

# Topic Paper 6 - Historic Environment

## Introduction

**1** Dorset has a rich and diverse historic environment, which is integral to the overall character and identity of the county. The term ‘historic environment’ is taken to include human influence on the landscape, archaeology, historic settlements and buildings, and other remnants of human activity such as transport. ‘Archaeological remains’ encompasses those elements of the historic environment that include buried and above-ground remains, including anything which provides evidence of the impact of past human activity upon landscapes. Much of the historic environment is protected by national designations and there is a rich historic landscape. The emerging Waste and Mineral Plans will need to take these issues carefully into account in both formulation of policies and identification of sites.

## Baseline

**2** Much of Dorset’s cultural heritage is evident in physical form, such as historic buildings, parks and gardens, and ancient earthworks. These physical reminders are of value as educational, cultural and recreational resources. There is furthermore extensive archaeology that is not visible and in some case not yet discovered. The conservation of the wider historic environment contributes to the character and distinctiveness of the county. National, regional and local policies and programmes work towards the conservation of cultural heritage, acknowledging the historic environment as an irreplaceable resource.

## Historic Environment Designations

**3** Dorset has a rich heritage of scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens, as summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1 Number of Historic Assets in Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole<sup>(1)</sup>**

Listed Buildings	9931
Conservation Areas	239
Scheduled Monuments	1043
Registered Parks and Gardens	37

**4** Listed Buildings are buildings of varying scale, age and condition which are considered to be of special importance and are included in a Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (administered by English Heritage), with three different levels of protection, from Grade I (to which the greatest level of protection is assigned), Grade II\* and Grade II. The 9931 listed buildings are spread widely across Dorset, with the highest numbers being located in West Dorset, followed by North Dorset and Purbeck as illustrated on Figure 2. It should also be noted that this number does not truly represent the total number of listed buildings, since one listing may cover several individual buildings. The actual number of individual buildings has been estimated to be 500,000 or over. Of the 9931 listings, the majority are Grade II listed (9,134). There are 262 Grade I listed buildings and 500 Grade II\* listed buildings. It is important to consider not just the listed building itself, but also its setting.

1 English Heritage 'Heritage Counts' (2010)

**5** Conservation Areas are designated by local planning authorities as areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. They may vary in character, form and size, but their designation means that they are all worthy of protection as areas of special merit. They usually contain listed buildings, but this is not a prerequisite of designation. Dorset's 239 conservation areas cover many of the county's historic market town centres and villages and include 23 areas designated in Poole and 21 in Bournemouth. West Dorset has the highest number of conservation areas at 79.

**6** The Dorset Historic Environment Record currently holds over 26,000 archaeological records, of which there are approximately 1043 Scheduled Monuments. Scheduled Monuments are protected under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (as amended). They consist of archaeological remains that are considered to be nationally important and include not only below-ground remains but also earthworks and structures. Dorset has a relatively high number of scheduled monuments (1,043 of the 6,986 in the south west region). There is a large number of barrows (Bronze Age burial mounds) in the county that are protected as Scheduled Monuments. The preservation of scheduled monuments and their settings is an important part of the planning process.

**7** The need to conserve and restore historic gardens and designed landscapes in the UK began to be recognised in the late 20th century. Under the National Heritage Act 1983, the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England is compiled and maintained by English Heritage. Entries are graded in the same way as listed buildings. Unlike listed buildings, there is no provision for statutory protection, partly due to the organic and changeable nature of gardens. Dorset has 37 Historic Parks and Gardens.

**8** In 2001, the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site was designated. The 'Jurassic Coast' extends from Old Harry Rocks in Purbeck, Dorset along the coastline to Orcombe Point in Exmouth, Devon. The World Heritage Site was designated for its geological interest and so is covered in Topic Paper 4: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

**9** The impact of development on the historic environment needs appropriate consideration, in particular when considering potential sites for waste management or minerals development. Regard must be given to the significance of any affected heritage asset, including any contribution made to its setting <sup>(2)</sup>. The proximity of waste management facilities or minerals development to any facet of the historic environment has the potential to cause adverse impacts, either on the asset itself or its setting, and must be taken into careful consideration. What affects the setting of an historic asset depends on the nature of the affected property or site, as well as on the nature of the development proposal. Considerations would include whether a waste management or minerals facility could be seen from, heard from, felt from or smelled from any relevant protected site or any location within its curtilage. Appropriate mitigation measures must be applied to afford protection to the historic environment.

