C-SCOPE Marine Plan

Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

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Dorset Coast Forum

Prepared by:
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Contents

Executive Summary

This report records a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening process of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan (Consultation Draft) (2011) prepared by Dorset Coast Forum.

HRA is required under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on one or more European sites and which is not necessary for the management of those sites. The purpose of HRA is to determine whether or not significant effects are likely and to suggest ways in which they could be avoided.

European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). National planning policy also recommends that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of consideration as SPAs and SACs. HRA relates specifically to the reasons why sites have been identified as European sites (qualifying interests). European sites are often formed of several component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The C-SCOPE Marine Plan is non-statutory. As such it acts as a comprehensive guide that informs developers, marine users and statutory authorities on the current uses and activities within the Plan area and through setting out a policy framework, enables clearer decision making for those with a responsibility for planning and licensing. The Plan also makes recommendations, identifies development criteria and highlights opportunities.

Covering an area of 953 km^2, The C-SCOPE Marine Plan area stretches from Portland Bill in the East to Durlston Head in the West; its seaward extent is the 12 nautical mile territorial seas limit This area was chosen to encompass a variety of coastline types and a wide range of uses, including the urban and industrial areas of Weymouth & Portland. Due to an almost infinite number of ways which it could be delineated, the inland limit has deliberately not been defined.

The purpose of this report is to screen the C-SCOPE Marine Plan to determine whether the policies within the Plan could have significant effects on the conservation objectives of any European site (hereafter referred to as 'Likely Significant Effects' or LSEs). This document will be consulted on with Natural England (and other stakeholders).

The European sites considered in this screening exercise are listed in Table Exec 1. This list of sites was agreed with Natural England before screening was undertaken.

Table Exec 1: European sites considered in the C-SCOPE Marine Plan screening exercise		
SPAs	**SACs**	**Ramsar**
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Studland to Portland Possible SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar Site
Dorset Heathlands SPA	Lyme Bay to Torbay Candidate SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site
Poole Harbour SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar Site
	Wight-Barfleur Reef Possible SAC	
	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	
	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	
	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	

The policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan have been screened for potential effects against the list of European sites in Table Exec 1.

The HRA screening exercise has not identified any LSEs that would occur as a result of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan alone or in combination with another plan or project. This is because there are several policies within the Marine Plan which directly protect the integrity of the European designated sites. These policies are as follows:

- ***"HME 1:** Development or activities will respect the purpose of international and national environmental designations within the marine and coastal environment and contribute to their enhancement where possible";*
- ***"HME 2:** Future development will take account of, and support delivery of, the management plans for, European and national environmental designations, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and World Heritage Sites"; and*
- ***"HME 4:** Where habitat or ecosystem degradation is apparent, the opportunity to restore the integrity of the site should be taken where possible".*

Most of the other policies within the Marine Plan also aim to protect habitats and avoid damaging activities and development.

No further Habitats Regulations Assessment work is therefore required with relation to the policies contained within the consultation draft C-SCOPE Marine Plan.

Natural England is a key stakeholder in the HRA process. Natural England has been consulted on the approach to the HRA of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan prior to the work being undertaken and has guided the selection of European sites to be considered in the screening process. Natural England has been informally consulted on the results of the screening exercise and will be formally consulted on this report. This report will also be subject to consultation with a wider group of stakeholders including the members of the Dorset Coast Forum and the general public.

1 Introduction

1.1 The need for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 inserts a new Part IVA into the Conservation (Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 and transposes into English Law the requirement to carry out Appropriate Assessment for land use plans. Article 85B of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 sets out that "the plan-making authority for that plan shall, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment for the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive requires Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This means that the effects of such plans/projects on European sites designated for their nature conservation value (Natura 2000 sites) need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained.

The preparation of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan needs to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to ascertain if there is potential for likely significant effects (LSEs) on any European site as a result of the plan.

1.2 European Sites

European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) (ODPM, 2005) advises that proposed sites awaiting approval – potential SPAs (pSPAs) and candidate SACs (cSACs) should be treated in the same way as those already classified and approved.

PPS9 also recommends that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of consideration as SPAs and SACs, in policy if not in law. All SPAs, (non-marine) SACs and Ramsar sites overlap to some degree with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). HRA relates specifically and exclusively to the qualifying interests of European sites and not to the broader conservation interests or requirements under other SSSIs. However, the latter should be factored into plan-making as part of the SEA / SA process and the planning authority's duty under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to conserve and enhance SSSIs in carrying out their functions.

1.3 This Report

This report records a screening process of The C-SCOPE Marine Plan (Consultation Draft) (Dorset Coast Forum, 2011).

This process is in line with draft guidance produced by Communities and Local Government in 2006[1].

The purpose of this report is to screen the policies of the consultation draft C-SCOPE Marine Plan to determine whether the plan could have significant effects on the conservation objectives of any European site (hereafter referred to as 'Likely Significant Effects' or LSEs). This document will be consulted on with Natural England and other stakeholders (see below).

1.4 Consultation

Natural England is a key stakeholder in the HRA process. Natural England has been consulted on the approach to the HRA of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan prior to the work being undertaken and has guided the selection of European sites to be considered in the screening process. Natural England will be formally consulted on this report.

This report will also be subject to consultation with a wider group of stakeholders including the members of the Dorset Coast Forum and the general public.

[1] CLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites – Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Consultation Paper

2 The C-SCOPE Marine Plan

2.1 The Marine Plan

Combining Sea and Coastal Planning in Europe (C-SCOPE) is a €1.8 million European partner project between the Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) and The Coordination Centre on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Belgium. Its main aim is to achieve a seamless, integrated approach to land and sea planning and management. Both partners are focusing on three elements which will link together to provide a comprehensive plan and information resource to underpin sustainable coastal management:

- Developing a framework for integrating terrestrial and marine planning;
- Tools for achieving sustainable coastal economies and environments; and
- Achieving commitment to ICZM through stakeholder engagement.

