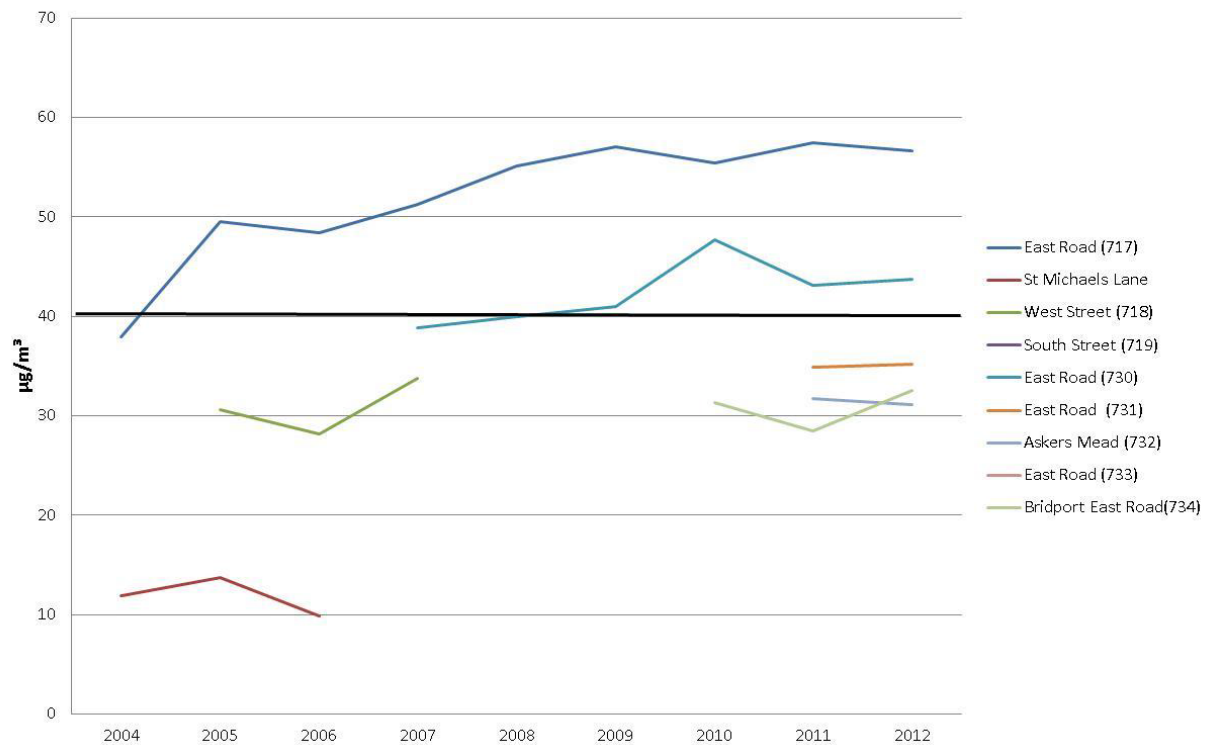
Figure 5.7: A map showing the air quality monitoring points in Bridport



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Figure 5.8: Trend in annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide in Bridport



5.2.10 Future monitoring results will dictate whether an Air Quality Management Area is declared at this location.

5.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to air are:

- Environmental and health problems as a result of elevated concentrations of air pollutants; and
- Elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in the air in Dorchester and Chideock resulting in these areas being designated as Air Quality Management Areas. Potential air quality issues with have also been identified at Bridport.

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6 Energy and Climate Change

6.0.1 This chapter deals with issues relating to climate change mitigation, such as reducing the emission of greenhouse gases to prevent further future climate change.

6.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

6.1.1 The United Nations developed a series of global development goals which aim to deliver sustainable development in the document titled **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)**. One such goal is:

- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

EUROPEAN

6.1.2 The **European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)** sets out a strategy on how the EU will deliver its commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development, and includes the following key objective:

- Limiting climate change and its effects to society and the environment.

6.1.3 This strategy includes the following target:

- Improving resource efficiency to reduce the overall use of non-renewable natural resources.

6.1.4 **A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (2014)**, agreed by EU countries, includes the following EU-wide targets and policy objectives for 2030 which aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target:

- a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels;
- at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; and
- at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario

NATIONAL

6.1.5 The **U.K Climate Change Act (2008)** aims to mitigate against further climate change by achieving a legally binding target of reducing carbon emissions in the UK by at least 80% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline.

6.1.6 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 6.1.7 The NPPF aims to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, encouraging the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy).

LOCAL

- 6.1.8 The **Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy (2013)** includes an aspirational target for renewable energy generation which is for 7.5% of energy used in Dorset to be generated from renewable sources by 2020.
- 6.1.9 The **Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy (2009)** seeks to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy demand across Dorset in order to reduce carbon emissions in line with national targets of 30% reduction by 2020 (and also eliminate fuel poverty and save energy costs).
- 6.1.10 The **West Dorset Climate Change Strategy (2009)** was produced by the West Dorset Partnership, and aims to help residents, businesses and other organisations reduce their carbon emissions by 30% by 2020 from 2005 levels by a wide range of measures.
- 6.1.11 The **West Dorset Community Plan 2010-26 (2010)** aims to improve the quality of life for residents and workers in the district, and contains the following theme on climate change and peak oil:

“One of the biggest threats to us is that of climate change which has major economic, social and health consequences. It is anticipated that in the future as oil reserves dwindle and new sources of oil become expensive to extract, fuel prices will rise and we will need to find alternatives to relying on fossil fuels. To tackle climate change and peak oil we need to become more resilient within local communities where possible, and rethink the way we live and work.”

6.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 6.2.1 Energy usage per person in West Dorset is more than in Weymouth & Portland (Figure 6.1) for the industry and commercial, domestic and transport sectors.

Figure 6.1: Energy usage per person in West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland

	Carbon emissions (T CO ₂ per person)			
	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
West Dorset	2.3	2.5	2.5	7.6
Weymouth & Portland	1.3	2.0	1.2	4.5

- 6.2.2 The use of renewable sources to generate electricity and heat reduces the consumption of fossil fuels, which leads to lower emissions of greenhouse gases.

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- 6.2.3 The total capacity of renewable energy in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole was 351MW in 2014/15, comprising 315MW from renewable electricity and 36MW from renewable heat.
- 6.2.4 This capacity of renewable energy provided 546GWh of renewable energy per year in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole in February 2015, which represented 3.4% of the total energy consumption. This marked a significant increase in renewable energy uptake since January 2011, when only 0.95% of the total energy consumption in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole was generated from renewable sources.
- 6.2.5 The total capacity of renewable energy in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland was 54MW in 2014/15, comprising 39MW from renewable electricity and 15MW from renewable heat.
- 6.2.6 The majority of renewable electricity is derived from solar photovoltaics in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland in 2014/15, with 88% of the total amount of renewable electricity generated coming from this technology in West Dorset, and 99% in Weymouth & Portland.
- 6.2.7 The majority of renewable heat was derived from biomass in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland in 2014/15, with 56% of the total amount of renewable heat generated coming from this technology in West Dorset, and 73% in Weymouth & Portland.

6.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 6.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to energy and climate change include:
- Energy usage is leading to the emission of greenhouse gases which is likely to exacerbate climate change; and
 - A longer term issue is supporting the culture change required to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy.

7 Flooding and Coastal Change

7.0.1 This chapter addresses the issues of flooding and coastal change, which are particularly important issues within West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland due to the coastal and hydrological characteristics of the plan area. Since there is an approximately 40 year lag in the atmosphere, a degree of future climate change is inevitable. Therefore, these issues are likely to become increasingly important as climate change occurs.

7.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

EUROPEAN

7.1.1 The **European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)** sets out a strategy on how the EU will deliver its commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development, and includes the following target:

- Contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

NATIONAL

7.1.2 **National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2011)** has the overall aim to ensure the risk of flooding and coastal erosion is properly managed by using the full range of options in a co-ordinated way.

7.1.3 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** aims to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change.

7.1.4 The **West Dorset Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** and **Weymouth & Portland Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** set out the strategic vision, core values, aims, priorities and projects for West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council between 2013-17. The following aim is included:

- Managing the implications of climate change, including flooding and coastal protection.

7.1.5 The **Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) Durlston Head to Rame Head (2011)** outlines the preferred policy for sections of the coastline in the plan area. These policies are explained further in chapter 7.2 of this report.

7.1.6 The **Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-2021** sets out a way to improve the planning and management of the Dorset Coast and inshore waters, and includes the following objectives:

- A coast where Dorset is a world-leading area in coastal management, where all the key partners are taking decisions and acting together to deliver the highest practical quality of management possible; and
- A coast that is managed to adapt to the issues of changing climate, economy and communities.

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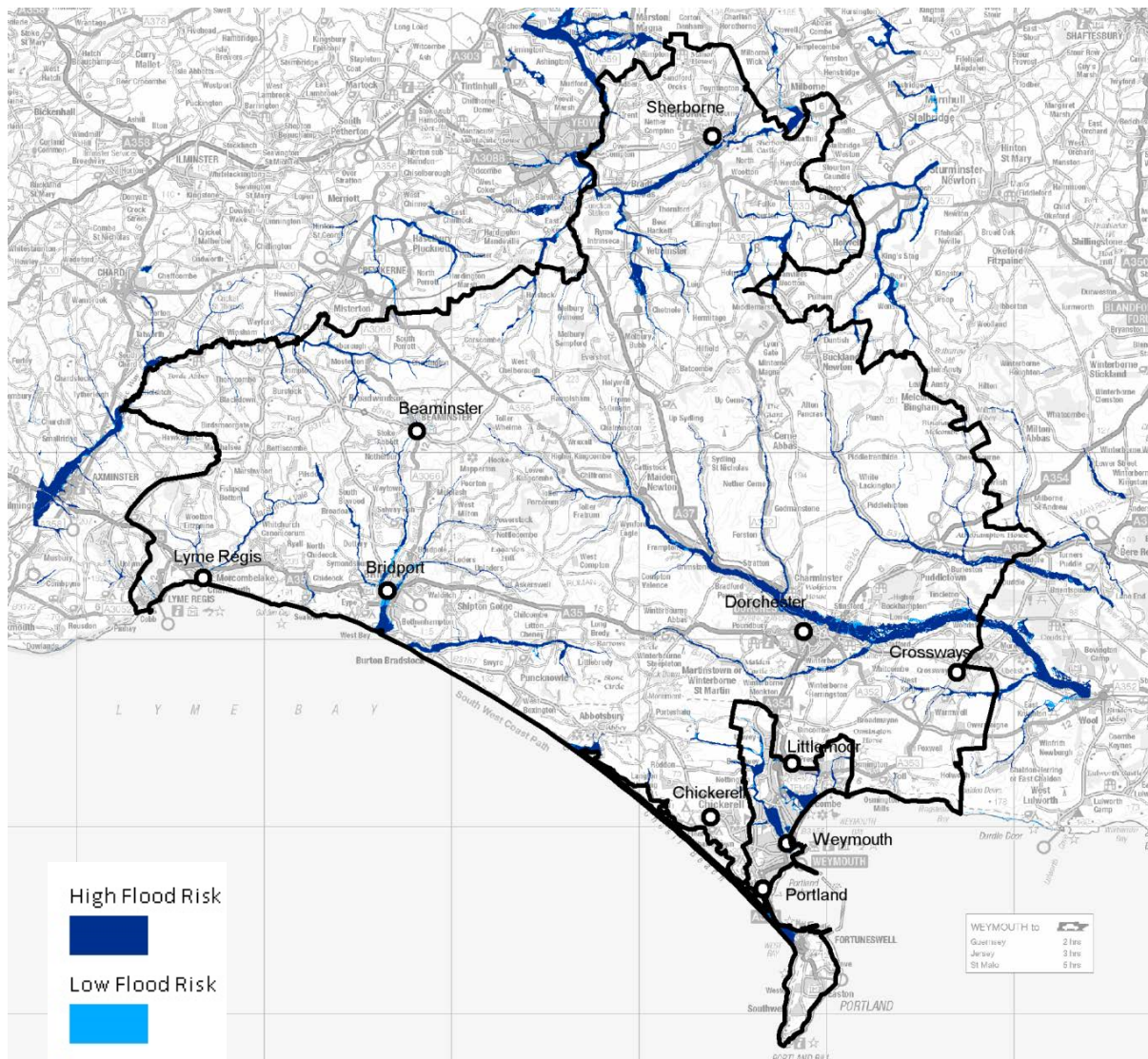
LOCAL

- 7.1.7 The **Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-2021**, which sets out how the members of the Dorset Coast Forum will work to improve the planning and management of the Dorset Coast, contains the following objectives:
- A thriving and diverse coastal economy which uses the resources of the coast sustainably;
 - A coast that is used, enjoyed and appreciated by the people of Dorset and visitors;
 - A coast where Dorset is a world-leading area in coastal management, where all the key partners are taking decisions and acting together to deliver the highest practical quality of management possible; and
 - A coast that is managed to adapt to the issues of changing climate, economy and communities.
- 7.1.8 The **Flooding and Coastal Policy Statement** outlines West Dorset District Council's approach to flood and coastal defences in the district, and aims to:
- “To reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.”
- 7.1.9 The objectives of the statement are:
- To encourage the provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems;
 - To encourage the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures; and
 - To discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion.

7.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 7.2.1 Flood risk and coastal change are considered to be key issues with respect to adapting and becoming more resilient to the likely impacts of climate change.
- 7.2.2 Areas of West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland have been identified as being at risk from fluvial or tidal flooding, as shown in Figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1: A map showing the extent of flood zones within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland



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7.2.3 Weymouth town centre, the Park District and the Chiswell area of Portland are particularly vulnerable to flooding according to the Weymouth Town Centre Flood Risk Management Strategy. In Weymouth town centre there are currently 447 properties at risk from a 1 in 200 year tidal flooding event with wave overtopping. This is predicted to increase to 1,007 properties for the same event in 2035 and 4,042 properties in 2126. This equates to damage and losses from flooding to the value of approximately £145 million by 2126.

7.2.4 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010) for West Dorset indicates that significant areas in and around Beaminster, Bridport, (including West Bay), Chetnole, Dorchester, Lyme Regis, Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton and Yetminster at risk from fluvial and/or tidal flooding.

7.2.5 West Dorset District Council's Flooding and Coastal Policy Statement that there are 6km of "critical ordinary watercourses". These are watercourses which are not classified as "main

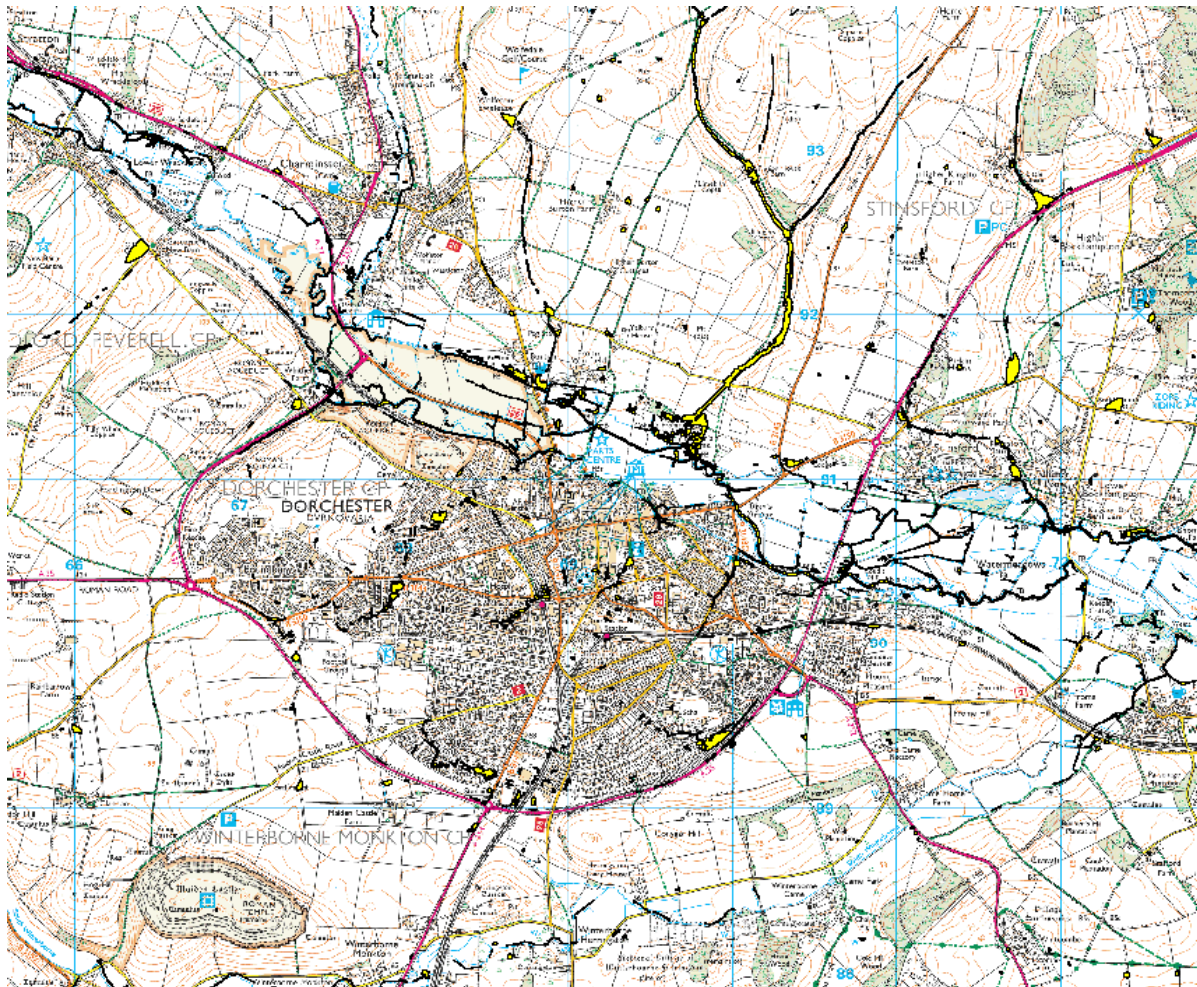
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river" but which the Council has agreed with the Environment Agency to be critical because they have the potential to put at risk from flooding large numbers of people and property. These are the Cerne at Cerne Abbas, the Brit at Beaminster, the Parrett at South Perrott, and the Piddle from Piddletrenthide to Piddlehinton.

7.2.6 Areas of West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland may also be susceptible to surface water flooding (Figures 7.2 to 7.7).

