

# Topic Paper 7 - Landscape

## Introduction

**1** The Dorset landscape, including the coast, is of extremely high value and is integral to the overall character and identity of the county. The Dorset landscape is unique in terms of its landscape character, variety and quality. This diversity is a product of natural, physical factors such as geology, soils and climate. Overlaying this physical framework has been the long history of human activities which have all shaped the landscape we see today. Much of the landscape is also very highly protected by national and international designations. The emerging waste and minerals plans will need to take these issues carefully into account in both formulation of policies and identification of sites.

## Baseline

### Landscape Character

**2** Landscape is assessed using a hierarchy of tools, with National Character Areas (NCAs) providing the overarching framework. Nesting beneath the NCAs, are landscape character types, which identify variations in landscape character at a sub-regional level. At the local level, landscape character areas are identified within the framework of the landscape character types.

**3** England is divided into 159 distinct natural areas, termed National Character Areas (NCAs) divide . Each NCA is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape and they form a good decision making framework for the natural environment <sup>(1)</sup>

**4** The National Character Areas were updated by Natural England in 2013. Table 1 shows the NCAs relevant to Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole and summarises the key opportunities identified in the area profiles.

**Table 1 National Character Areas for Dorset**

National Character Area	Summary of Opportunities
Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase  (Area 134)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for and manage changes in the agricultural landscape by encouraging and supporting business choices that balance food production with protecting soils and water, enhancing ecosystems (particularly those associated with semi-natural grasslands) and restoring ecosystem services.</li> <li>• Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA, including the rich assemblage of settlement and field patterns, heritage features (including prehistoric assets), and the patterns of woodland, vegetation and geodiversity that give the NCA its sense of place.</li> <li>• Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Aim to heighten people’s enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the NCA, as well as their ability to take positive, informed action to enjoy and conserve their surroundings.</li> </ul>

1 [www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/)

National Character Area	Summary of Opportunities
<p>Dorset Heaths (Area 135)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the internationally important heathlands to make the resource more resilient to recreational pressure, succession to scrub or woodland and the likely impacts of climate change. Enhance the integrity of the landscape and the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation measures by extending sites and re-establishing physical links where possible between once separate blocks of heathland and work to embed the current and future relevance of this resource into the local economy</li> <li>• Protect and enhance Poole Harbour and its catchment, taking timely action to reduce eutrophication and mitigate (or compensate for) the likely effects of sea level rise, thereby securing the future of local tourism and fishing businesses as well as the important wildlife of the harbour.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for recreation in natural greenspace by securing a network of new and revitalised suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANGS) centred on the Christchurch–Bournemouth–Poole conurbation that provides a rich and varied countryside experience capable of supporting local health programmes and attracting and retaining local business while also deflecting some recreational pressure from the most sensitive environmental assets.</li> <li>• Promote creative and effective solutions to environmental constraints so that enterprise can pursue sustainable development solutions to enhance local prosperity.</li> </ul>
<p>South Purbeck (Area 136)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserving and promoting South Purbeck’s unique geodiversity including the Jurassic Coast coastline, the suite of national and local geological sites and the highly legible relationship between geology, soils, landform and land use. Maintaining and enhancing access, including via the South West Coast Path National Trail, and providing interpretation to enhance educational and recreational opportunities. In both cases, placing the local community at the heart of this opportunity, through engagement and participation.</li> <li>• Helping the communities of South Purbeck to protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent landscape character and tranquillity of this rural NCA, conserving the mixed farming land use which contributes to food provision, and a distinct landscape pattern, reducing the risk of soil erosion and strengthening resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• Maintaining and enhancing the calcareous, acid and neutral grassland, ancient woodland, parkland, coastal cliffs, quarries, fen meadows and flushes, arable farmland and offshore reefs that are the key semi-natural habitats of this area. Additionally, conserving and strengthening the populations of the distinctive suite of species that are characteristic of the NCA.</li> </ul>