Integrating terrestrial and marine planning will primarily be achieved by producing a Marine Plan for an area, which lies between Durlston Head and Portland Bill (out to 12 nautical miles) and covers an area of 953 km^2.

The uses of the area are as varied as its habitats – commercial fishing, military use, recreational use (diving, angling, sailing etc), shipping and ports, to name but a few - and it is directly adjacent to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. It is also the location of the 2012 Olympic Games. The Marine Plan boundary is shown in **Figure 2.1**.

The Marine Plan itself is an output of a wider research project. This means it has no statutory standing. However, the marine planning agenda has taken on renewed momentum with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the publication of the Marine Planning Statement (MPS) and the commencement of the first round of marine plans (East Inshore and Offshore). Therefore, whilst this is a research project, it has germane links to the current marine planning debate and marine planning in the South West.

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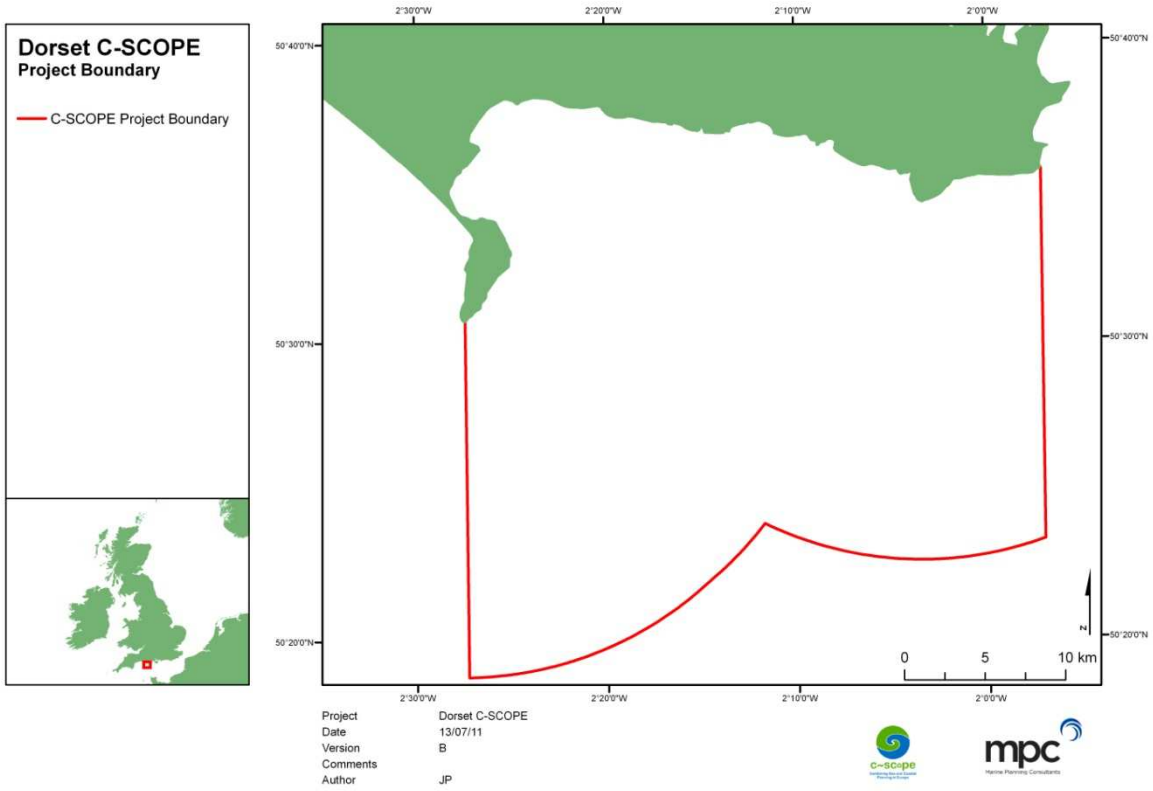


Figure 2.1: C-SCOPE Marine Plan Area Boundary

2.1 The C-SCOPE Marine Plan Options

The assessment of alternatives has been considered from an early stage. Initially the approach was to assess the strategic approach of the Marine Plan i.e. to assess how it should be written and structured. The view was taken that this level of alternatives would result in no significant effects on the environment i.e. if the Marine Plan was to take a zoning approach or a policy framework approach it would have no bearing on the effects of the plan. At this stage it was considered too early for any formal HRA input, particularly as these alternatives are largely procedural in nature, focus on the structure of the Marine Plan and the approach to creating the document rather than material / significant policy or distributional decisions, however Natural England were involved early in the plan-making process as part of the Marine Planning Task and Finish Group. Subsequently, ENVIRON and MPC drafted an alternatives paper2 that set out how we saw the development of alternatives and the assessment thereof.

As a complement to the SA Assessment workshop held on the 14th October ENVIRON tried to identify further alternatives through questions relating to mitigation. This approach yielded alternative wording to policies that were already written and the assessment of the

2 ENVIRON UK Ltd. (2011) C-SCOPE Alternatives Report

residual effects effective assesses these forms of alternatives. The HRA has assessed the final wording of the consultation draft C-SCOPE Marine Plan, following any changes made as a result of the mitigation suggested as part of the SA process.

3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This section sets out the approach adopted for the HRA.

3.2 Approach to the HRA

Figure 3.1 sets out the overall HRA process in accordance with the CLG draft guidance[3]. Current best practice demonstrates that a blurring of the tasks in an iterative manner is the most effective method of assessing a plan as it develops.