Figure 7.2: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Dorchester and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)

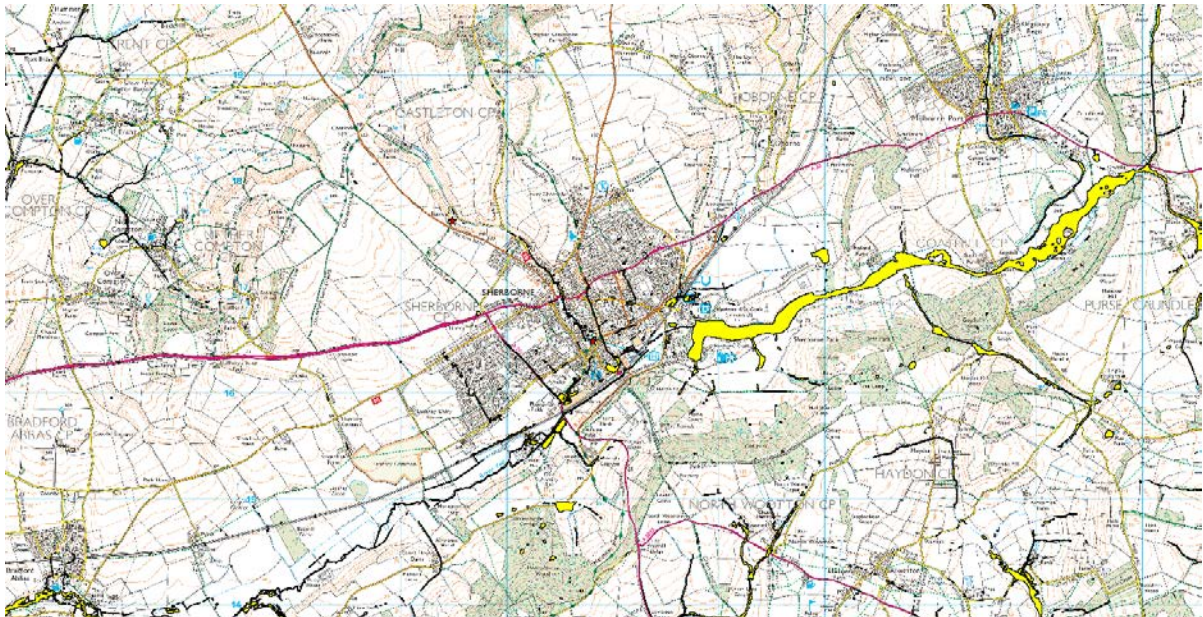


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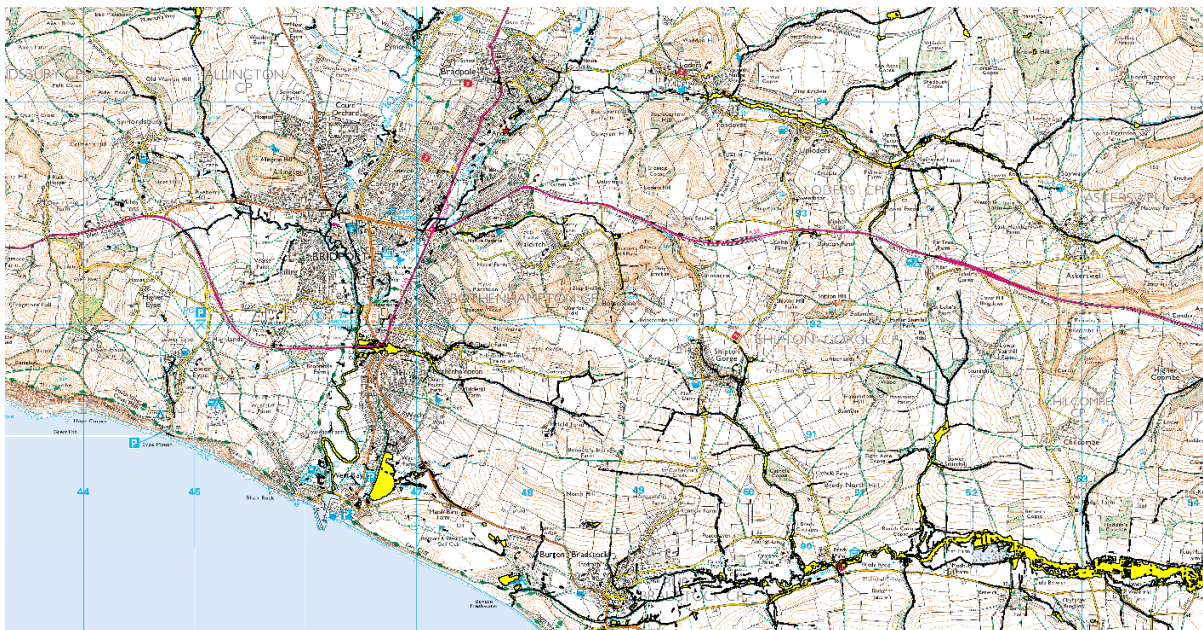
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Figure 7.3: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Sherborne and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)



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Figure 7.4: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Bridport and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)



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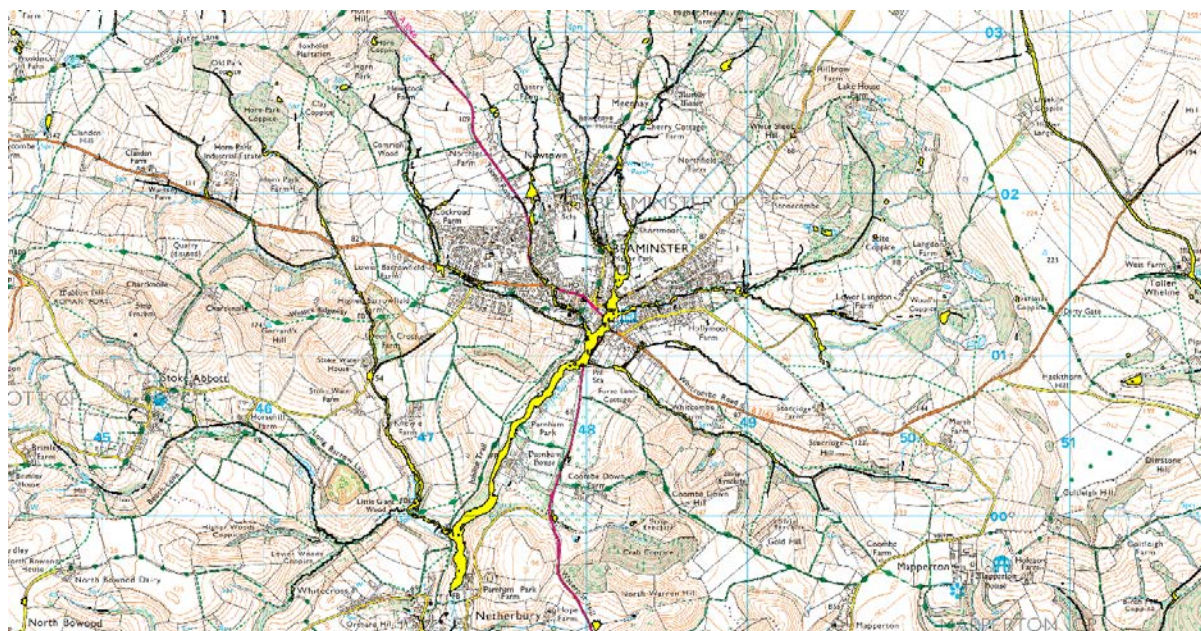
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Figure 7.5: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Lyme Regis and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)



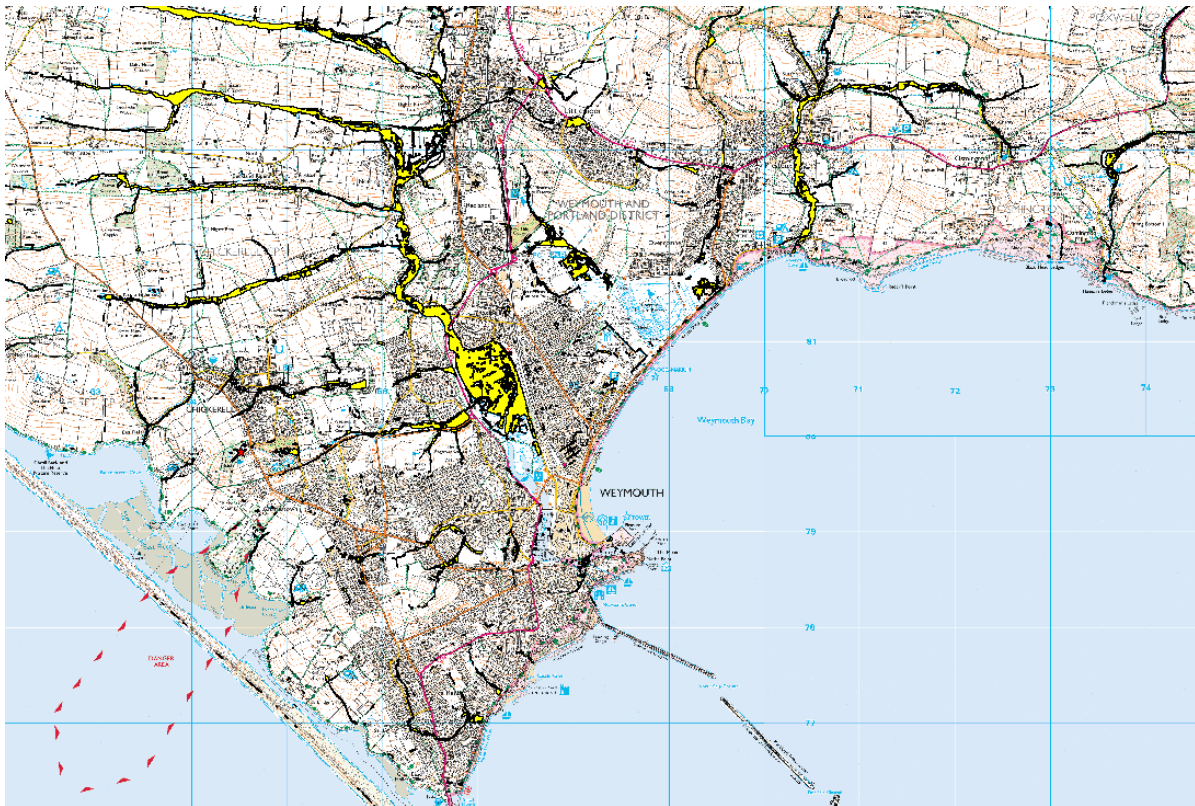
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Figure 7.6: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Beaminster and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)



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Figure 7.7: A map showing the extent of surface water flooding (in yellow) in Weymouth and surrounding areas (1:30 year rainfall event)



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- 7.2.7 Coastal erosion and land instability may have an impact on some existing coastal communities within West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, as there are only limited funds available for new or improved coastal defences. Even if there were sufficient funds, the wider impacts of coastal defences on the natural environment need to be considered. The conservation interests of European Wildlife Sites and the status of Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site depends in part on allowing these ongoing coastal processes.
- 7.2.8 The Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) outlines the preferred policy for sections of the coastline in the plan area. SMP2 explains that the section of coastline between Durlston Head (in Purbeck) and White Nothe is characterised by rocky cliffed shorelines. The preferred policy in SMP2 is to continue to allow natural development along this coast.
- 7.2.9 The section of coastline between White Nothe and Redcliff Point may experience episodic landslide events that can cause tens of metres of retreat as a result of a single event. In places there is a risk of relict landslide complexes becoming reactivated, which makes management of this coastline more difficult. The continuation of the natural erosion process is integral to the World Heritage and SSSI status of the cliffs. Therefore, the long term plan in SMP2 is to allow this coastline to remain in its natural state, ceasing to intervene where this presently occurs.

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- 7.2.10 The coastline between Redcliff Point and Portland Bill is more developed, incorporating Weymouth and Portland. The protection of commercial and social assets is key in this area, where the plan in SMP2 therefore is to continue to protect built assets but seek more sustainable means of achieving this. That includes some local realignment and possible beach enhancement. Along the north-western shore of Portland Harbour it is unlikely to be appropriate to intervene along the entire stretch of coast, at least in the short to medium term. The Isle of Portland and Portland Harbour breakwaters are key controls on future evolution as they provide shelter and influence the movement of sediment. The preferred plan in SMP2 includes the assumption that the breakwaters will remain and be maintained.
- 7.2.11 The Portland Bill to Thorncombe Beacon stretch of coastline is dominated by Chesil Beach, which acts as a natural sea defence in addition to a European wildlife site. A key driver of policy is to maintain the natural status of Chesil Beach and take measures to ensure its future sustainability. Therefore for most of this stretch no intervention is planned in SMP2. At Freshwater Beach, the plan is adapted to allow some minimal intervention to manage the realignment of the coast in line with the retreat of adjacent undefended cliffs. This approach, supported by construction of a secondary defence further inland, will reduce local flood risk to properties at Burton Bradstock without compromising natural functioning of the beach. Continued defence of West Bay will also require a secondary defence behind East Beach to enable sustainable long term management of flood risk to be achieved as whilst also allowing more natural functioning of the beach. At the far eastern end (Chiswell) the long term plan is to continue to maintain existing defences.

7.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 7.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to flooding and coastal change include:
- The frequency and severity of flood events is predicted to increase as a result of climate change. The challenge is to deliver housing and development whilst not significantly increasing the risk of flooding to people and properties;
 - Implementing the appropriate management of coastal areas to ensure that wildlife designations and areas of geological interest are protected along with the communities which live in these areas. The environmental designations in coastal areas often rely on natural processes being allowed to take place, which may conflict with the management of these areas to protect local communities; and
 - Lack of financial resources available to implement coastal protection schemes.

8 Landscape

8.0.1 This chapter considers the issues relating to landscape and visual impacts of development.

8.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

EUROPEAN

8.1.1 The **European Landscape Convention (2000)** aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. The convention includes the following targets:

- Recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- Establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
- Establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies; and
- Integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

NATIONAL

8.1.2 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils.

8.1.3 The NPPF states that local authorities should:

- maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.

8.1.4 The **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)** confirmed the significance of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and created improved arrangements for their management. Section 85 places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting land in AONBs.

LOCAL

- 8.1.5 The **Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a Framework for the Future: AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019** sets out the vision for the designated landscape and describes how the areas authorities, communities and businesses might work together to achieve that vision. The document contains the following objectives:
- Conserve and enhance the AONB and the character and quality of its distinctive landscapes and associated features;
 - Conserve and enhance the AONB by removing, avoiding and reducing intrusive and degrading features;
 - Plan and manage for future landscapes that are resilient and can positively adapt to change; and
 - Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment of the AONB through integrated management that recognises the links between land and sea.
- 8.1.6 The **Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014 – 2019** contains the following aim:
- To Protect the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value and setting.
- 8.1.7 The **Dorset Biodiversity Strategy (Mid Term review) (2010)** contains the following guiding principle:
- Develop ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.

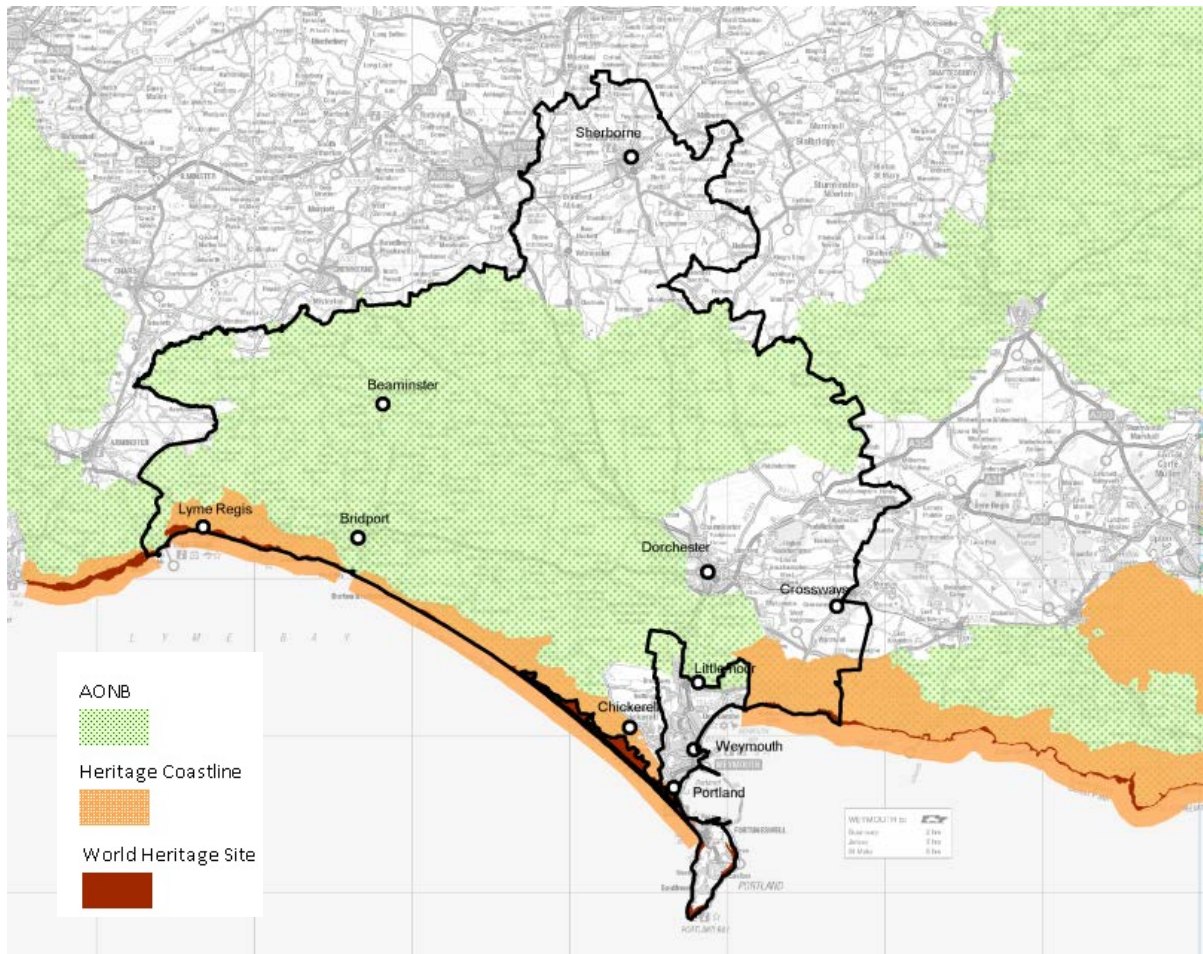
8.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 8.2.1 The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation recognises landscapes of particularly high quality and occupies approximately 78,000ha or 69% of the plan area (Figure 8.1).
- 8.2.2 In addition, the vast majority of the coastline within the plan area is part of the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, with only a small section of coastline in Weymouth omitted. This recognises the worldwide importance of the coastline within the plan area in terms of its outstanding geological and geomorphological value (Figure 8.1).

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Figure 8.1: A map showing the extent of the Dorset AONB and Heritage Coast within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland



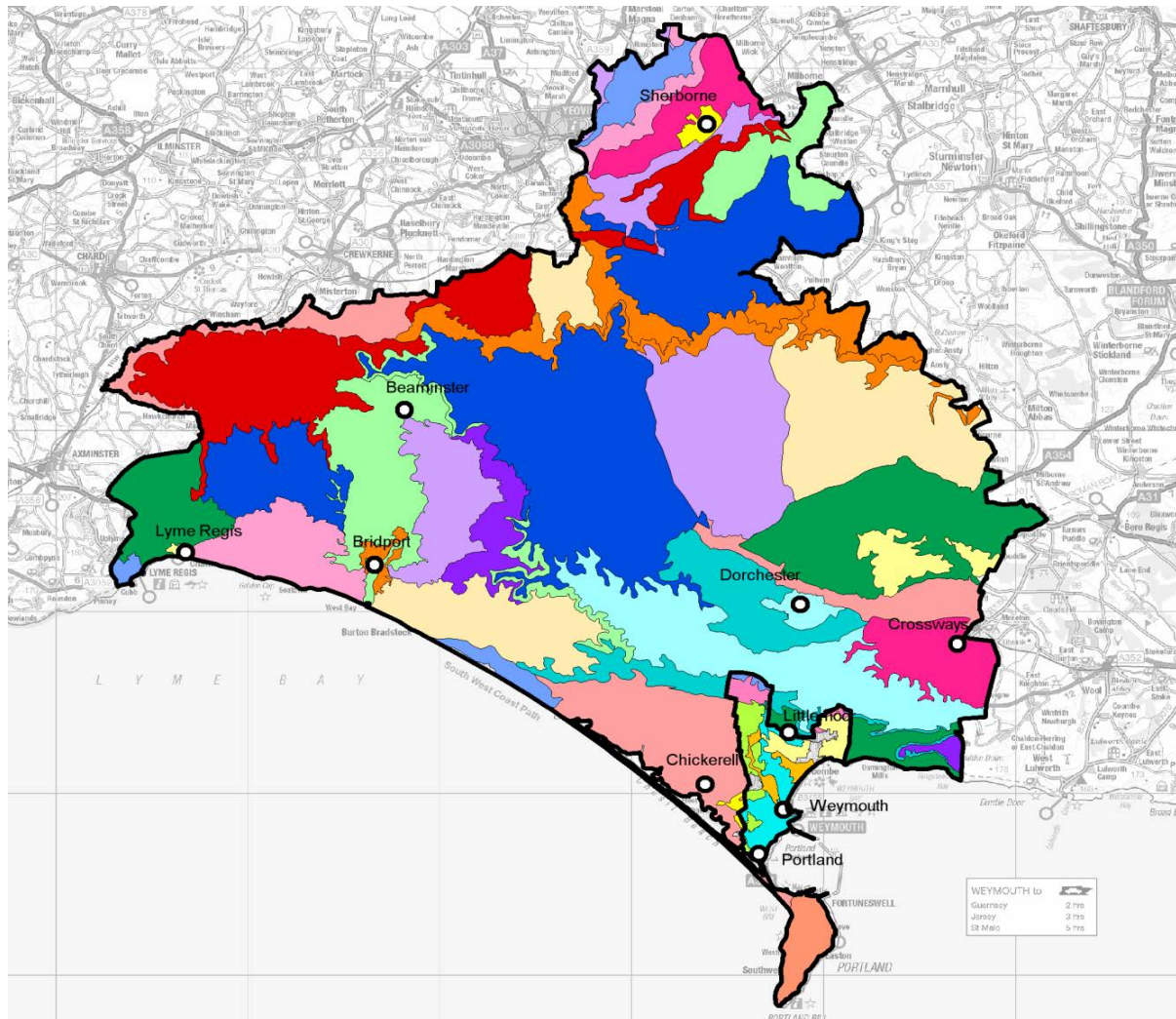
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8.2.3 The landscape and seascape character of the plan area is documented in detail in the Landscape Character Assessments for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland (Figure 8.2).