National Character Area	Summary of Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting and managing the rich time depth and landscape texture created by the wealth of heritage assets located within the NCA, engaging both visitors and local communities in understanding the relationship between historic environment, geodiversity and biodiversity in the evolution of South Purbeck to the present day.</li> </ul>
<p>Isle of Portland (Area 137)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and manage the internationally important coastline, designated as a World Heritage Site and Special Areas of Conservation, for the important assemblages of fossils and for the valuable cliff habitats that support a diverse range of species.</li> <li>Conserve the important geological assets of the area and maintain the link between the geology, industry and people; and enhance areas left neglected as a result of quarrying to improve landscape character, strengthen habitats and improve the resource of exposed geodiversity.</li> <li>Conserve and promote the distinctive landscape character, the strong sense of history and the many recreational opportunities in the area, as well as the magnificent views over Weymouth Bay and the unique Chesil Beach, all part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.</li> </ul>
<p>Weymouth Lowlands (Area 138)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and promote the Weymouth Lowlands' historic landscape and geodiversity including the Jurassic Coast, The Fleet and Chesil Beach, the suite of national and local geological sites and the distinctive relationship between geology, coastal geomorphology, soils, landform and land use, promoting opportunities for recreation in the area and interpretation of the unique features while also ensuring that the interplay between biodiversity, geomorphology and land use is complementary.</li> <li>Protect, manage and enhance the distinctive farmed landscape, retaining the balance of productive mixed farmed landscape and diversity of habitats and associated species. Create connecting corridors of calcareous grasslands at the coast and on limestone ridges, manage the diverse range of intimate wooded pockets, wetlands, coastal habitats and fens for their contribution to sense of place, and their positive role in reducing soil erosion and enhancing water quality.</li> <li>Protect and manage the rich heritage located within the NCA and the Dorset AONB, engaging both visitors and local communities in understanding the relationship between the historic environment, geodiversity and biodiversity and the role that this has played in shaping the landscape of today.</li> <li>Safeguard and manage soil and water resources, allowing naturally functioning hydrological processes to maintain</li> </ul>

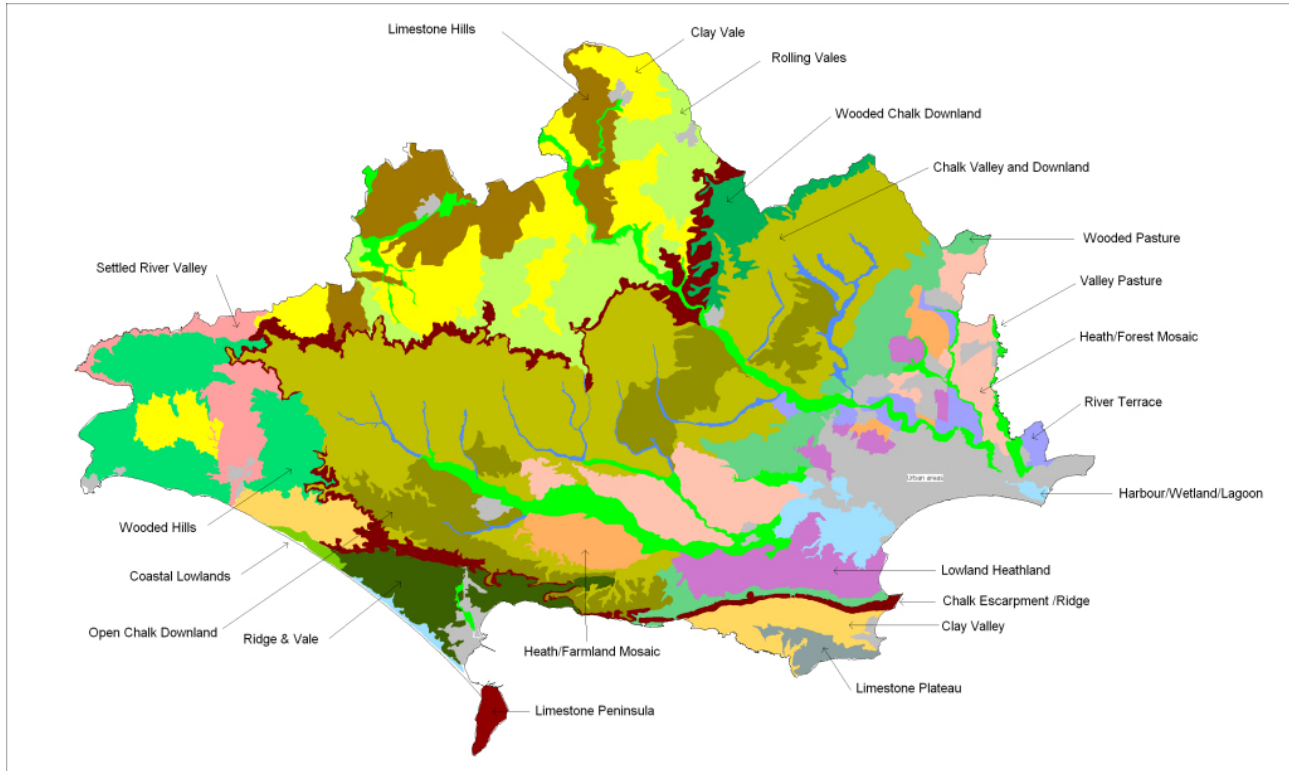
National Character Area	Summary of Opportunities
	water quality and supply; reduce flooding; and manage land to reduce soil erosion and water pollution and to retain and capture carbon.
Marshwood & Powerstock Vales (Area 139)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, manage and enhance the Marshwood and Powerstock vales' highly legible relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect and manage the naturally functioning, highly accessible and internationally important coastline and the suite of nationally and locally designated geological sites.</li> <li>• Protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent pastoral landscape character: the range of semi-natural grasslands, woodland and relict heathland with their characteristic wildlife. Manage these historic patterns of land use maintained by the long history of agriculture</li> <li>• Manage and enhance people's awareness of the connections between the NCA's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife and the continuity of agricultural land use and legibility of historic influences.</li> </ul>
Yeovil Scarplands (Area 140)	Full profile not yet available.
Blackdowns (Area 147)	Full profile not yet available.
Blackmoor Vale & Vale of Wardour (Area 133)	Full profile not yet available.

