Appendix 10. Seascape Character Types Management Guidance Summary

Character Type	Force for Change	Management Guidance
Saline Lagoon	Built Development	Protect the distinctive character of the landscape, resisting development that would detract from the natural, tranquil character which prevails
	Land Management and Fishing	Use of the lagoons should be managed to ensure the mooring of boats does not become extensive, detracting from the natural, remote character of the area. Any expansion of aquaculture should take account of this balance and be in keeping with the landscape setting
Sandy Beaches	Seascape Change and Management Infrastructure	Any changes to coastal defences should take account of the character and visibility of the beaches form adjacent coastal and marine areas. Plan and manage coastal infrastructure to ensure that any further coastal development is appropriate to the design and scale of existing settlement patterns.
	Tourism and Recreation	Should be managed to ensure that the types and location of activities and numbers of users on beaches is balanced to avoid user conflicts and congestion. Initiatives to manage litter through reduction, collection and disposal should continue to be implemented.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Shoreline management plans should continue to be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change, changes to coastal processes.
Shingle Beaches and Spits	Infrastructure	Any proposals for further development of coastal defences must be planned with due regard to the aesthetic and perceptual characteristics of the beaches, in order to protect the sweeping lines of beaches and the undeveloped shoreline, from visual intrusion. It should also take account of visual impacts of any defences on the adjacent marine and terrestrial types where there is intervisibility.

	Tourism and Recreation	Any tourism and recreation development or infrastructure must be planned and sited with due regard to the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the beaches, the hinterland or adjacent marine areas, where this may result in visual intrusion or detract from key characteristics. Any development must be carefully planned particularly where it could increase access to sensitive beach habitats such as the vegetated shingles and important nesting sites.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) should continue to be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change, changes to coastal processes.
Slumped Cliffs	Infrastructure	The aim of future strategies for this SCT should be to plan and manage coastal infrastructure to ensure that any further coastal development is appropriate to the design and scale of existing settlement patterns and takes account of intervisibility with adjacent coastal and marine areas. The planning and management of access and parking will be important in determining use levels. Plans to reduce car dependence as a means of getting to the area should be implemented.
	Agriculture, Land Use and Fisheries	The aim should be to manage and monitor cliff top vegetation to ensure arable species do not displace the natural vegetation.
	Tourism and Recreation	The aim should be to manage access to the cliff tops, on an ongoing basis. Where cliffs are actively receding, there should be regular checks for stability. Any tourism and recreation development or infrastructure should be sensitively planned and sited. Management of fossil collecting and continuing public education about responsible collecting, is important to ensuring the cliffs are not unnecessarily destabilised and that important fossil finds are correctly reported.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Should continue to be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change, changes to coastal processes.
Hard Rock Cliffs	Infrastructure	Should be to plan and manage coastal infrastructure to ensure that any further coastal development is appropriate to the design and scale of existing settlement patterns. The planning and management of access and parking will be important in determining use levels.
	Agriculture, Land Use and Fisheries	The aim should be to manage and monitor cliff top vegetation to prevent arable species displacing the natural vegetation. Management of grassland habitats, such as chalk grasslands, should be encouraged in adjacent agricultural land through appropriate grazing to assist in maintaining cliff top habitats in natural condition.
	Tourism and Recreation	The aim should be to manage access to the cliff tops, on an ongoing basis. Where cliffs are actively receding, there should be regular checks for stability. Any tourism and recreation development or infrastructure must be planned and sited with due regard to the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the cliffs, hinterland and adjacent marine areas.