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Figure 8.2: A map showing the extent of the Landscape Character Areas within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland.



West Dorset Landscape Character Assessment areas

- | | |
|--|---|
| Axe Valley | North Dorset Escarpment |
| Axe Valley Hills | North Dorset Hills |
| Bexington Coast | Osington Ridge and Vale |
| Blackmoor Vale | Powerstock Hills |
| Bride Valley | Powerstock Woods |
| Bridport | Puddletown Forest and Clyffe House |
| Brit Valley | Sherborne |
| Cerne and Piddle Valleys and Chalk Downland | Sherborne Escarpment |
| Cerne and Sydling Valley | Sherborne Hills |
| Chaldon Downs | South Dorset Downs |
| Charmouth | South Dorset Escarpment |
| Chickerell | South Dorset Escarpment |
| Chideock Hills | South Dorset Ridge and Vale |
| Crossways Gravel Plateau | Thornford Ridge |
| Dorchester | Trent Hills |
| Dorchester Downs | Upper Frome Valley |
| Frome and Piddle Valley Pasture | Upper Piddle Valley |
| Halstock Vale | West Blackmoor Rolling Valleys |
| Lyme Regis | West Dorset Escarpment |
| Mars hwood Vale | Wootton Hills |
| Melbury Hills | Yeo Valley Pasture |

Weymouth and Portland Landscape Character Assessment areas

- | |
|--|
| Chesil Bank and the Fleet |
| Osington Ridge and Vale |
| Portland |
| South Dorset Downs |
| South Dorset Escarpment |
| South Dorset Ridge and Vale |
| Urban Area |
| Valley Pasture |

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8.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

8.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to landscape are:

- The majority of the plan area is designated on the basis of its landscape importance, with 69% of the plan area occupied by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a vast majority of the coastline is part of the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site.
- the loss of character and quality associated with the distinctive landscapes and associated features of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the outstanding universal value and setting of the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site.

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9 Cultural heritage

9.0.1 This chapter considers the impacts of development upon cultural heritage, including archaeological and architectural features.

9.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

9.1.1 The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)**, the key objective of which was to protect cultural and natural heritage, considers 'that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole'.

EUROPEAN

9.1.2 The **Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (2000)** includes the following key objective:

- Enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development

9.1.3 The main objective of **The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) (1992)** was to ensure that the historic environment is properly preserved and managed. The convention was particularly concerned with encouraging co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage.

NATIONAL

9.1.4 The **Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)** requires local authorities to "have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses" when considering applications for listed building consent. With respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area, special attention must be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.

9.1.5 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that the planning system has a role to play in contributing to protecting and enhancing our historic environment.

9.1.6 The NPPF states that local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and

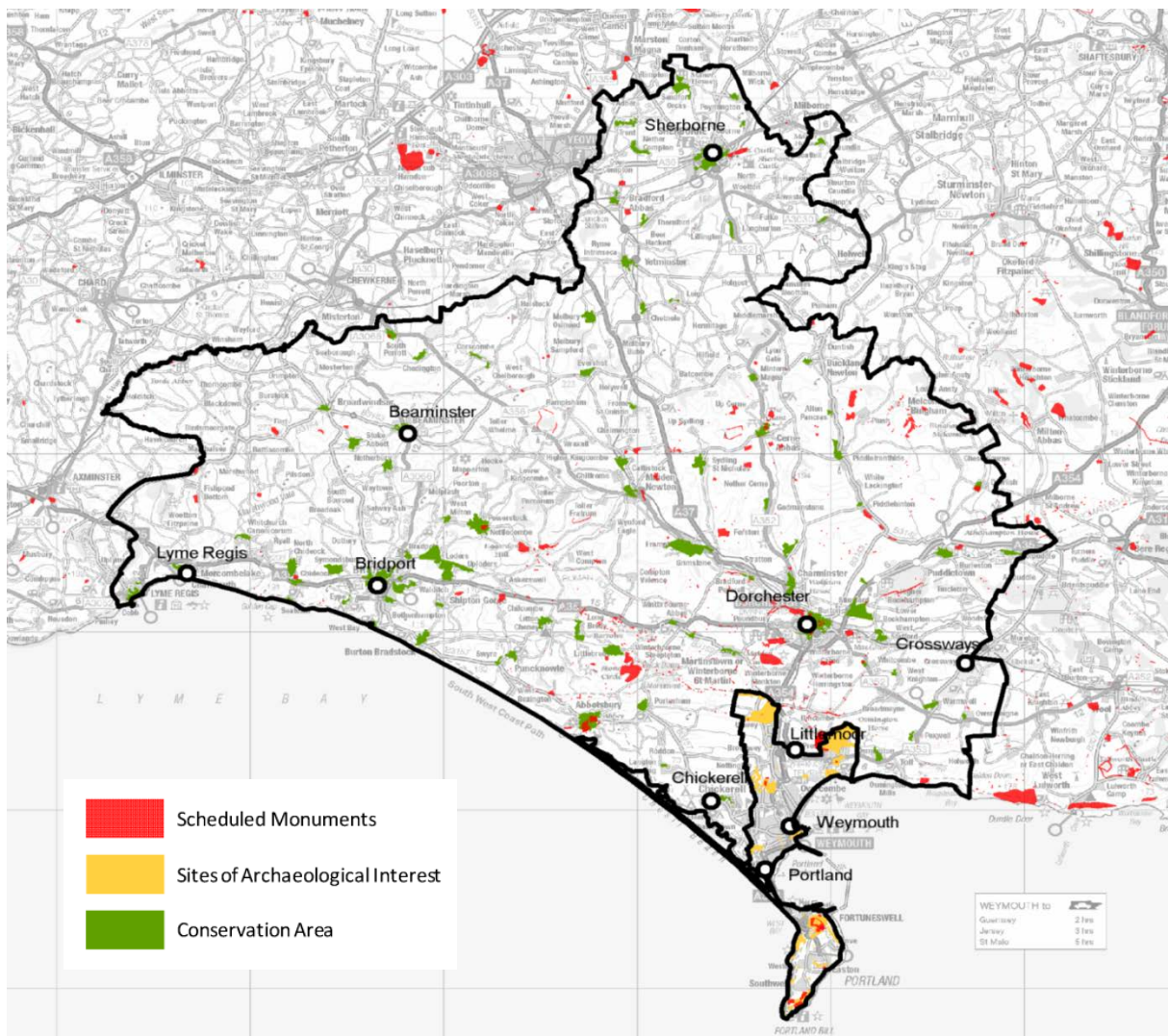
putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

9.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

9.2.1 The plan area includes a rich historic and built heritage largely protected through Listed Buildings, of which there are approximately 8,000, and in the region of 90 Conservation Areas. There are also a multitude of archaeological sites and features within the plan area, the most important of which are designated as Scheduled Monuments. There are also Sites of Archaeological Interest within the plan area which are locally listed heritage features rather than formally designated heritage assets, but nevertheless indicate a degree of heritage significance. These features are shown in Figure 9.1.

Figure 9.1: A map showing the extent of the heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Archaeological Interest, and Conservation Areas within West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland.



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9.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9.3.1 The key environmental issues relating to cultural heritage include:

- The rich historic and built heritage of the plan area is an irreplaceable resource, and important features of historic, cultural and archaeological interest must be preserved to prevent their loss;
- Sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets by putting them to viable uses which are consistent with their conservation; and
- Ensuring that new development makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness, and the historic environment.

10 Human health and population

10.0.1 This chapter explores the issues relating to the population and demographic structure, and addresses social issues such as crime, education, and health and safety.

10.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

10.1.1 The United Nations developed a series of global development goals which aim to deliver sustainable development in the document titled **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)** which include:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

EUROPEAN

10.1.2 The **European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)** set out a strategy on how the EU will deliver its commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development, and includes the following key objectives:

- Promoting good public health and improving protection against health threats;
- Creating a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations; and
- To secure and increase the quality of life of citizens

10.1.3 The targets within this strategy include:

- Curbing the increase in lifestyle related and chronic diseases, particularly among socio-economically disadvantaged groups and areas; and

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- Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2010 with a special focus on the need to reduce child poverty.

NATIONAL

10.1.4 The **UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)** sets out the five principles for a policy to be sustainable, which form the basis for policy in the U.K, one of which is:

- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society: meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

10.1.5 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) for England states that there is a social role to achieving sustainable development, which is:

- supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

10.1.6 A core planning principle of the NPPF is to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

10.1.7 Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes. To promote healthy communities, the NPPF states that planning policies should achieve places which promote:

- opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;
- safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

10.1.8 In addition, the NPPF states that planning policies should aim to avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development.

10.1.9 The NPPF states that in order to promote a strong local economy in rural areas, local plans should:

- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

LOCAL

10.1.10 The **Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 (2010)**, written by the Dorset Strategic Partnership, has the following vision:

- 'a living thriving Dorset where everyone has a part to play in creating a better quality of life'

10.1.11 This strategy includes the following aims:

- Narrowing the inequality gap so that people across Dorset have fairer access to opportunities which can improve their quality of life;
- Everyone can live in a good quality home and neighbourhood that meets their needs;
- Dorset people can access work, education and training, healthcare, essential shopping and leisure opportunities;
- People are safe and feel safe in their communities;
- Communities thrive: everyone feels they belong, can take an active part in community life and can influence decision making;
- Everyone has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life..... and to receive high quality care that meets their needs;
- Children and young people realise their potential; and
- Older people are healthy, active and independent in their communities.

10.1.12 The **Community Plan for Weymouth & Portland 2013-16 (2013)** includes the following key priority which needs to be addressed in order to improve the quality of life of those who live and work in Weymouth & Portland:

- The Borough is a healthy and safe place to live, where all residents have equal access to high quality health facilities, care and housing that is appropriate to their needs. Our local communities are thriving, with all ages, abilities and cultures having an active role in their area and in the planning of community services.

10.1.13 The **West Dorset Community Plan 2010-26 (2013)** aims to improve the quality of life for residents and workers in the district, and contains the following theme on equality and diversity:

“As well as recognising and promoting the diversity across the district we need to ensure there is equality of access to services and prioritise actions which reduce inequalities. The main ethos of the plan is that there is mutual respect and understanding which recognises that some groups have specific needs, for example because of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief or sexual orientation, as well as economic disadvantage and rural isolation.”

10.1.14 The **West Dorset Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** and **Weymouth & Portland Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** set out the strategic vision, core values, aims, priorities and projects

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for West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council between 2013-17. The following priorities are included:

- Preventing homelessness and supporting communities to meet their housing needs;
- Working with partners to improve public health and wellbeing;
- Facilitating sustainable leisure, culture and community activities; and
- Ensuring safe and thriving communities with respect for each other.

10.2. BASELINE DATA

10.2.1 The population was 100,030 in West Dorset and 65,130 in Weymouth & Portland in 2013 according to the Office of National Statistics.

10.2.2 West Dorset has experienced a population increase of 5.9% between 2003 and 2013, which is less than Dorset (8.3%) but greater than England and Wales (1.3%) (Figure 10.1).

10.2.3 Weymouth and Portland experienced a slower population growth rate of just 1.3% over this period, significantly below the population increase experienced in Dorset but on a par with the England & Wales average.

Figure 10.1: A graph showing the population increase between 2003-13 in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Dorset, and England and Wales

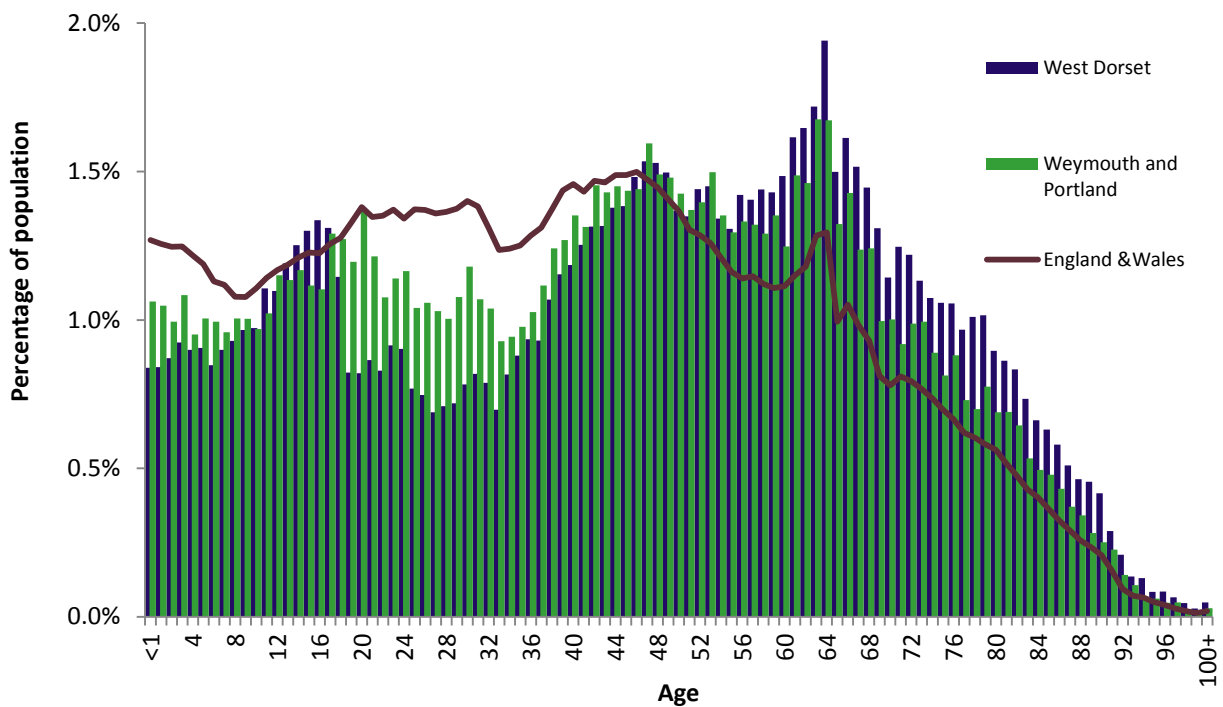


10.2.4 West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland has a greater proportion of residents within the older populations brackets, aged 47 or more, than the England and Wales average (Figure 10.2). Accordingly, there are a smaller proportion of residents in the younger age group, with the exception of residents aged between 14 and 17 in West Dorset which is slightly greater than the national average. Future projections also indicate that there will be a significant increase in the proportion of residents in the over 65 age group and a decrease in the proportion of residents in the under 65 bracket, confirming an ageing population.

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Figure 10.2: A graph showing the demographic structure of West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, and England and Wales

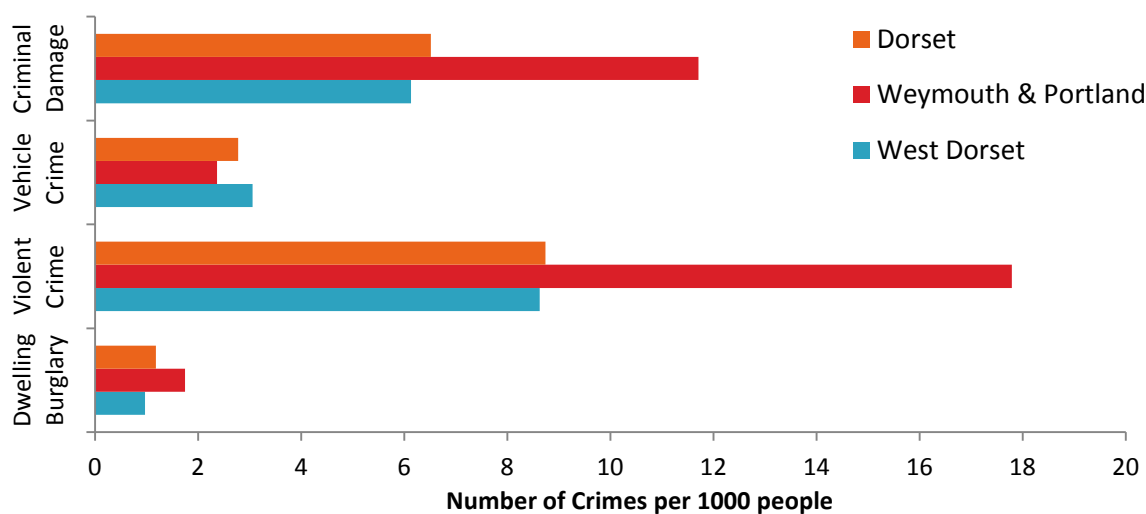


10.2.5 The population in West Dorset is estimated to rise by 3.5% compared to 2013 estimates by 2022, giving a total population of 103,500 (Figure 10.3).

10.2.6 The population in Weymouth and Portland is estimated to rise by 0.6% compared to 2013 estimates by 2022, giving a total population of 65,500.

10.2.7 West Dorset has a below average crime rate compared to Dorset as a whole. The incidence of crime in Weymouth and Portland is above the Dorset average, particularly with respect to violent crime and criminal damage.

Figure 10.3: A graph showing the prevalence of crime in West Dorset, Weymouth and Dorset.

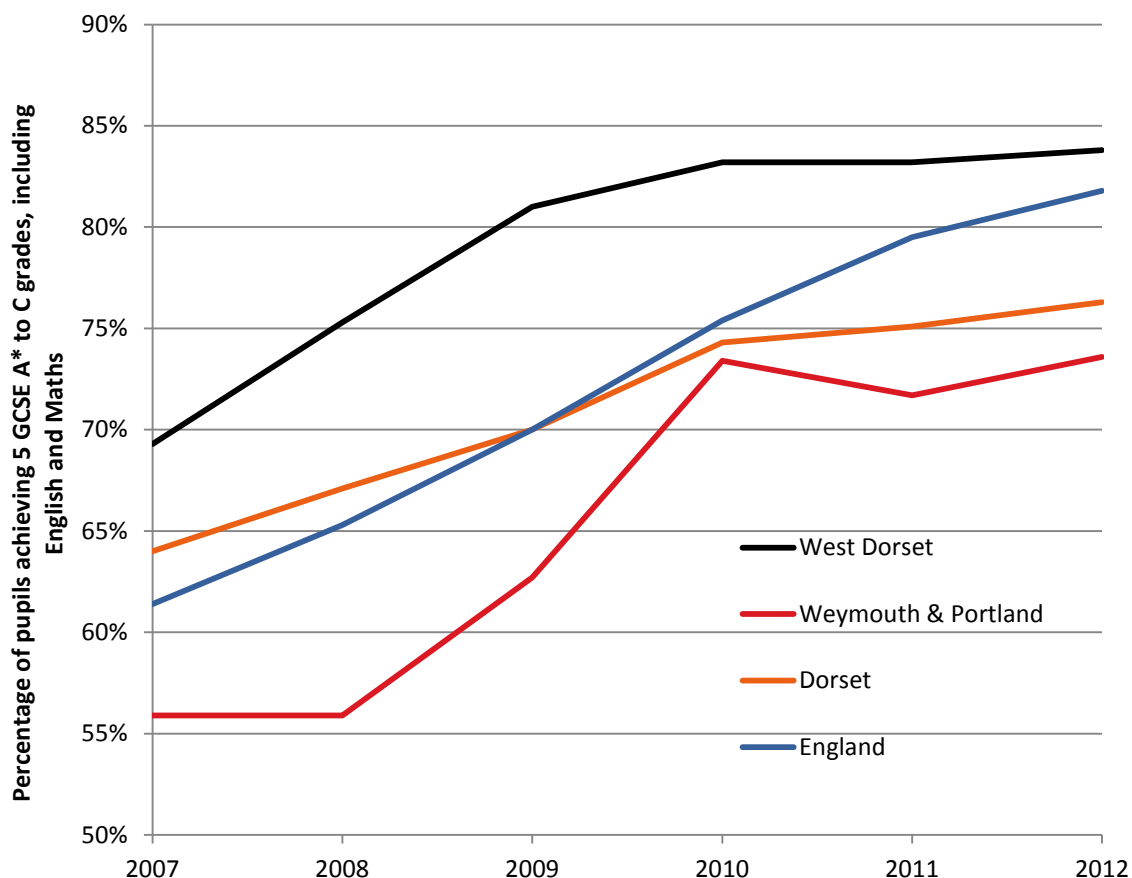


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10.2.8 The performance of students in their GCSE exams in the plan area, the southwest and England is presented in Figure 10.4. In 2012, 83.8% of pupils in West Dorset achieved 5 or more GCSE A* to C grades (including maths and English) in 2012, greater than the Dorset (76.3%) and nationwide averages (81.8%). The best achieving school in West Dorset was Sherborne School, where 99% of pupils attained 5 or more GCSE A* to C grades. In comparison, 73.6% of pupils in Weymouth & Portland achieved 5 or more GCSE A* to C grades in 2012, below the Dorset and England averages.

