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Christchurch Local Plan Review Options Consultation

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

Prepared by LUC
July 2018

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Project Title: Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Christchurch Local Plan Review Options Consultation

Client: Christchurch Borough Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
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2	12/07/2018	Final HRA Screening Report for the Options Consultation	Josh Allen Alex Martin Kate Nicholls Sarah Temple	Kate Nicholls Taran Livingston	Taran Livingston

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Christchurch Borough Council is in the process of reviewing its Local Plan Part 1. This review forms part of a wider Local Plan Review in the Borough, which includes the preparation of new site allocations and development management policies.
- 1.2 LUC has been appointed by Christchurch Borough Council to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Local Plan Review on its behalf. The purpose of this HRA Screening Report is to describe the European sites in and around Christchurch Borough and the approach that will be taken to the HRA of the Local Plan Review. It also sets out the findings of the first stage of the HRA – the Screening assessment for the Options consultation.

Background to the preparation of the Christchurch Local Plan Review

- 1.3 Christchurch and East Dorset Councils adopted a joint Core Strategy (known as the Local Plan Part 1) in April 2014, which set out the planning strategy for Christchurch Borough and East Dorset District up to 2028. The Councils originally intended to prepare additional documents as follows, which together with the Core Strategy would comprise the Joint Local Plan:
 - Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (Local Plan Part 2).
 - Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD.
- 1.4 However, the Councils have since decided to instead undertake separate full Local Plan reviews which will involve independently reviewing and amending as appropriate the policies and allocations in the adopted Joint Core Strategy, as well as preparing development management policies and smaller-scale site allocations for housing, employment, retail, mixed use development and open space. The Christchurch Local Plan Review will cover a different time period to the adopted Joint Core Strategy, which covered the period up to 2028. The Local Plan Review is expected to cover the period 2018-2033.
- 1.5 Consultation on the first iteration of the Local Plan Review, the Options consultation, is taking place between 16th July and 3rd September 2018.

The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

- 1.6 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010¹, 2012² and again in 2017³. Therefore when preparing the Local Plan Review, Christchurch Borough Council is required by law to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment, although consultants can undertake the HRA on its behalf. The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a Local Plan is explained in the online National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

¹ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843. From 1 April 2010, these were consolidated and replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490). Note that no substantive changes to existing policies or procedures have been made in the new version.

² The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012. Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1927.

³ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012.

- 1.7 The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 1.8 Potential SPAs (pSPAs)⁴, candidate SACs (cSACs)⁵, Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)⁶ and Ramsar sites should also be included in the assessment.
- Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).
- 1.9 For ease of reference during HRA, these designations can be collectively referred to as European sites⁷ despite Ramsar designations being at the international level.
- 1.10 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan, would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question either alone or in combination with other plans. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle meaning that where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse impact should be assumed.

Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.11 **Table 1.1** below summarises the stages involved in carrying out a full HRA, based on various guidance documents^{8,9}.

Table 1.1: Stages in HRA

Stage	Task	Outcome
Stage 1: Screening (the 'Significance Test')	Description of the plan. Identification of potential effects on European sites. Assessing the likelihood of significant effects on European sites.	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the 'Integrity Test')	Gather information (plan and European sites). Impact prediction. Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives and potential mitigation. Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options.	Appropriate Assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale

⁴ Potential SPAs are sites that have been approved by Government and are currently in the process of being classified as SPAs.

⁵ Candidate SACs are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted.

⁶ SCIs are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated as SACs by the Government.

⁷ The term 'European site' is interchangeable with the term 'Natura site' in the context of HRA. The former is used throughout this report.

⁸ *The HRA Handbook*. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

⁹ *Planning for the Protection of European sites. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), August 2006.

Stage	Task	Outcome
	Assess alternative options. If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary.	for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify and demonstrate 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Demonstrate no alternatives exist. Identify potential compensatory measures.	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.

- 1.12 In assessing the effects of the Christchurch Local Plan Review in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a 'Significance Test', followed if necessary by an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:
- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not –
 - Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). *[These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening.]* If Yes –
 - Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public.
 - Step 4: In accordance with Reg.105(4), but subject to Reg.107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.
- 1.13 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.
- 1.14 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority' - in this case Christchurch Borough Council, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body¹⁰ in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals. Therefore, this HRA Screening Report will be sent to Natural England for comment during the consultation on Options for the Local Plan Review.

HRA work carried out previously for the Local Plan

- 1.15 The Local Plan Review is currently at an early stage in its development and as such, no HRA work has previously been undertaken. However, HRA was undertaken previously in relation to the Joint Local Plan Part 1.
- 1.16 Therefore, there is already a significant body of HRA work available relating to Christchurch Borough, which can be drawn on to inform the HRA of the Local Plan Review. This information

¹⁰ Regulation 5 of *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 490.

has been collated and updated as appropriate, in order to set the context for the HRA of the Local Plan Review and to inform the initial Screening exercise that has been undertaken and set out in this report.

Structure of the report

- 1.17 This chapter (**Chapter 1**) has described the background to the Christchurch Local Plan Review and the requirement to undertake HRA. The remainder of the report is structured into the following sections:
- **Chapter 2** describes the Options consultation which is the subject of this HRA Screening Report.
 - **Chapter 3** describes the European sites in and around Christchurch, drawing from and updating the information gathered during the HRA of the Joint Local Plan Part 1.
 - **Chapter 4** details the approach that is being taken to the HRA of the Local Plan Review, including the specific tasks that have been undertaken to date and the assumptions that underpin the HRA judgements made.
 - **Chapter 5** sets out the findings of the Screening assessment for the Options.
 - **Chapter 6** describes the next steps that will be carried out in the HRA of the Local Plan Review.
- 1.18 The information in the main body of the report is supported by the following appendices:
- **Appendix 1** sets out detailed information about the European sites that are the focus of the HRA.
 - **Appendix 2** presents an initial review of other plans and projects that could have significant effects on European sites in combination with the Christchurch Local Plan Review.
 - **Appendix 3** presents the HRA Screening matrix for the Christchurch Local Plan Review Options.

2 The Christchurch Local Plan Review: Options Consultation

- 2.1 The Christchurch Local Plan Options (July 2018) sets the framework for development in Christchurch Borough up to 2033.
- 2.2 The Plan sets out an overall Vision for Christchurch Borough as follows:

The natural environment of Christchurch and the historic and thriving market town are, and will continue to be, the most important assets for the area. The quality of this special environment will be secured, sustaining the growth of the local economy, and the welfare of its local communities, rather than being used as a reason to turn its back on sustainable growth.

The intrinsic landscape and biodiversity value of the Dorset Heathlands, Christchurch Harbour, the coast, beaches and rivers, will be protected and their connectivity enhanced.

The area will adapt to the demands of climate change through clear policies to reduce the risk of flooding, and through encouraging high standards of building design and construction.

Housing need in the area will be addressed, with housing delivery of a type, size and tenure which meets the aspirations of those wishing to buy or rent. An element of this housing will be delivered in well planned and sustainable new residential areas, including high quality homes, areas of open space, new community facilities and services and transport enhancements.

Housing will also continue to be delivered in the urban area, with developments maximising the use of previously developed land, whilst not compromising quality of design and making appropriate contributions to infrastructure. Wherever possible, new housing development will contribute to the provision of affordable housing, enabling a significant uplift in delivery of affordable dwellings in area.

The Green Belt will be protected, subject to limited alterations required to enable housing to meet the needs of local communities.

Christchurch town centre will be the vibrant centre of commercial and cultural activity, with niche shopping, and varied attractions and facilities for residents and visitors alike. Highcliffe will support shops and services for the local community, with smaller neighbourhood centres providing basic services.

The economy of the area will grow, both by sustaining traditional sectors such as tourism, health and education, and also by encouraging growth in knowledge-based sectors including engineering, creative and technical industries and the knowledge economy. Growth will be sustained by the creation of a major high quality employment site at Bournemouth Airport, and by the protection of other well located sites for employment use. Within the rural area, traditional employment will be supported and diversification encouraged to create jobs and prosperity.

The area will be easier to get around, not just for those with a car, but also on public transport and for cyclists and pedestrians. Development will be focused on locations accessible by different modes of transport and along the main transport corridors, bus routes, town centres and near stations. Transport corridors along the A35, A337, and B3073, will be enhanced to promote a wider choice of transport.

Long term solutions to Christchurch's traffic problems will continue to be explored, including the possible future provision of a by-pass, subject to any solutions meeting the necessary local and national policy requirements.

Bournemouth Airport will continue to grow sustainably into a significant regional transport hub, providing scheduled and charter flights to a range of business and tourist destinations. Both the airport and the business parks will be linked to the surrounding area by public transport services.

Perhaps most importantly, communities will thrive. The challenges of supporting a significant elderly and retired population will be planned for through provision of appropriate housing, health and community facilities and services. There will be targeted regeneration to provide improved housing and facilities in the Somerford Estate. Community facilities will be safeguarded and support will be given to community groups and organisations to develop volunteering and to deliver services and run premises wherever possible.

2.3 The Local Plan Options document then sets out 7 Strategic Objectives which summarises the measures needed to achieve the overall vision:

1. To manage and safeguard the natural environment of Christchurch.
2. To maintain and improve the character of the town and villages, and to create vibrant local centres.
3. To adapt to the challenges of Climate Change.
4. To enable the mixed economy of Christchurch to grow, and to develop new employment sectors.
5. To deliver a suitable, affordable and sustainable range of housing to provide for local needs.
6. To reduce the need for people to travel and to have more travel choices.
7. To help out communities to thrive and help people support each other.

2.4 Chapters 4-5 of the Options document set out draft policies within the following sections:

- Environment
- Green Belt
- Housing (general policies)
- Heritage & Conservation
- Landscape, Design & Open Spaces
- Economic Growth
- Housing (allocations)
- Open Space (allocations)
- Sustainable Transport
- Town, District & Local Centres
- Cemetery Provision
- Bournemouth Airport and Business Park

Potential impacts of the Christchurch Local Plan Options on European sites

2.5 **Table 2.1** below sets out the range of potential impacts that development in general and related activities may have on European sites.