**5** An exercise to identify landscape character types throughout the entire County has now been completed, which worked within the framework of the National Character Areas. Landscape types are generic and relatively homogeneous in character and, as such, may occur in different areas and parts of the UK. However, wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern. The derivation, description and mapping of landscape types allows strategic guidance to be developed.

**6** The purpose of the landscape character type assessment is to provide practical, readily accessible information and guidance which can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the special characteristics of the county as a whole, and the distinctiveness of its individual character types. It helps us to understand how the landscape has evolved and helps to make informed decisions about how we should manage change in the future.

**7** There are 21 landscape types in Dorset. Figure 1 illustrates this and shows the breadth of landscape character throughout Dorset.

**Figure 1 Dorset Landscape Character Types**



**Designated Landscapes**

8 Much of the area of Dorset is covered with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a total of 1406km<sup>2</sup>. This comprises the Dorset AONB (1128km<sup>2</sup> and 53% of the whole of Dorset), which was first designated in 1959, and part of the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB (278km<sup>2</sup> and covering approximately 11% of the county), which was first designated in 1983 <sup>(2)</sup>. The government believes that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. <sup>(3)</sup>

**Table 2 Designated Landscape Areas**

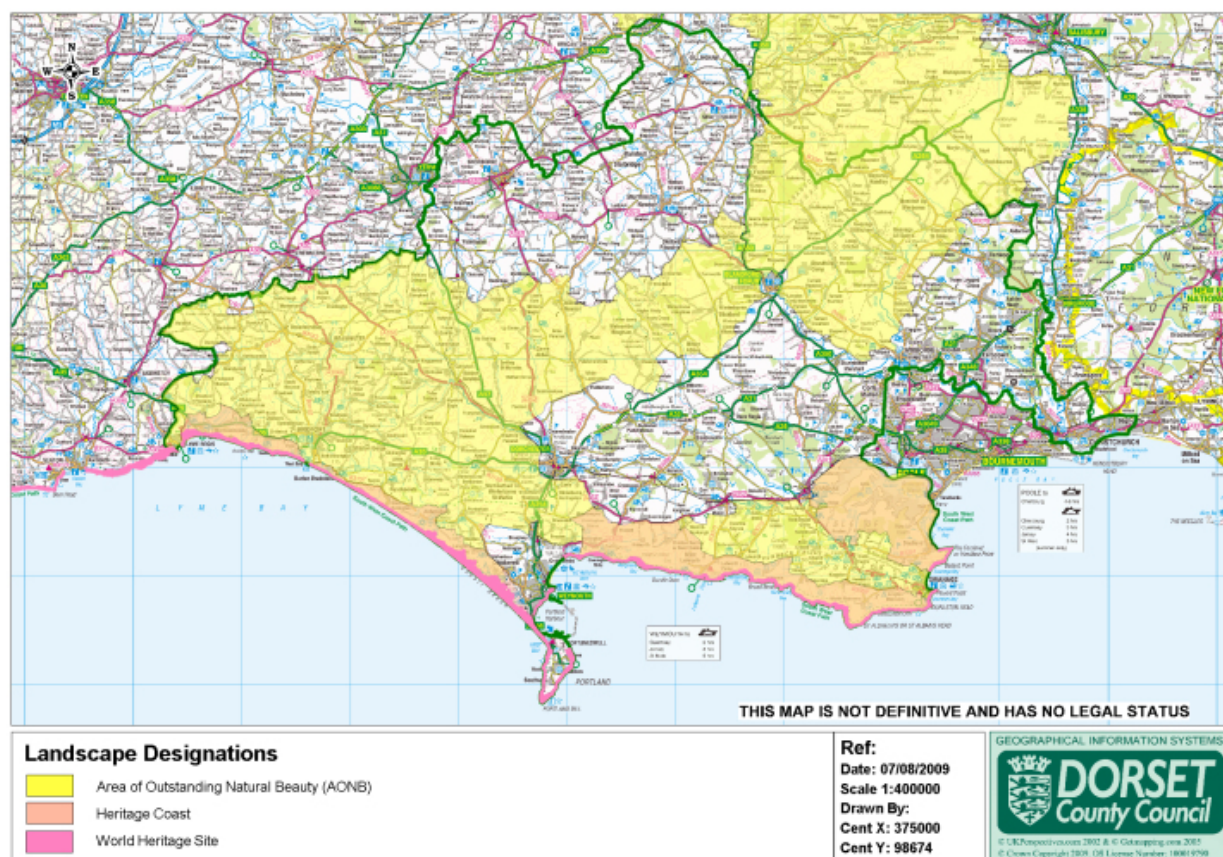
Designated Landscape Areas	Hectares	Source
Dorset AONB	112,800	www.dorsetforyou.com
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB	27,713	
World Heritage Site	2,550	

2 Dorset Databook (2011)

3 National Planning Policy Framework (CLG March 2012)



Figure 2 Landscape Designations