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2 National Planning Policy Framework 2012, para 128

Figure 1 Listed Buildings in Dorset

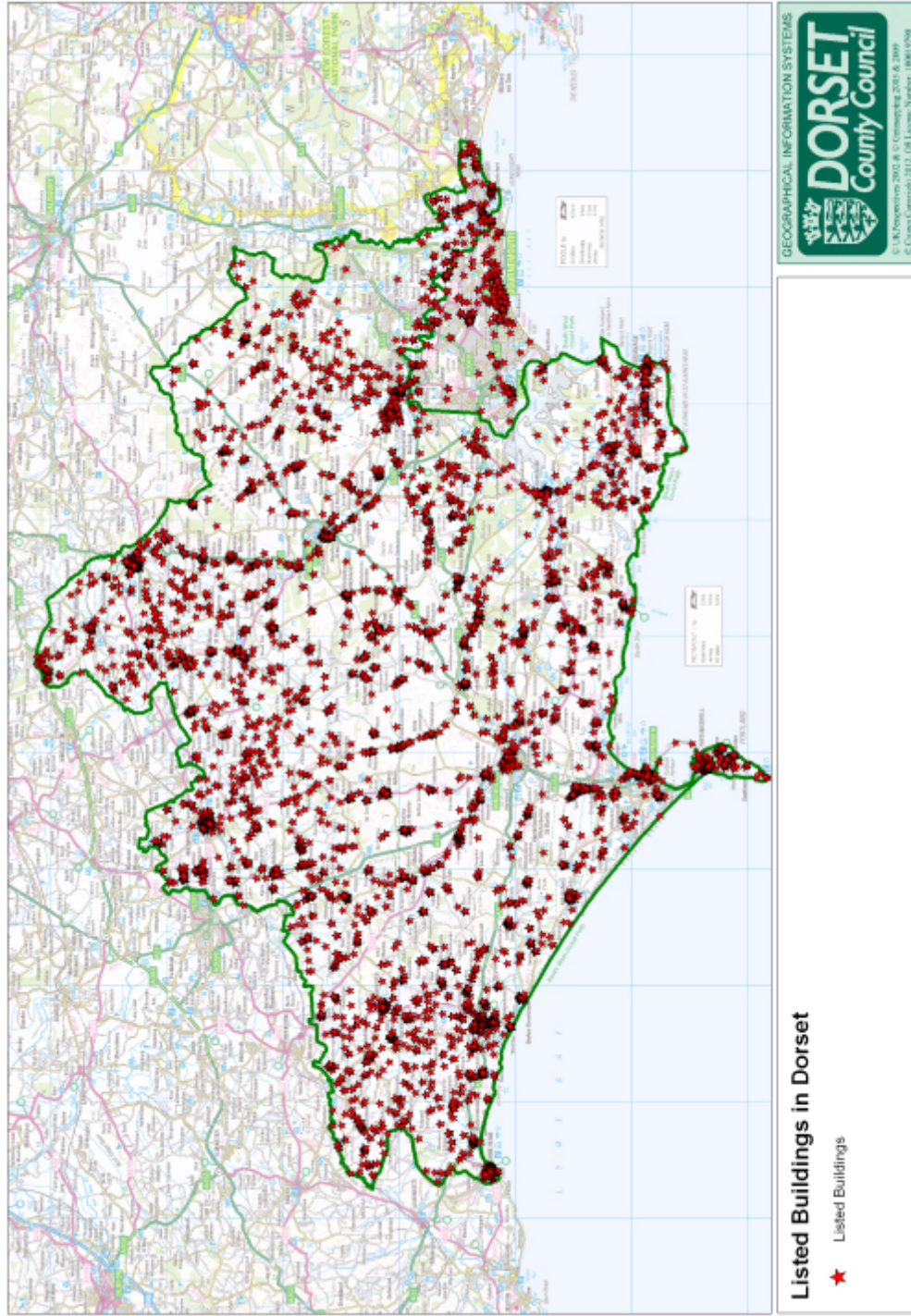


Figure 2 Conservation Areas in Dorset

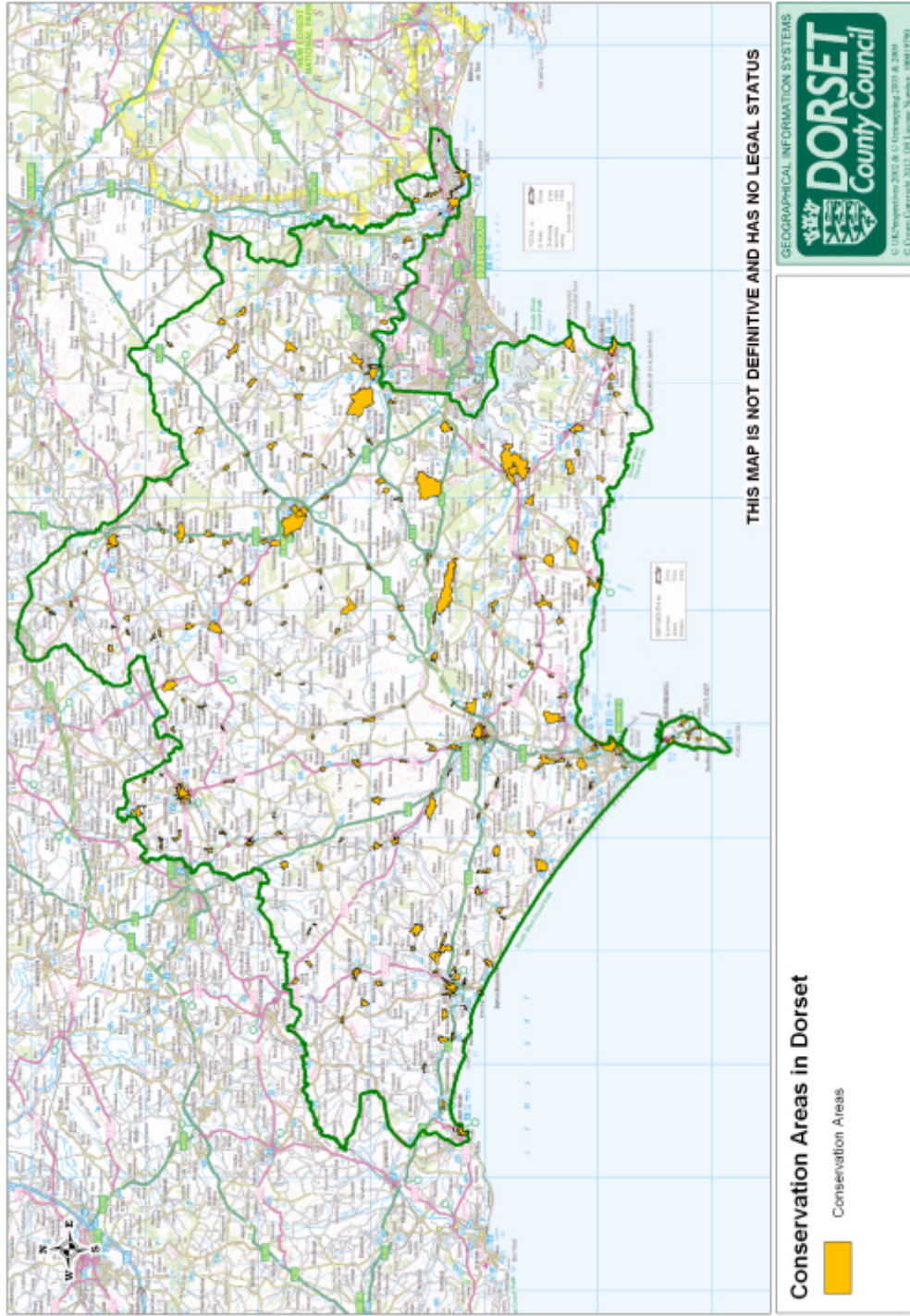
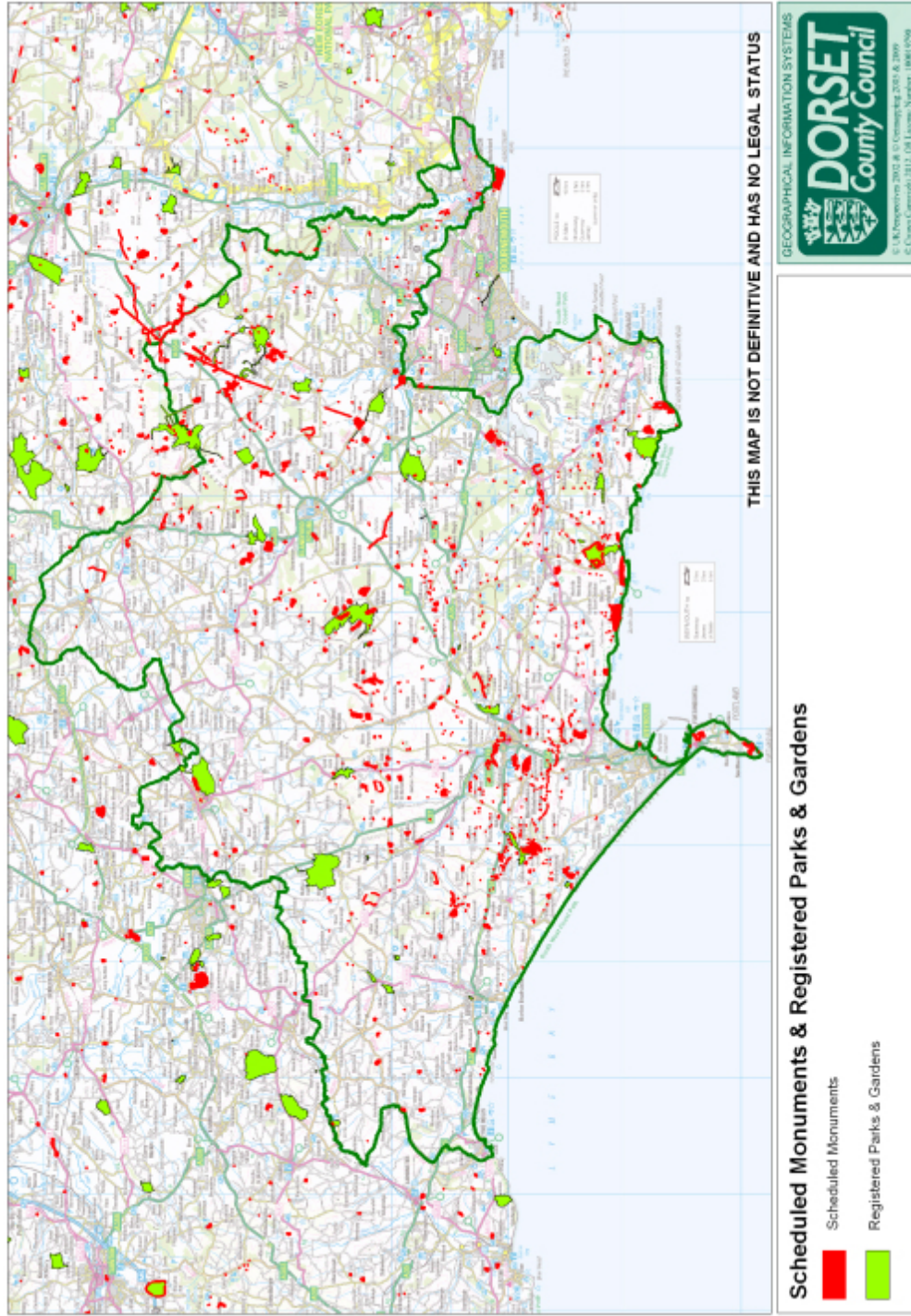