Table 2.1: Potential impacts and activities adversely affecting European sites

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<p>Physical loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal (including off-site effects, e.g. foraging habitat) • Mine collapse • Smothering Habitat degradation 	<p>Development (e.g. housing, employment, infrastructure, tourism) Infilling (e.g. of mines, water bodies) Alterations or works to disused quarries Structural alterations to buildings (bat roosts) Afforestation Tipping Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation.</p>
<p>Physical damage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedimentation / siltation • Prevention of natural processes • Habitat degradation • Erosion • Trampling • Fragmentation • Severance / barrier effect • Edge effects • Fire 	<p>Flood defences Dredging Mineral extraction Recreation (e.g. motor cycling, cycling, walking, horse riding, water sports, caving) Development (e.g. infrastructure, tourism, adjacent housing etc.) Vandalism Arson Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation</p>
<p>Non-physical disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise • Vibration • Visual presence • Human presence • Light pollution 	<p>Development (e.g. housing, industrial) Recreation (e.g. dog walking, water sports) Industrial activity Mineral extraction Navigation Vehicular traffic Artificial lighting (e.g. street lighting)</p>
<p>Water table / availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drying • Flooding / stormwater • Water level and stability • Water flow (e.g. reduction in velocity of surface water) • Barrier effect (on migratory species) 	<p>Water abstraction Drainage interception (e.g. reservoir, dam, infrastructure and other development) Increased discharge (e.g. drainage, runoff)</p>
<p>Toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution • Soil contamination • Air pollution 	<p>Agrochemical application and runoff Navigation Oil / chemical spills Tipping Landfill Vehicular traffic Industrial waste / emissions</p>
<p>Non-toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient enrichment (e.g. of soils and water) • Algal blooms • Changes in salinity • Changes in thermal regime • Changes in turbidity • Air pollution (dust) 	<p>Agricultural runoff Sewage discharge Water abstraction Industrial activity Flood defences Navigation Construction</p>
<p>Biological disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct mortality • Out-competition by non-native species • Selective extraction of species • Introduction of disease 	<p>Development (e.g. housing areas with domestic and public gardens) Predation by domestic pets Introduction of non-native species (e.g. from gardens)</p>

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid population fluctuations • Natural succession 	Fishing Hunting Agriculture Changes in management practices (e.g. grazing regimes, access controls, cutting/clearing)

3 European Sites in and around Christchurch Borough

3.1 This chapter identifies the European sites that are included in the HRA for the Christchurch Local Plan Review and describes the key issues for the HRA.

Identification of European sites which may be affected by the Local Plan Review

Sites within 15km of Christchurch

- 3.2 The starting point for identification of European sites which may be affected by the Local Plan Review was to identify all those sites that lie within Christchurch Borough and those within (including partially within) 15km of the Borough boundary.
- 3.3 Within Christchurch Borough there are two SACs, two SPAs, two Ramsar sites and one potential SPA site. Within (or partly within) 15km of Christchurch are an additional six SACs, three SPAs and three Ramsar sites. **Tables 3.1 and 3.2** and **Figure 3.1** below provide details on the European sites that are within Christchurch Borough (+15km).

Table 3.1: European sites within Christchurch Borough

Site name	Site description
Dorset Heaths SAC	This is a complex site which includes 37 SSSIs, most of which include fine transitions between 4030 European dry heaths and wet lowland heathland and mires, as well as other habitats such as woodland, grassland, pools, saltmarsh and reedswamp.
Dorset Heathlands SPA	The Dorset Heathlands cover an extensive complex of heathland sites at the western edge of the Hampshire Basin in southern England. They contain large areas of dry heath, wet heath and acid valley mire, all habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe.
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site	This inland wetland contains numerous examples of wet heath and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are amongst the best of their type in lowland Britain. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates (28 species).
River Avon SAC	The Avon in southern England is a large, lowland river system that includes sections running through chalk and clay, with transitions between the two. Five aquatic species occur in the river system, but stream water-crowfoot and river water-crowfoot are the main dominants.
Avon Valley SPA	The Avon Valley SPA encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain on the south coast of England. The site extends for approximately 20km between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of

Site name	Site description
	the valley are regularly flooded in winter. Consequently, the valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadows and grazing marsh under low-intensity agricultural systems. These extensive floodplain grasslands support wintering Bewick's Swans and Blashford Lakes Gravel Pits within the SPA are particularly important for wintering Gadwall.
Avon Valley Ramsar site	The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland, and small areas of woodland. The area classified as inland and human-made wetland. It supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally rare species.
Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA	The Solent and Dorset Coast has the potential to be designated as a new SPA for internationally important populations of common tern, sandwich tern and little tern. This area is particularly important to these birds as much of the sea around their breeding colonies is the ideal habitat for plunge diving for food.

Table 3.2: European sites within 15km of Christchurch Borough

Site name	Site description
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes initiate the very clear successional sequence of dune communities at Studland Dunes, which are representative of the habitat type in southern England. This is a part of the UK where this habitat type is rare, partly owing to intensive recreational use of the coast. The site is also of interest in that there are well-developed examples of both sand couch and lyme-grass dominated communities.
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs, including the detached peninsula of Portland, with St Albans Head to Durlston Head, forms a single unit of cliffed coastline some 40 km in length. The cliffs are formed of hard limestones, with chalk at the eastern end, interspersed with slumped sections of soft cliff of sand and clays. The cliffs support species-rich calcareous grassland with species that are rare in the UK, such as wild cabbage, early spider-orchid and Nottingham catchfly. Semi-natural dry grassland occurs at this site in both inland and coastal situations on both chalk and Jurassic limestone. The site contains extensive species-rich examples of CG4 grassland.
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	The Isle of Wight Downs represents one of the best examples of chalk and dry heath grassland in the south of England under maritime influence. The exposed and weathered cliff tops support important assemblages of nationally rare lichens. The western end of the site adjoins the cliffs of the South Wight Maritime SAC. Here, species-rich calcareous grassland vegetation is present on the cliff tops. Other notable species include yellow horned-poppy, rock samphire, wild cabbage, and buck's-horn plantain, together with calcareous grassland species such as common restharrow, wild carrot, carline thistle and lesser hawkbit. Semi-natural dry grasslands support small breeding populations of Dartford warbler.

Site name	Site description
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	The Solent encompasses a series of Coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of rare foxtail stonewort, scarce lagoon sand shrimp and starlet sea anemone.
Solent Maritime SAC	The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The site contains the only recorded population of smooth cord-grass in the UK, and one of only two sites where significant amounts of small cord-grass are found. The Solent contains the second-largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in south and south-west England, populated by sea-purslane, common sea-lavender and thrift.
The New Forest SAC	The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> woodland in Britain; much of it is a form of W14 woodland that conforms to the Annex I type beech forests. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodlands are open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. In addition to broad-leaved and coniferous woodland, the forest contains bogs, marshes, fens, heath, scrub, grassland and steppes.
New Forest SPA	A complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds. The area supports important populations of breeding birds associated with such habitats, including Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. Breeding Honey Buzzard and wintering Hen Harriers are also notable.
Poole Harbour SPA	Poole Harbour is a bar-built estuary of nearly 4,000 ha located on the coast of Dorset in southern England. The Harbour occupies a shallow depression towards the south-western extremity of the Hampshire Basin which has flooded over the last 5,000 years as a result of rising sea levels. The unusual micro-tidal regime means that a significant body of water is retained throughout the tidal cycle. The Harbour therefore exhibits many of the characteristics of a lagoon. There are extensive intertidal mud-flats and, away from the north shore that has become urbanised through the growth of the town of Poole, there are fringes of saltmarsh and reedbed. As a whole, the Harbour supports important numbers of waterbirds in winter and is also an important breeding site for terns and gulls,

Site name	Site description
	whilst significant numbers of Little Egret and Aquatic Warbler occur on passage. Several river valleys converge on the Harbour, notably the Frome and the Piddle, and these support grazing marsh that contribute to the importance of the SPA for wintering waterbirds.
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	The area extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied Brent Goose also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.
The New Forest Ramsar site	An extensive complex of woodland, dry and wet heath and over 90 valley mires, associated seepages and peatlands situated on acidic and nutrient-poor soils. Pools in the heath-mire matrix contain nutrient-enriched water supporting a species-rich assemblage of plants. Several species of plants, invertebrates and birds occurring at the site are rare, vulnerable, endangered or nationally scarce. The site is important for breeding, feeding and roosting birds characteristic of the heathland environment and wintering raptors.
Poole Harbour Ramsar site	The site is described as the best and largest example in Britain of a bar-built estuary with lagoon characteristics. It is composed of salt marshes, peatland mires, swamps, and fens. The site supports two species of nationally rare plants and one nationally rare alga, as well as at least three Red Data Book species of invertebrate. There are also internationally important numbers of waterfowl.
Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site	The site is comprised of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reefs, saltmarsh, and reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The site exhibits an "unusual strong double tidal flow" and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations, and an impressive assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.