**9** AONBs attract the same level of national importance and have equal status to National Parks, largely due to the fact that these areas of land form the finest landscapes in the County. Planning legislation restricts development in this type of Article 1(5) land, and waste and minerals proposals need to ensure mitigation measures are in place to address the special character of this landscape. Within the AONBs there are a number of identified landscape character areas as shown in Figure 1.

**10** The Dorset AONB includes nationally important landscape designations, such as Britain's first Natural World Heritage Site, the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site (The Jurassic Coast), which raises the profile of this dramatic landscape. The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB has its own particular character, forming part of an extensive belt of chalk landscape which continues into Wiltshire. This AONB is deeply rural and includes the ancient hunting grounds of the Cranborne Chase.

**11** Of the special landscape features in Dorset, 11% of the UK's rare lowland heath lies within the county. Virtually all of this land is rated as having International importance for its wildlife. Dorset is host to thousands of rare species, including a thriving population of red squirrels on Brownsea Island. The County also supports 80% of the national population of rare smooth snakes, and 90% of sand lizards. Only two other counties in Britain and Ireland can match the 48 species of butterfly that regularly breed in Dorset.

**12** The spectacular region of chalk downland supports a concentrated richness of plants and insects with, for example, the largest populations of the Adonis Blue Butterfly in the country. Additionally, many areas of special protection for wildlife have been designated throughout Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, such as SACs, SPAs, SSSIs, LNRs, and RAMSAR sites. These are covered in more detail in Topic Paper 4: Biodiversity & Geodiversity of this report.

**13** The Heritage Coast, which has its own special characteristics, covers 114km of the scenic Dorset Coast stretching from Lyme Regis to Old Harry Rocks, Studland. This special coastline is managed so that the natural beauty is conserved and the accessibility for visitors is improved, where appropriate. The designation of a Heritage Coast is a non-statutory descriptor, and is defined by agreement between the relevant maritime local authorities and Natural England <sup>(4)</sup>.