Figure 3 Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens in Dorset



## Historic Landscape

**10** England's rural landscape is one of the jewels of our national heritage and it should be acknowledged that just about everything has been influenced by human activity. It is considered that this can be too easily overlooked when we concentrate on individual buildings or archaeological monuments, and the landscape's historic dimension can be too easily missed if landscape is admired as beautiful scenery. Historic landscape characterisation is a tool that has been developed to provide a framework for broadening understanding of the whole landscape. One such study has been undertaken for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, whilst another is being undertaken by the county council for Dorset as a whole. These studies map the historic dimension of the entirety of the modern day landscape and provide important evidence to help us to understand the character of the landscape and therefore the implications of development.

**11** Dorset has a rich historic landscape and the way that the landscape has been populated, managed and exploited by people over the centuries has had, and continues to have, a major influence on the diversity and character of the Dorset countryside. Evidence of the historical evolution of the landscape is preserved in a rich archaeological heritage including scheduled monuments (see above) as well as ancient field patterns, woodlands, hedges, settlements and rights of way.

**12** Of particular note are the chalk valleys and downlands and the heathland areas, which all reveal historic settlement patterns of the county. Many landscapes have experienced relatively slow and incremental change with each generation adding to, rather than removing, the evidence of their ancestors. This cultural continuity, or 'time-depth' is one of the most valued characteristics of the countryside.