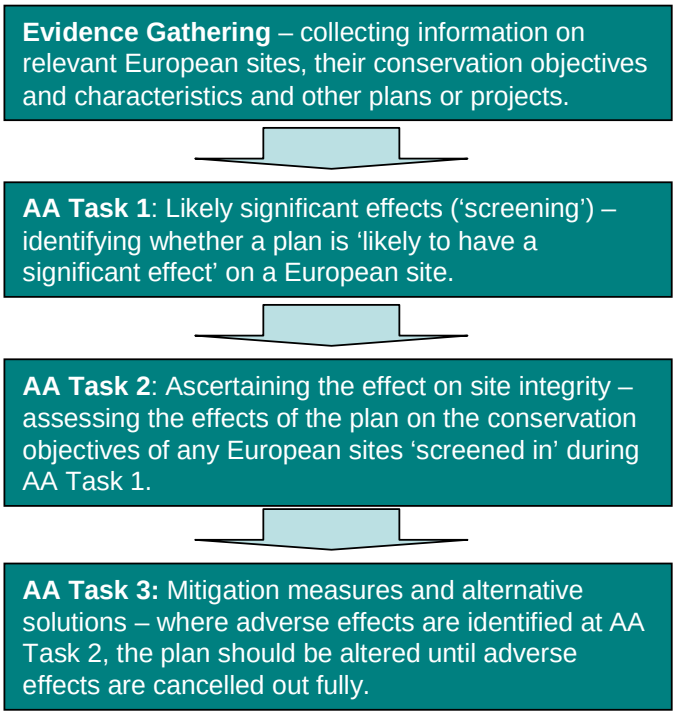


Figure 3.1 The HRA Process

The process set out in Figure 3.1 is an iterative process and should be revisited as policies develop, in response to consultation and as more information becomes available. The approach to the HRA screening of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan focused on identifying potential risks of effects associated with each of the identified options and puts forward recommendations for impact avoidance to inform the choice of options and/or the development of the draft plan by Dorset Coast Forum.

[3] Department for Communities and Local Government (August 2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment, Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Consultation Document. DCLG Publications

The objectives of the HRA screening are to:

- Identify the European sites which could potentially be effected by the options being considered for the C-SCOPE Marine Plan;
- Identify the potential risks of effects on European sites (including potential for in-combination effects); and
- Identify any recommended measures by which potential effects can be avoided in the development of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan.

The tasks involved in undertaking the screening exercise are as follows:

1. Consult with NE and agree European sites to be considered in the Screening exercise;
2. Collate information about sites and other relevant plans or projects;
3. Review draft Marine Plan policies and identify LSEs alone and potential for in-combination effects; and
4. Prepare screening report including recommendations for avoidance measures to help inform plan development and choice of options.

The European sites which could potentially be affected by the policies are discussed in Section 4 of this report.

This assessment has made use of the following existing information:

- JNCC website: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/;
- Baseline data collected as part of the development of the Marine Plan; and
- Geographical Information Systems data.

4 European sites and issues affecting them

4.1 Introduction

The identification of European sites to be considered within the screening exercise was undertaken in consultation with Natural England. European sites lying wholly or partially within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan area were identified for consideration in the screening exercise as well as sites outside of the plan area which it was judged could potentially be affected by the Marine Plan.

The distribution of European sites is shown on Figure 4.1 in Appendix B.

4.2 European sites considered in the screening exercise

The European sites considered in this screening exercise are listed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: European sites considered in the C-SCOPE Marine Plan screening exercise

SPAs	SACs	Ramsar
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Studland to Portland Possible SAC	Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar Site
Dorset Heathlands SPA	Lyme Bay to Torbay Candidate SAC	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site
Poole Harbour SPA	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Poole Harbour Ramsar Site
	Wight-Barfleur Reef Possible SAC	
	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	
	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	
	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	

Information relating to the reasons for designation of the sites, their conservation objectives, requirements to maintain favourable condition status of the site and the key factors affecting site integrity are all set out within the tables in Appendix A. The information regarding the sites has been obtained from the following sources:

- JNCC website: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/; and
- Natural England representatives.

Table 4.2 presents the factors which affect the European designated sites. Table 4.3 presents the reasons for their designation.

Table 4.2: Factors affecting the integrity of the sites

	Habitat management	Land take / physical damage and destruction	Visual and acoustic disturbance	Water quality / turbidity	Water supply / hydrological regime	Biological disturbance	Oceanographic character / coastal processes	Barriers e.g. windfarms	Supporting sites
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	X		X	X		X		X	X
Dorset Heathlands SPA	X	X	X						
Poole Harbour SPA	X		X	X		X		X	X
Studland to Portland Possible SAC		X		X		X			
Lyme Bay to Torbay Candidate SAC		X		X		X			
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	X	X	X				X		
Wight-Barfleur Reef Possible SAC		X		X		X			
Chesil and the Fleet SAC		X		X	X	X			
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	X	X	X						
Dorset Heaths		X				X			

Table 4.2: Factors affecting the integrity of the sites

	Habitat management	Land take / physical damage and destruction	Visual and acoustic disturbance	Water quality / turbidity	Water supply / hydrological regime	Biological disturbance	Oceanographic character / coastal processes	Barriers e.g. windfarms	Supporting sites
(Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC									
Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar Site		X	X		X	X	X		
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site	X	X	X	X	X				
Poole Harbour Ramsar Site		X	X	X	X	X	X		

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	This qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC). Overwintering *Branta bernicla bernicla* – Brent goose
Dorset Heathlands SPA	This qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC): Breeding: *Caprimulgus europaeus, Lullula arborea, Sylvia undata* Overwintering: *Circus cyaneus, Falco columbarius*
Poole Harbour SPA	This qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC): Breeding: *Larus melanocephalus* – Mediterranean Gull, *Sterna hirundo* – Common Tern Overwintering: *Recurvirostra avosetta* - Avocet This site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC): Overwintering: *Limosa limosa islandica* – Black-tailed Godwit ,*Tadorna tadorna* – Common Shelduck This site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) for supporting the following internationally important assemblages of birds: 25091 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/02/1999) Including: *Tadorna tadorna* – Common Shelduck, *Recurvirostra avosetta* – Avocet, *Limosa limosa islandica* – Black-tailed Godwit
Studland to Portland Possible SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary feature of this site is Reefs, which are represented by the sub-features Geogenic and Biogenic reefs.