Figure 10.4: A graph showing the performance of students in GCSE exams



10.2.9 Government statistics indicate that the percentage of the population which are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Dorset is 1.9% of 16 year olds, 4.6% of 17 year olds, and 5.8% of 18 year olds.

10.2.10 The most inaccessible areas, in terms of transport, are generally in the central and northern areas of West Dorset (Figure 11.4).

10.2.11 Data suggests that car ownership is higher in the more rural parts of Dorset. In West Dorset, 83% of households have access to a car and 35% have two or more vehicles. In Weymouth & Portland, 74% have access to a car and 26% have no access to a car⁴.

⁴ Weymouth & Portland/West Dorset Economic Profile, September 2011, Dorset County Council

- 10.2.12 Parts of Dorset are not well served by public transport with indirect bus routes or services at a time or frequency not suited to commuters. Approximately 10% of the working age population of both West and North Dorset live over an hour by bus away from any of the 34 employment centres. Whilst there will be some employment available locally (and a significant degree of home working), it is probable that many employees living in these more remote areas will be dependent upon private transport to access employment.
- 10.2.13 Census data gives an indication of the mode of transport used to commute to work within the plan area. In 2011, only 2.1% of people commuted to work using public transport in West Dorset, and 5.3 % in Weymouth & Portland, both of which are far less than the national average of 10.5%. More people travel by bike or by foot in West Dorset (10.7%) and Weymouth & Portland (also 10.7%) than the national average (8.1%). This perhaps reflects the difficulties in using public transport services in West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland.
- 10.2.14 In terms of commuting patterns, Dorchester is a net gainer of workers with about 8,450 coming into the town to work and 2,500 leaving to work elsewhere. In-commuters were largely from Weymouth & Portland and other parts of West Dorset. These two areas were also the main destinations for Dorchester out-commuters.
- 10.2.15 Bridport is also a net gainer of commuters with about 1,960 in-commuters and 1,780 out-commuters. Commuters were largely travelling to and from parts of West Dorset.
- 10.2.16 Sherborne is another net gainer of workers with about 2,620 in-commuters and 1,590 out-commuters. Commuters were largely travelling to and from Somerset⁵.
- 10.2.17 In Weymouth & Portland, there is a significant net loss of approximately 7,800 commuters. Two-thirds of these commuters travel to West Dorset⁶.

10.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 10.3.1 The key environmental issues for the plan area are:
- Providing accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being
 - The incidence of violent crime, criminal damage, and dwelling burglary in Weymouth & Portland, which is above the average for Dorset.
 - The GCSE exam results in Weymouth and Portland which are below local and national averages.
 - The gap in equality which means that access to opportunities across the plan area is not equal, affecting quality of life.

⁵ West Dorset Economic Profile, September 2011, Dorset County Council

⁶ Weymouth & Portland Economic Profile, September 2011, Dorset County Council

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- Parts of Dorset are not served well by public transport, which is reflected by the fact that car ownership is higher in the more isolated, rural parts of Dorset than the national average.
- Residents in these more remote areas are unlikely to be able to access services and facilities by more sustainable transport modes in light of the lack of public transport.
- In terms of commuting, the lack of public transport results in people travelling by alternative means. Commuting patterns show that a significant number of people travel between settlements, which is believed to occur largely by private car.
- The plan area has a greater proportion of residents within the older age bands. Social isolation may be an issue amongst older residents, particularly in the more remote and inaccessible areas which are not served by public transport. This prevents older people from being healthy, active and independent in their communities.

11 Material assets

11.0.1 This section considers issues relating to development for housing, employment use and infrastructure, and the economy.

11.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL

11.1.1 The United Nations developed a series of global development goals which aim to deliver sustainable development in the document titled **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)**, including the following goals which relate to infrastructure and the economy:

- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

EUROPEAN

11.1.2 The **Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (2000)** includes the following key objectives:

- Developing access to information and knowledge, and improving the telecommunications network; and
- Encouraging development generated by urban functions and improving the relationship between town and countryside.

11.1.3 The **European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)** set out a strategy on how the EU will deliver its commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development, and includes the following key objective:

- Ensuring that transport systems meet society's needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts.

11.1.4 The targets in the document include:

- Addressing social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.

11.1.5 The European Commission's **European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)** intends to achieve balanced and sustainable development, and includes the target:

- To achieve more spatially balanced development, these goals must be pursued simultaneously in all regions of the EU and their interactions taken into account.

NATIONAL

11.1.6 The **UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)** sets out the five principles

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for a policy to be sustainable, one of which is:

- Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

11.1.7 The **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** (NPPF) states that the planning system has an economic role in achieving sustainable development, by contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.

11.1.8 In terms of rural economies, the NPPF states that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses; and
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres;

11.1.9 The NPPF states that to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, local planning authorities should:

- plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes);
- identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and
- where they have identified that affordable housing is needed, set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified (for example to improve or make more effective use of the existing housing stock) and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. Such policies should be sufficiently flexible to take account of changing market conditions over time.

11.1.10 The NPPF states that good design is key to sustainable development and Local Plans should include planning policy which ensures that development:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
- respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;
- create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.

11.1.11 The **Natural Environment White Paper (2011)**, which sets out the Government's vision for the natural environment, aims to mainstream the value of nature by :

- creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature.

LOCAL

11.1.12 The **Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a Framework for the Future: AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 (2014)**, contains the following objectives:

- Support the development of, and market for, local products that deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

11.1.13 The **Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014–2019 (2014)** contains the following aim:

- To support communities in realising the economic social and cultural opportunities and benefits that World Heritage Status can bring.

11.1.14 The **Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 (2010)** has the following aims:

- A strong economy offers better job opportunities for people in Dorset.

11.1.15 The **Community Plan for Weymouth & Portland 2013-16 (2013)** includes the following key priority which needs to be addressed in order to improve the quality of life of those who live and work in Weymouth & Portland:

- Weymouth & Portland has a prosperous economy with a wide variety of businesses operating in the area. There are diverse work options available for local people and exciting opportunities for young people. Education and training is available to all age ranges and is of an excellent standard, providing for the needs of the area.

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11.1.16 The **West Dorset Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** and **Weymouth & Portland Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)** set out the strategic vision, core values, aims, priorities and projects for West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council between 2013-17. The priorities under the economy heading, included:

- Facilitating inward investment to create more better-paid jobs
- Improving infrastructure to enable businesses to grow
- Supporting businesses through the recession and recovery
- Regenerating and supporting vibrant town centres

11.1.17 The document titled 'Priorities for Growth: Economic Priorities in West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland 2014-2020' outline the key economic growth priorities for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, which are as follows:

More and better paid jobs

To encourage and enable more and better paid jobs the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland partnership will:

- Plan and bring forward employment sites to secure development
- Support inward investment and expanding companies to provide better paid jobs and employment opportunities
- Develop a culture in which people can use land and premises to set up, evolve and expand businesses
- Work in partnership to enhance and promote the centre of excellence based on marine and engineering sectors at Portland Port & Osprey Quay
- Bring forward development of key employment sites including Littlemoor (Weymouth and West Dorset), Barton Farm (Sherborne) and Vearse Farm (Bridport)
- Deliver mixed use development
- Work with Dorset and adjoining Local Enterprises Partnerships to promote the area as a business location
- Build on Olympic legacy and World Heritage Coast status to develop marine leisure and outdoor tourism

Vibrant town centres

To ensure the area has vibrant town centres the partnership will support town centre regeneration by:

- Working with and supporting Town Chambers and Councils, Business Improvement Districts and key business partners
- Developing town centre master plans

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- Encouraging use of Superfast Broadband and new technology to be more competitive
- Dorchester Charles Street Phase II (retail)
- Bring to market key redevelopment sites in and around town centres (Weymouth Pavilion peninsular including Ferry Terminal)
- Support tourism industry to increase numbers of higher spend visitors

Supporting businesses

The partnership will support businesses through:

- Improving and strengthening engagement with the business community
- Developing and strengthening relationships with key businesses
- Create a business friendly approach for all Council services
- Develop growth plan for key sectors with Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership including manufacturing, engineering, renewable industries, tourism and marine
- Establish a business support package aimed at increasing start up and survival rates
- In partnership develop work placements, careers advice and the provision of, and access to apprenticeships

Improving infrastructure

The West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland council partnership will encourage and lobby for improvements to infrastructure where opportunity presents for:

- Transport network and services
- Road, rail, air, marine
- Superfast broadband and mobile coverage

11.1.18 The partnership will prioritise:

- Investment and delivery of Superfast Dorset project including Superfast Business support for all businesses
- Transport improvements to North South road network
- Improved access to key employment sites including Osprey Quay and Portland Port
- Faster train services from both Bristol (First Great Western) and London (South West Trains - with Waterloo-Weymouth serving the south of the district and Waterloo-Exeter the north)

11.1.19 The **Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Local Economic Assessment** provides a profile of the local economy which gives a detailed understanding of economic strengths, opportunities and challenges in Dorset, and identifies the following future challenges:

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- The cost of housing relative to incomes, which is currently a barrier to recruitment, particularly for younger people, including graduates. It will be critical to provide sufficient housing at affordable prices for younger people and graduates if the workforce is to avoid skills depletion as people retire;
- Providing faster and more extensive broadband and ICT infrastructure to ensure that knowledge-intensive sectors, such as creative industries, are able to prosper;
- As more skilled and experienced workers reach retirement age and with the drivers of in-migration still favouring those at or nearing retirement age, the pressure will be on to address the loss of skills and maintain a balanced workforce in terms of age and skills;
- need to increase the supply of housing in sustainable locations with good access to services and facilities, including good schools;
- the range of housing in terms of type, size and tenure should reflect housing needs in the area, including those required to support a prosperous economy;
- High levels of multiple deprivation, combined with poor economic performance mark Weymouth and Portland out as a special case in the Dorset sub-region.

11.1.20 The **Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Workspace Strategy (2008)** makes the following recommendations:

- *Employment Land Policies:* Planning documents should identify all regionally and locally important employment sites and include appropriate employment land protection policies and define where mixed use packages could be appropriate to ensure delivery.
- *Balancing Demand and Supply through Adequate Supply of Sites and Premises:* Local Planning authorities should work across borders to provide a balanced of supply and demand within functional economic areas (e.g. TTWAs).
- *Interventions to Secure Adequate Supply of Sites and Premises:* A range of interventions is required to help to bring the required supply (including smaller sites) forward. Priority should be given to the delivery of key sites with little constraints, site level intervention where the market alone will not deliver the required employment sites and sub-regional interventions to increase the attractiveness of the area as a place to do business.
- *Office:* A focus should be given on the delivery of office premises in the sub-region, with a particular emphasis on provision at town centres in the conurbation and Dorchester: Weymouth.
- *Urban Extensions:* Within proposed urban extensions support should be given to the inclusion of employment areas as part of properly masterplanned, mixed use schemes.

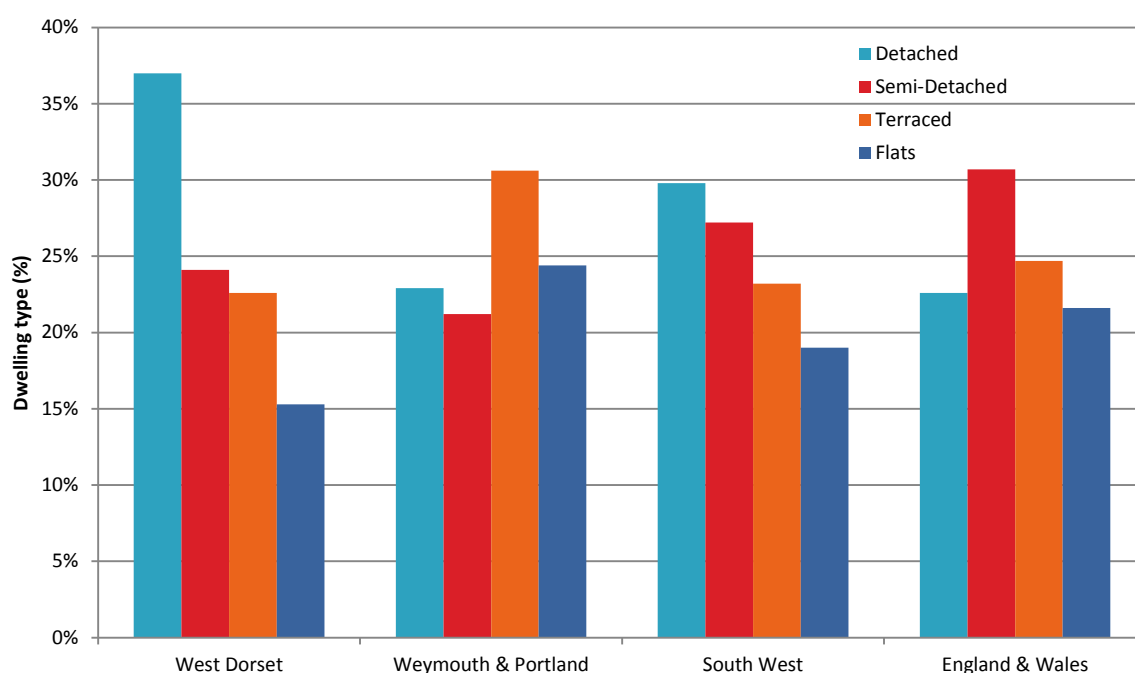
- *Town Centre Development:* A priority should be the continued improvement in town centres. Attractive town centres increase overall market attractiveness of the sub-region and can help support office development and wider jobs growth.

11.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

11.2.1 In 2014, there were 50,330 dwellings in West Dorset and 31,550 dwellings in Weymouth & Portland. This represents a 2.0% increase in the number of households in West Dorset and a 1.8% increase in Weymouth & Portland between 2011 and 2014. This rate of increase in the number of dwellings was greater than in Dorset (at 1.5%) and in England (at 1.7%).

11.2.2 Figure 11.1 shows the proportion of housing within each dwelling type. West Dorset has a higher proportion of detached housing and a smaller proportion of flats than the South West and national averages. Weymouth and Portland has a higher proportion of terraced housing and flats than the South West and the national average.

Figure 11.1: A graph showing the proportion of housing according to dwelling type, in comparison with West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Southwest England, and England and Wales.



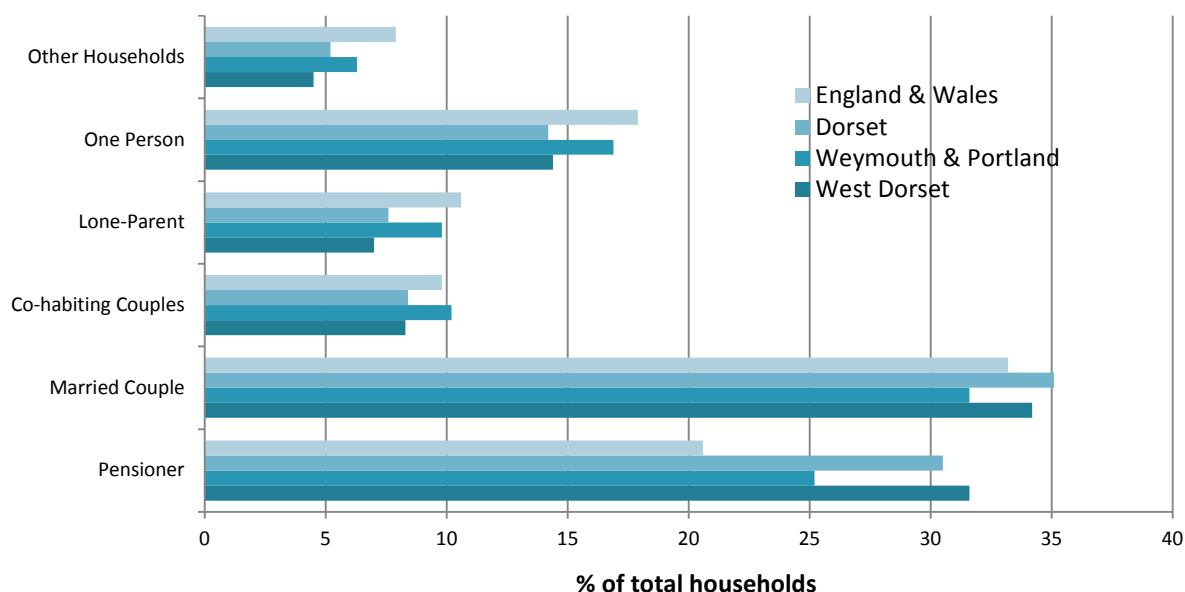
11.2.3 The average household size in West Dorset in 2011 was 2.2 people per household, below the Dorset average of 2.3 and national average of 2.4. The average household size in Weymouth and Portland was 2.3 people per household, in line with the Dorset average and below the national average.

11.2.4 The household composition in West Dorset (Figure 11.2) is similar to that of Dorset as a whole, but in comparison with the national average, the district has a smaller proportion of lone parents and sole occupancy households and a greater proportion of pensioners, reflecting the greater proportion of older residents in Dorset.

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11.2.5 The household composition in Weymouth and Portland (Figure 11.2) shows a lower proportion of married couples and a higher percentage of cohabiting couples than both the Dorset and national averages. The proportion of households occupied by lone parent and by one person in Weymouth & Portland is higher than the Dorset average but lower than experienced nationally. There are a lower proportion of pensioners occupying households than in Dorset, but still more than the national average.

Figure 11.2: A graph showing the household composition in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Dorset, and England and Wales.

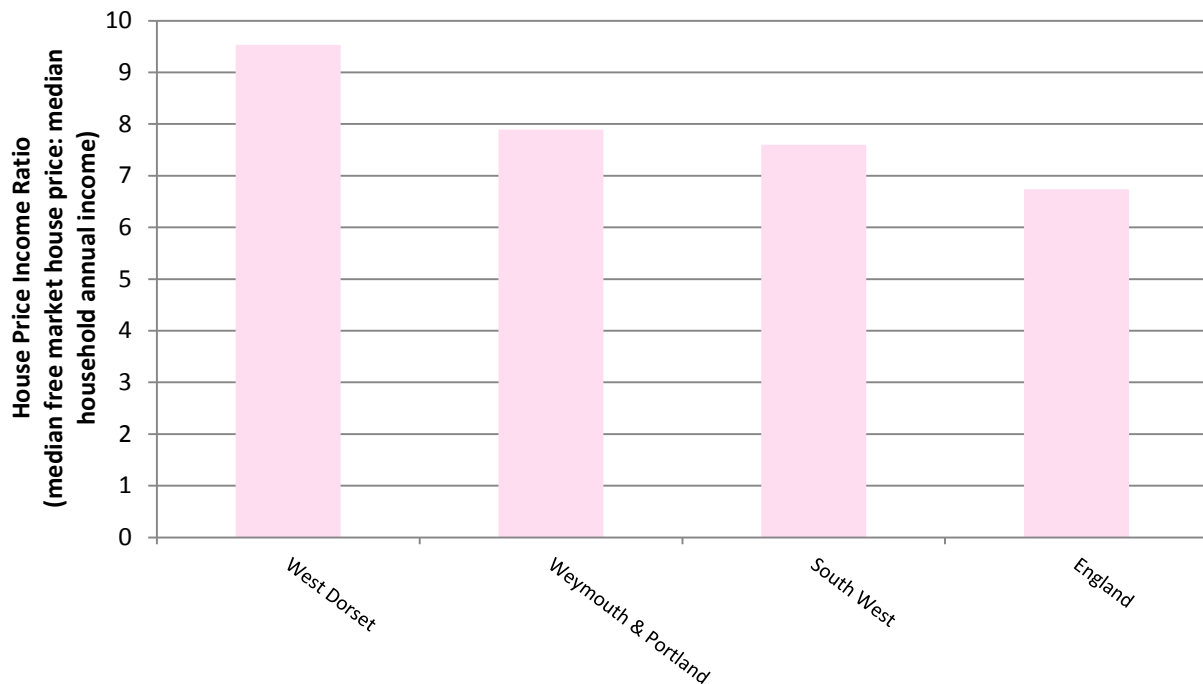


11.2.6 The average house price in West Dorset in 2010 (£248,250) was significantly higher than in the South West (£220,532) and nationally (£190,000). Whilst house prices are lower in Weymouth & Portland (£208,798) than the South West, average pay is also lower. However, the ratio of house prices to income is higher in both West Dorset (9.53) and Weymouth & Portland (7.89) than the South West (7.60) and nationally (6.74), suggesting a disparity in house prices and incomes across both council areas which is particularly notable in West Dorset (Figure 11.3).

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Figure 11.3: A graph showing the housing price to income ratio in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Dorset, and England and Wales.