Locations and attributes of the European sites

- 3.4 The locations of the European sites within Christchurch Borough (+15km) are shown in **Figure 3.1**. The designated features and conservation objectives of the European sites, together with current pressures and potential threats to these are described in **Appendix 1**. This information was drawn from the UK Natura 2000 summary data spreadsheet¹¹, Information Sheets for Ramsar Wetlands¹², Natural England's Site Improvement Plans¹³ as well as and the most recent

¹¹ JNCC (2017) UK Natura 2000 summary data spreadsheet (last updated 30 June 2017). Available at: www.jncc.defra.gov.uk

¹² <https://rsis.ramsar.org>

¹³ Natural England (2017) Access to Evidence – Site Improvement Plans by region. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232>

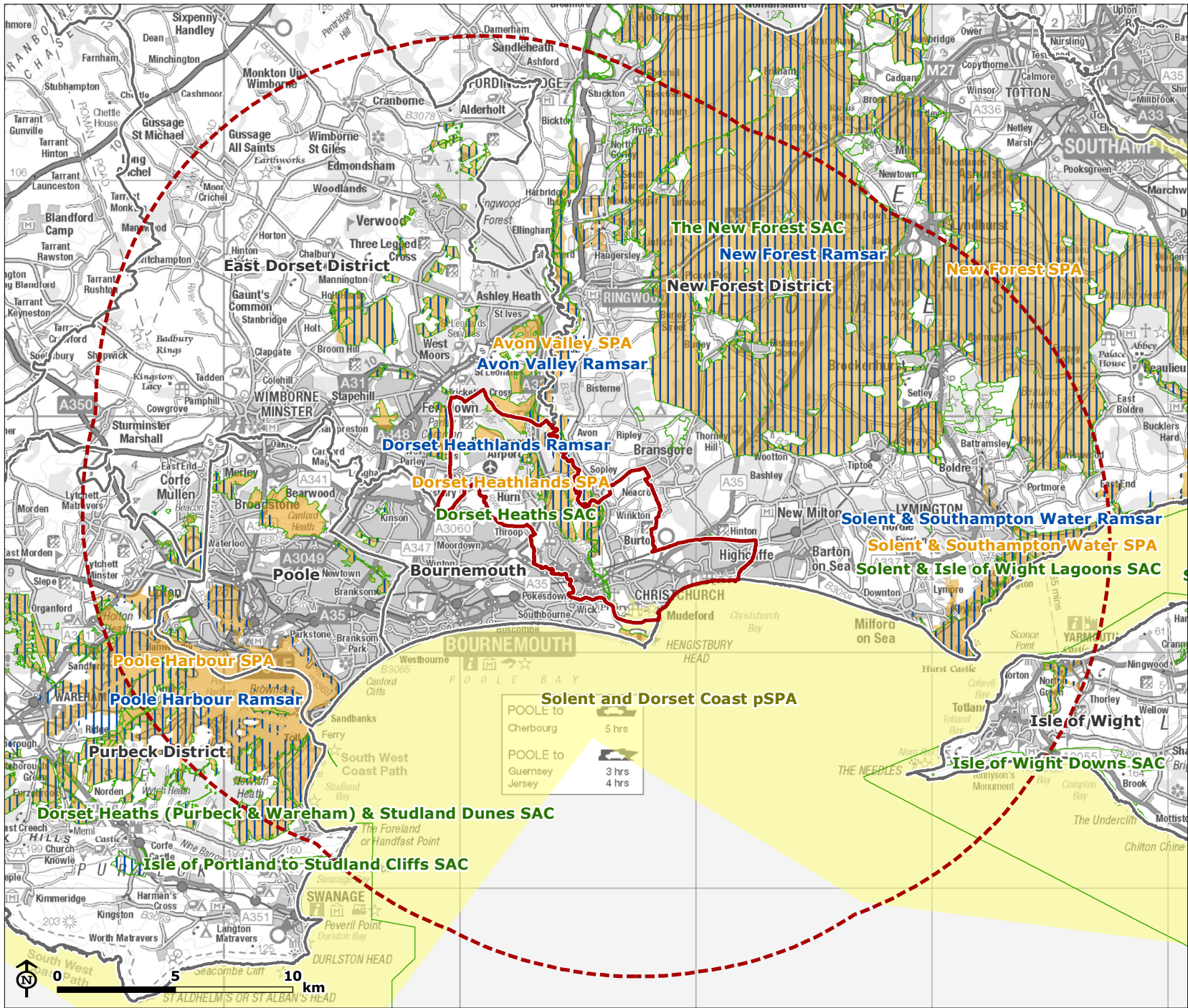
conservation objectives published on the Natural England website¹⁴. An understanding of the designated features of each European site and the factors contributing to its integrity has informed the assessment of the potential effects of the Local Plan Review Options document on each European site and the likely significance of those effects.

¹⁴ Natural England (2017) Access to Evidence – Conservation Objectives for European Sites. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

Christchurch and East Dorset Habitats Regulation Assessment

Figure 3.1: European sites that are within Christchurch Borough (+15 km)

- Christchurch Borough
- Christchurch 15 km Buffer
- Surrounding Districts
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area
- Potential Special Protection Area



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:230,000



4 Approach to HRA

- 4.1 This chapter describes the approach that will be taken to the HRA of the Christchurch Local Plan Review throughout its development. The Screening stage has now been undertaken, with the findings presented in **Chapter 5**, while Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken as necessary during later stages of the preparation of the Local Plan Review.

Screening methodology

- 4.2 As required under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017¹⁵ an assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Local Plan Review Options consultation has been undertaken.
- 4.3 An initial assessment was undertaken to identify which components of the Local Plan Review have the potential to have likely significant effects on European sites, with reference to the criteria set out in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Screening criteria to inform the HRA¹⁶

Effects on European Sites
Screened out
General statement of policy/general aspiration
Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability /sustainability of proposals
Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan
Environmental protection/site safeguarding policy
Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects
Policy that cannot lead to development or other change
Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site
Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)
Screened in
Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone
Screening conclusion made after checking for likely significant effects in combination
Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone – screen in or out after in combination test

- 4.4 The HRA Screening assessment involves considering the potential for each component of the Local Plan Review to have a likely significant effect on any of the European sites included in the HRA.
- 4.5 The outcomes of the Screening assessment have been presented in the form of a matrix, setting out:
- The Local Plan Review component being assessed (i.e. the draft policy or site allocation).
 - The activities (operations) likely to result as a consequence of the policy or site allocation (e.g. residential, employment development etc.).
 - The likely effects (e.g. habitat loss, non-physical disturbance, air pollution etc.).

¹⁵ SI No. 2017/1012

¹⁶ Based on list of screening categories provided by The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, DTA Publications, available from <http://www.dtapublications.co.uk/>

- The European sites that could be affected by those components of the Local Plan Review where likely significant effects cannot be ruled out.
- The screening conclusion, including the reasons for coming to the judgement of whether or not there are to be likely significant effects (with reference to the screening criteria set out in **Table 4.1**).

4.6 In line with recent case law¹⁷, mitigation has not been taken into account as part of the Screening stage of the HRA but will be considered during the Appropriate Assessment stage as appropriate.

4.7 A 'traffic light' approach has been used to record the likely impacts of the policies and site allocations on European sites and their qualifying habitats and species, using the colour categories shown below.

Red	There are likely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment required).
Amber	There may be significant effects, but this is currently uncertain (Appropriate Assessment required).
Green	There are unlikely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment not required).

4.8 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle has been adopted in the Screening assessment, such that a conclusion of 'no significant effect' has only been reached where it is considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a policy or site allocation would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

Screening assumptions

4.9 The Screening stage of the HRA for the Local Plan Review has taken the approach of screening each policy or site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. For some of the types of impacts, screening for likely significant effects can be determined on a proximity basis, using GIS data to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the European sites that are the subject of the assessments. However, there are many uncertainties associated with using set distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, during the Screening stage of the HRA for the Local Plan Review, a number of assumptions have been applied to inform the assessment of likely significant effects, as set out below.

Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site)

4.10 Any development resulting from the Local Plan Review would be located within Christchurch Borough; therefore **only those European sites within the borough could be affected through direct physical loss of on-site habitat**. The sites within (or partially within) the Christchurch Borough boundary are:

- Dorset Heaths SAC
- Dorset Heathlands SPA
- Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
- River Avon SAC
- Avon Valley SPA
- Avon Valley Ramsar site
- Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA

4.11 While it is unlikely that the Local Plan Review will include policies or site allocations that permit development within these European sites, at this stage most potential impacts remain screened in until this can be confirmed.

4.12 However, where the location of housing development is not specified in policies and allocations within the Options document, it is assumed that development proposals coming forward will not

¹⁷ People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (April, 2018)

take place within 400m of the Dorset heaths, due to the existing embargo on housing development on sites which lie within 400m of SPAs or heathland SACs (set out in the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework, 2015-2020¹⁸); therefore it is assumed that direct on-site physical damage or loss of heathland habitat from residential development will not occur. However, as the embargo only applies to residential development, the potential for habitat loss or damage to result from other types of development (e.g. employment) cannot be screened out.

- 4.13 Where the location of residential development is specified through a draft policy, its proximity to these European sites has been taken into account to inform the screening conclusion.
- 4.14 **Therefore, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA could potentially be affected through on-site habitat loss/damage as a result of residential development. These same European sites as well as the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, could potentially be affected through on-site habitat loss/damage as a result of all other types of development.**

Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site)

- 4.15 Loss of habitat from outside the boundaries of a European site could still have an effect on site integrity if that habitat supports qualifying species from within the European sites, for example habitat that is used for foraging or roosting by qualifying bird species. A number of the European sites within 15km of Christchurch Borough include transient species amongst their qualifying features; therefore the potential for those species to be affected by off-site habitat loss or damage cannot be ruled out at this stage. The European sites that could potentially be affected in this way are:
- Dorset Heaths SAC
 - Dorset Heathlands SPA
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
 - River Avon SAC
 - Avon Valley SPA
 - Avon Valley Ramsar site
 - Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA
 - Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC
 - Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
 - Solent Maritime SAC
 - The New Forest SAC
 - New Forest SPA
 - Poole Harbour SPA
 - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
 - The New Forest Ramsar site
 - Poole Harbour Ramsar site
 - Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site
- 4.16 While it is recognised that the distances over which transient species will travel vary, this level of detail would be considered during the Appropriate Assessment as needed and at the Screening stage **the potential for any of the above sites to be affected as a result of off-site habitat loss or damage during development of land in the Borough cannot be ruled out.**

¹⁸ Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework, 2015-2020. Available online at: <https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/planningbuilding/PlanningPolicy/PlanningPolicyFiles/HeathlandSPDOct2015/Dorset-Heathlands-SPD-Oct-2015.pdf>

Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light)