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
Lyme Bay to Torbay Candidate SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are Reefs, which are represented by the sub-features Geogenic reefs, and Sea Caves.
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are: • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) • Early gentian *Gentianella anglica* A qualifying feature, Annual vegetation of drift lines, is also present.
Wight-Barfleur Reef Possible SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary feature of this site is Reefs, which are represented by the sub-feature Geogenic reef. Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose dolphin are also present as non-qualifying features.
Chesil and the Fleet SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are Coastal Lagoons, Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines, Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks and Mediterranean and Thermo-Atlantic Halophilous scrub (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*). Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) are present as a qualifying feature, but are not the primary reason for designation.
St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary conservation features of this site are: • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); and

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
	• Early gentian. Also present as a qualifying feature are Greater horseshoe bats.
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are: • Embryonic shifting dunes; • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (`white dunes`); • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); • Humid dune slacks; • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*); • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix;* • Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*; • European dry heaths; • Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion;* • Bog woodland; and • Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial.* Qualifying features also present include:

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
	• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) • Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* • Alkaline fens • Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains • Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*
Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar Site	Ramsar criterion 1: The Fleet is an outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat and is the largest of its kind in the UK. In Europe lagoons are classified as a priority habitat by the EC Habitats and Species Directive. The site also supports rare saltmarsh habitats. Ramsar criterion 2: The Fleet supports 15 specialist lagoonal species – more than any other UK site – and five nationally scarce wetland plants as well as ten nationally scarce wetland animals. Chesil Bank is one of the most important UK sites for shingle habitats and species. Ramsar criterion 3: The site is the largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK, and has the greatest diversity of habitats and of biota. Ramsar criterion 4: The site is important for a number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle including post-larval and juvenile bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*. Ramsar criterion 8: The site is important as a nursery for bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*. Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Overwintering species: Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
	Species with peak counts in winter: Mute swan, *Cygnus olor*.
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site	Ramsar criterion 1: Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and (ii) acid mire with *Rhynchosporion*. Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath *Erica ciliaris* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*. Ramsar criterion 2: Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species. Ramsar criterion 3: Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest.
Poole Harbour Ramsar Site	Ramsar criterion 1: The site is the best and largest example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics (a natural harbour) in Britain. Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports two species of nationally rare plant and one nationally rare alga. There are at least three British Red data book invertebrate species. Ramsar criterion 3: The site includes examples of natural habitat types of community interest - Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, in this case dominated by *Suaeda vera*, as well as calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance as few such examples remain in Britain. The site supports nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common tern, *Sterna hirundo* and Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus*. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Ramsar criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter:

Table 4.3: European Sites and their Reasons for Designation	
Site name	**Reasons for Designation**
	24709 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta.*

5 Assessment of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan

The matrices that have been used to screen the C-SCOPE Marine Plan are presented within Appendix A. The policies of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan have been considered with regards to their potential influence on the factors affecting the integrity of the European Sites and therefore whether they could have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the Sites.

No LSEs have been identified in the screening matrices. This is because there are several policies within the Marine Plan which directly protect the integrity of the European designated sites. These policies are as follows:

- ***"HME 1:** Development or activities will respect the purpose of international and national environmental designations within the marine and coastal environment and contribute to their enhancement where possible";*
- ***"HME 2:** Future development will take account of, and support delivery of, the management plans for, European and national environmental designations, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and World Heritage Sites"; and*
- ***"HME 4:** Where habitat or ecosystem degradation is apparent, the opportunity to restore the integrity of the site should be taken where possible."*

Most of the other policies within the Marine Plan also aim to protect habitats and avoid damaging activities and development.

6 Conclusions

The HRA screening assessment has screened the policies currently contained within the consultation draft of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan and has not identified any Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on European designated sites that would result from the policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan. No further Habitats Regulations Assessment work is therefore required with relation to the policies contained within the consultation draft C-SCOPE Marine Plan.

Natural England is a key stakeholder in the HRA process. Natural England has been consulted on the approach to the HRA of the C-SCOPE Marine Plan prior to the work being undertaken and has guided the selection of European sites to be considered in the screening process. Natural England has been informally consulted on the results of the screening exercise and will be formally consulted on this report. This report will also be subject to consultation with a wider group of stakeholders including the members of the Dorset Coast Forum and the general public.

Appendix A: Screening tables

Table 1	
Name	Studland to Portland Possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC)
Location with regards to plan area	Within plan area
Reason(s) for designation:	
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary feature of this site is Reefs, which are represented by the sub-features Geogenic and Biogenic reefs.	
Component SSSI sites	N/A
Conservation objectives	To maintain: 1. Extent of the habitat 2. Diversity of the habitat and its component species 3. Community structure of the habitat (e.g. population structure of individual notable species and their contribution to the functioning of the ecosystem) 4. Natural environmental quality (e.g. water quality, suspended sediment levels, etc.) 5. Natural environmental processes (e.g. biological and physical processes that occur naturally in the environment, such as water circulation and sediment deposition should not deviate from baseline at designation)
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)	**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
• Maintain the current extent of reefs as a minimum aspiration, allowing for natural change • Maintain the full variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for natural succession or known cyclical change	• Physical destruction or removal of reef features • Physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes

• Maintain the distribution of biotopes, allowing for natural succession or known cyclical change • No change in the extent of the biotopes, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change • No decline in biotope quality due to change in species composition or loss of notable species, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change • Maintain the age/size class structure of individual species populations	• Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination • Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the pSAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of reef features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Decrease in chemical water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in negative changes to water quality	None	No LSE

Alterations to physical attributes of the water column	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in adverse changes to the character of the water column	None	No LSE
Biological disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the increased likelihood of negative biological impacts upon the features of the pSAC	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Studland to Portland pSAC.			