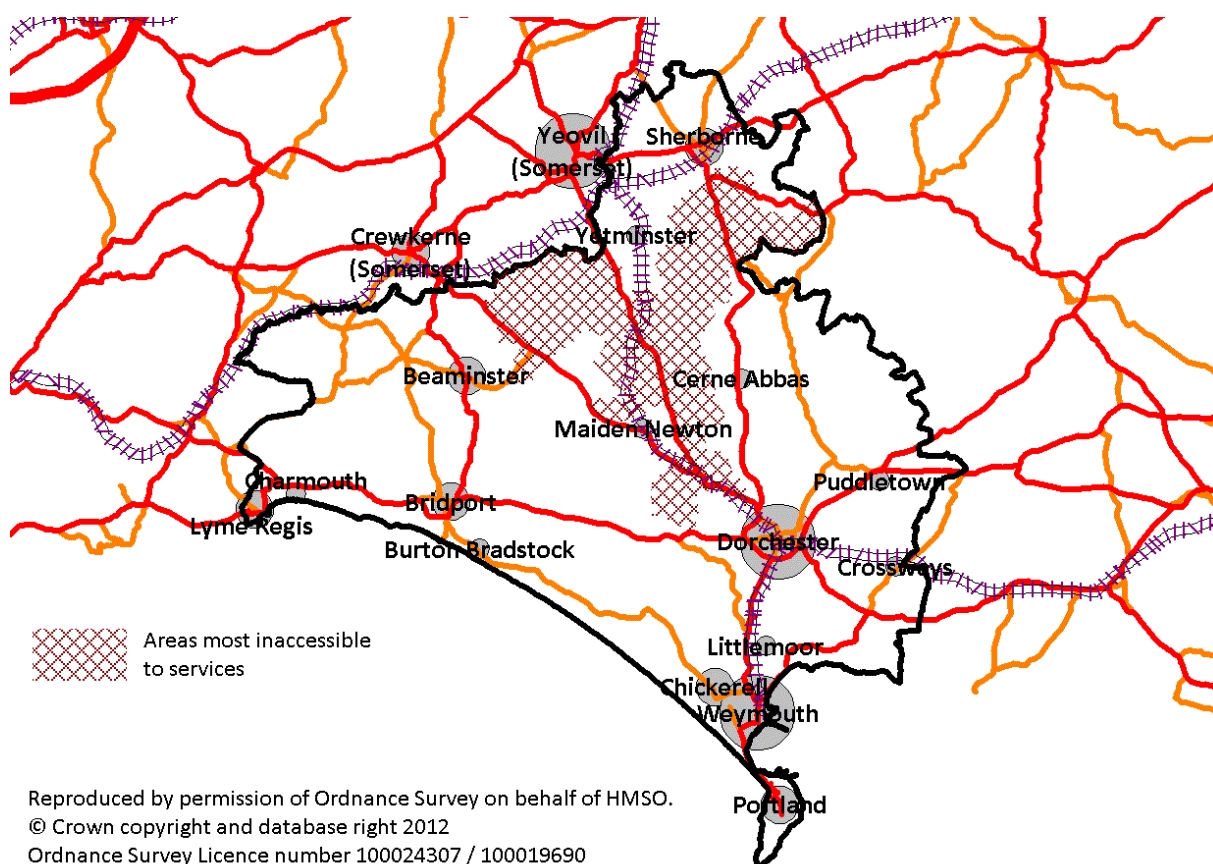
- 11.2.7 There is a need to provide affordable housing at a cost low enough for local people whose needs cannot be met by the open market. It should remain at an affordable price in the long term, through the use of appropriate restrictions, rather than only being affordable to initial occupants.
- 11.2.8 There are three main types of affordable housing; social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing. Housing available for social or affordable rent is rented housing normally provided by registered providers and regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency. Intermediate housing can include shared equity products and leasehold shared-ownership schemes, and discounted sale (with future sales restricted to the same discount). Low cost market housing, aimed at first time buyers but with no restrictions on market prices, is not considered to be affordable housing as it does not remain affordable in the longer term.
- 11.2.9 The Housing and Planning Act includes the duty to promote starter homes, defined as a new dwelling only available for purchase by qualifying first-time buyers and which is made available at price which is at least 20% less than its market value but which is below the price cap (which is £250,000 outside Greater London and £450,000 in Greater London). In March 2016, the Government started consultation on the details of the regulations which will support the starter homes clauses in the Housing and Planning Act.
- 11.2.10 There are 1045 people on the housing register in West Dorset and 1144 in Weymouth and Portland according to the Council's database at the time of writing, in December 2015.
- 11.2.11 In 2014, as part of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, the annual affordable housing need (refined to reflect the local

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housing market) was estimated at 104 dwellings per annum in West Dorset and 130 dwellings per annum in Weymouth & Portland. It suggested that a range of affordable accommodation sizes is required to meet the affordable housing needs, with shared ownership and affordable rented accommodation being the intermediate products most suited to meeting the affordable housing need. The SHMA also indicated that there is no further provision of one, two and three bedroom social rented homes required in West Dorset.

- 11.2.12 The nature of transport infrastructure varies considerably across the plan area (Figure 10.4). The A35 in West Dorset is a main road that passes east to west through the plan area. Westwards the road heads towards Bridport, Honiton, Exeter and the M5. Eastwards the road heads towards the A31, from which road users can travel in the direction of the M27, which provides links to Southampton, South East England and to the M3 that goes on to London. The A37 runs north from Dorchester towards Yeovil and then on to Bristol. One other main road in the plan area is the A354, which runs north east from Portland, through Weymouth, Dorchester, Blandford Forum, Salisbury and on in the direction of the M4, which travels on to London or Bristol.
- 11.2.13 There are three railway lines that travel through the plan area. One is the Weymouth to London Waterloo line, which is an important commuter link to London with stations at Upwey, Dorchester South and Moreton. The line also stops at Southampton Airport and Parkway in Hampshire, providing access to the airport. The Weymouth to Bristol line has several stations in the plan area including Dorchester West, Maiden Newton, Chetnole, Yetminster and Thornford. Sherborne station sits on the Exeter to London Waterloo line, which is an important commuter link to London from the South West of England. The line runs through the north of the district.
- 11.2.14 There are a number of harbours with registered fishing vessels and two small fishing harbours along the coast of West Dorset, West Bay and Lyme Regis.
- 11.2.15 The maritime services sector is important for the local area and includes the shipping, ports and maritime business services industry as well as supporting other industries in Dorset.
- 11.2.16 Portland Port is an important element of the local and regional economy.
- 11.2.17 The port's statutory jurisdiction includes Portland Inner Harbour and extends into Weymouth Bay, covering a total waterspace area in excess of 2,400 hectares.

Figure 11.4: A map showing the transport infrastructure within the plan area.



- 11.2.18 The economic profiles for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland are produced annually by Dorset County Council and provide an economy and labour market profile.
- 11.2.19 In 2013, there were 5,850 local businesses in West Dorset, showing an increase of 45 businesses representing a 0.8% rise since 2009.
- 11.2.20 85% of businesses in West Dorset employed fewer than ten people which is in line with Dorset (excluding Bournemouth and Poole) and above the figure for the southwest and Great Britain.
- 11.2.21 The majority of businesses in West Dorset had a turnover of between £100,000 and £249,000 (28%). 22% of businesses had a turnover of between £50,000 and £99,000, which is marginally below the figure for the county and the South West (both 23%) and nationally (24%).
- 11.2.22 Half of West Dorset's businesses fall within four main sectors: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Construction; Retail; and Professional, scientific and technical.
- 11.2.23 The Public administration & defence sector grew by 50% between 2009 and 2013 and the Wholesale sector grew by 21%. Other sectors seeing growth since 2009 in West Dorset were (figures rounded to the nearest five):
- Agriculture, forestry & fishing: +50 (5%)
 - Motor trade: +5 (3%)

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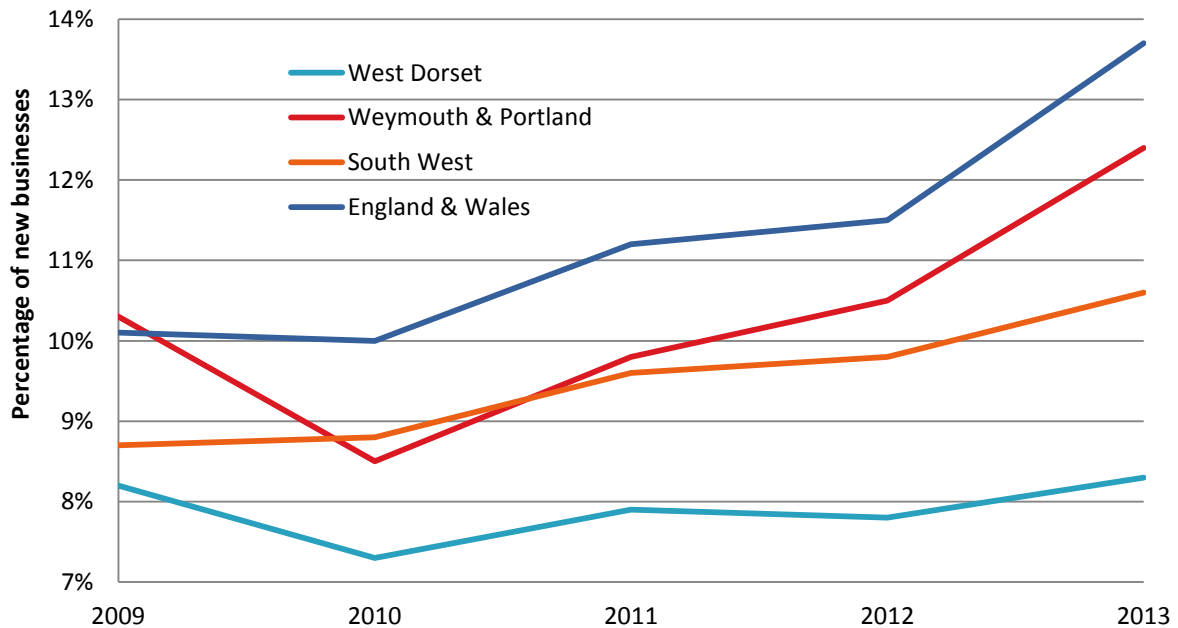
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- Production: +10 (3%)
 - Property: +20 (11%)
 - Professional, scientific & technical: +100 (17%)
 - Education: +5 (5%)
- 11.2.24 The greatest losses were in Business administration & support services and Construction.
- 11.2.25 In 2013, there were 2,020 businesses in Weymouth and Portland, showing a loss of 130 businesses representing a six per cent decrease since 2009.
- 11.2.26 82% of businesses in Weymouth and Portland employed fewer than five people which is below the figure for Dorset (excluding Bournemouth and Poole), southwest England and Great Britain.
- 11.2.27 The majority of businesses had a turnover of between £100,000 and £249,000 (33%). The proportion of businesses that had a turnover of between £50,000 and £99,000 was 26%, which is above the figure for the county and the South West (both 23%) and the national figure (24%).
- 11.2.28 More than half (52%) of Weymouth & Portland's businesses fall within four main sectors: Construction; Retail; Accommodation & food services; and Property.
- 11.2.29 Other sectors seeing growth since 2009 in Weymouth & Portland were figures (rounded to the nearest five):
- Production: +5 (5%)
 - Information & communication: +10 (15%)
 - Professional, scientific and technical: +5 (3%)
 - Public administration & defence: +5 (25%)
 - Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services: +5 (3%)
- 11.2.30 The greatest losses were in the Property sector and the Finance and insurance sector.
- 11.2.31 In 2013, the proportion of new businesses in West Dorset (8.3%) is below that of Weymouth & Portland (12.4%), Southwest England (10.6%), and England and Wales (13.7%). The proportion of new businesses opening in West Dorset and in Weymouth & Portland increased in 2013.

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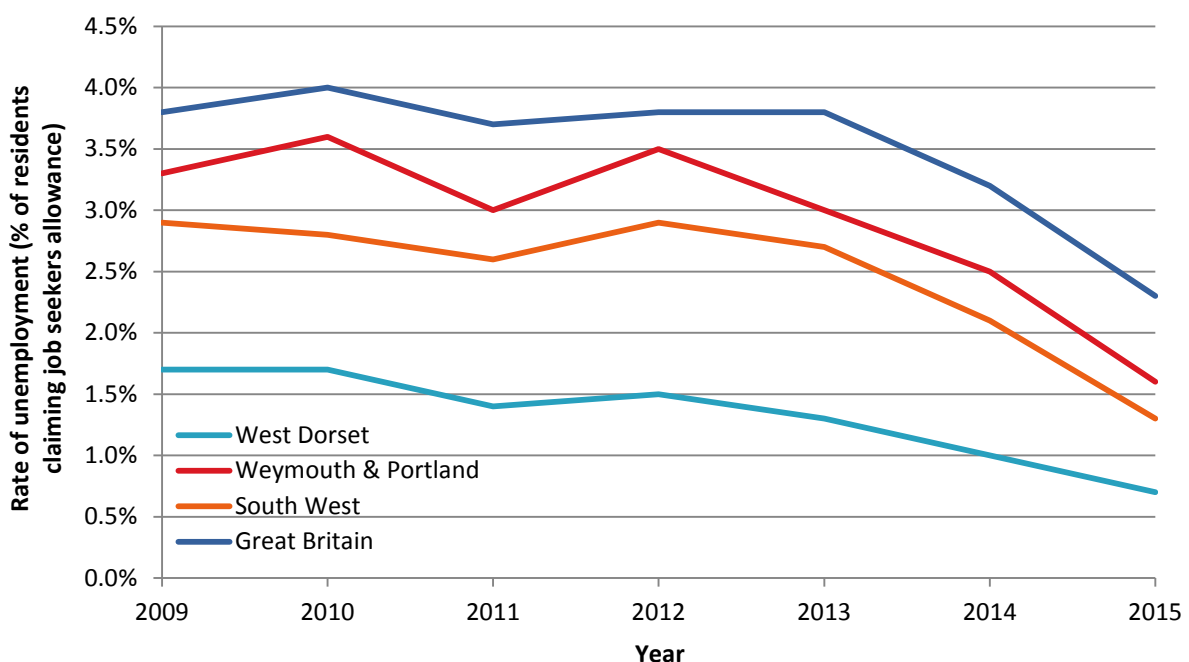
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Figure 11.4: A graph showing the percentage of new businesses between 2009 and 2013 in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Southwest England, and England and Wales.



11.2.32 The measure of people with jobs is the employment rate (Figure 11.5). This is the percentage of economically active people aged 16-64 who are currently in employment or self-employed. Unemployment in West Dorset has decreased during the past 5 years from 1.7% in 2009 to 0.7% in 2015, and remains below the South West average of 1.3% and the national average of 2.3%. Unemployment in Weymouth and Portland has decreased during the past 5 years from 3.3% in 2009 to 1.6% in 2015, which is above the South West average and below the national average.

Figure 11.5: A graph showing the rate of unemployment between 2009 and 2015 in West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Southwest England, and Great Britain.



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11.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

11.3.1 The key environmental issues within the plan area are:

- Providing the appropriate size, type, tenure and range of housing to meet the needs of the community without introducing significant environmental impacts.
- Providing sufficient affordable housing to meet the accommodation needs of local communities and reduce the number of people on the housing registers.
- Providing sufficient employment land of the right type, in the right place and at the right time to support growth and innovation, and build a strong, responsive and competitive economy.
- The loss of skills and maintaining a balanced workforce in terms of age and skills, as more workers reach retirement age and in-migration favours those at or nearing retirement age;
- The cost of housing relative to incomes which is a barrier to recruitment, particularly for younger people, including graduates. The challenge is to provide sufficient housing at affordable prices for younger people and graduates to avoid skills depletion as people retire.
- The improvement of town centres to increase overall market attractiveness of the plan area.
- Support for the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses, and support for sustainable rural tourism and leisure development.
- Improving the infrastructure to enable economic growth. This includes providing faster and more extensive broadband and ICT infrastructure to ensure that knowledge-intensive sectors, such as creative industries, are able to prosper.

12 Likely evolution of the plan area without the Local Plan Review

- 12.0.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the Local Plan Review to be considered.
- 12.0.2 The Planning Inspector, in his report following the examination in public of the Local Plan, wrote:
- “I consider it is imperative that an early review is undertaken to identify additional land capable of meeting housing needs to the end of the current plan period as well as the broad location for development in the five year period thereafter.....I therefore recommend a review should be in place no later than 2021, if not earlier, to avoid development having to be allowed in locations which are not favoured or are in less sustainable locations”*
- 12.0.3 The inspector therefore explains that there would be a shortfall in the provision of land allocated for housing towards the end of plan period, which runs to 2031, in the absence of a Local Plan Review.
- 12.0.4 This may not result in a short term impact, since the adopted Local Plan will provide sufficient land for housing during this period. However, the shortfall in housing provision towards the end of the plan period is likely to have social and economic implications, since the amount of housing provided would fail to meet the needs of the community, and also reduce the skills and labour available for local businesses.
- 12.0.5 The inspector explains that the development which would come forward in the longer term, in the absence of sufficient housing land allocations, would be likely to be situated in areas which are less sustainable, resulting in a range of complex environmental, social and economic impacts including impacts on the landscape, flooding issues and may result in increased commuting.
- 12.0.6 The Local Plan Review involves the identification of a green infrastructure network, which is a network of spaces and linkages which are valued for their ecological, geological, landscape and historic importance, as well as potentially having recreational value and helping to reduce flood risk. The green infrastructure network would be given significant protection from development.
- 12.0.7 Without the Local Plan Review, the benefits of establishing a comprehensive and coherent green infrastructure network would not be realised. Furthermore, the loss of the green infrastructure network to development may occur if it is not identified through the Local Plan Review, therefore compromising the ability to establish such a coherent and well linked network in future.
- 12.0.8 The Local Plan Review involves the establishment of Coastal Change Management Areas, which are areas likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast. In some areas, the relocation and coastal rollback of existing coastal development and infrastructure will need to be considered carefully alongside landscape, wildlife and visual impacts.

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- 12.0.9 The absence of a Local Plan Review would result in there being an absence of careful planning for coastal areas, leading to social impacts in some cases with respect to community safety and the loss of homes. These implications would be more severe in the longer term where coastal communities are more likely to be at risk as the impacts of climate change are realised. Furthermore, without a Local Plan Review, the appropriate consideration to the environmental impacts would not be given, potentially resulting in environmental impacts particularly upon ecological and landscape receptors.
- 12.0.10 In general, without the review of the local plan an uncoordinated, unplanned pattern of development may result leading to a range of environmental, social and economic issues. The planned and coordinated approach gives certainty to local communities and local businesses to enable more sustainable patterns of development.

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13 Sustainability objectives

- 13.0.1 The sustainability appraisal process involves assessing the performance of Local Plan policy against a series of sustainability objectives which are aimed at promoting sustainable development.
- 13.0.2 The sustainability objectives were informed by the findings of the review of plans and programmes, the characteristics of the plan area, and the key issues within the plan area. This ensures that the sustainability framework is relevant and specific to the Local Plan and addresses the key sustainability concerns.
- 13.0.3 The sustainability framework consists of eleven sustainability objectives, each with decision-making criteria which provide a basis of assessing sustainability effects, which are set out in Figure 13.1.

Figure 13.1: The sustainability framework, including the sustainability objectives, decision-making criteria, and sustainability themes.