- 4.17 Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing or other development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to European sites where birds are the qualifying features, although such effects may also impact upon some mammals and fish species. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from street lamps, flood lighting and security lights) is most likely to affect bat populations and other nocturnal animals, and therefore have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites where bats or nocturnal animals are a qualifying feature (this does not apply to any of the European sites within or in close proximity to the boundary of the plan area). The effects of noise, vibration and light are most likely to be significant if development takes place within 500m of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances, or mapped off-site breeding, foraging or roosting areas. This is the distance that, in our experience, provides a robust assessment of effects and meets with the agreement of Natural England.
- 4.18 Disturbance of off-site habitat (i.e. land outside European sites that is functionally linked as it may be used by the qualifying species of a site) is more likely to be an issue for highly mobile species, particularly birds and bats and some invertebrates. All have varying ranges depending on the species and would therefore need to be considered on a site by site basis in more detail during the Appropriate Assessment as required. More detailed information about the locations of foraging/roosting sites and patterns of movement of qualifying species will be used in order to come to a judgement about the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of particular sites.
- 4.19 At the screening stage, it is assumed that any of the European sites within the Borough boundary (+15km) which include transient species amongst their qualifying features could be affected by non-physical disturbance either directly (if within 500m of the development location) or indirectly if off-site functional habitat is within 500m of the development location, i.e.:
- Dorset Heaths SAC
 - Dorset Heathlands SPA
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
 - River Avon SAC
 - Avon Valley SPA
 - Avon Valley Ramsar site
 - Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA
 - Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC
 - Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
 - Solent Maritime SAC
 - The New Forest SAC
 - New Forest SPA
 - Poole Harbour SPA
 - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
 - The New Forest Ramsar site
 - Poole Harbour Ramsar site
 - Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site
- 4.20 **Therefore, the potential for any of the above European sites to be affected by non-physical disturbance needed to be considered at the screening stage.**

Air pollution

- 4.21 Air pollution is most likely to affect European sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features, but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by any deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to

the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen availability that can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

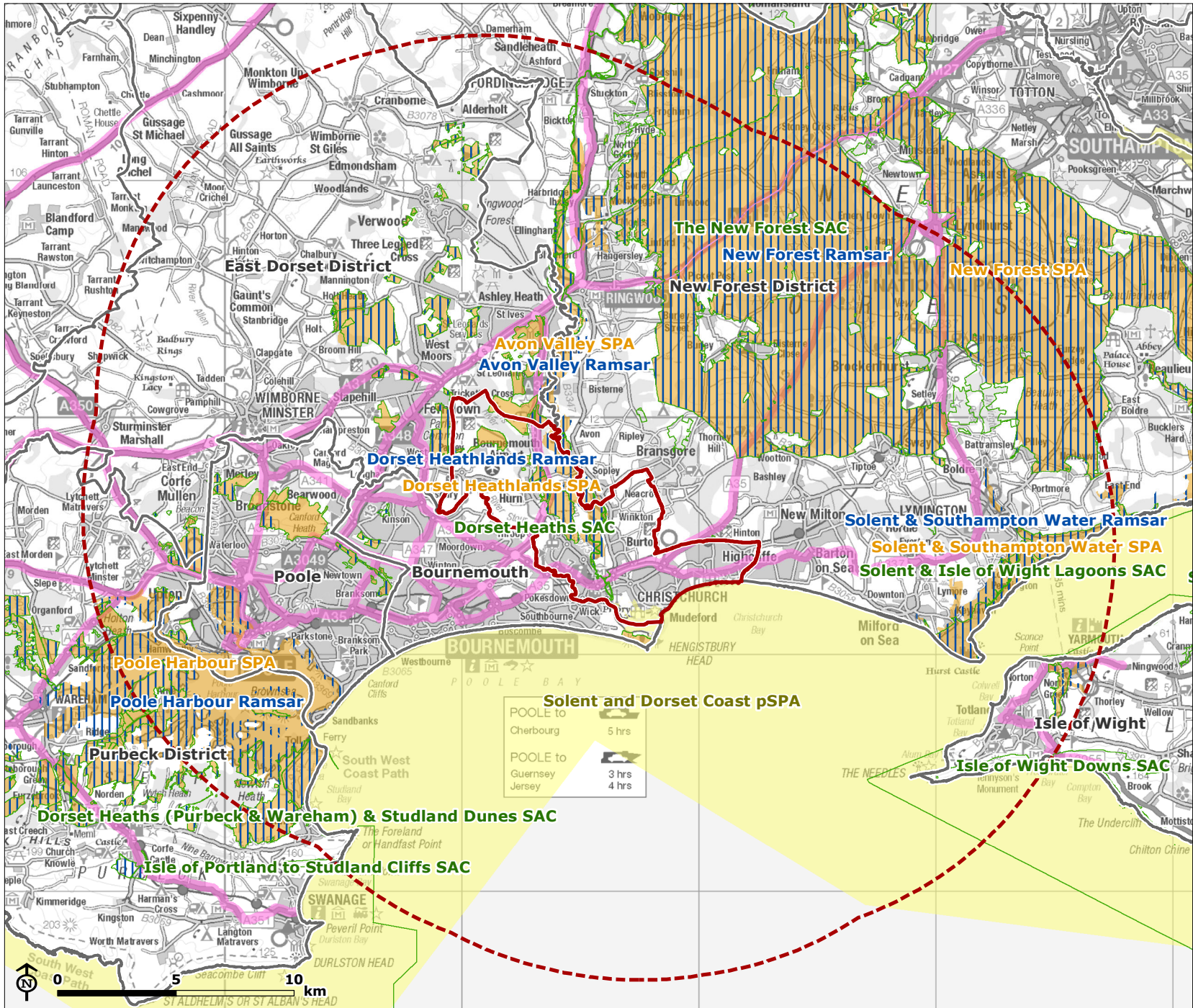
- 4.22 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO_x, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO_x can cause eutrophication of soils and water.
- 4.23 Based on the Highways Agency Design Manual for Road and Bridges¹⁹ (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1 (which was produced to provide advice regarding the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways)), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts. **Figure 4.1** illustrates the location of the trunk roads (including motorways) within 15km of Christchurch and shows where European sites lie within 200m of those roads.

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/standards-for-highways-online-resources>

Christchurch and East Dorset Habitats Regulation Assessment

Figure 4.1: Trunk Roads Within and Around Christchurch Borough

-  Christchurch Borough
-  Christchurch 15 km Buffer
-  Surrounding Districts
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Ramsar
-  Special Protection Area
-  Potential Special Protection Area
-  A road/ motorway 200 m buffer



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:230,000



- 4.24 It has been assumed that only those roads forming part of the primary road network (motorways and 'A' roads) are likely to experience any significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of development either alone or in combination with the impacts of plans in nearby authorities. As such, where a site is within 200m of only minor roads, no significant effect from traffic-related air pollution is considered to be the likely outcome.
- 4.25 The following European sites within Christchurch Borough (+15km) are within 200m of the strategic road network:
- Dorset Heaths SAC
 - Dorset Heathlands SPA
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
 - River Avon SAC
 - Avon Valley SPA
 - Avon Valley Ramsar site
 - Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA
 - Isle of Wight Downs SAC
 - Solent Maritime SAC
 - The New Forest SAC
 - New Forest SPA
 - Poole Harbour SPA
 - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
 - The New Forest Ramsar site
 - Poole Harbour Ramsar site
 - Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site
- 4.26 Traffic forecast data (based on the planned level of growth) will be needed to determine if increases in vehicle traffic along these roads are likely to be significant as a result of the policies and site allocations in the Local Plan. This information will be obtained during the Appropriate Assessment stage as required. The DMRB Guidance for the assessment of local air quality in relation to highways developments provides criteria that should be applied at the Screening stage of an assessment of a plan or project, to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts associated with routes or corridors. However, the recent 'Wealden Judgement'²⁰ concluded that it can no longer be assumed that traffic growth below 1,000 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows is negligible and will not give rise to significant air quality effects in combination with other plans or consented projects. Where the road traffic effects of other plans or projects are known or can be reasonably estimated, then these should be included in road traffic modelling used to inform the HRA.
- 4.27 The only site within 200m of the strategic road network that can be screened out in relation to air pollution impacts at this stage is the Isle of Wight Downs SAC due to its physical separation from the Borough, across the Solent from Christchurch, as traffic increases arising in the Borough would not continue on to the Isle of Wight.
- 4.28 **Therefore, at the screening stage the potential for increases in air pollution to affect the integrity of European sites needs to be considered in relation to all of the European sites included in this HRA except for Isle of Wight Downs SAC.**
- Recreation and urban impacts*
- 4.29 Recreation activities and general human presence can have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site as a result of physical disturbance, e.g. through erosion, arson and trampling. Where policies or site allocations are likely to result in an increase in the local population, or

²⁰ Wealden v. SSCLG [2017]. Available at: <http://www.wealden.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=21727&sID=3484>

where an increase in visitors is considered likely, the potential for an increase in recreation activities and the associated impacts at sensitive European sites has been identified.