Table 2		
Name	Wight-Barfleur Reef Possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC)	
Location with regards to plan area	Within plan area	
Reason(s) for designation:		
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary feature of this site is Reefs, which are represented by the sub-feature Geogenic reef. Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose dolphin are also present as non-qualifying features.		
Component SSSI sites	NA	
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, restore the reefs to favourable condition, such that: 1. The natural environmental quality is maintained 2. The natural environmental processes are maintained 3. The extent, physical structure, diversity, community structure and typical species representative of bedrock reef in the Central English Channel are restored	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
• Maintain the natural quality of the environment, e.g. the chemical or suspended sediment loads within the water column/benthic substrata • Maintain natural environmental processes, e.g. sediment erosion and accretion		• Physical destruction or removal of reef features • Physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes

• Restore extent of the area covered by habitat and communities • Restore physical structure of the habitat and substrata • Restore diversity of the biological communities and the number of taxa within those communities • Restore demographic community structure of the populations present • Restore typical species	• Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination • Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the pSAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of reef features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to reef features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Decrease in chemical water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in negative changes to water quality	None	No LSE
Alterations to physical attributes of the water column	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in adverse changes to the character of the water	None	No LSE

	column		
Biological disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the increased likelihood of negative biological impacts upon the features of the pSAC	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Wight-Barfleur Reef pSAC.			

Table 3	
Name	Chesil and the Fleet Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 4.88km
Reason(s) for designation:	
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are Coastal Lagoons, Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines, Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks and Mediterranean and Thermo-Atlantic Halophilous scrub (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)**.** **Atlantic salt meadows (***Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) **are present as a qualifying feature, but are not the primary reason for designation.**	
Component SSSI sites	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SSSI
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, maintain the lagoon in favourable condition, in particular: • Seagrass bed communities • Tide-swept communities • Subtidal coarse sediment (gravel, cobbles, pebbles) communities • Intertidal sediment communities • Shingle spring line communities • Botanical assemblages

Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)	**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Conservation objectives for the coastal lagoon: Subject to natural change, maintain the lagoon in favourable condition, in particular: • Seagrass bed communities • Tide-swept communities • Subtidal coarse sediment (gravel, cobbles, pebbles) communities • Intertidal sediment communities • Shingle spring line communities **Conservation objectives for the annual vegetation of drift lines:** Subject to natural change, maintain the Annual vegetation of drift lines in favourable condition, in particular: • *Beta vulgaris maritima* (sea beet) - *Atriplex* (orache) communities • *Honkenya peploides* (sea sandwort) - *Cakile maritima* (sea rocket) communities **Conservation objectives for Mediterranean and Thermo-Atlantic Halophilous scrub:** Subject to natural change, maintain the Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub in favourable condition, in particular: • Shrubby sea-blite (*Suaeda vera)* communities	• Physical destruction of features • Physical damage to features • The hydrological regime of the area • The oceanographic character of the area • Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination • Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of	None	No LSE

	the SAC		
Physical destruction of features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to site features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Alterations to the hydrological regime of the area	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the adverse impacts on the hydrological regime of the area	None	No LSE
Alterations to the oceanographic character of the area	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in changes to the oceanographic character of the area	None	No LSE
Decrease in chemical water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in negative changes to water quality	None	No LSE
Alterations to physical attributes of the water column	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in adverse changes to the character of the water column	None	No LSE
Biological disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result	None	No LSE

	in the increased likelihood of negative biological impacts upon the features of the SAC		
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Chesil and Fleet SAC.			

Table 4		
Name	Chesil Beach and the Fleet Special Protection Area (SPA)	
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 7km	
Reason(s) for designation:		
This qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC). Overwintering *Branta bernicla bernicla* – Brent goose		
Component SSSI sites	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SSSI	
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural changes to maintain the: • Lagoon waters • Intertidal sediment communities • Seagrass bed communities	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species, under the Birds Directive, with particular reference to: • Lagoon waters Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, under the Birds Directive, with particular reference to:		• Maintenance of habitats and food resources on site • Maintenance of bird feeding areas outside the site • Absence of barriers e.g. wind farms • Maintain low levels of noise and visual disturbance

• Intertidal sediment communities; • Seagrass bed communities	• Maintain existing levels of water quality • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SPA	None	No LSE
Destruction of habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the destruction of the habitats which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Damage to habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Destruction or damage to food resources offsite	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats outside of the site boundaries which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Introduction of barriers	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result	None	No LSE

	in the introduction of physical barriers to the SPA		
Increases in noise and physical disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will increase the occurrence of noise or physical disturbance within the SPA	None	No LSE
Decrease in water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in a decrease in water quality within the SPA	None	No LSE
Introduction of biological threats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in an increase in biological threat levels	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA.			

Table 5	
Name	Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar site
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 7km
Reason(s) for designation:	

Ramsar criterion 1
The Fleet is an outstanding example of rare lagoon habitat and is the largest of its kind in the UK. In Europe lagoons are classified as a priority habitat by the EC Habitats and Species Directive. The site also supports rare saltmarsh habitats.

Ramsar criterion 2
The Fleet supports 15 specialist lagoonal species – more than any other UK site – and five nationally scarce wetland plants as well as ten nationally scarce wetland animals. Chesil Bank is one of the most important UK sites for shingle habitats and species.

Ramsar criterion 3
The site is the largest barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK, and has the greatest diversity of habitats and of biota.

Ramsar criterion 4
The site is important for a number of species at a critical stage in their life cycle including post-larval and juvenile bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*.

Ramsar criterion 8
The site is important as a nursery for bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*.

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Overwintering species
Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla,*

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.

Species with peak counts in winter: Mute swan , Cygnus olor.			
Component SSSI sites	Chesil Beach and the Fleet SSSI		
Conservation objectives	To maintain in favourable condition the habitats and species populations for which the site has been designation		
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**	
To maintain the integrity and ecological importance of the lagoon and the Chesil Bank. To maintain the ability of the site to support post larval and juvenile bass, and the ability of the site to act as a nursery area for bass. To maintain the ornithological interest of the site.		• Physical destruction of features • Physical damage to features • The hydrological regime of the area • The oceanographic character of the area • Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination • Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species • Visual and acoustic disturbance	
Assessment of significance of effects:			
Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result	None	No LSE

	in inappropriate management of the Ramsar site		
Destruction of habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the destruction of the habitats which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Damage to habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Destruction or damage to food resources offsite	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats outside of the site boundaries which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Introduction of barriers	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the introduction of physical barriers to the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Increases in noise and physical disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will increase the occurrence of noise or physical disturbance within the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Decrease in water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in a decrease in water quality	None	No LSE

	within the Ramsar site		
Introduction of biological threats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in an increase in biological threat levels	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Chesil Beach and the Fleet Ramsar site.			