Sustainability objective	Decision making criteria	Main Sustainability Themes
1. Halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve habitats and protect species, and where possible enhance or restore ecosystems to achieve a net gain biodiversity. • Maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of European and national sites, and avoid significant adverse effects upon local wildlife designations. • Establish coherent ecological networks where possible, with wildlife corridors which connect designated sites of importance for wildlife to prevent habitat fragmentation. 	Biodiversity, flora, fauna
2. Protect soil quality and conserve geological interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the most productive agricultural land (grades 1 and 2) to provide food security and achieve sustainable agriculture. • Remediate degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land where possible, to protect human health, property and the environment. • Prevent harm to geological conservation interests, and where possible achieve the enhancement of the geological resource. 	Soil, Human Health
3. Maintain or improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and improve the ecological and chemical status of freshwater, transitional waters and coastal waters. • Ensure that development does not contribute to groundwater quality issues particularly within Groundwater Source Protection Zones. • Ensure that development does not contribute to the groundwater inundation of the foul drainage network. 	Water

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Sustainability objective	Decision making criteria	Main Sustainability Themes
4. Maintain or improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve air quality. • Ensure that development does not contribute to air quality issues particularly within Air Quality Management Areas. 	Air, Human Health
5. Limit climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage energy consumption and the emission of greenhouse gases. • Increase the use of renewable energy. 	Climatic Factors, Air
6. Limit the effects of flooding and coastal change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that development does not expose people and property to risk of flooding. • Manage coastal change to ensure that environmental designations are protected alongside local communities. 	Climatic Factors, Water, Population
7. Protect and enhance valued landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and where possible enhance valued landscapes. • Conserve and where possible enhance the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the character and quality of its distinctive landscapes and associated features. • Conserve and enhance the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site's outstanding universal value and its setting. 	Landscape
8. Protect and enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the historic environment and its setting, including Scheduled Monuments, archaeological features, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. • Make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. 	Cultural Heritage
9. Promote personal wellbeing and healthy communities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for work, education and training, healthcare, essential shopping and leisure activities which reflect the community's needs and are accessible by sustainable modes of transport. • Provide mixed use development and strong neighbourhood centres to encourage a more inclusive society and prevent rural isolation. • Provide safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. 	Human Health, population
10. Deliver a wide choice of high quality homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply the housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations. • Provide affordable housing to meet community needs and avoid skills depletion. 	Material Assets

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Sustainability objective	Decision making criteria	Main Sustainability Themes
11. Develop a strong, stable, and prosperous economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide sufficient land to support growth and innovation for all businesses, including those in rural areas.• Encourage vibrant town centres and support town centre regeneration.• Improve the transport and communications infrastructure, and provide a skilled workforce, to meet business needs.	Material Assets

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Appendix A: Links to other plans, programmes and objectives

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Plan or programme	Key objectives and targets
International	
<p>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)</p>	<p>A series of new global Sustainable Development Goals which aim to deliver the 2030 agenda for sustainable development were developed at the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly from 25 to 27 September 2015. These goals intend to balance the three integrated and indivisible dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat

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	<p>desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <p>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>
UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)	<p>The key objective is to protect cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>The Convention considers 'that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole'.</p> <p>Therefore, the convention sets out the international and national guidance on management of world heritage sites, including the intergovernmental committee for protection of heritage, fund for protection of heritage, conditions and arrangements for international assistance and educational programmes.</p> <p>No specific targets are presented.</p>
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Bureau 1971)	<p>To protect Wetlands of International Importance (as defined on the Ramsar List) as habitats for waterfowl.</p> <p>No targets are presented in the document.</p>
European	
Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (2000)	<p>Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing access to information and knowledge, and improving the telecommunications network; • Creating better balanced conditions of accessibility, and better connections between rural areas and their main axes; • Encouraging high quality sustainable tourism; • Limiting where possible the impacts of natural disaster;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containing and reducing environmental damage; • Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage; • Enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development; and • Encouraging development generated by urban functions and improving the relationship between town and countryside. <p>There are no targets presented in this document.</p>
<p>European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)</p>	<p>The renewed EU SDS set out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It recognised the need to gradually change our current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy-making. It reaffirmed the need for global solidarity and recognised the importance of strengthening our work with partners outside the EU, including those rapidly developing countries which will have a significant impact on global sustainable development.</p> <p>Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting climate change and its effects to society and the environment; • Ensuring that transport systems meet society’s needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts; • Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns; • Improving management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources and recognising the value of ecosystem services; • Promoting good public health and improving protection against health threats; • Creating a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations; and • To secure and increase the quality of life of citizens. <p>Targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12% of energy consumption and 21% of electricity consumption should be met by renewable sources by 2010.

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	<p>Consideration is given towards raising this share to 15% of energy consumption by 2015;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2010, 5.75% of transport fuel should consist of biofuels, as an indicative target, (Directive 2003/30/EC), considering raising their proportion to 8% by 2015; • Addressing social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation; • Improving resource efficiency to reduce the overall use of non-renewable natural resources; • Contributing to a significant reduction in the worldwide rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; • Curbing the increase in lifestyle related and chronic diseases, particularly among socio-economically disadvantaged groups and areas; • Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2010 with a special focus on the need to reduce child poverty.
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999) – European Commission</p>	<p>The main objective is to achieve balanced and sustainable development, in particular by strengthening economic and social cohesion. A key challenge for spatial development policy is to contribute to the objectives concerning the environment and climate, of reducing emissions into the global ecological system.</p> <p>The key targets of the document include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and social cohesion; • Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage; • More balanced competitiveness of the European territory; and • To achieve more spatially balanced development, these goals must be pursued simultaneously in all regions of the EU and their interactions taken into account.
<p>EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (1386/2013/EC)</p>	<p>The 7th Environment Action Programme shall have the following priority objectives:</p> <p>(a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital;</p> <p>(b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy;</p>

(c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being;

(d) to maximise the benefits of Union environment legislation by improving implementation;

(e) to improve the knowledge and evidence base for Union environment policy;

(f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and address environmental externalities;

(g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence;

(h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities;

(i) to increase the Union's effectiveness in addressing international environmental and climate-related challenges.

The 7th EAP shall be based on the precautionary principle, the principles of preventive action and of rectification of pollution at source and the polluter-pays principle.

3. The 7th EAP shall contribute to a high level of environmental protection and to an improved quality of life and well-being for citizens.

In order to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital, the 7th EAP shall ensure that by 2020:

- a. the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, including pollination, are halted, ecosystems and their services are maintained and at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems have been restored;
- b. the impact of pressures on transitional, coastal and fresh waters (including surface and ground waters) is significantly reduced to achieve, maintain or enhance good status, as defined by the Water Framework Directive;
- c. the impact of pressures on marine waters is reduced to achieve or maintain good environmental status, as required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and coastal zones are managed sustainably;
- d. air pollution and its impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity are further reduced with the long-term aim of not exceeding critical loads and levels;
- e. land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway;
- f. the nutrient cycle (nitrogen and phosphorus) is managed in a more sustainable and resource-efficient way;
- g. forest management is sustainable, and forests, their biodiversity and the services they provide are protected and, as

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	far as feasible, enhanced and the resilience of forests to climate change, fires, storms, pests and diseases is improved.
EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011)	<p>The EU Biodiversity Strategy intends to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and has the following headline target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. <p>In addition, the document intends to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives. • Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services. • Increase the contribution of agriculture to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. • Increase the contribution of forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. • Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources and achieve good environmental status. • Help combat invasive alien species. • Help avert global biodiversity loss.
EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC) (“Birds Directive”)	<p>Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range (Article 2). • The identification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive and regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4). • Establishment of a general scheme for the protection of all wild birds (Article 5). • Restrictions on the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6). • Specification on the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). • Prohibition on the large-scale non-selective means of killing a bird (Article 8).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement of certain types of relevant research (Article 10). • Requirements to ensure that the introduction of non-native birds do not threaten other biodiversity (Article 11). <p>The Directive does not contain any targets.</p>
<p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC) (“Habitats Directive”)</p>	<p>Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing towards ensuring biodiversity by protecting important natural habitats (approx. 220 listed in Annex I), and species of wild fauna and flora (approx. 1,000, listed in Annex II, species in need of strict protection, listed in Annex IV, and species whose taking from the wild can be restricted by European law, in Annex V) within the European Community. • Using measures to ensure that habitats and species are maintained or restored at "favourable conservation status" in their natural range (Articles 3 and 4), through establishing a network of areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and by the management of landscape features of importance to wildlife outside SACs through land-use and development policy. <p>The Directive does not contain any targets.</p>
<p>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p>	<p>The Nitrates Directive is an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural practices. The Directive aims to protect water quality across Europe by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters; and • promoting the use of good farming practices. <p>The Directive states that Nitrate Vulnerable Zones must be designated where nitrate pollution is found or appears likely, and an Action Plan produced to ensure that these areas are protected.</p> <p>No specific targets are set by the Directive.</p>

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<p>EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p>	<p>Establishes framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater with the intention of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing further deterioration and protecting and enhancing the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands; • Promoting sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources; • Aiming at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment; • Ensuring the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and preventing its further pollution; and • Contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. <p>The Directive contains the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve good ecological & chemical status by 2015 unless there are grounds for derogation. • Reduce & ultimately eliminate priority hazardous substances.
<p>EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)</p>	<p>The Air Quality Directive intends to tackle the environmental and health problems relating to air quality. The Directive sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.</p> <p>Annex XI of the Air Quality Directive contains a series of limit values of concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5}), lead, benzene and carbon monoxide for the protection of human health.</p>
<p>A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (2014)</p>	<p>In 2014, EU countries agreed on a new 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030. These targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The targets for 2030 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; • at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.
European Landscape Convention (2000)	<p>The Convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe.</p> <p>The convention includes the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity. Establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning. Establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies; and Integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) (1992)	<p>The main objective of the convention is to ensure that the historic environment is properly preserved and managed.</p> <p>The convention is particularly concerned with encouraging co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.</p> <p>The Convention also sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings.</p> <p>It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage.</p>
National	
UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	<p>The strategy sets out the following five principles for sustainable policy:</p> <p>Living Within Environmental Limits</p> <p>Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.</p>

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	<p>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society</p> <p>Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.</p> <p>Achieving a Sustainable Economy</p> <p>Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.</p> <p>Promoting Good Governance</p> <p>Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity.</p> <p>Using Sound Science Responsibly</p> <p>Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.</p>
<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the Government’s planning policies for England. The main aim of the document is to achieve sustainable development. Three dimensions to sustainable development are identified: economic, social and environmental, giving rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure; • a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and • an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy. <p>The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;

- recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Furthermore, the NPPF states that local authorities should:

- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure; and
- maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.

To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and
- where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.

The NPPF states that Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses

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consistent with their conservation;

- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

The NPPF states that planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.

The NPPF aims to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy).

A core planning principle of the NPPF is to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship) to meet local needs. Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can also make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. To promote healthy communities, the NPPF states that planning policies should achieve places which promote:

- opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;
- safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

Planning policies should aim to:

- avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development;
- mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions;

In terms of rural economies, the NPPF states that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres; and
- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

The NPPF explains that local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband.

The NPPF states that to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, local planning authorities should:

- plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes);
- identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and
- where they have identified that affordable housing is needed, set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified (for example to improve or make more effective use of the existing housing stock) and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. Such policies should be sufficiently flexible to take account of changing market conditions over time.

The NPPF states that good design is key to sustainable development and Local Plans should include planning policy which

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	<p>ensures that development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; • establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit; • optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks; • respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation; • create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and • are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.
<p>The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)</p>	<p>Outlines the Government’s vision for the Natural Environment. The White Paper aims mainstream the value of nature across our society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature; • creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature; • strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and • showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. <p>The White Paper includes themes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving the Natural Environment; • Growing a green economy; • Reconnecting people and nature; and • International and EU Leadership.

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)

This document outlines the Government's strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea, with the overall mission:

"to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people."

The document contains the following themes, with priority areas for action under each of these themes:

Theme 1 A more integrated large scale approach to conservation on land and at sea

Priority action 1.1: Establish more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people

Priority action 1.2: Establish and effectively manage an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas which covers in excess of 25% of English waters by the end of 2016, and which contributes to the UK's achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Priority action 1.3: Take targeted action for the recovery of priority species, whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based and ecosystem measures

Priority action 1.4: Ensure that 'agricultural' genetic diversity is conserved and enhanced wherever appropriate

Theme 2 putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy

Priority action 2.1: Work with the biodiversity partnership to engage significantly more people in biodiversity issues, increase awareness of the value of biodiversity and increase the number of people taking positive action

Priority action 2.2: Promote taking better account of the values of biodiversity in public and private sector decision-making, including by providing tools to help consider a wider range of ecosystem services

Priority action 2.3: Develop new and innovative financing mechanisms to direct more funding towards the achievement of biodiversity outcomes

Theme 3 Reducing environmental pressures

Integrate consideration of biodiversity within the sectors which have the greatest potential for direct influence, and reduce direct pressures

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Agriculture

Priority action 3.1: Improve the delivery of environmental outcomes from agricultural land management practices, whilst increasing food production

Priority action 3.2: Reform the Common Agricultural Policy to achieve greater environmental benefits

Forestry

Priority action 3.3: Bring a greater proportion of our existing woodlands into sustainable management and expand the area of woodland in England

Planning and development

Priority action 3.4: Through reforms of the planning system, take a strategic approach to planning for nature within and across local areas. This approach will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system

Priority action 3.5: Establish a new, voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets and test our approach in pilot areas

Water management

Priority action 3.6: Align measures to protect the water environment with action for biodiversity, including through the river basin planning approach under the EU Water Framework Directive

Priority action 3.7: Continue to promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity

Priority action 3.8: Reform the water abstraction regime. The new regime will provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem functioning. We will also take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently

Management of the marine environment

Priority action 3.9: Develop 10 Marine Plans which integrate economic, social and environmental considerations, and which will guide decision makers when making any decision that affects, or might affect, a marine area. This action in England is part of the UK vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'

Fisheries

Priority action 3.10: Implement actions and reforms to ensure fisheries management directly supports the achievement of wider environmental objectives, including the achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Air pollution

Priority action 3.11: Reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity through approaches at national, UK, EU and international levels targeted at the sectors which are the source of the relevant pollutants (nitrogen oxides, ozone, sulphur dioxide, ammonia)

Invasive non-native species

Priority action 3.12: Continue to implement the Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain

Theme 4 Improving our knowledge

Research and development:

Priority action 4.1: Work collaboratively across Defra and the relevant agencies to direct research investment within Government to areas of highest priority to deliver the outcomes and priorities set out in this strategy, and in partnership with the Research Councils and other organisations in the UK and Europe to build the evidence base

Monitoring and surveillance

Priority action 4.2: Put robust, reliable and more co-ordinated arrangements in place, to monitor changes in the state of biodiversity and also the flow of benefits and services it provides us, to ensure that we can assess the outcomes of this strategy

Improved data sharing and clear communication of evidence

Priority action 4.3: Improve public access to biodiversity data and other environmental information – putting power into the hands of people to act and hold others to account. Also communicate progress towards the outcomes and priorities of this strategy and make available information to support decision-making at a range of scales to help others contribute to the outcomes

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<p>The Planning and Energy Act (2008)</p>	<p>Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables Local Planning authorities to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in their development plans. They may ‘impose reasonable requirements’ regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a proportion of energy used in development to be from renewable sources in the locality of the development; • a proportion of energy used in development to be low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development; • development to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceed the energy requirements of building regulations.
<p>The Climate Change Act (2008)</p>	<p>Includes a legally binding target of reducing carbon emissions in the UK by at least 80% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline.</p>
<p>Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England (2009)</p>	<p>Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England sets out the following vision for the future of soils in England:</p> <p><i>“By 2030, all of England’s soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”.</i></p>
<p>The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)</p>	<p>Confirmed the significance of AONBs and created improved arrangements for their management. Section 85 places a statutory duty on all ‘relevant authorities’ to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting land in AONBs.</p>
<p>Town and Country Planning (listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)</p>	<p>In the consideration whether to grant listed building consent for any works, Local Planning authorities <i>shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses</i>. With respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area, special attention must be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.</p>

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<p>The Marine and Coastal Areas Act November (2009)</p>	<p>Includes measures relating to coastal access duty regarding a long distance walking route and to land beside it which should be accessible to the public on foot. Part 9 of the Act extends recreational access to the English coast to enable the creation, as far as is possible, of a continuous route around the coast wide enough to allow unconstrained passage on foot and recreational space</p>
<p>National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2011)</p>	<p>This strategy provides a national framework for how the Flood and Water Management Act will be implemented. The overall aim of the strategy is to ensure the risk of flooding and coastal erosion is properly managed by using the full range of options in a co-ordinated way.</p>
<p>Local</p>	
<p>West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015)</p>	<p>The Local Plan sets out the housing and employment land requirements for the entire administrative area of West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, and provides a detailed policy framework which includes policies to aid in achieving the Plan’s strategic objectives.</p> <p>The Local Plan contains the following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the local economy to provide opportunities for high quality, better paid jobs • Meet local housing needs for all as far as is possible • Regenerate key areas including Weymouth and Dorchester town centres, to improve the area’s retail, arts, cultural and leisure offer; and increase employment opportunities • Support sustainable, safe and healthy communities with accessibility to a range of services and facilities • Protect and enhance the outstanding natural and built environment, including its landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity, and the local distinctiveness of places within the area – this will be the over-riding objective in those areas of the plan which are particularly sensitive to change • Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, both by minimising the potential impacts and by adapting to those that are inevitable– this will be the over-riding objective in those areas of the plan which are at highest risk

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide greater opportunities to reduce car use; improve safety; ensure convenient and appropriate public transport services; and seek greater network efficiency for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians • Achieve high quality and sustainability in design, reflecting local character and distinctiveness of the area
West Dorset Climate Change Strategy (2009)	This strategy aims to help residents, businesses and other organisations reduce their carbon emissions by 30% by 2020 from 2005 levels through a range of projects.
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy to 2020 (2013)	This Strategy includes an aspirational target for renewable energy generation which is for 7.5% of energy used in Dorset to be generated from renewable sources by 2020.
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (2009)	This strategy seeks to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy demand across Dorset in order to reduce carbon emissions in line with national targets of 30% reduction by 2020 (and also eliminate fuel poverty and save energy costs).
Weymouth Flood Risk Management Strategy (2010)	The Weymouth Flood Risk Management Strategy is a strategic review of the flood risk management measures that are required now and in the future and in relation to development planning needs required for the town centre of Weymouth.
Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) Durlston Head to Rame Head (2011)	<p>The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution. The objectives of the SMP are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment as a result of coastal evolution and behaviour within the SMP area over the next century; • to identify the preferred policies for managing those risks, together with the reasoning behind the choice of those policies; • to identify the consequences of implementing the preferred policies; • to inform planners, developers and others of the risks of coastal evolution and of the preferred policies when considering future development of the shoreline, land use changes and wider strategic planning;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations; • to set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies; and • to highlight areas where knowledge gaps exist. <p>The SMP provides a long term vision for each area of the coast considered under this plan (these are summarised in paragraphs 6.1.12 to 6.1.16.</p>
<p>Flooding and Coastal Policy Statement</p>	<p>This statement outlines West Dorset District Council’s approach to flood and coastal defences in the district.</p> <p>In this statement, the Council acknowledges and supports the Government's aim and objectives for flood and coastal defence which are as follows:</p> <p>Policy aim: To reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems; • To encourage the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures; and • To discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion.
<p>Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-2021</p>	<p>The Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-2021 is a non-statutory strategic document which aims to set out a consensus view on the way in which the members of the Dorset Coast Forum will work together to improve the planning and management of the Dorset Coast and inshore waters.</p> <p>The Strategy contains the following five objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coast that is at least as beautiful, and as rich in wildlife and cultural heritage, as it is now. • A thriving and diverse coastal economy which uses the resources of the coast sustainably. • A coast that is used, enjoyed and appreciated by the people of Dorset and visitors.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coast where Dorset is a world-leading area in coastal management, where all the key partners are taking decisions and acting together to deliver the highest practical quality of management possible. • A coast that is managed to adapt to the issues of changing climate, economy and communities.
<p>Water Resources Management Plan (2014)</p>	<p>Wessex Water, the water and sewerage company, set out how the demand for water will be met and protect the environment over the next 25 years (until 2040).</p> <p>The key objectives of this plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that we can provide a reliable supply to our customers at the same time as protecting the environment; • reduce the demand for water; • reduce leakage; • reduce abstraction where it is required to improve river flows; and • identify whether there is scope to transfer water to neighbouring companies.
<p>River Basin Management Plan Part 1: South West river basin district (2015)</p>	<p>The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning.</p> <p>The Plan aims to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to prevent deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater • to achieve objectives and standards for protected areas • to aim to achieve good status for all water bodies or, for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status • to reverse any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater • the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters • progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants

Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a Framework for the Future: AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 (2014)

The Dorset AONB Management Plan sets out the partnerships vision for the landscape and describes how the areas authorities, communities and businesses might work together to achieve a common vision for the Dorset AONB.