- 4.30 Consideration has been given to factors such as the characteristics and current use of the European sites and their accessibility from potential development areas (i.e. site allocations). The nature of development proposed has also been taken into account, for example employment sites are considered less likely to result in increased recreation pressure than residential sites, as employees will be at work within the development site for the majority of the time.
- 4.31 It is recognised that those European sites within the plan area boundary (the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar site and the Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA) are most likely to be affected by proposals in the Local Plan Review in relation to increased recreation activities, although the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar site are also considered to be potentially particularly vulnerable due to the close proximity of these sites to the plan area and their known popularity for recreation activities. Most of the other European sites included in this HRA could also be affected - the only site that can be screened out in relation to recreation impacts at this stage is the Isle of Wight Downs SAC due to the distance from the Borough and the location across the Solent from Christchurch.
- 4.32 **Therefore, the potential for likely significant effects as a result of increased recreation needs to be considered in relation to all of the European sites apart from Isle of Wight Downs SAC.**

Water quantity and quality

- 4.33 Water-related impacts (e.g. changes to water levels due to abstraction or surface or ground water velocity due to increases in hardstanding areas and subsequent increases in runoff) can occur from development. Water pollution/contamination of surface and ground watercourses could potentially occur as a result of discharge of washdown waters and liquids from the construction and operation of new residential and employment developments.
- 4.34 Impacts on water quantity and quality are most likely to affect European sites that are hydrologically connected to the potential new site allocations, either via surface or groundwater pathways. Consideration has been given to the likelihood of hydrological connectivity between any potential site allocations and the European sites within 15km of the plan area boundary. Where there is connectivity, the potential for significant effects to arise through changes in water flows or quality needs to be considered for each site.
- 4.35 European sites likely to be affected by changes to water quantity or quality are those with qualifying features that are wetland habitats or are species dependent on wetland habitats, or habitats sensitive to changes to the water table, as identified in the Site Improvement Plans.
- 4.36 The South West Water and Bournemouth Water Draft Resources Management Plan²¹ and the Wessex Water Draft Resource Management Plan²² both concluded that existing licensed water abstraction sources are adequate to accommodate the planned level of residential growth in the area, and that no new water sources will be required during the plan period. Therefore, **likely significant effects in relation to water quantity can be ruled out for all European sites in Christchurch (+15km).**
- 4.37 Through discussions with the Environment Agency, previous HRA work undertaken for the Local Plan (Part 1) determined that all of the STWs servicing Christchurch discharge into rivers other than the River Avon. Therefore, **likely significant effects in relation to water quality can be ruled out for all European sites in Christchurch (+15km).**
- 4.38 It should be noted that any water abstraction and discharges arising from new site allocations would be regulated through the Environmental Permit regime administered by the Environment Agency, which also takes into account environmental impacts including likely significant effects on European sites.

²¹ South West Water and Bournemouth Water Draft Resources Management Plan (March 2018). Available online at: <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/globalassets/document-repository/environment/draft-wrmp19-technical-report-and-appendices-07-03-2018-web.pdf>

²² Wessex Water Draft Water Resource Management Plan (November 2017). Available online at: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterplan/>

Summary of screening assumptions

- 4.39 Error! Reference source not found. **Table 4.2** overleaf summarises the assumptions that are being applied during the screening stage of the HRA. Where certain types of effects are screened out in Error! Reference source not found. (and shaded grey), they do not need to be considered further so are not referred to in the screening matrix in **Appendix 3**.

Table 4.2: Summary of screening assumptions

European Site	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site)	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site)	Noise, vibration and light pollution	Air pollution	Recreation and urban impacts	Water quantity and quality
European sites within Christchurch Borough						
Dorset Heaths SAC	Screened in (non-residential development only)	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Dorset Heathlands SPA	Screened in (non-residential development only)	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site	Screened in (non-residential development only)	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
River Avon SAC	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Avon Valley SPA	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Avon Valley Ramsar site	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
European sites within 15km Christchurch Borough						
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out
Solent Maritime SAC	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
The New Forest SAC	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
New Forest SPA	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Poole Harbour SPA	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
The New Forest Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Poole Harbour Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out

Interpretation of 'likely significant effect'

- 4.40 Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.
- 4.41 In the Waddenzee case²³, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 105 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:
- An effect should be considered 'likely', "*if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site*" (para 44);
 - An effect should be considered 'significant', "*if it undermines the conservation objectives*" (para 48); and
 - Where a plan or project has an effect on a site "*but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned*" (para 47).
- 4.42 An opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union²⁴ commented that:
- "The requirement that an effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a de minimus threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill."*
- 4.43 This opinion (the 'Sweetman' case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered 'trivial' or *de minimus*; referring to such cases as those "*that have no appreciable effect on the site*". In practice, such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect; they would be 'insignificant'.

In-combination effects

- 4.44 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where "*a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site*". Therefore, as well as considering the likely effects of the Christchurch Local Plan Review alone on European sites, it is necessary to consider whether there may also be significant effects in combination with other plans or projects. This exercise has been carried out as part of the screening stage of the HRA and will be updated as necessary during subsequent stages.
- 4.45 The first stage in identifying 'in-combination' effects involves identifying which other plans and projects in addition to the Christchurch Local Plan Review may affect the European sites that will be the focus of this assessment. There are a large number of potentially relevant plans; therefore the review focuses on planned spatial growth of the local authorities directly adjacent to the Plan area and within 15km, as well as water management plans and county-level transport, minerals and waste plans. **Appendix 2** presents the initial review of other plans and projects, outlining the components of each plan or project that could have an impact on nearby European sites and considering the findings of the accompanying HRA work (where available). This information will be updated as the HRA progresses.
- 4.46 Based on a review of the National Infrastructure Planning website²⁵, no significant scale projects that could result in in-combination effects with the Christchurch Local Plan Review have been identified.
- 4.47 The most recent HRA work carried out for all neighbouring Local Plans has concluded that the plans in question would not result in adverse effects on integrity of European sites, and therefore in-combination effects with the Christchurch Local Plan Review can be ruled out.

²³ ECJ Case C-127/02 "Waddenzee" Jan 2004.

²⁴ Advocate General's Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012.

²⁵ National Infrastructure Planning website <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Mitigation

- 4.48 Some of the potential effects that may be identified during the HRA of the Local Plan may be able to be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the plan itself, for example any policies encouraging the sustainable transportation, or policies with the specific purpose of protecting and enhancing the environment, including biodiversity. Such potential mitigation will be taken into consideration during the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA for the Local Plan and will influence the conclusions as appropriate. Mitigation has not been taken into consideration at the Screening stage, in line with recent case law²⁶.

Appropriate Assessment

- 4.49 Should it not be possible at the Screening stage to conclude that there will be no significant effects on European sites as a result of the Local Plan Review, it will be necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessment.
- 4.50 The Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA focuses on those impacts judged likely at the Screening stage to have a significant effect, and seeks to conclude whether they would result in an adverse effect on the on the integrity of the qualifying features of a European site(s), or where insufficient certainty regarding this remains. The integrity of a site depends on the site being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' across the whole of the site and ensure their continued viability.
- 4.51 An Appropriate Assessment matrix will be prepared for each of these European sites where significant effects from the Local Plan Review could not be ruled out. The matrix will set out each European site's qualifying features and conservation objectives, standards and factors which are needed to maintain the site's integrity, existing trends and pressures at the site including the use of areas of off-site functional land (where data are available), as well as the conservation objectives, and the site vulnerabilities identified during the screening stage.
- 4.52 For each European site and likely significant effect identified, distinctions will be made between direct and indirect effects, short or long term effects, construction, operational or decommissioning effects, isolated, interactive or cumulative effects and permanent, intermittent or temporary effects. The impacts will vary, depending on the habitat or species in question for each site.
- 4.53 As stated in HRA Guidance²⁷, assessing the effects on the site(s) integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the Local Plan Review policies (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:
- Cause delays to achieving the conservation objectives of the site.
 - Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site.
 - Disrupt those factors that help to maintain favourable condition of the site.
 - Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of favourable condition of the site.
 - Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.
 - Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g. relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants).
 - Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site.
 - Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species.
 - Reduce the diversity of the site.
 - Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species.

²⁶ People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (April, 2018)

²⁷ *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

- Result in fragmentation.
- Result in the loss of key features.

4.54 The latest available data sources will be drawn on to inform the Appropriate Assessment as relevant. The results of this analysis should enable a conclusion to be reached regarding whether the integrity of any European site would be affected. If this were the case, an assessment of alternative solutions and mitigation would need to be undertaken. This would consider the extent to which such effects can be avoided through the examination of alternatives. In the context of the Local Plan Review, such alternatives may include the clarification of policies to remove areas of uncertainty leading to predicted impacts or to include conditions or restrictions relating to their implementation, the modification of policies to include alternative solutions or locations for particular developments or the omission of policies where no alternatives exist.

5 Screening Conclusions for the Local Plan Review Options

- 5.1 This section sets out the conclusions of the screening assessment for the Christchurch Local Plan Options document, while the full screening matrix used for the assessment can be seen in **Appendix 3**.
- 5.2 **Table 5.1** summarises the screening conclusion for each of the draft policies contained in the Christchurch Local Plan Options document, as per the key below:

Red	There are likely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment required).
Amber	There may be significant effects, but this is currently uncertain (Appropriate Assessment required).
Green	There are unlikely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment not required).

Table 5.1: Summary of Screening conclusions for the draft policies contained in the Christchurch Local Plan Options document

Local Plan policy	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Chapter 3 Strategic Policy: Challenges, Vision & Strategic Objectives	
Christchurch Local Plan Vision	No.
Objective 1: To manage and safeguard the natural environment of Christchurch	No.
Objective 2: To maintain and improve the character of the towns and villages, and to create vibrant local centres	No.
Objective 3: To adapt to the challenges of Climate Change	No.
Objective 4: To enable the mixed economy of Christchurch to grow, and to develop new employment sectors	No.
Objective 5: To deliver a suitable, affordable and sustainable range of housing to provide for local needs	No.
Objective 6: To reduce the need for people to travel and to have more travel choices	No.
Objective 7: To help our communities to thrive and help people support each other	No.
Chapter 3 Strategic Policy: The Key Strategy	
Policy 3.1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	No.
Policy 3.2: Settlement Hierarchy	Uncertain.
Policy 3.3: Green Belt	Uncertain.
Policy 3.4: Housing Provision in Christchurch	Uncertain.
Policy 3.5: Strategic Green Infrastructure and Heathland Mitigation	No.
Policy 3.6: Provision of Employment Land	Uncertain.
Policy 3.7: Future Retail Provision	Uncertain.
Policy 3.8: Town Centre Hierarchy	Uncertain.
Policy 3.9: Role of Town and District Centres	No.
Policy 3.10: Transport Strategy and Prime Transport Corridors	Uncertain.
Policy 3.11: Strategic Transport Improvements	Uncertain.
Policy 3.12: Transport and Development	No.
Policy 3.13: Parking Provision	Uncertain.