Table 6	
Name	Poole Habour Special Protection Area (SPA)
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 6.77km
Reason(s) for designation:	
This qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC): Breeding: *Larus melanocephalus* – Mediterranean Gull *Sterna hirundo* – Common Tern Overwintering: *Recurvirostra avosetta* - Avocet This site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC): Overwintering: *Limosa limosa islandica* – Black-tailed Godwit *Tadorna tadorna* – Common Shelduck This site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) for supporting the following internationally important assemblages of birds: 25091 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/02/1999) Including: *Tadorna tadorna* – Common Shelduck	

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Recurvirostra avosetta - Avocet
Limosa limosa islandica – Black-tailed Godwit</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component SSSI sites</td><td colspan="2">Poole Harbour SSSI</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation objectives</td><td colspan="2">Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the:
Shallow inshore waters
Intertidal sediment communities
Saltmarsh
Reedbed</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)</td><td>Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) the conservation objectives for the site are:

Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species under the Birds Directive, in particular:
Shallow inshore waters
Intertidal sediment communities
Saltmarsh
Under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) the conservation objectives for the site are:

Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important wildfowl assemblages under the Birds Directive, in particular:
Shallow inshore waters
Intertidal sediment communities
Saltmarsh
Reedbed</td><td>Maintenance of habitats and food resources on site
Maintenance of bird feeding areas outside the site
Absence of barriers e.g. wind farms
Maintain low levels of noise and visual disturbance
Maintain existing levels of water quality
Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species</td></tr>
</table>

Assessment of significance of effects:			
Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SPA	None	No LSE
Destruction of habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the destruction of the habitats which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Damage to habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Destruction or damage to food resources offsite	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats outside of the site boundaries which support the SPA	None	No LSE
Introduction of barriers	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the introduction of physical barriers to the SPA	None	No LSE
Increases in noise and physical disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will increase the occurrence of noise or physical disturbance within the SPA	None	No LSE
Decrease in water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in a decrease in water quality within the SPA	None	No LSE

Introduction of biological threats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in an increase in biological threat levels	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Poole Harbour SPA.			

Table 7	
Name	Poole Harbour Ramsar Site
Location with regards to plan area	Outside plan area – 6.77km
Reason(s) for designation:	

Ramsar criterion 1
The site is the best and largest example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics (a natural harbour) in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 2
The site supports two species of nationally rare plant and one nationally rare alga. There are at least three British Red data book invertebrate species.

Ramsar criterion 3
The site includes examples of natural habitat types of community interest - Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, in this case dominated by *Suaeda vera*, as well as calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance as few such examples remain in Britain. The site supports nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common tern, *Sterna hirundo* and Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus*. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

Ramsar criterion 5
Assemblages of international importance:
Species with peak counts in winter:
24709 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.
Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):
Species with peak counts in winter:
Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*,			
Component SSSI sites	Poole Habour		
Conservation objectives	To maintain in favourable condition the habitats and species populations for which the site has been designation		
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**	
To maintain the integrity and ecological importance of the bar-built estuary To maintain the ability of the site to support interesting and important botanical communities and species. To maintain the ornithological interest of the site.		• Physical destruction of features • Physical damage to features • The hydrological regime of the area • The oceanographic character of the area • Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination • Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species • Levels of visual and acoustic disturbance	
Assessment of significance of effects:			
Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**

Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Destruction of habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the destruction of the habitats which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Damage to habitats and food resources on site	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Destruction or damage to food resources offsite	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in result in damage to the habitats outside of the site boundaries which support the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Introduction of barriers	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the introduction of physical barriers to the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Increases in noise and physical disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will increase the occurrence of noise or physical disturbance within the Ramsar site	None	No LSE
Decrease in water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result	None	No LSE

	in a decrease in water quality within the Ramsar site		
Introduction of biological threats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in an increase in biological threat levels	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Poole Harbour Ramsar site.			

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Table 8</th></tr>
<tr><td>Name</td><td colspan="2">Dorset Heathlands SPA</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location with regards to plan area</td><td colspan="2">Outside the plan area – 5.1km</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Reason(s) for designation:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">This qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC):

Breeding:
Caprimulgus europaeus
Lullula arborea
Sylvia undata

Overwintering:
Circus cyaneus
Falco columbarius</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component SSSI sites</td><td>Black Hill Heath
Blue Pool and Norden Heaths
Bourne Valley
Brenscombe Heath
Canford Heath
Christchurch Harbour
Corfe and Barrow Hills
Cranborne Common
Ebblake Bog
Ferndown Common
Ham Common
Hartland Moor
Holt and West Moors Heaths
Holton and Sandford Heaths
Horton Common
Hurn Common</td><td>Poole Harbour
Povington and Grange Heaths
Rempstone Heaths
Slop Bog and Uddens Heath
Stoborough and Creech Heaths
Stokeford Heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths
Thrashers Heath
The Moors
Town Common
Turbary and Kinson Commons
Turners Puddle Heath
Upton Heath
Verwood Heaths
Warmwell Heath
Winfrith Heath</td></tr>
</table>

	Lions Hill Matchams Morden Bog and Hyde Heath	Worgret Heath
Conservation objectives	To maintain the habitats which support the Annex I bird species for which the sites has received designation	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats which support the internationally important populations of regularly occurring breeding and overwintering bird species		• Maintenance of key habitats on site • Appropriate levels of grazing and cutting • Exposure to fire risks • Noise and visual disturbance

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies.**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SPA	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of key bird populations or supporting habitats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Increase in visual and acoustic disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in increased visual or acoustic disturbance to important	None	No LSE

	bird populations		
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Dorset Heathlands SPA.			