The document contains the following objectives:

4A Natural Beauty and Heritage

4A.1 Landscape Quality

Conserve and enhance the AONB and the character and quality of its distinctive landscapes and associated features

Conserve and enhance the AONB by removing, avoiding and reducing intrusive and degrading features

Plan and manage for future landscapes that are resilient and can positively adapt to change

4A.2 Biodiversity

Restore, reconnect and manage terrestrial and freshwater habitats and associated species at a landscape scale to increase resilience to environmental change and maintain the services they provide

Safeguard irreplaceable biodiversity and restore lost or declining habitats and their associated species

Provide greater protection, conservation and understanding of marine and inter-tidal habitats in and linked to the AONB

4A.3 Geodiversity

Conserve and enhance the geodiversity of the AONB and value the contribution it makes to landscape character

Increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of geodiversity in the AONB

4A.4 Coast and sea

Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment of the AONB through integrated management that recognises the links between land and sea

Support the natural evolution of the coast, allowing natural coastal processes to operate where possible

Maintain and enhance the open and undeveloped nature of the AONB's coastal landscapes and seascapes

4A.5 Historic and built environment

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Conserve and enhance the historic environment and built heritage of the AONB, recognising the historic character of the landscape as well as the irreplaceable features set within it

Increase knowledge, understanding and involvement in the historic environment

4A.6 Cultural Landscape

Increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the landscape through the legacy of cultural associations

Embed cultural activities into the conservation and enhancement of the AONB to achieve environmental, economic and social benefits

4B Living, Working and Enjoying

4B.1 Land Management & Local Products

Maintain and promote the skills, practices and businesses that deliver sustainable management of a changing countryside, coast and sea

Support the development of, and market for, local products that deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes

Conserve and enhance the natural resources of the AONB, and the services they provide

4B.2 Exploring, Enjoying & Learning

All people are able to explore, enjoy, experience and benefit from the special qualities of the AONB in a sustainable way

Access and travel in the AONB are managed to avoid, reduce or prevent damage to the AONB

The special qualities of the AONB underpin a vibrant and distinctive sustainable tourism sector

The special qualities and experiences of the AONB inspire lifelong learning

4B.3 Planning, Highways and Infrastructure

Support sustainable development that conserves and enhances the special qualities of the AONB

Impacts of development and land use damaging to the AONB's special qualities are avoided and reduced

Reduce the negative impacts of traffic and its management on the AONB

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	<p><u>4B.4 Community Action</u></p> <p>Increase involvement by local people in actions to conserve and enhance the AONB</p>
West Dorset Design Guidelines - Landscape Character Assessment (2009)	<p>West Dorset Landscape Character Assessment is a supplementary planning document adopted in 2009.</p> <p>The overall aim of the assessment is to inform the development process so that significant harm to landscape character can be avoided where possible, and identify opportunities to preserve and enhance that character.</p> <p>It is intended that this landscape character assessment will help guide future planning policy, provide information on local character to support policies in the Design and Sustainable Development planning guidance, and be used in deciding planning applications.</p>
Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014 – 2019 (2014)	<p>The management plan for the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site for 2014-19 contains the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Protect the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value and setting. • To Conserve and enhance the Site and its setting for science, education and public enjoyment. • To strengthen understanding and awareness of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site, and of World Heritage. • To support communities in realising the economic social and cultural opportunities and benefits that World Heritage Status can bring. • To improve sustainable access to the Site, and enable visitors to enjoy a welcoming experience and high quality facilities. • To support and demonstrate exemplary WHS Management.
2012 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment and 2013 Progress Report for West Dorset District Council (2013)	<p>This report reviews and assesses the air quality within West Dorset. The report shows that in 2011 and 2012, the annual objective for nitrogen dioxide in High Street East, Dorchester; East Road, Bridport; and Main Street, Chideock were not met.</p> <p>Air Quality Management Areas already exist at High Street East, Dorchester and Main Street, Chideock, and the air quality will continue to be checked in Bridport to monitor whether an Air Quality Management Area should be declared</p>

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	there in future also.
Dorset Biodiversity Strategy – Mid Term review (2010)	<p>The Dorset Biodiversity Strategy Mid Term Review was written in 2010 and updated the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy (written in 2003), setting the priorities for the county’s major biodiversity issues up until 2015.</p> <p>The document contained the following guiding principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Conserve existing biodiversity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a Conserve Protected Areas and other high quality habitats 1b Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and Species 2. Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate 3. Develop ecologically resilient and varied landscapes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3a. Conserve and enhance local variation within sites and Habitats 3b. Make space for the natural development of rivers and coasts 4. Establish ecological networks through habitat protection, restoration and creation 5. Make sound decisions based on analysis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5a. Thoroughly analyse causes of change 5b. Respond to changing conservation priorities 6. Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into conservation management, planning and practice
Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative Catchment Plan (update) (2014)	<p>Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative (PHCI) a local partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders to align efforts and deliver more effective improvements for the local people, businesses, landscape and environment of the Poole Harbour catchment.</p> <p>The aim of this plan is to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to deliver an effective Catchment Plan that meets the needs of local people, businesses and wildlife as well as European legislation. The plan aims to protect and restore the groundwater, rivers and Poole Harbour for the benefit of all of those who live in, work in and enjoy the catchment.</p>

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	<p>The shared vision of the group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable farming, development, water use and sewage treatment that supports healthy rivers and groundwater in the Poole Harbour catchment. • Recognition of the ecosystem services that the catchment can provide and adequate payment to those that manage the land to provide these services. • Improvements to biodiversity habitats both in the form of naturally functioning rivers, floodplains and wetlands and appropriately located woodland and low-input grassland. • Achievement of national environmental standards for the benefit of wildlife and users of these waters and Poole Harbour.
<p>Dorset Local Geodiversity Action Plan (2005)</p>	<p>The Dorset Local Geodiversity Action Plan, prepared by Dorset County Council, aims to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draw together existing information and ongoing projects concerned with the geology, geomorphology, soils and landscapes of Dorset and the East Devon Coastal Corridor, and to initiate further actions that will lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and enhancement of the geological resource. • Providing guidance to the planning authorities on sustainable policies in the geological context. • Increasing appreciation and understanding of the geological heritage of the area.
<p>Contaminated Land Strategy 2008-13 (West Dorset District Council) (2008)</p>	<p>West Dorset District Council's Contaminated Land Strategy aims to prevent contamination of land from causing unacceptable risks to human health or the wider environment. The Council's priorities in dealing with contaminated land (in order of priority, with 1 being the most important) are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect human health 2. To protect controlled waters 3. To protect designated ecological systems 4. To protect property 5. To protect property in the form of buildings

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	<p>6. To prevent any further contamination of land</p> <p>7. To encourage voluntary remediation</p> <p>8. To encourage the re-use of brownfield land</p>
The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015-2020 (2015)	<p>This emerging supplementary planning document sets out the detailed approach to the avoidance and mitigation of adverse effects of development on the Dorset Heathlands.</p> <p>The Dorset Heathlands planning framework retains as its guiding principle that there is no net increase in urban pressures on internationally important heathland as a result of additional development.</p>
The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Dorset 2013-16 (2013)	<p>The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Dorset (2013-16) intends to achieve the vision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“To improve the health and wellbeing of people in Dorset and to reduce the inequalities in health outcomes that exist between different parts of the population”.</p> <p>The document has 4 aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People live in environments that support their health and wellbeing. 2. People, families and communities are enabled to live healthy and fulfilling lives. 3. People with increased risk of poor health are identified early on and are supported to prevent premature problems developing. 4. People living with long-term health problems avoid complications and maintain a good quality of life.
Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 (2010)	<p>Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 was written by the Dorset Strategic Partnership, which brings together people and partners from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to realise a shared vision of ‘a living thriving Dorset where everyone has a part to play in creating a better quality of life’.</p> <p>The strategy has the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowing the inequality gap so that people across Dorset have fairer access to opportunities which can improve their quality of life. • Everyone can live in a good quality home and neighbourhood that meets their needs. • A strong economy offers better job opportunities for people in Dorset.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset people can access work, education and training, healthcare, essential shopping and leisure opportunities. • People are safe and feel safe in their communities. • Dorset’s natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced now and for the future. • Everyone has the opportunity to take part in cultural activities. • Communities thrive: everyone feels they belong, can take an active part in community life and can influence decision making. • Everyone has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life..... and to receive high quality care that meets their needs. • Children and young people realise their potential • Older people are healthy, active and independent in their communities. • Dorset people experience lasting benefits from hosting the sailing events for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Weymouth and Portland.
<p>The Community Plan for Weymouth & Portland 2013-16 (2013)</p>	<p>The Community Plan highlights the following key priorities, or strategic objectives, which need to be addressed in order to improve the quality of life of those who live and work in Weymouth & Portland:</p> <p><u>Economy</u></p> <p>Weymouth & Portland has a prosperous economy with a wide variety of businesses operating in the area. There are diverse work options available for local people and exciting opportunities for young people. Education and training is available to all age ranges and is of an excellent standard, providing for the needs of the area.</p> <p><u>Communities</u></p> <p>The Borough is a healthy and safe place to live, where all residents have equal access to high quality health facilities, care and housing that is appropriate to their needs. Our local communities are thriving, with all ages, abilities and cultures having an active role in their area and in the planning of community services.</p> <p><u>Environment</u></p> <p>The Borough is a place to be proud of with its internationally recognised natural environment, heritage, landscape and coastline. We value the built and natural environment and recognise the importance of protecting the natural assets and unique characteristics of Weymouth and Portland. We acknowledge the central place the environment holds in our healthy lifestyles, thriving area and economy.</p>

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	<p><u>Innovation</u></p> <p>We are maximising the opportunities presented by the hosting of the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Sailing events and Cultural Olympiad to provide a wealth of high-quality outdoor and cultural activities. The Borough is known as a hub for creative and innovative working which has had real benefits for our communities.</p>
<p>West Dorset Community Plan 2010-26 (2010)</p>	<p>The role of the community plan is to improve the quality of life for residents and workers in the district. To achieve this there are three themes which underpin the community plan: sustainability, equality and diversity and climate change and peak oil.</p> <p><i>Sustainability:</i> We need to ensure that any actions delivered as part of the community plan support sustainable communities (socially, economically and environmentally).</p> <p><i>Equality and diversity:</i> As well as recognising and promoting the diversity across the district we need to ensure there is equality of access to services and prioritise actions which reduce inequalities. The main ethos of the plan is that there is mutual respect and understanding which recognises that some groups have specific needs, for example because of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief or sexual orientation, as well as economic disadvantage and rural isolation.</p> <p><i>Climate change and peak oil:</i> One of the biggest threats to us is that of climate change which has major economic, social and health consequences. It is anticipated that in the future as oil reserves dwindle and new sources of oil become expensive to extract, fuel prices will rise and we will need to find alternatives to relying on fossil fuels. To tackle climate change and peak oil we need to become more resilient within local communities where possible, and rethink the way we live and work.</p>
<p>West Dorset Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)</p> <p>Weymouth & Portland Corporate Plan 2013-2017 (2013)</p>	<p>These Plans set out our strategic vision, core values, aims, priorities and projects for West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council between 2013-17.</p> <p>The vision for both Councils is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“To be a forward-looking council, focused on efficient and effective customer- friendly services to support communities and businesses to meet their needs and aspirations.”</p> <p>The plans include the following aims for both Councils:</p> <p><u>Economy</u></p>

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	<p>Priority: A1. Facilitating inward investment to create more better-paid jobs</p> <p>Priority: A2. Improving infrastructure to enable businesses to grow</p> <p>Priority: A3. Supporting businesses through the recession and recovery</p> <p>Priority: A4. Regenerating and supporting vibrant town centres</p> <p><u>Communities</u></p> <p>Priority: B1. Preventing homelessness and supporting communities to meet their housing needs</p> <p>Priority: B2. Working with partners to improve public health and wellbeing</p> <p>Priority: B3. Facilitating sustainable leisure, culture and community activities</p> <p>Priority: B4. Ensuring safe and thriving communities with respect for each other</p> <p><u>Environment</u></p> <p>Priority: C1. Creating a planning framework which balances environmental protection with meeting community and economic needs</p> <p>Priority: C2. Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment</p> <p>Priority: C3. Managing the implications of climate change, including flooding and coastal protection</p> <p>Priority: C4. Deliver an improved and cost effective waste and cleansing service through the Dorset Waste Partnership</p> <p><u>Performance</u></p> <p>Priority: D1. Deliver the benefits of the shared service partnership between WDDC and WPBC</p> <p>Priority: D2. Adapting service delivery to the changed financial environment</p> <p>Priority: D3. Ensuring the delivery of efficient and economic services which are shaped by customer needs</p> <p>Priority: D4. Deliver a workforce with the knowledge and skills to meet the future needs of the councils</p>
<p>Priorities for Growth: Economic Priorities in West Dorset and</p>	<p>The West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Council’s key economic growth priorities include:</p>

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Weymouth & Portland 2014-2020 (2014)

More and better paid jobs

To encourage and enable more and better paid jobs the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland partnership will:

- Plan and bring forward employment sites to secure development
- Support inward investment and expanding companies to provide better paid jobs and employment opportunities
- Develop a culture in which people can use land and premises to set up, evolve and expand businesses
- Work in partnership to enhance and promote the centre of excellence based on marine and engineering sectors at Portland Port & Osprey Quay
- Bring forward development of key employment sites including Littlemoor (Weymouth and West Dorset), Barton Farm (Sherborne) and Vearse Farm (Bridport)
- Deliver mixed use development
- Work with Dorset and adjoining Local Enterprises Partnerships to promote the area as a business location
- Build on Olympic legacy and World Heritage Coast status to develop marine leisure and outdoor tourism

Vibrant town centres

To ensure the area has vibrant town centres the partnership will support town centre regeneration by:

- Working with and supporting Town Chambers and Councils, Business Improvement Districts and key business partners
- Developing town centre master plans
- Encouraging use of Superfast Broadband and new technology to be more competitive
- Dorchester Charles Street Phase II (retail)
- Bring to market key redevelopment sites in and around town centres (Weymouth Pavilion peninsular including Ferry Terminal)
- Support tourism industry to increase numbers of higher spend visitors

	<p><u>Supporting businesses</u></p> <p>The partnership will support businesses through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving and strengthening engagement with the business community • Developing and strengthening relationships with key businesses • Create a business friendly approach for all Council services • Develop growth plan for key sectors with Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership including manufacturing, engineering, renewable industries, tourism and marine • Establish a business support package aimed at increasing start up and survival rates • In partnership develop work placements, careers advice and the provision of, and access to apprenticeships <p><u>Improving infrastructure</u></p> <p>The West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland council partnership will encourage and lobby for improvements to infrastructure where opportunity presents for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport network and services • Road, rail, air, marine • Superfast broadband and mobile coverage <p>The partnership will prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and delivery of Superfast Dorset project including Superfast Business support for all businesses • Transport improvements to North South road network • Improved access to key employment sites including Osprey Quay and Portland Port • Faster train services from both Bristol (First Great Western) and London (South West Trains - with Waterloo-Weymouth serving the south of the district and Waterloo-Exeter the north)
<p>Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Local Economic Assessment</p>	<p>The Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Local Economic Assessment provides a profile of the local economy which gives a</p>

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(2011)

detailed understanding of economic strengths, opportunities and challenges in Dorset.

The Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Local Economic Assessment identifies the following future challenges:

Productivity and competitiveness

linking up economic and housing strategies, including future reviews of supporting evidence regarding employment land (the Workspace Strategy for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole) and housing need (Strategic Housing Market Assessments).

Knowledge-intensive sector

Tackling the cost of housing relative to incomes, which is currently a barrier to recruitment, particularly for younger people, including graduates. Forthcoming reviews of strategic housing market assessments should take account of economic strategies so that planning policies can help improve the supply of housing to meet the economic needs of the area.

Faster and more extensive broadband and ICT infrastructure to ensure that knowledge-intensive sectors, such as creative industries, are able to prosper. It will be important to give this appropriate attention in the face of other competing infrastructure needs, and also to manage how infrastructure provision is integrated, for example laying of broadband cables when roads are built or repaired.

An ageing population

The economy faces a significant challenge in the face of the continued ageing of the population and workforce. As more skilled and experienced workers reach retirement age and with the drivers of in-migration still favouring those at or nearing retirement age, the pressure will be on to address the loss of skills and maintain a balanced workforce in terms of age and skills. It will be critical to provide sufficient housing at affordable prices for younger people and graduates if the workforce is to avoid skills depletion as people retire.

Affordable housing

The Dorset sub-region's highly valued environment creates particular challenges for housing provision. Evidence suggests that the scope for increasing supply will not be sufficient to meet this challenge alone given the unique combination of environmental constraints which exist. Addressing this challenge will thus require a package of measures:

- there will continue to be a need to increase the supply of housing in sustainable locations with good access to services and facilities, including good schools;

- the range of housing in terms of type, size and tenure should reflect housing needs in the area, including those required to support a prosperous economy, and planning strategies will have to play a key role in supporting this; and
- a more competitive economy can help to deliver higher average incomes, which in turn can assist people in gaining access to housing.

Skills gaps and a low wage economy

Businesses within the Dorset sub-region tend to report a shortage of skilled workers and difficulties in recruiting workers with the right skills. Compounding factors such as an ageing working population and high house prices relative to incomes threaten to exacerbate skills shortages. This highlights the importance of:

- aligning employment and housing strategies to ensure the housing offer can support growth needs of the economy;
- improve the supply of skills needed in the economy, including management, customer services, skilled trades and specialist skills required by particular sectors;
- address the impacts of an ageing workforce and the potential loss of skills in the workforce through retirement.

Infrastructure

Rural areas by their nature suffer from lower levels of physical connectivity. Urban areas face other difficulties such as congestion, capacity of the strategic road network and a need for key transport improvements to unlock development potential. In addition to transport, infrastructure priorities will include broadband, measures designed to mitigate impacts of development upon international habitats (this is of particular relevance to housing development) and climate change mitigation such as flood management in coastal areas.

Weymouth and Portland

High levels of multiple deprivation, combined with poor economic performance mark Weymouth and Portland out as a special case in the Dorset sub-region. Future impacts arising from public sector cuts could exacerbate the problems and so much will depend upon the Olympic Legacy and an ongoing commitment to realise the benefits this can bring.

The LEA confirms that future priorities for Weymouth and Portland are:

- maximising benefits to Weymouth and Portland arising from the wider economic area including Dorchester and Winfrith;
- building upon opportunities such as new infrastructure and the Olympic Legacy as potential mechanisms for bringing about positive change;
- maximising the Olympic legacy benefits including: improvements to digital connectivity and broadband access; exploiting opportunities for development of water based sectors, new marine business, and developing small boat

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building skills; promoting the area as a tourist destination; transferring of athletes' accommodation for affordable housing; and developing;

- the Green Knowledge Economy particularly sustainable energy technology; and
- tackling issues of deprivation and improving skills, training and education opportunities through the work of the Employment and Skills Board.

Rural Dorset

The predominantly rural areas of the sub-region rely upon a series of important settlements, some with good potential for growth. A high reliance upon public sector jobs poses a risk to the economy in the face of cuts, as does the impact this might have upon essential local services and voluntary / community sector support. These threats are tempered to some degree by high levels of enterprise and the quality of the environment, but it is apparent that a growth in businesses and productivity levels, supported by improved broadband speeds, will be essential to future prosperity.

- Measures which can assist in supporting business start-up rates, growth of small and medium enterprises and improvements in GVA could reap dividends in terms of absorbing the impact of a streamlined public sector. Key measures include:
 - better and faster broadband connectivity;
 - business support services;
 - ensuring an adequate supply of employment land and premises;
 - a continued commitment to developing procurement practices which maximise opportunities for smaller and local businesses.

A shortage of affordable housing is a constraint upon business growth and addressing this will be an important challenge. The combination of a high quality environment and good enterprise levels in much of rural Dorset complement the attributes of the South East Dorset economy which offers more dynamic levels of economic activity, a diverse economic base and good quality higher education establishments. This combination provides a good basis for promoting synergies between the rural and urban areas, in particular:

- stronger supply chains which benefit Dorset firms;
- knowledge-intensive and creative industries, including the green knowledge economy, which have an affinity with the high quality environment; local specialisms for which Dorset has a good name and a strong identity, including high quality foods (farming and fish / seafood);

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • green energy production, for example economic benefits arising from sustainable energy crops and the West of Wight offshore wind farm; and • further enhancing the high quality tourism offer of the sub-region as a comprehensive package which includes rural, coastal and urban attractions.
<p>Transforming Dorset: Strategic Economic Plan (2014)</p>	<p>The Dorset Local Economic Partnership’s Strategic Economic Plan outlines extensive and detailed plans for local growth. It constitutes a bid for investment from the Local Growth Fund and is designed to serve as a major component in and point of reference for finalising a growth deal for Dorset.</p> <p>The document focuses on four main areas: responsive Dorset, connected Dorset, competitive Dorset, and talented Dorset.</p>
<p>Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Workspace Strategy (2008)</p>	<p>The study makes the following recommendations:</p> <p>Employment Land Policies: Planning documents should identify all regionally and locally important employment sites and include appropriate employment land protection policies and define where mixed use packages could be appropriate to ensure delivery.</p> <p>Balancing Demand and Supply through Adequate Supply of Sites and Premises: Local Planning authorities should work across borders to provide a balanced of supply and demand within functional economic areas (e.g. TTWAs).</p> <p>Interventions to Secure Adequate Supply of Sites and Premises: A range of interventions is required to help to bring the required supply (including smaller sites) forward. Priority should be given to the delivery of key sites with little constraints, site level intervention where the market alone will not deliver the required employment sites and sub-regional interventions to increase the attractiveness of the area as a place to do business.</p> <p>Office: A focus should be given on the delivery of office premises in the sub-region, with a particular emphasis on provision at town centres in the conurbation and Dorchester: Weymouth.</p> <p>Urban Extensions: Within proposed urban extensions support should be given to the inclusion of employment areas as part of properly masterplanned, mixed use schemes.</p> <p>Town Centre Development: A priority should be the continued improvement in town centres. Attractive town centres increase overall market attractiveness of the sub-region and can help support office development and wider jobs growth.</p>

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Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Strategy (2014)

The Minerals Strategy sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and policy framework for minerals development in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. It considers the need to contribute to national, regional and local mineral requirements and seeks to balance these needs against social, environmental and economic considerations.