Local Plan policy	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 3.14: Community Facilities and Services	Uncertain.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Environment	
Policy 4.1: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity	No.
Policy 4.2: Protection of the Dorset Heathlands	No.
Policy 4.3: Sustainable Development and New Development	No.
Policy 4.4: Renewable energy provision for residential and non-residential developments	No.
Policy 4.5: Sources of Renewable Energy	Uncertain.
Policy 4.6: Flood Management, Mitigation, and Defence	No.
Policy 4.7: Waste Facilities in new development	No.
Policy 4.8: Pollution and existing development	No.
Policy 4.9: Drainage and new development	No.
Policy 4.10: Development in the Coastal Zone	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Green Belt	
Policy 4.11: Replacement Buildings in The Green Belt	No.
Policy 4.12: Extensions to Existing Buildings in the Green Belt	No.
Policy 4.13: Portfield School, Hurn	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Housing (general policies)	
Policy 4.14: Size and type of new dwellings	No.
Policy 4.15: Design, layout and density of new housing development	No.
Policy 4.16: Provision of affordable housing	No.
Policy 4.17: Exception sites for the provision of affordable housing	Uncertain.
Policy 4.18: Loss of residential accommodation in Christchurch town centre	No.
Policy 4.19: Residential infill development criteria	Uncertain.
Policy 4.20: Housing and Accommodation Proposals for Vulnerable People	No.
Policy 4.21: Criteria for elderly persons accommodation	Uncertain.
Policy 4.22: Criteria for development of "granny annexes" on residential dwellings	No.
Policy 4.23: Agricultural Dwellings	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Heritage & Conservation	
Policy 4.24: Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment	No.
Policy 4.25: Demolition of unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas	No.
Policy 4.26: New Development in or close to Conservation Areas	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Landscape, Design & Open Spaces	
Policy 4.27: Design of New Development	No.
Policy 4.28: Landscape Quality and Character	No.
Policy 4.29: Open Space, Leisure and Green Infrastructure	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Economic Growth	
Policy 4.30: Christchurch Employment Land Hierarchy	Uncertain.
Policy 4.31: Alternative Uses for Employment Land Where Justified by Market Evidence	Uncertain.
Policy 4.32: Electronic Communications Network	No.

Local Plan policy	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 4.33: Conversion and Re-use of Existing Buildings for Economic Development	Uncertain.
Policy 4.34: New Economic Development and Rural Diversification	Uncertain.
Policy 4.35: Safeguarding Local Shops, Services and Facilities	No.
Policy 4.36: Tourism	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Housing (allocations)	
Policy 5.1: Christchurch Urban Extension, Roeshot Hill	No.
Policy 5.2: Housing Option – Stony Lane/Bridge Street, Christchurch	Uncertain.
Policy 5.3: Housing Option – Knapp Mill and Avon Trading Park, Christchurch	Yes.
Policy 5.4: Land South of Burton village	Uncertain.
Policy 5.5: Housing options – Burton and Winkton	Uncertain.
Policy 5.6: Housing options – East and North of Christchurch	Uncertain.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Open Space (allocations)	
Policy 5.7: Land East of Salisbury Road: Open Space	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Sustainable Transport	
Policy 5.8: Cycle Routes	Yes.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Town, District & Local Centres	
Policy 5.9: Christchurch Town Centre Vision	Uncertain.
Policy 5.10: Christchurch Town Centre Boundary	No.
Policy 5.11: Christchurch Primary Shopping Area and Shopping Frontages	No.
Policy 5.12: Christchurch Town Centre Retail Allocations	Uncertain.
Policy 5.13: Highcliffe District Centre Vision	Uncertain.
Policy 5.14: Highcliffe Shopping Frontages	No.
Policy 5.15: Barrack Road Local Centre	No.
Policy 5.16: Purewell Local Centre	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Cemetery Provision	
Policy 5.17: Cemetery provision	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Bournemouth Airport & Business Park	
Policy 5.18: Vision for Bournemouth Airport	No.
Policy 5.19: Strategy for the Operational Airport and Strategy for the Airport Northern Business Parks	Uncertain.
Policy 5.20: Bournemouth Operational Airport Development Zoning	No.
Policy 5.21: Bournemouth Airport Public Safety Zones	No.
Policy 5.22: Bournemouth Airport Aerodrome Safeguarding	No.
Policy 5.23: Development and Aircraft Noise	No.

Significant effects unlikely

- 5.3 Significant effects are considered unlikely in relation to the vision, all seven of the strategic objectives and many (45) of the draft policies (see green shading in **Table 5.1** above). In most cases this was because the proposals will not directly result in development, relating instead to

design or other qualitative criteria for development; or because they are of a more strategic nature (e.g. visions and strategic objectives), and the specific effects could only be assessed in the sub-ordinate policy options providing more detail about where the development would occur. A number of the proposals include specific measures intended to conserve or enhance the natural environment (and designated sites in particular) and are considered unlikely to have a significant negative effect on European sites for that reason.

- 5.4 On the basis of these screening conclusions, the 45 draft policies shaded green in **Table 5.1** do not need to be considered further through the appropriate assessment stage, apart from in terms of the potential mitigation they may provide for other policy options.

Significant effects likely

- 5.5 In the absence of mitigation, significant effects were considered likely to occur as a result of two of the draft policies:
- **Policy 5.3: Housing Option – Knapp Mill and Avon Trading Park, Christchurch** as the site allocation is partly within the boundaries of **River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site**, which means that there are likely significant effects from physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution).
 - **Policy 5.8: Cycle Routes** because some of the proposed cycle routes fall within **Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA** means that there are likely significant effects from physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.
- 5.6 On the basis of these screening conclusions, **Draft Policies 5.3 and 5.8** will need to be considered further through the Appropriate Assessment stage, which will take place as the next version of the Christchurch Local Plan Review is prepared, as the policies and site allocations will be more definite.

Significant effects uncertain

- 5.7 Uncertain effects have been highlighted in orange in **Table 5.1** above for the remaining 26 draft policies set out in the Christchurch Local Plan Options document. In many cases this is because a policy makes provision for a broad type of development which may give rise to effects on European sites, but the precise location, type and/or scale of that development is not specified in the policy, meaning that it is not possible to conclude whether significant effects on particular European sites are likely.
- 5.8 In addition, further assessment will be needed to determine functionally connected, off-site habitats used by mobile qualifying species of the European sites that could be affected by habitat loss or damage during construction of houses or other development, or by noise, light or vibration when using the off-site habitats. This is the case for all of the European sites within 15km of Christchurch Borough that have mobile species among their qualifying features, i.e.:
- Dorset Heaths SAC
 - Dorset Heathlands SPA
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
 - River Avon SAC
 - Avon Valley SPA
 - Avon Valley Ramsar site
 - Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA
 - Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC

- Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC
- Solent Maritime SAC
- The New Forest SAC
- New Forest SPA
- Poole Harbour SPA
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA
- The New Forest Ramsar site
- Poole Harbour Ramsar site
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site

5.9 The likelihood of significant effects arising from air pollution could not be screened out at this stage as the level of traffic increases along the strategic highway network as a result of the level of development planned for in the Christchurch Local Plan Options document is not yet known. Potential increases in air pollution along routes passing within 200m of all the European sites within 15km of the Borough (except the Isle of Wight Downs SAC) will need to be determined from traffic forecast data being modelled for the Local Plan Review.

Potential mitigation

- 5.10 In general, the likelihood of significant negative effects on European sites was not able to be ruled out through the screening exercise because some of the draft policies in the Christchurch Local Plan Options document could lead (either directly or indirectly) to an increase in new development with habitat loss or damage, non-physical disturbance, increases in visitor numbers at European sites, or to increases in the volume of car traffic in the area. However, the magnitude of the potential effects and the specific pathways are not yet fully understood, and thus need to be considered in more detail through the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA.
- 5.11 Mitigation of some of the potential likely significant effects could be achieved through the requirement for good design and construction practices such as noise and light reduction, as well as the provision of SANGs within housing allocations. The provision and use of improved sustainable transport links to and from the town centre would also help to reduce car traffic. The measures developed to relieve recreation pressure on the Dorset Heathlands through the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015-2020²⁸ should also help to mitigate the effects of higher visitor numbers within and around the plan area.
- 5.12 Many of the draft policies within the Christchurch Local Plan Options document should also help to implement some of the mitigation measures described above and help to avoid significant effects on European sites (e.g. Draft Policy 3.5 Strategic Green Infrastructure and Heathland Mitigation; Draft Policy 4.1 Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Draft Policy 4.2 Protection of the Dorset Heathlands; Draft Policy 4.3 Sustainable Development and New Development; Draft Policy 4.29 Open Space, Leisure and Green Infrastructure). The potential for mitigation to be provided by policies within the Local Plan Review will be considered in more detail in the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
- 5.13 In relation to the likely significant effects identified for Draft Policies 5.3 and 5.8, **it is recommended that mitigation is incorporated into these two policies as they are revised for the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan Review. In particular, Draft Policy 5.3 could revise the site allocation boundary so that it does not include any part of River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site.**

²⁸ https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/219362/Dorset-Heathlands-Planning-Framework-2015-2020-SPD/pdf/Dorset_Heathlands_Planning_Framework_2015-2020_SPD_Jan2016.pdf

6 Conclusions and Next Steps

- 6.1 This Screening Report has introduced the HRA process that will be undertaken in relation to the Christchurch Local Plan Review as it is prepared and has set out the findings of the initial Screening assessment of the Options document (July 2018).
- 6.2 The Screening conclusions are as follows:
- **Significant effects unlikely** in relation to the Vision, seven Strategic Objectives and 45 Draft Policies as they will not directly result in development (or that development has already been assessed through the planning application process and been granted permission), or because they are of a more strategic nature, or because they include specific measures intended to conserve or enhance the natural environment (and designated sites in particular).
 - **Significant effects likely on the European sites within the boundary of the Borough** (Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA) in relation to **Draft Policies 5.3 and 5.8**.
 - **Significant effects uncertain on all of the European sites within 15km of the Borough** due to unknown locations of development that might come forward, unknown locations of functionally connected, off-site habitat used by qualifying species, and unknown levels of traffic increases that would occur from the levels of development planned for in the Christchurch Local Plan Options.
- 6.3 These uncertain and likely significant effects will need to be considered in more detail through the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA, which will take place as the next version of the Christchurch Local Plan Review is prepared, as the policies and site allocations will be more definite.
- 6.4 In relation to the likely significant effects identified for Draft Policies 5.3 and 5.8, **it is recommended that mitigation is incorporated into these three policies as they are revised for the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan Review. In particular, Draft Policy 5.3 could revise the site allocation boundary so that it does not include any part of River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site.**

Consultation

- 6.5 This report is being sent to Natural England for consultation. In particular, the following are sought:
- Comments on the adequacy of the approach to identify likely significant effects from the Christchurch Local Plan Options document, justifying any proposed changes and suggesting appropriate data sources to implement these.
 - Comments on the initial Screening conclusions for the Christchurch Local Plan Options.
 - Copies of or links to relevant sources of data to inform HRA judgements.
 - Details of any plans or significant projects additional to those in **Appendix 2** that should be considered for their potential to have effects in combination with the Christchurch Local Plan Review.