	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Climate change may increase the intensity or frequency of storms or adverse weather events in the future and this could result in coastal squeeze. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) should continue to be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change and changes to coastal processes.
Intertidal Rock Ledges	Agriculture, Land Use and Fisheries	Any increase in aquaculture should be managed to take account of the visual impacts on coastal character types.
	Tourism and Recreation	The aim should be to manage access to the rock ledges by groups such as divers and students through education and codes of practice. The planning and management of access and parking in adjacent land areas will be important in determining and controlling levels of activity on rock ledges.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Climate change is likely to cause an increase in the intensity or frequency of storms and adverse weather events which could increase levels of erosion. Shoreline Management Plans should continue to be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change and changes to coastal processes.
Man Made Harbour	Infrastructure	Where reclamation of land is envisaged to accommodate new development, the likely impacts on the important habitats within the harbour must be assessed to ensure that these are protected. Breakwaters should be managed to ensure that their integrity is maintained. This would not only ensure that they do not present a hazard to navigation but will also help to protect biodiversity.
	Aquaculture, Land Management and Fishing	The aim should be to manage marine litter and any potentially polluting activities within the Harbour. Aquaculture should be managed to take account of the character of open water in the Harbour and to protect key sensitive habitats.
	Tourism and Recreation	The aim should be to plan and manage development to ensure that it takes account of views to and from the Harbour and also achieves a balance between commercial and recreational development within the Harbour. Any changes to the Harbour wall should be planned to improve visual quality whilst protecting and enhancing any historic features and their setting.
	Energy Provision	Siting of land based development within the Harbour associated with energy projects and how this comes onshore must be planned and managed to take account of the prominent location of the Harbour. The likely impacts on the important habitats within the harbour must be assessed to ensure that these are protected and mitigation measures considered where appropriate.
	Environmental Process and Climate Change	Flood defences should be planned and managed through the relevant Shoreline Management Plans or Harbour Management Plans.

Coastal Waters	Infrastructure	Should be to protect the significant coastal features and to continue to manage coastal infrastructure to ensure that any further development is appropriate to the design and scale of existing settlement patterns. The planning and management of access to the coast and coastal waters will be key to protecting the intrinsic perceptual qualities. Any further expansion of oil extraction or quarrying should be carefully planned and managed to ensure that it does not significantly detract from the semi-natural character of this coast and its associated waters.
	Aquaculture, land management and fishing	The implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, will result in Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) being designated, which will be subject to management plans and it is likely that the coastal waters of Dorset, their fisheries and fishing practices will be affected by these proposals, with the potential for recreational activities to also be managed.
	Tourism and Recreation	New development should be planned in areas where it is least visually intrusive and damaging. Access pressures and the loss of natural habitat should also be managed through the use of management plans to ensure those areas most sensitive to recreational pressure are avoided. Recreational activity and access should be managed to ensure that the intrinsic perception of quietness and remoteness is maintained.
	Energy Provision	Any offshore wind farm proposals should be assessed through a comprehensive EIA process to determine the optimum location for the turbines within the proposed sea area on the basis of predicted impacts and this should take into account effects on seascape character, including that of the affected seascape type and any adjacent SCTs and Landscape Character Types. A visual impact assessment should also be undertaken to determine impacts on key viewpoints and receptors.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Management plans for the marine resource is important for balancing commercial and recreational fishing with the maintenance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and these should be regularly updated to respond to changing climatic and economic conditions. Shoreline Management Plans should be updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change, changes to coastal processes and the character of the Coastal Waters SCT. Evaluation of the visual and perceptual impacts of coastal management should be integral to any such management plans.
Active Coastal Waters	Infrastructure	Expansion of Portland Harbour facilities must be planned to ensure that this does not displace other recreational activities and should take account of visibility from adjacent land and marine areas. The impact of large ships lying off Portland needs to be managed as this can add interest but may also result in significant visual impacts if numbers or frequency increases significantly. The potential conflicts between different users within coastal waters should be managed and might include the zoning of activities or limitations on numbers and types of boat in certain areas.