**14** Nationally important mineral deposits coincide with designated landscapes in the county, notably both ball clay and Purbeck Stone outcrop solely within the Dorset AONB, with oil and gas also being exploited here. Sand and gravel working takes place in the vicinity of the AONB boundary and has the potential to impact on its setting due to long distance views from the Purbeck Ridge. As such, there is the potential for cumulative impacts of mineral working on the AONB in particular. Additionally, Portland Stone is extracted in close proximity to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

### Green Infrastructure

**15** Green infrastructure is of importance in terms of landscape, biodiversity, recreation and climate change adaptation. It is 'a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features' <sup>(5)</sup> and it should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, lakes, water courses and private gardens.

**16** The councils in South East Dorset (Bournemouth BC, Christchurch BC, Dorset CC, East Dorset DC, Borough of Poole and Purbeck DC) are working with Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission to prepare 'Investing in Green Places' The South-East Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy. It will assess the opportunities for landscape change and the provision of a multi-functional network of accessible and interconnected green infrastructure. Other local and unitary authorities outside of the plan area have published GI strategies, or are in the process of preparing these. The restoration of mineral sites can provide an opportunity to contribute to the green infrastructure network.

### Green Belt

**17** A Green Belt is a policy and land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

---

4 [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

5 <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/greeninfrastructure/default.aspx>

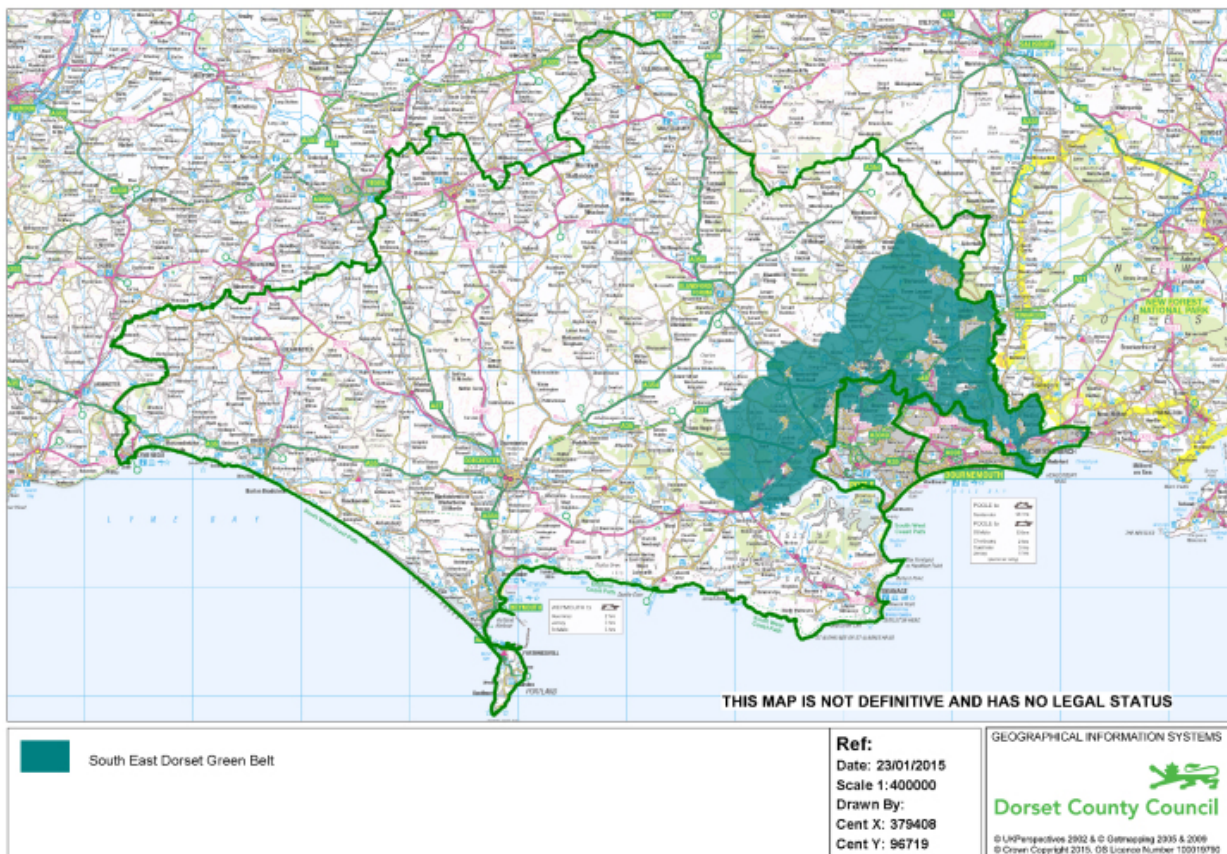


**18** The South East Dorset Green Belt extends over some 168 square kilometres of open land in and around Upton, Wimborne, Ferndown, Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch and stretching south-west as far as Wareham.