Next steps

- 6.6 Once Christchurch Borough Council has consulted upon the Christchurch Local Plan Options document and prepared the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan, it will be subject to an updated HRA Screening assessment and Appropriate Assessment will also be undertaken if required, in line with the methodology presented in **Chapter 4** of this report.
- 6.7 The HRA report will be updated throughout the preparation of the Local Plan Review, with the HRA reports relating to each iteration of the Local Plan Review being published during consultation periods. Specific consultation will be undertaken with Natural England as the statutory consultation body for HRA as the Local Plan Review progresses.

LUC
July 2018

Appendix 1

Attributes of European sites included in the HRA of Christchurch Local Plan Review

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
European Sites within (or partly within) Christchurch					
Dorset Heaths SAC	5,719.54	Numerous fragmented sites, most of which are located outside of the boundary of Christchurch (but within 15km) to the, north, south and west.	<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority feature</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools. Acid soils. Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time). Unpolluted water and base-rich streams to support Southern damselfly. Warm climatic conditions (Southern damselfly is at northern limit of its European range). Un-fragmented heathland. Use of traditional agriculture to discourage the successional trend to scrub and woodland invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species. Invasive non-native species inside and outside the designated areas. Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities inside the designated areas. Appropriate grazing regime. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
Dorset Heathlands SPA	8,168.79	Numerous fragmented sites, some within the boundary of Christchurch and some within the 15km buffer zone, to the, north, south and west.	<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <p>Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p> <p>Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>Over winter:</p> <p>Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid soils. • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time. • Unpolluted water. • Unfragmented habitat. • Appropriate grazing regime. • Minimal recreational pressure and avoidance of heathland/accidental fires. • The breeding season is important for the European bird populations (March – June), but the area is also important for over-wintering raptors and other fauna. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site	6,730.15	Numerous fragmented sites, most of which are located outside of the boundary of Christchurch (but within 15km) to the, north, south and west.	<p>Ramsar criterion 1a</p> <p>Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and (ii) acid mire with <i>Rhynchosporion</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 1b</p> <p>Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and cross-leaved heath</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under- grazing leading to scrub invasion. • Acid rain. • Pollution – unspecified. • Leaching from waste tips. • Development pressure. • Further fragmentation, most 	No conservation objectives published for the Ramsar site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p>Erica tetralix.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2a</p> <p>Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2b</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Noteworthy flora of national significance include a diverse range of higher and lower plants.</p> <p>Noteworthy fauna of national significance include Dartford Warbler, Nightjar, woodlark in the breeding season, Hen Harrier and Merlin in the winter season and a diverse range of invertebrates.</p>	<p>notably through agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure. • Wildfires. • Infrastructure works A31 and Bournemouth airport. • Extant mineral permissions. 	
River Avon SAC	416.57	A long thin site running north-south, from Salisbury (at the 15km buffer) and along the eastern boundary of the Christchurch, down into	<p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</p> <p>Desmoulin`s whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p> <p>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></p> <p>Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully balanced hydrological regime. • Maintenance of flow velocities – low flows interact with nutrient inputs from point sources to produce localised increases in filamentous algae and nutrient-tolerant macrophytes at the expense of 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
		Christchurch town centre.	<p>Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p> <p>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p> <p>Atlantic stream crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p>	<p>Ranunculus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs. • Low levels of siltation -changes to sediment processes can result from previous channel modifications. 	<p>species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Avon Valley SPA	1,385.08	Stretches to the northeast of the plan area, from within the boundary of Christchurch, up to Salisbury at the north eastern extent of the 15km buffer.	<p>Over winter:</p> <p>Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus Columbianus bewickii</i></p> <p>Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime. • Unpolluted water. • Absence of nutrient enrichment of water. • Absence of non-native species. • Appropriate grazing regimes. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of each of the qualifying features The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Avon Valley Ramsar site	1,385.1	Running north-south from Aderholt to Christchurch.	<p>Ramsar criterion 1a</p> <p>Diverse range of habitats associated with chalk river, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and woodland.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2a</p> <p>Diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including nationally-rare species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3c</p> <p>Overwintering Gadwall <i>Anas strepera strepera</i>, NW Europe.</p> <p>Other notable nationally significant flora include a small range of higher plants.</p> <p>Other notable nationally significant fauna include Coot, Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Pochard, Shoveler, White-fronted Goose, Wigeon and a range of invertebrates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage/land-claim for agriculture. Disturbance to vegetation through cutting/clearing. Sedimentation/siltation. Recreational/tourism disturbance especially to wintering birds. Water abstraction. Problems with retaining floodwater-summer drying. Reservoir/barrage/dam impact: flow regime. Pollution (agricultural fertilisers and domestic sewage). Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species. Vegetation succession. 	No conservation objectives published for the Ramsar site.
Solent and Dorset Coast Potential SPA	89,078.02	Extends from the Isle of Purbeck in the West to Bognor Regis in	<p><i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Sandwich tern</p> <p><i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common tern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpolluted water. Absence of nutrient enrichment. 	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
		the East, following the coastline on either side to the Isle of Wight and into Southampton Water.	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of non-native species. • No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. • Low amounts of silt loss; • Maintenance of freshwater inputs for certain bird species. • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. • Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore/off shore to reduce disturbance during sensitive over-wintering periods. 	<p>aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
European Sites within (or partly within) 15km of Christchurch					
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC	2,230.53	Fragmented sites to the south west of Christchurch.	<p>Annex 1 Primary:</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</p> <p>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) *Priority feature</p> <p>Humid dune slacks</p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully balanced hydrological regime. • Physical loss: development pressure. • Physical damage: fragmentation of habitat causing edge and patch size effect, notably through grazing. • Erosion due to visitor pressure. • Wildfires. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> *Priority feature</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>Bog woodland *priority feature</p> <p>Annex 1 Non Primary:</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty of clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> *Priority feature</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary:</p> <p>Southern Damselfly – <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Annex 1 Non - Primary:</p> <p>Great crested newt – <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage caused by infrastructure works A31 and Bournemouth airport. • Extant mineral extraction permissions. • Biological disturbance: invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially <i>Rhododendron</i>. • Successional trend to scrub and woodland. 	<p>qualifying natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC	1,441.75	Very small site, approximately 15km to the south of Christchurch.	<p>Annex 1 Primary: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</p> <p>Annex 1 Non-Primary: Annual vegetation of drift lines Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>Annex 2 Primary: Early gentian – <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex 2 Non-Primary: Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical damage: coastal erosion, arable farming and grazing. Recreational pressure. Extant quarrying permission. Biological disturbance: loss of grazing. Invasive non-native species inside and outside the designated areas. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	458.08	Site straddling the 15km buffer boundary to the south east of Christchurch.	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early gentian is associated with a grazing regime which maintains a short turf and a proportion of bare ground. Maintenance of grazing. Minimal air pollution – nitrogen 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p>

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>	<p>deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of direct fertilisation. Well-drained soils. Recreational pressure. Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	37.93	A small site to the south of Lymington.	Coastal lagoons * Priority feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality due to industrial waste, landfill discharges and diffuse off-site pollution. Water salinity and the relative balance between saltwater to freshwater. Most lagoons are considered to have a salt concentration that is below the desirable level. Effects of sea-level rise and coastal defence. Water level management and 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The supporting processes on

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
				<p>sluice maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of nutrient enrichment. • Absence of non-native species. • Sufficient space between the SAC and any development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats. 	<p>which qualifying natural habitats rely</p>
Solent Maritime SAC	11,243.12	A small site to south east of Christchurch, straddling the 15km buffer boundary.	<p>Estuaries</p> <p>Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (‘white dunes’)</p> <p>Desmoulin’s whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p> <p>Eurasian Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p>Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. • Unpolluted water, potential accidental pollution from shipping, fishing, chemical spills, industrial activities. • Introduction of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity. • Existing and proposed flood defence and coast protection workings. • Coastal squeeze of intertidal habitats. • Development pressures, e.g. ports, marinas, jetties. • Recreational pressure. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>		<p>species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
The New Forest SAC	29,213.57	A large area located to the east of Christchurch.	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs.</p> <p>Alkaline fens.</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p> <p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)</p> <p><i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Bog woodland * Priority feature</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heaths, mires and pools. Most of the valley mires have been damaged in the past by drainage which has resulted in drying out of peat layers. Low water levels lead to decrease in wetland habitats of wading birds. Acid soils. Maintenance of grazing and other traditional management practices, notably forestry. Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time. Unpolluted water. Minimal nutrient inputs. Recreational pressures. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p><i>incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) * Priority feature</p> <p>Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p> <p>Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> <p>Barbastella Bat <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></p> <p>Freshwater sculpin (Millar's Thumb) <i>MCottus gobio</i></p> <p>Brook Lamprey (sand pride) <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p>Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p>Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteini</i></p>		
New Forest SPA	28,002.81	A large area located to the east of Christchurch.	<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <p>Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i></p> <p>Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p> <p>Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>Over winter:</p> <p>Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heaths, mires and pools. Most of the valley mires have been damaged in the past by drainage which has resulted in drying out of peat layers. Low water levels lead to decrease in wetland habitats of wading birds. • Acid soils. • Maintenance of grazing and other traditional management practices. • Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpolluted water. • Minimal nutrient inputs. • Low recreational pressures. A recent decline in waders, reds shank, lapwing, curlew and snipe is thought to be related to dog walkers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Poole Harbour SPA	4,157	Located to the south west of East Dorset.	<p>Overwintering waterbird Assemblage</p> <p>Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i></p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p> <p>Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <p>Eurasian spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i></p> <p>Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i></p> <p>Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i></p> <p>Icelandic-race Black-Tailed Godwith <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p> <p>Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban growth and port/marina development. • Recreation pressures. • Discharge from sewerage treatment. • Wytch Farm oilfield – threat of spills. • Bait digging. • Drainage on grazing marshes. 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Solent and Southampton	5,505.86	Straddling 15km buffer zone, to the south east of	<p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpolluted water. • Absence of nutrient 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the</p>