	Aquaculture, Land Management and Fishing	Marine litter and pollution is a continuing issue and management initiatives to reduce, collect and dispose of marine litter should continue to be implemented. Pollution control measures, which currently operate, should continue to be updated and reviewed together with plans to deal with any significant pollution events such as coastal shipwrecks and oil spills. The implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, will result in Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) being designated. These will be subject to management plans and it is likely that the coastal waters of Dorset, their fisheries and fishing practices will be affected by these proposals, with the potential for recreational activities to be further managed. Seascape character should be taken into account when drawing up management plans.
	Tourism and Recreation	The aim of future seascape management within this SCT and the closely associated coastal land areas should be to plan and manage further coastal development to ensure that the intrinsic perceptual qualities of this coast are maintained. The aim should be to plan for new development in areas where it is least visually intrusive and damaging to land and seascape character and the natural environment. Access pressures and the loss of natural habitat should also be managed through the use of management plans to ensure those areas most sensitive to recreational pressure are avoided. Watersports, including recreational power boats, need to be managed to reduce or avoid conflicts and measures could include limitations on numbers or zonation of areas for different uses. Restrictions or limitations should be placed on light aircraft and helicopters low flying over quieter areas.
	Energy Provision	The siting of any infrastructure associated with bringing tidal power ashore or any infrastructure within the sea itself should be carefully planned and sited with respect to sensitive marine environments. Whilst there are limited opportunities to protect the open character of the seascape, the aim should be to protect visual amenity by siting infrastructure away from sensitive onshore and coastal locations with sensitive receptors or particularly strong or valued seminatural character. Any offshore wind farm proposals should be assessed through a comprehensive EIA process to determine the optimum location for the turbines within the proposed sea area on the basis of predicted impacts and this should take into account effects on seascape character, including that of the affected seascape type and any adjacent SCTs and LCTs. A visual impact assessment should also be undertaken to determine impacts on key viewpoints and receptors.
	Minerals and Waste	The goal should be to manage dredging, ensuring vessels are kept outside the most sensitive marine environments. Any proposals to initiate the extraction of oil in coastal waters should be planned and managed to protect sensitive marine environments and visual and perceptual qualities of the seascape including the considerable recreational value of these coastal waters. The impact on seascape character of any rigs offshore would need to be assessed and any on shore facilities carefully located to minimise effects on landscape character and to ensure they are located away from key viewpoints or areas with high intervisibility with the coast and sea.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Management plans for the marine resource is key to balancing the important commercial and recreational fishing on this part of the coast with the maintenance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and these should be regularly updated to respond to changing climatic and economic conditions. Shoreline Management Plans should be prepared and updated on a regular basis to take account of climate change, changes to coastal processes and the character of the Active Coastal Waters SCT. Evaluation of the visual and perceptual impacts of coastal management should be integral to any such management plans.

Inshore Waters	Aquaculture, Land Management and Fishing	Fisheries management and changes to fishing restrictions should be assessed in terms of implications on the numbers and types of boats using the SCT, which may affect the relatively quiet character of these waters which are also visible from, mainly rural, coastal areas.
	Energy Provision	Any offshore wind farm proposals should be assessed through a comprehensive EIA process to determine the optimum location for the turbines within the proposed sea area on the basis of predicted impacts and this should take into account effects on seascape character, including that of the affected seascape type and any adjacent SCTs and Landscape Character Types. A visual impact assessment should also be undertaken to determine impacts on key viewpoints and receptors.
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	The implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, will result in Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) being designated, which will be subject to management plans and it is likely that the coastal and inshore waters of Dorset, their fisheries and fishing practices will be affected by these proposals, with the potential for recreational activities to be also managed. Seascape character should be taken into account when drawing up management plans.
Deep Water Offshore Shipping	Energy Provision	Any offshore wind farm proposals should be assessed through a comprehensive EIA process to determine the optimum location for the turbines within the proposed sea area on the basis of predicted impacts and this should take into account effects on seascape character, including that of the affected seascape type and any adjacent SCTs and Landscape Character Types. A visual impact assessment should also be undertaken to determine impacts on key viewpoints and receptors
	Environmental Processes and Climate Change	Future management of offshore waters will need to take into account the impacts of climate change, to provide, if required, safe anchorage areas closer to shore or contingency plans in the event of greater number of accidents as a result of increased storminess and extreme weather events. Planning of more safe anchorages would need to take account of impacts on the seascape character of the relevant SCTs as well as any visual impacts on adjacent SCTs or LCTs where there is intervisibility.