**19** Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.

**20** Local planning authorities have the amend Green Belt boundaries through the review of their local plans. East Dorset and Christchurch Council have recently made some limited alterations to allow for housing and employment growth to help meet the needs of the local communities. Additionally, a number of areas have been added to the Green Belt, which having previously been allocated for development, are no longer capable of being delivered. Figure 3 shows the extent of the Green Belt in Dorset.

**Figure 3 Green Belt**



**21** The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. Section 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework makes it clear that inappropriate development, is by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. Certain forms of development, including minerals extraction, are not inappropriate in Green Belt provided they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt.

**22** In terms of the development of waste facilities, National Planning Policy for Waste says that waste planning authorities should first look for suitable sites outside the Green Belt for facilities that, if located in the Green Belt, would be inappropriate development.

**Summary of relevant policy documents - Landscape**

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

**Table 3 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>European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The various policy documents establish the need to take account of the landscape in waste and minerals planning, together with the weight to be accorded to the various designations and that protection is commensurate with the designations status giving appropriate weight to their importance.</li> <li>The enhancement of the natural and local environment through the protection and enhancement of valued landscapes.</li> <li>The importance of high quality outcomes in new development through good design and layout.</li> <li>Possible impacts of waste and minerals development on the landscape must be assessed and taken into consideration, and appropriate protection and mitigation implemented.</li> <li>The waste and minerals plans must include appropriate policy coverage to achieve the above.</li> <li>Sustainability objectives should aim to protect the landscape and where possible enhance it through high quality restoration schemes.</li> <li>Minerals extraction is generally not inappropriate in the Green Belt</li> <li>When considering new sites for waste facilities the Waste Plan should aim to find suitable sites outside of the the Green Belt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key National/Regional Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</li> <li>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</li> <li>National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Local Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countryside Character Volume 8: South West <i>along with</i> the 8 Joint Character Areas which cover Dorset</li> <li>The Dorset Landscape - Character Types and Character Assessment (Dorset For You website)</li> <li>Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan (2014-2019)</li> <li>Dorset AONB Management Plan, A Framework for the Future (2014-2019)</li> <li>Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009-2014</li> <li>Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan (April 2014)</li> <li>South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy, Investing in Green Spaces (July 2011)</li> </ul>	

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

- Introduction of discordant features into the landscape, e.g. Landfills or other waste facilities, quarry faces, waste tips, buildings, soil bunds, tree and planting
- Loss of landscape features from waste development e.g. hillside, hedgebanks, trees, field patterns
- Loss of views due to mineral operations and waste developments
- Negative and/or cumulative impacts on views due to mineral operations and waste developments
- Creation of landscape with different character and features as a result of restoration of quarries or landfill sites
- Increase in light pollution from site lighting
- Dominance of mineral working and/or landfill sites in areas of specific historic/current mineral resources which are distinct Landscape Character Types
- Harm to the historic landscape
- Harm to coastal landscape through open coast extraction
- Impact from increased numbers of waste vehicles intruding upon the landscape/townscape
- Impact from new waste development on the openness of the Green Belt.