**13** Particular areas in Dorset also are noteworthy for their industrial archaeology. For example, Portland and Purbeck show a wealth of evidence of historic quarrying activities. Portland is identified as of high archaeological significance in the Local Plan partly for this reason. The historic landscape characterisation of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs indicates the deeply rural nature of the AONB with 80% of the area being characterised as enclosed land - the vast majority of this being farmland.

**14** Dorset's historic environment contains a wide variety of features, not all of which are protected by designations. In terms of archaeology, there is also a great deal more that awaits discovery. Thus, it is important that detailed research is undertaken in order to understand the archaeological implications of a proposed development before a planning decision is made.

### Summary of relevant policy documents - Historic Environment

*N.B. More detail on these and other policy documents is included at the end of this topic paper.*

**Table 2 Key messages from relevant policy**

Policy Documents	Relevance to Waste and Minerals Plans
<p><b>Key International Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Council of Europe, 1992)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The various policy documents establish the importance of the historic environment, in all its various forms - including designated assets, the time-depth of the historic landscape and undesignated/undiscovered archaeology.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key National/Regional Policy</b></p>	

Policy Documents	Relevance to Waste and Minerals Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Statement</li> <li>• A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of heritage assets must be taken into consideration.</li> <li>• The provision of appropriate protection/mitigation from the impacts of waste and minerals development must be included within the emerging waste and minerals Plans.</li> <li>• The setting of historical assets, including scheduled monuments and listed buildings, is important and will need to be considered when potential waste management sites and mineral sites are identified.</li> <li>• Sufficient information on the historic environment needs to be provided by applicants for waste management facilities and minerals development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Local Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorset Historic Landscape Characterisation (<i>currently unpublished</i>)</li> <li>• Cranborne Chase &amp; West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007)</li> </ul>	

**Potential impacts related to waste and minerals development**

- Loss of historic assets through waste or minerals development
- Reduction in legibility of the historic landscape and potential for introduction of discordant features into the historic landscape, e.g. landfills or other waste facilities, soil bunds, tree and planting
- Effects on setting of historic assets, including visual, noise or smell and disruption of access
- Transportation of waste can affect historic features, or their settings, potentially through air pollution or vibration from HGVs passing historic buildings.
- Subsidence or ground settlement from sub-surface mining or changes to hydrology affecting historical remains
- Disruption to drainage regimes from mineral extraction affecting the preservation of historical remains
- Effect of dust on historic buildings, and potential disturbance to ground under buildings from extraction vibration.



### Issues

- An appropriate level of protection must be provided to designated historic assets, including those which are locally distinctive, valued and important.
- The contribution of historic and cultural heritage (including minerals heritage) to the distinctiveness of Dorset's landscapes must be recognised.
- Quarrying (particularly of building stone) is an integral part of Dorset's cultural heritage and industrial archaeology, which is very closely linked to the landscape quality in some parts of the county.
- Heritage should be taken into account in the siting, design, management and restoration, where relevant, of waste and minerals sites.
- Access to and enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment should be facilitated where possible.
- Where waste or minerals development is proposed, it is essential that the impact on the historic environment is assessed and evaluated fully before a planning decision is made. Desk-based assessments and evaluation using various methods of survey and excavation of trial trenches are usually needed to provide sufficient information on the impact of extraction on the historic environment. Based on the results of these exercises, the appropriate mitigation for this impact can be determined. Particularly for designated sites such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, not only direct physical impacts need to be considered, but also the impacts on the settings of these sites.
- Many scheduled monuments lie in close proximity to current quarries and on mineral deposits. There is potential for such sites to be used as landfill in certain circumstances. There may be conflict therefore between the presence of scheduled monuments and potential landfill sites.
- The use of quarries as landfill sites lengthens the time for restoration and therefore may increase impacts on the historic landscape or on the settings of historic assets.
- The management of change in the historic landscape and the recording of its dynamic nature is important.
- In addition, waste development or mineral extraction can fund additional (or directly carry out through restoration) works to benefit historic landscapes and features.

### Suggested Sustainability Objectives

To maintain, conserve and enhance the historic environment (including archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other locally distinctive features and their settings).

### ...and Broad Indicators

"To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy or policy..."

- Cause a loss of, or harm to, the character and/or setting of historic assets?
- Cause harm to the historic landscape?
- Provide for the maintenance of the historic environment?
- Provide new information on the historic environment, or improve education about and/or interpretation of the historic environment?