Table 9		
Name	Dorset Healthlands Ramsar	
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 5.3km	
Reason(s) for designation:		
Ramsar criterion 1 Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and (ii) acid mire with *Rhynchosporion*. Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath *Erica ciliaris* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*. **Ramsar criterion 2** Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species. **Ramsar criterion 3** Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest.		
Component SSSI sites	Black Hill Heath Blue Pool and Norden Heaths Bourne Valley Brenscombe Heath Canford Heath Christchurch Harbour Corfe and Barrow Hills Cranborne Common Ebblake Bog Ferndown Common	Oakers Bog Parley Common Poole Harbour Povington and Grange Heaths Rempstone Heaths Slop Bog and Uddens Heath Stoborough and Creech Heaths Stokeford Heaths Studland and Godlingston Heaths Thrashers Heath

	Ham Common Hartland Moor Holt and West Moors Heaths Holton and Sandford Heaths Horton Common Hurn Common Lions Hill Matchams Morden Bog and Hyde Heath Norden	The Moors Town Common Turbary and Kinson Commons Turners Puddle Heath Upton Heath Verwood Heaths Warmwell Heath Winfrith Heath Worgret Heath
Conservation objectives	• To maintain the extent and composition of key habitats. • To maintain the species composition of the area • To maintain the high ecological interest supported by the areas	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)	**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**	
Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats which support the internationally important populations of regularly occurring breeding and overwintering bird species	• Maintain key habitats on site • Maintain appropriate levels of grazing and cutting • Minimise exposure to fire risks • Minimise the impacts of noise and visual disturbance • Maintain the hydrological regime of the site • Maintain water quality on site	
Assessment of significance of effects:		

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies.	Assessment of significance and rationale
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the Ramsar Site	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of key bird populations or supporting habitats	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Increase in visual and acoustic disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in increased visual or acoustic disturbance to important bird populations	None	No LSE
Disruption to the hydrological regime of the area	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in disruption to the hydrological regime of the site	None	No LSE
Deterioration of water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in disruption to the water quality of the site	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site			

Table 10	
Name	Lyme Bay to Torbay Candidate SAC
Location with regards to plan area	Outside plan area – 18.1km
Reason(s) for designation:	
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are Reefs, which are represented by the sub-features Geogenic reefs, and Sea Caves	
Component SSSI sites	N/A
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, maintain or restore the **Reefs** in/to favourable condition, in particular: • Bedrock reefs • Stony reefs • Biogenic reefs Subject to natural change, maintain the **Submerged or partially submerged sea caves** in favourable condition.

Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)	**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Maintain the extent of reef and cave habitats Maintain the biotope composition of the reefs and sea cave habitats Maintain the biotope distribution across the areas of reef	• Physical destruction or removal of reef or cave features • Physical damage to reef or cave features and associated biotopes • Water quality – avoidance of toxic contamination

Maintain the number of caves within the site Maintain the composition, quality and extent of notable and representative biotopes	• Non-toxic contamination – maintenance of prevailing turbidity levels • Biological disturbance – threats from pathogens and non-native species

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the cSAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of reef or cave features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to reef or cave features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to reef or cave features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Decrease in chemical water quality	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in negative changes to water quality	None	No LSE
Alterations to physical attributes of the water column	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in adverse changes to the character of the water column	None	No LSE
Biological disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the increased likelihood of negative biological impacts upon the features of the cSAC	None	No LSE

Recommendations:

The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Lyme Bay to Torbay cSAC.

Table 11		
Name	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	
Location with regards to plan area	Adjacent to the plan area	
Reason(s) for designation:		
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary features of this site are: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) Early gentian ***Gentianella anglica*** **A qualifying feature,** Annual vegetation of drift lines**, is also present**		
Component SSSI sites	South Dorset Coast	
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, maintain the features of the site in favourable condition	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Maintain the coverage, extent and quality of the cliffs, grasslands, drift lines and gentian population		• Physical destruction or removal of features • Physical damage to features and associated biotopes • Coastal processes

	• Disturbance from recreation • Implementation of unsuitable grazing regimes

Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Disruption to coastal processes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any alterations to coastal processes	None	No LSE
Damage to the site as a result of increased recreational disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any increases in recreational disturbance	None	No LSE

Damage to site features as a result of inappropriate grazing	The C-SCOPE Marine Plan will not influence the grazing regime at this site	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC			

Table 12		
Name	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 0.26km	
Reason(s) for designation:		
This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The primary conservation features of this site are: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) Early gentian Also present as a qualifying feature are Greater horseshoe bats		
Component SSSI sites	South Dorset Coast	
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, maintain the features of the site in favourable condition	
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)		**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Maintain the coverage, extent and quality of the vegetated cliffs, grasslands and scub lands, and gentian and Greater horseshoe bat population		• Physical destruction or removal of features • Physical damage to features and associated biotopes • Disturbance from recreation

	• Implementation of unsuitable grazing regimes		
Assessment of significance of effects:			
Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE Marine Plan?**	**Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies**	**Assessment of significance and rationale**
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Damage to the site as a result of increased recreational disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any increases in recreational disturbance	None	No LSE
Damage to site features as a result of inappropriate grazing	The C-SCOPE Marine Plan will not influence the grazing regime at this site	None	No LSE
Recommendations: The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC			

Table 13	
Name	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC
Location with regards to plan area	Outside the plan area – 5.12km
Reason(s) for designation:	

This site qualifies under Article 3 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The primary features of this site are:
Embryonic shifting dunes
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (`white dunes`)
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)
Humid dune slacks
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*
European dry heaths
Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
Bog woodland
Southern damselfly ***Coenagrion mercuriale***