### Issues

- Many mineral deposits and therefore current or potential landfill sites in Dorset lie close to the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Their protection and enhancement is therefore relevant to future minerals/waste development.
- Minerals development and/or the development of waste facilities can be intrusive on the landscape and have the potential to cause damage to the designated and non-designated landscape areas.
- The use of quarries as landfill sites lengthens the time for restoration and therefore increases landscape impacts.
- The World Heritage Site was designated on the basis of its very high geological importance, which must be taken into consideration in planning for future minerals development/waste sites.
- Cross boundary issues related to landscape may arise when potential minerals/waste developments are close to the boundaries of neighbouring authorities. This impact must be taken into consideration. The reverse is also true, requiring the establishment of a close working relationship between the neighbouring MPAs and Dorset MPA.
- Increasingly, priority is placed on landscape protection and enhancement that is underpinned by analysis of local character and distinctiveness (physical, ecological, cultural and aesthetic).
- There is increased recognition of the value of the wider countryside and coastal landscape, in addition to designated landscapes.
- Landscape restoration and management opportunities should be maximised in relation to minerals/landfill operations and after-use.
- Planning for good quality and inclusive site design and layout in new waste facilities and improvements to existing facilities.
- There is the opportunity for mineral extraction/landfill sites to bring about landscape change in line with the opportunities identified in the National Character Area profiles and the emerging SE Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy, and to create multi-functional landscapes
- The interrelationship between landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage needs to be recognised and taken into account
- Development should be informed by the existing and ongoing assessment of Dorset's landscape character.
- Historic mining activity can be an important part of landscape character and historic mining landscapes should be safeguarded.
- Careful consideration of both the benefits and potential impacts of the development of waste facilities in a rural setting should be given, such as on farm anaerobic digestion.
- Cumulative impacts on protected landscape where important mineral deposits occur, particularly in relation to ball clay and Purbeck Stone working.
- Sites for new waste management facilities are difficult to find, particularly given the pressure from other developments. There may be limited options forcing the consideration of sites within the Green Belt.

### Suggested Sustainability Objectives

To maintain, conserve and enhance the landscape (includes townscape and seascape), including the coast.

**...and Broad Indicators**

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

- Conserve and enhance landscape character, quality and distinctiveness, paying particular regard to AONB and other designated areas of high landscape and/or historic sensitivity or value?
- Minimise the landscape and visual intrusion of waste facilities on sensitive and/or distinctive landscapes?
- Contribute to an adverse cumulative impact of development on protected landscapes?
- Encourage development of land which is not sympathetic to the identified landscape character of that location?
- Provide for the restoration of land to an appropriate after-use and landscape character through Landscape Restoration Strategies.
- Protect the open character of the South East Dorset Green Belt from inappropriate development?



## Relevant Policy Documents: Landscape

### **The European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe: 2009)**

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. Its purpose is to promote landscape protection, management and planning of European landscapes and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with protection, management and enhancement of European landscape. It is extremely wide in scope: the Convention applies to the Parties' entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, which include land, inland water and marine areas.

It deals with everyday or degraded landscapes as well as those that can be considered outstanding. In other words, it recognises the importance of all landscapes, and not just of exceptional landscapes, as having a crucial bearing on quality of life and as deserving attention in landscape policy. The Convention assigns an active role to the public regarding their perception and evaluation of landscape. Awareness-raising is therefore crucial in order to involve the public in decisions affecting the landscape in which they live.

#### **Implications:**

The preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans will take the requirements of this Convention into consideration.

### **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.

In terms of the landscape the Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is considered a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people.

Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the

area. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area
- establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development
- respond to local character and history
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.

Great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which help raise the standard of design more generally in the area.

In addition, the Government also attaches great importance to Green Belts.

#### **Implications:**

The policy guidance contained within the NPPF will be fundamental to the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014)**

The National Planning Policy for Waste sets out detailed waste planning policies and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF, the Waste Management Plan for England and National Policy Statements for Waste Water and Hazardous Waste.

Positive planning plays a pivotal role in delivering this country's waste ambitions. The policy provides guidance on the use of a proportionate evidence base, identifying the need and identification of suitable sites for new waste facilities, determination of planning applications and monitoring and reporting.

**Implications:**

This policy guidance will be fundamental to the preparation of the Waste Plan.

**RPG10: Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (GOSW: 2001) and 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 Planning Guidance and Draft Regional Strategy documents. However, the evidence underpinning the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy will remain an important consideration for the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**Countryside Character Volume 8: South West (Countryside Agency: 1999)**

This is one of a series of eight regional volumes that describe the countryside character and landscape of England (divided into 159 Joint Character Areas), analysing the forces that created it, both natural and man-made. Objectives include:

- Raise awareness of the diversity of countryside character.
- Increase understanding of what contributes to that character and what may influence it.
- Encourage respect for the character of the countryside.