The Minerals Strategy has 6 key objectives:

- To support the economy of Dorset through the steady supply of aggregates, ball clay and hydrocarbons. To contribute to the development of sustainable communities by securing an adequate and steady supply of Dorset's minerals required to construct their infrastructure and buildings and to manufacture the goods they require.
- To strengthen the distinctiveness of Dorset's built environment by ensuring the supply of local sources of building materials including Portland and Purbeck Stone.
- To ensure the most efficient and appropriate use of all resources through:
 - the prudent and sustainable use of minerals
 - recycling of construction and demolition waste as aggregate, and the production and use of higher quality recycled aggregates as a substitute for primary aggregates
 - encouraging the best use of high quality minerals for the purposes for which they are most suitable and for which there are no more sustainable alternatives.
- To maximise the opportunities for environmental enhancement offered through the restoration of worked sites and outside worked areas to enhance Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole's unique natural environment, historic environment and potential for recreation. This will be achieved at the earliest possible opportunity.
- To ensure that adverse impacts of mineral working on the environment, local communities, businesses and tourism are minimised and that Natura 2000 sites are protected and enhanced appropriately in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.
- To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of valuable mineral resources and negative impacts of incompatible development on existing minerals operations or facilities.

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Appendix B: Summary of consultation responses

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Comment	Response
Dorset County Council	
<p>“I suggest that s6.2.11 is amended to include reference to the prevailing risk from surface water flooding, in many locations throughout the relevant area. Should it be deemed appropriate, this (surface water) risk could be illustrated via the inclusion of a plan showing the relevant surface water mapping (1:30/100/1000yr) as hosted by the EA.”</p>	<p>Maps provided by the Environment Agency which show the extent of surface water flooding (1:30yr) within the plan area have been added to the baseline information section of the Climatic Factors Chapter as recommended. This will ensure that consideration is given to surface water flooding in addition to fluvial flooding in the sustainability appraisal.</p>
Environment Agency	
<p>“Water</p> <p>In our opinion this section should cover water quality, quantity and flood risk, but we note that the flood risk issues have been included within climate change section. We would recommend that flood and coastal risk is included in this section as there is existing risk in the area, which will increase with climate change. However, if it is your preferred option to remain as it is then we would recommend that remove the reference to floodplains in this section and re-title the Climate Change Section to ‘Flood and Coastal Risk and Climate Change’.”</p>	<p>The flooding and coastal change aspect of the scoping report has been moved from the Climatic Factors Chapter to a new chapter titled ‘flooding and coastal change’ to reflect the importance of these issues within the plan area, in response to your comments and those of Natural England. An additional sustainability objective (to ‘limit the effects of flooding and coastal change upon communities and the environment’) has been created to address these issues also.</p>
<p>“We note that this section makes reference to the Water Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive and Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative has been identified as the relevant plan. However, we feel that there needs to be acknowledgment to tidal waters, which is essential given the importance of the beaches to the area.”</p>	<p>The Water Chapter refers to ‘coastal waters’ (see paragraph 4.0.1) rather than ‘tidal waters’ as this term is used in the European Union’s Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2013) and EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The term coastal waters is defined by the Water Framework Directive as surface water up to one nautical mile from ‘transitional waters’, which in turn are defined as bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to</p>

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Comment	Response
	<p>coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows. These terms are used to maintain consistency with other plans and strategies. Definitions of the terms coastal waters and transitional waters have been added to paragraph 4.0.1 to explain the range of waters which will be considered through the sustainability appraisal.</p>
<p>“The tidal waters within the plan area have shellfish and bathing water designations. Therefore, one of key environmental issues should be that there is no deterioration in tidal water quality.”</p>	<p>The key environmental issues in the consultation draft of the scoping report included “The deterioration of the chemical and ecological status of the water environment through pollution, including groundwater, rivers, floodplains and wetlands”. This has been amended to include transitional and coastal waters to ensure that impacts upon shellfish and bathing water designations are accounted for. The sustainability objectives have been amended to include transitional and coastal waters to ensure that any potential issues with bathing water and shellfish are addressed.</p>
<p>“There are known high groundwater problems that occur with the plan area that impact on the foul drainage network therefore consideration must given to this, ensuring that it is not made worse through growth.”</p>	<p>Wessex Water have provided information on the issue of high groundwater affecting the foul drainage network within the plan area which has been included in the baseline information in the Water Chapter. As a result, this issue has been addressed through sustainability objective 3, which is “to maintain or improve water quality”, by including the following decision making criteria:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Ensure that development does not contribute to the groundwater inundation of the foul drainage network.”.</p>
<p>“The document therefore needs to be linked to the South West River Basin Management Plan (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-basin-management-plan-south-west) as this contains the relevant information under the Water Framework Directive. It indicates what the current status of the water bodies are where there is need for protection</p>	<p>The South West River Basin Management Plan has been reviewed as part of the Scoping Report. The current status of the water bodies and the objectives for improvement are now included in Chapter 4.</p>

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Comment	Response
and improvement in order to ensure that there is no deterioration across the river, groundwater, and tidal water bodies.”	
“You should have consideration to the emerging South Marine Plan, Shoreline Management Plans, Dorset Coastal Plan (2011-2021) and Marine Protection Area along the coast. As well as Wessex Waters Long-term strategy and resource plans.”	The Shoreline Management Plan, Dorset Coastal Plan and Wessex Water’s Water Resources Management Plan have been included in the Scoping Report. Caution must be taken whilst including emerging documents in sustainability appraisal scoping report, as they may be subject to change.
<p>“Climate Change (including Flood and Coastal Risk Management)</p> <p>We note that this is the primary section that covers flood risk and coastal change. Whilst we have no objection to this please note our comments regarding inclusion in the water section or renaming this section.”</p>	The flooding and coastal change aspect of the scoping report has been moved from the Climatic Factors Chapter to a new chapter titled ‘flooding and coastal change’. Also, an additional sustainability objective (to ‘limit the effects of flooding and coastal change upon communities and the environment’) has been created to address these issues also.
<p>“Weymouth and Portland Council, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, have produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy to ensure that development in Weymouth Town centre can be safely and sustainably delivered. This document will need to be updated along with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to take in to consideration the latest evidence, along with the changes to the climate change allowances. The outcomes of this should be considered within the process.”</p>	The Flood Risk Management Strategy for Weymouth Town Centre and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA 2) were reviewed in this Scoping Report and have been taken into consideration whilst developing the scope of the sustainability appraisal. The Flood Risk Management Strategy for Weymouth Town Centre, commissioned by the Environment Agency and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, is currently being updated. I believe that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA 2) for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, commissioned by Dorset County Council as local lead flood authority, is also currently being updated.
<p>“If growth is proposed in any other location where there is an existing or future flood risk then further consideration needs to be given to any essential flood risk management infrastructure delivery.”</p>	The sustainability appraisal will identify if there is a flood risk at sites which have been allocated for development through the Local Plan Review. Money collected through the Communities Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will contribute to providing flood risk management infrastructure.

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Comment	Response
<p>“Sustainability Objectives</p> <p>As per our comments above we feel that given the current flood risk issues in the area that this should be included under the water sustainability objective, potentially as well as the climate change objective.”</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, an additional sustainability objective (to ‘limit the effects of flooding and coastal change upon communities and the environment’) has been created to address these issues, and to reflect the importance of flooding and climate change within the plan area. Flooding will not be directly considered in the sustainability objective relating to water as this would be considered double counting.</p>
<p>“Plans</p> <p>As mentioned above you should have consideration to the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South West River Basin Management Plan - Flood Risk Management Plans - Shoreline Management Plan - Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and supporting coastal process documents (produced by your Authority) - Dorset Coastal Management Plan; and - Wessex Water Resource Management Plan and Long- term strategy 2015-2040” 	<p>The scoping report now includes a review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West River Basin Management Plan • Weymouth Town Centre Flood Risk Management Plan • Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) Durlston Head to Rame Head (June 2011) • West Dorset Strategic Flood Risk Assessment • Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-21 • West Dorset District Council Flood and Coastal Policy Statement; and • Wessex Water’s Resources Management Plan
<p>Gladman Housing</p>	
<p>“Moving into specifics, the Councils state in paragraph 1.4.5 that the Local Plan will need to make provision for 4,520 new homes for the period up to 2036 based on the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The Councils Local Development Scheme envisages the Local Plan Review being submitted</p>	<p>The Inspector in the review of the adopted Local Plan suggested that the approach of projecting the household figures for the period up to 2036, and this is the approach favoured by the Council at this time. However, if new household figures were released in the interim period before the adoption of</p>

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Comment	Response
<p>for examination towards the end of 2018 and on that basis adoption of the Local Plan is unlikely to occur until 2019 at the earliest. By the time the 2014 SHMA, which covers the period up to 2031 only, will be 5 years old and an unreliable basis upon which to prepare the Local Plan review. It is essential therefore that the Council’s commission the preparation of a new SHMA that covers the period up to 2036.”</p>	<p>the Local Plan Review, then the Council would consider updating the SHMA accordingly.</p>
<p>“Section 10.2 of the SA Scoping Report should refer to the Government’s initiative for starter homes which is contained in the Housing and Planning Bill currently being considered by Parliament. The Councils will be aware that a consultation document has recently been published by DCLG in respect of the regulations that will be put in place to deliver the provision of starter homes in new housing developments.”</p>	<p>Paragraph 10.2.9 of the Scoping Report now includes an explanation of starter homes, introduced through the Housing and Planning Bill (2016), and mentions the consultation on the regulations which will support the starter homes clauses in the Housing and Planning Act.</p>
<p>“Paragraph 10.2.13 refers to Sherborne having a railway station on the London Paddington to Penzance railway line. This is incorrect; the town is in fact served by the London Waterloo to Exeter railway line.”</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this error to our attention. The report now explains that Sherborne is located on the London Waterloo to Exeter line.</p>
<p>“The proposed sustainability objective 6 refers to the protection and enhancement of valued landscapes. Gladman would point out that the identification of any local environmental designations must be predicated on a robust and comprehensive evidence base that can be used in the planning balance exercise advocated by the National Planning Policy Framework, allowing the Councils to assess whether the adverse impacts of the loss of such areas significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of delivering the full needs for housing.”</p>	<p>The location of environmental designations, including the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site designations mentioned in sustainability objective 6, is generally determined by using spatial data provided by the organisations with a remit for the topic in question (such as Government Agencies for example). The role of the sustainability appraisal is to ensure that decisions are made in the knowledge of the sustainability impacts associated with them.</p>
<p>“West Dorset is a predominantly rural district and in accordance with the objectives of the NPPF, Gladman considers that the SA should include an</p>	<p>The issues of providing services and facilities and the appropriate housing in rural areas is central to sustainability objectives 8, 9 and 10. Sustainability</p>

Comment	Response
<p>additional sustainability objective relating to promoting sustainable development in rural areas to maintain and enhance rural vitality and viability. It is essential that the needs of sustainability rural settlements across the district are assessed and a meaningful level of growth apportioned to them to ensure their ongoing vitality and viability. This will help to preserve and enhance rural service and facilities and allow rural communities to meet their own needs for housing whilst providing much needed affordable housing in the parts of the District that experience the greatest affordable housing need.”</p>	<p>objective 8, which is to promote personal wellbeing and healthy communities for all, considers rural isolation and the provision of services and facilities to meet the community’s needs. Sustainability objective 9, which is to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, considers the supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations. Sustainability objective 10, which is to develop a strong, stable, and prosperous economy, looks at providing sufficient land to support the growth and innovation for all businesses, including those in rural areas. Since the issues of providing services and facilities and the appropriate housing in rural areas are intrinsic to these sustainability objectives, separating the issues into a single sustainability objective is not considered the preferred approach of considering rural vitality and viability through the sustainability objectives.</p>
<p>Historic England</p>	
<p>“My brief comments relate to your particular interest for our observations on the proposed Sustainability Objectives and Decision Making Criteria.</p> <p>Sustainability Objective</p> <p><i>7. Protect and enhance the historic environment</i></p> <p>Decision making criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Preserve the historic environment and its setting, including Scheduled Monuments, archaeological features, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.</i> • <i>Make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.</i> <p>To accord more closely to the language and emphasis of national planning</p>	<p>The sustainability objectives and decision making criteria have been changed to:</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets</p> <p>Decision Making Criteria</p> <p>Safeguard and where appropriate enhance the significance of any heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape, including their setting.</p> <p>Make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness</p>

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<p>policy could I suggest the following alternative.</p> <p>Sustainability Objective</p> <p><u>To conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings</u></p> <p>Decision Making Criteria</p> <p><u>Is development likely to safeguard, and where appropriate enhance, the significance of any affected heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape, including their setting?</u></p> <p>Make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.”</p>	
<p>Natural England</p>	
<p>“Para: 1.4.7 – Natural England supports the provision for the identification of a GI network and Coastal Change Management Areas (as per Policy ENV 3 and Policy ENV 7 respectively) as part of the Plan Review.</p> <p>I would recommend the GI network includes the work of the Dorset Environment Records Centre (DERC) who are currently working with partners to identify an Ecological Network Map for Dorset which will set out the existing sites that contribute to the network (eg international, national and local wildlife sites, ancient woodland, wildlife corridors etc.), along with land considered to support and provide high potential for reconnecting that network through the restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. The planning need for identifying the ecological network and restoring recreating priority habitats is set out in NPPF paragraph 117.”</p>	<p>Thank you for making the Council aware of the work that DERC are undertaking in producing the Ecological Network Map. This information will be considered whilst developing a green infrastructure network through the Local Plan Review.</p>

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<p>“Para 2.2.1 – I suggest the first two bullets relating to environment issues include a need to include an aspiration to reverse biodiversity loss and restore degraded ecosystems. Similarly the second bullet should also seek to restore and enhance wildlife corridors and ecological networks.”</p>	<p>The Environmental Issues section of the Scoping Report summarises the key environmental issues relating to the topic in question. The sustainability objectives, presented in Table 12.1 of the Scoping Report aim to address these issues. These sustainability objectives include measures to reverse biodiversity loss, and restore and enhance wildlife corridors.</p>
<p>“Para 2.2.12 – The commitment to nitrogen neutrality with the Poole Harbour catchment is necessary and welcome. Future policy should also consider how proposals that would achieve long term nitrogen reductions might be encouraged.”</p>	<p>The Council are preparing a supplementary planning document which, once adopted, provide a means of ensuring that future development achieves nitrogen neutrality.</p>
<p>“Section 6 Climatic Factors</p> <p>Given the importance and scale of the issues, I suggest that the issues of fluvial and/or tidal flooding and coastal erosion would be better set out in a separate section, with section 6 setting out the issues relating to Climate Change and the need to move to a low carbon economy.</p>	<p>In light of your comments, a new Chapter titled ‘Flooding and Coastal Change’ has been created. The Chapter titled ‘Climatic Factors’ has been renamed ‘Climate Change and Energy’ as a result.</p>
<p>The flooding section might also describe the importance of Chesil Beach as a natural sea defence and as an internationally important wildlife site (along with the Fleet).</p> <p>The Climate Change section might also touch on potential impacts of more severe weather patterns including greater risks of flooding and drought and related impacts on agriculture and biodiversity.</p> <p>I also suggest that consideration is also given to including the role of wood fuels to domestic heating and the need to ensure sustainable supplies in the long term through the promotion of appropriate broad leaved woodland planting / management (eg through the clearance of pine plantation and</p>	<p>Reference to Chesil Beach as a natural sea defence has been included in the report.</p> <p>The Scoping Report considers the impacts of climate change upon agriculture by protecting against the loss of more productive agricultural land to development, which increases local resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Scoping Report also ensures that wildlife corridors are not lost to development which enables species to freely migrate to a more suitable environment as the effects of climate change are realised.</p> <p>The issue of woodfuels is addressed in sustainability objective 5 which is to increase the use of renewable energy.</p>

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restoration of traditional coppice woodlands).”	
<p>“7.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES relating to landscape</p> <p>The issue for the landscape of the AONB is not only to avoid the loss of character and quality, but also to ensure the protected landscapes of the Dorset AONB are conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>The issues section might also raise the issue of existing mineral permissions on the Coastal Strip on Portland that if implemented would have severe impacts on the setting of the World Heritage Site.</p> <p>An additional comment / issue might also be added regarding the need for all development located outside the AONB to complement and where possible enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>The number of planning application for solar farms have been put forward in inappropriate locations in the plan area. It would therefore be helpful if Local Plan Review process provided a stronger steer of where such facilities should be located. I would suggest that inline with the provisions of NPPF paragraph 98 the plan review seeks to identify suitable localities and establish clear criteria for locating solar farms elsewhere within the Plan area. This could include a SHLAA type process to identify suitable locations with interested parties.”</p>	<p>The Environmental Issues section of the Landscape Chapter of the Scoping Report (Section 7.3) introduces the issue of the loss of character and quality of the AONB which is then addressed by Sustainability objective 6, which to ‘protect and enhance valued landscapes’.</p> <p>The scoping report contains a review of the objectives of the adopted Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Strategy (2014) produced by Dorset County Council, since it forms part of the development plan alongside the Local Plan. The scoping report considers the impacts of the review of the Local Plan rather than the adopted Minerals Strategy, but consideration of minerals extraction will be provided in those instances where there is interaction between the plans (for example, where development triggers mineral extraction).</p> <p>A decision making criteria under sustainability objective 7, which is to protect and enhance the historic environment, is to “make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness”.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review will include a review of the renewable energy policy in the Local Plan (COM11), and will consider the issues regarding the location of renewable energy development which you mention.</p>
<p>“10 Material assets</p> <p>A recent study into Dorset’s ‘Environmental Economy’, commissioned by Dorset County Council and its partners concluded that the Dorset AONB influences circa £62 - 67 million of output per annum, making it an important economic and social asset and a driver for economic development. The</p>	<p>The review of the local plan will include the development of a green infrastructure strategy, which is likely to consider the economic aspects of green infrastructure.</p> <p>The link between the economy and the natural environment is acknowledged in the Material Assets Chapter. The objectives of the Dorset</p>

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<p>report concludes that investment in Dorset’s ‘green infrastructure’ should be seen as every bit as important as other pieces of critical infrastructure on which economic success depends. On this basis we would recommend that an acknowledgement of the environment economy is included in the material assets section and identify as an Environmental Issue the need to maintain and enhance investment into the areas critical natural and GI assets (eg WHS, AONB, Heritage Coast, Footpath network, visitor centres, Nature Parks etc.) as a means for supporting the wider economy.”</p>	<p>AONB’s Management Plan 2014 – 2019 and Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014–2019 which relate to the economy are summarised in paragraphs 10.1.12 and 10.1.13).</p> <p>Furthermore, the sustainability objectives aims to protect and enhance the green infrastructure assets which as you mention have been shown to be drivers for economic development, which in turn will support the wider economy.</p>
<p>“10.2.16 The scoping report states that “Portland Port is a port of national and international importance”. A reference to the evidence base that supports this statement would be helpful (for example the criteria used to identify national and international ports).”</p>	<p>This paragraph has been amended to state that Portland Port is an important element of the local and regional economy, as written in the adopted West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan.</p>
<p>“12 Sustainability objectives</p> <p>Natural England supports the sustainability objectives set out in the report.</p> <p>Objective 1 Halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems</p> <p>Natural England welcomes objective 1, but suggest the aim of “maintain or restore” is applied to both international and national sites (ie all SSSIs) and not just international sites.</p> <p>Objective 12 Develop a strong, stable, and prosperous economy</p> <p>The decision making criteria should include recognition of the value of the Dorset AONB, Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and Heritage Coast to tourism and the wider rural economy.”</p>	<p>Objective 1 has been amended as advised.</p> <p>The relationship between the natural environment and the economy is acknowledged in the Material Assets Chapter, where the objectives of World Heritage Site and Dorset AONB plans are presented. Issues surrounding the rural economy are broadly addressed in sustainability objective 10, and the environmental assets which support the wider rural economy (such as Dorset AONB, Jurassic Coast and Heritage Coast) are all afforded protection in sustainability objective 6.</p>