Qualifying features also present include:
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
Alkaline fens
Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains
Great crested newt ***Triturus cristatus***

Component SSSI sites	Studland and Godlingston Heaths Poole Harbour Rempstone Heaths Brenscombe Heath Thrasher's Heath Hartland Moor Arne Stoborough and Creech Heaths Povington and Grange Heaths Morden Bog Hyde Heath
Conservation objectives	Subject to natural change, maintain the features of the site in favourable condition

Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site (relating to conservation objectives)	**Key factors affecting site integrity (relating to designated features)**
Maintain the coverage, extent and quality of all protected habitats and species.	• Physical loss • Physical damage: • Erosion due to visitor pressure • Wildfires • Biological disturbance eg *Rhododendron*

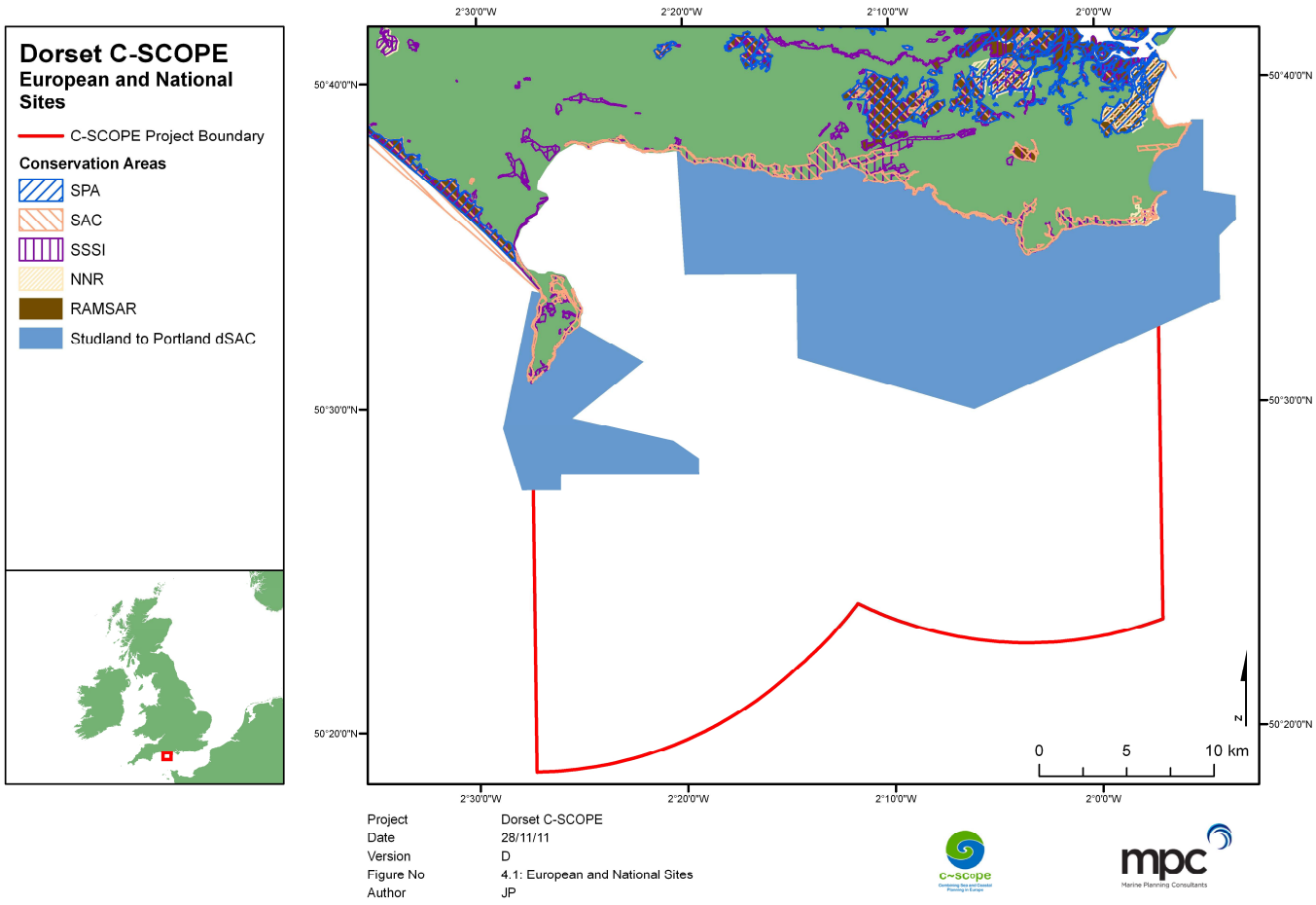
Assessment of significance of effects:

Nature of potential effect (relating to	**LSE due to the C-SCOPE**	**Possible effects in combination**	**Assessment of significance and**

site integrity)	Marine Plan?	with other plans and policies	rationale
Inappropriate management	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in inappropriate management of the SAC	None	No LSE
Physical destruction or removal of features	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in the physical destruction or removal of the site features	None	No LSE
Physical damage to features and associated biotopes	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in physical damage to features and associated biotopes	None	No LSE
Damage to the site as a result of increased recreational disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any increases in recreational disturbance	None	No LSE
Increased likelihood of fire	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any increases in likelihood of fire	None	No LSE
Increased likelihood of biological disturbance	It is not considered likely that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will result in any increases in likelihood of biological disturbance	None	No LSE
Recommendations:			

The existing policies within the C-SCOPE Marine Plan contain adequate provisions for the protection of the features of the Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC.

Appendix B: Figures


Dorset C-SCOPE
European and National Sites
C-SCOPE Project Boundary
Conservation Areas
SPA
SAC
SSSI
NNR
RAMSAR
Studland to Portland dSAC
2°30'0"W
2°20'0"W
2°10'0"W
2°0'0"W
50°40'0"N
50°30'0"N
50°20'0"N
0
5
10 km
N
Project Dorset C-SCOPE
Date 28/11/11
Version D
Figure No 4.1: European and National Sites
Author JP