**Implications:**

The requirements of this document will be taken into consideration during preparation 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 to:

- 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

**Implications:**

The requirements of this document will be taken into consideration during preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan (2014-2019)**

The management plan sets out a series of objectives and policies for AONB partners to achieve in the next five years, to the benefit of the landscapes and communities of this nationally designated area.

**Implications:**

The protection and enhancement of the distinctive landscape characters of the AONB alongside other landscape character areas should be taken into account in the development of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**Dorset AONB Management Plan, A Framework for the Future (2014 - 2019)**

The Dorset AONB Management Plan sets out the Partnership's vision for the landscape and describes how the area's authorities, communities and businesses might work together to achieve that vision. It is the 3rd iteration of the Management Plan for the Dorset AONB.

**Implications:**

The objectives of Dorset area of Outstanding Natural Beauty management Plan should be reflected into the development of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

**Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009 - 2014**

Aims include:

- Protection of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity
- Conserving and enhancing the Site and its setting
- To strengthen the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site
- to support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits that World Heritage status can bring
- aspiring to improve appropriate and sustainable access to the Site and its setting
- to enable visitors to the Site and its setting to enjoy a welcoming experience and high quality facilities
- to support and demonstrate exemplary World Heritage Site management,

**Implications:**

The preservation and enhancement of the World Heritage Coast should be taken into account in the development of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **The Dorset Coast Strategy 2011-2021**

The Dorset Coast Strategy is a high level non-statutory document which aims to set out a consensus view on the way in which the members of the Dorset Coast Forum will work together to improve the planning and management of the Dorset Coast and inshore waters.

Objectives include:

- A coast that is at least as beautiful, and as rich in wildlife and cultural heritage, as it is now
- A thriving and diverse coastal economy which uses the resources of the coast sustainably
- A coast that is used, enjoyed and appreciated by the people of Dorset and visitors
- A coast where Dorset is a world-leading area in coastal management, where all the key partners are taking decisions and acting together to deliver the highest practical quality of management possible
- A coast that is managed to adapt to the issues of changing climate, economy and communities.

### **Implications:**

The objectives of the Dorset Coast Strategy should be reflected in the development of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan December 2010**

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

The objectives include:

- to define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment as a result of coastal evolution and behaviour within the area over the next century
- to identify the preferred policies for managing those risks
- to identify the consequences of implementing the preferred policies
- to inform planners, developers and others of the risks of coastal evolution and of the preferred policies when considering future development of the shoreline, land use changes and wider strategic planning
- to comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations
- To set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies
- to highlight areas where knowledge gaps exist.

### **C-Scope Marine Plan**

A pilot, non-statutory marine plan. It aims to provide a strategic plan to manage, regulate and protect the marine and coastal environment. It applies to an area from Portland Bill in the west to Durlston Head in the east, extending 12 nautical miles into the sea.

#### **Implications:**

It is of some relevance to waste planning and will be considered when developing the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.

### **Landscape & Seascape Character Assessment Dorset Coast Final September 2010**

The objective of C-SCOPE is to develop a holistic approach to coastal and marine planning. This project will also help to manage the many current and future pressures facing the Dorset coast from new development and climate change to competition for space from other interests.

#### **Implications:**

The Landscape and Seascape Assessment will provide a sound evidence base to help inform the preparation of the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans.



### **The Dorset landscape character assessment**

This document describes the physical and human factors, which have influenced landscape evolution as well as outlining information on landscape designations and how landscape diversity has been described and mapped.

Many of the districts and boroughs in Dorset have also undertaken landscape character assessments for their areas.

#### **Implications:**

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

### **South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy, Investing in Green Spaces (July 2011)**

Investing in Green Spaces sets out a vision for the area which seeks to co-ordinate the planning for, and investment in, parks, open spaces, wildlife corridors, street trees and other green spaces. It aims to maximise the benefits that these spaces can provide in terms of health, accessibility, ecology, recreation, flood management, urban design and climate change adaptation, and to make the most effective use of limited resources. The strategy sets out some key themes and identifies a selection of strategic projects. It provides an evidence base and strategy framework to assist local planning authorities in developing their local plans and delivering cross-boundary green infrastructure projects.

#### **Implications:**

The strategy should be reflected, as appropriate, in the Waste and Mineral Sites Plans, particularly opportunities for green infrastructure offered by restored mineral sites or landfills.