**Relevant Policy Documents: Historic Environment**

**Table 3**

<p><b>Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972)</b></p> <p>The Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List, and sets out the duties of States in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural (monuments, groups of buildings, sites) and natural heritage (natural features, geological features/physiographical formations, natural sites).</li> <li>• To encourage Parties to nominate sites within their national territories for inclusion on the World Heritage List and to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implications:</b></p> <p>The Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities will take the requirements of the Convention into consideration in preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.</p>
<p><b>Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta Convention) (Council of Europe, 1992)</b></p> <p>This Convention, ratified by the UK in 2000, makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.</p> <p>Archaeological heritage is defined very broadly as ‘all remains and objects and any other traces of mankind from past epochs’ and includes ‘structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, movable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water.’</p>
<p><b>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</b></p> <p>The Act makes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters. It sets the context for much of the subsequent legislation relating to the historic environment.</p> <p><b>Implications:</b></p> <p>The requirements of the Act will be observed in the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.</p>

**Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**

Consolidation Act to consolidate relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest with amendments to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commission.

**Implications:**

The requirements of the Act will be observed in the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27 March 2012. It sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth.

One of the core planning principles set out in the NPPF is to "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations".

In developing local plans, LPAs should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The NPPF states that it should be recognised that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and that they should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

**Implications:**

~~The policy guidance contained within the NPPF will be fundamental to the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.~~  
**Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 (SWRA: 2006)**

Under powers provided through the Localism Act (2011), the Secretary of State has revoked the Regional Strategy. However, the evidence underpinning the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy will remain an important consideration for the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England (SWRA: 2001)**

Sets out a high level strategic framework for moving towards sustainable development in the South West. The main purpose of the Framework is to set out an agreed agenda for everyone in the region to work towards. The most relevant development and planning objective is considered to be:

- Ensure the South West remains a region of diverse and distinctive heritage and landscape.

**Implications:**

Under powers provided through the Localism Act (2011), the Secretary of State has revoked the Regional Strategy. However, the evidence underpinning the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, including this document, will remain an important consideration for the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (English Heritage: 2004)**

This is the first strategy for the historic environment in the South West. It has been prepared on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. It represents an important first step in raising the profile of the historic environment and ensuring it is reflected fully in strategies, plans and policies. Regional priorities include:

- Continue to improve knowledge and understanding of the South West's historic environment and reflect this in informed and positive conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- Promote the design of buildings and landscape sensitive to its location.

#### **Implications:**

This document will be taken into account in the development of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **Our Environment: Our Future – the Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004-2014 (SWRA, 2004)**

The purpose of the strategy is to generate awareness of the importance of the South West environment, identify priorities for protecting and enhancing the environment and to provide a framework for action in the South West. Aims include:

- Conserve and enhance the landscape and historic environment as assets for everyone to value and enjoy.
- Safeguard and manage the elements of the environment that underpin local distinctiveness.

Targets include:

- Reduce the number of scheduled ancient monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields at risk in the region.

#### **Implications:**

Under powers provided through the Localism Act (2011), the Secretary of State has revoked the Regional Strategy. However, the evidence underpinning the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, including this document, will remain an important consideration for the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **Dorset Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The emerging Historic Landscape Characterisation provides a description of the historic dimension - the 'time-depth' - that characterises Dorset's rural landscape. The aim is to map the historic dimension of the entirety of the modern day landscape.

An outline of the historic environment for each of the defined Landscape Character Types in the county is currently available (<http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/landscape/hlc/12>). A commentary on the historic landscape character of each character type is provided, along with a summary of known archaeology. A more complete picture of the Dorset landscape is obtained by reading the historic environment outline in conjunction with the rest of the character information provided for each type. Of particular concern has been the identification of Dorset's local distinctiveness, as well as time depth and the recording of the dynamic nature of landscape change, and recognition that management of change, not conservation, is the aim.

The full Dorset Historic Landscape Characterisation is currently being prepared.

**Implications:**

This information will provide important evidence which will help inform the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007)**

Every part of the landscape has a history and this is a major component that contributes to the special landscapes of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The Historic Landscape Characterisation maps the historic landscape of the AONB, recording the broad land use in today's landscape. The map shows the areas of landscape which are enclosed, unenclosed, wooded, parkland, water or used for modern purposes such as recreation. Data identifying previous land uses has been collected and can be used to produce maps of how each time period identified contributes to today's landscape in the AONB.

**Implications:**

This information will provide important evidence which will help inform the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.