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
Water SPA		Christchurch. On the coastline to the south of Lymington.	<p>Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p> <p>Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i></p> <p>Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i></p> <p>Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <p>Over winter:</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p> <p>Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></p> <p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i></p> <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.</p>	<p>enrichment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of non-native species. No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. Low amounts of silt loss; Maintenance of freshwater inputs for certain bird species. Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore/off shore to reduce disturbance during sensitive over-wintering periods. 	<p>aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely The population of each of the qualifying features The distribution of the qualifying. features within the site.
The New Forest Ramsar site	28,002.81	A large area located to the east of Christchurch.	<p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heaths, mires and pools. Most of the valley mires have been damaged in the past by drainage which has resulted in drying out of peat layers. Low water levels lead to decrease in wetland habitats of wading birds. Acid soils. Maintenance of grazing and other traditional management 	No conservation objectives published for the Ramsar site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p>several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <p>The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.</p> <p>Notable flora include a diverse range of nationally significant higher fauna.</p> <p>Notable fauna of international significance include the Southern dragonfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>, Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>, Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>, Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>, European Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> and a diverse range of invertebrates</p> <p>Notable fauna of national significance include Dartford Warbler and Hen Harrier.</p>	<p>practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal air pollution since nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time. Unpolluted water. Minimal nutrient inputs. Low recreational pressures. 	
Poole Harbour Ramsar site	2,439	Located to the south west of Christchurch.	<p>Ramsar Criterion 1b</p> <p>Best example of a bar-built estuary with lagoonal characteristics in Britain</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 2a</p> <p>Two species of nationally rare plant and one</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban and infrastructure development pressure. Dredging. Bait digging. Recreation pressure. 	No conservation objectives published for the Ramsar site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p>nationally rare alga. At least three British Red data book invertebrate species</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 2b</p> <p>Examples of natural habitat types of community interest – Mediterranean and thermo Atlantic halophilous scrubs, as well as calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i>. Transitions from saltmarsh through to peatland mires are of exceptional conservation importance. Nationally important populations of breeding waterfowl including Common tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>. Over winter the site also supports a nationally important population of Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 3a</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>24709 waterfowl</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 3b</p> <p>Breeding waterfowl including Common Tern, Mediterranean Gull and wintering Avocet.</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 3c</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></p> <p>Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage of grazing marshes. • Oil spills. • Eutrophication. • Sewage discharge. • Introduction/invasion of non-native animal species. 	
Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar	5,415	Straddling 15km buffer zone, to the south east of Christchurch. On	<p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>One of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-claim. • Development pressure. 	No conservation objectives published for the Ramsar site.

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
site		the coastline to the south of Lymington.	<p>in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow with long periods of slack water at high and low tide. Includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>Supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Black-necked grebe , <i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i></p> <p>Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></p> <p>Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <p>Eurasian curlew , <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i></p> <p>Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas penelope</i></p> <p>Great cormorant , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i></p> <p>Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></p> <p>Little grebe , <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i></p> <p>Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal squeeze. • Erosion. • Flood and coastal defence works. • Dredging. • Recreational pressure. • Sea level rise. • Industrial/oil pollution. • Pollution from former waste disposal sites. • Sewage discharge. 	

Site name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity	Natural England Conservation Objectives
			<p>Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i> Red-breasted merganser, <i>Mergus serrator</i> Slavonian grebe, <i>Podiceps auritus</i> Water rail, <i>Rallus aquaticus</i></p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> Little egret , <i>Egretta garzetta</i> Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa erythropus</i></p> <p>Additional species regularly supported during breeding season include: Common tern , <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> Little tern , <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> Mediterranean gull , <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Roseate tern , <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> Sandwich tern , <i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i></p> <p>In additional a diverse range of nationally significant invertebrates are also present.</p>		

Appendix 2

Review of Potential for In-Combination Effects with other Local Authority Plans

LOCAL-LEVEL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (adopted April 2014)

East Dorset District

Housing: There is the capacity to build approximately 2,740 new homes in East Dorset over the next 15 years. However, this does not meet the need identified and so sites are identified in the Green Belt. The main settlements in the borough will provide the major focus for community, cultural, leisure, retail, utility, employment and residential development. These include: Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Ferndown and Verwood.

Employment: to meet future needs new greenfield employment sites have been identified in East Dorset. Major employment sites include:

- Land adjacent to Bailie Gate Industrial Est: 3.3ha
- Blunts Farm: 30ha
- Land adjacent to Woolsbridge Industrial Est: 13ha

HRA findings: The HRA concludes that adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites from Core Strategy policies alone or in combination will not occur, provided that protection measures and mitigation is delivered.

Bournemouth Local Plan: Core Strategy (adopted October 2012)

Bournemouth Borough lies directly to the west of Christchurch Borough, and south of East Dorset District.

Housing: In order to meet the anticipated housing need in Bournemouth of 14,600 dwellings (net) between 2006-2026, in addition to completions between 2006-2011, and outstanding residential planning consents and allocations at April 2011, further provision of 6,438 dwellings (net) will be made within the existing urban area. These will be provided as follows:

- 1,500-2,000 units in the town centre
- 2,000-3,000 units within 400m of a district centre
- 1,500-2,500 units within 400m of a key transport route

The Core Strategy also seeks to address the fact that some areas of Bournemouth have seen a high concentration of flats being developed, with little housing development. As such, small family houses may not be converted into flats, and preference will be given to the development of houses over flats, where a site is able to accommodate housing development and is located in an area characterised by housing.

The Draft South West RSS (before it was abolished) proposed an urban extension to the north of Bournemouth on green belt land, which would be detailed within a separate Area Action Plan. The Core Strategy states that, now that the RSS has been abolished, no such urban extension is planned.

Employment: The Core Strategy aims to support the vision of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) to develop the economy based on respect for, and protection of, the local environment – a ‘green knowledge economy’.

HRA Findings: The HRA Report for the Bournemouth Local Plan concluded that, with mitigation in place, there should be no adverse effects on any European sites resulting from the implementation of the Plan.

Local Plan Review

Bournemouth Borough Council is currently in the process of preparing a review of the Local Plan. They published an ‘Initial Stakeholder Consultation and Request for Potential Development Sites’ document for consultation between 15th September and 10th November 2017. Subsequent

LOCAL-LEVEL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

versions of the Local Plan Review will be considered in later stages of this HRA.

New Forest District Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy for New Forest District (outside the National Park) (adopted October 2009)

New Forest District lies to the east of East Dorset District and Christchurch Borough.

Housing: The Core Strategy reiterates the South East Plan target of providing 3,920 additional homes up to 2026. Around 3,670 dwellings will be provided through existing permissions and allocations and development that has already taken place, leaving a shortfall of only around 250 homes. Policy CS11 sets out that around 100 will be provided at Totton and 150 at Ringwood. Beyond this, further release of greenfield sites are not expected to be needed.

Employment: Policy CS18 (new provision for industrial and office development and related uses) sets out that, up to 2026, up to around 5ha of land for employment sites will be provided at Totton, and the same amount at New Milton and Ringwood. In addition, 16,000sqm of office floorspace will be provided in Totton and the Waterside, and around 10,000sqm of warehousing floorspace will be provided on existing sites through redevelopment and intensification of use.

HRA Findings: The HRA for the New Forest District Core Strategy Submission Document (September 2008) highlighted the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar site as a result of increased pressure for recreation.

However, it was considered that the mitigation measures included in the Core Strategy and other plans and strategies mean that the relevant policies will not have an adverse effect in this sense, either alone or in-combination.

Local Plan Review 2016-2036

The pre-submission draft Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy will be reported to Cabinet on 6th June 2018. The proposed Local Plan housing target is 10,500 homes 2016 – 2036. 18 proposed sites are set out across some of the larger settlements in the district. 18 ha of employment land is identified within new site allocations at North Totton, Fawley and East Ringwood.

The HRA of the New Forest District Local Plan Part 1 concludes that in some cases the potential for adverse effects on integrity cannot be ruled out. Where it is not possible to rule out an effect, recommendations have been made.

New Forest National Park Adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted December 2010)

The New Forest National Park lies to the east of East Dorset District and Christchurch Borough.

Housing: The New Forest District, Wiltshire and Test Valley Borough Councils remain the housing authorities for their respective areas of the National Park. The South East RSS allocation for housing in the National Park was very low, proposing only 11 dwellings per annum up to 2026, totalling 220, and this figure is carried forward into policy CP12: New Residential Development.

Employment: Due to the nature of the National Park, development is to be very limited and no strategic allocations are made. Policy CP9 states that small-scale development proposals to meet local needs will be allowed, including employment, retail and community facilities, within the four 'defined villages' of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway, provided that proposals conform with other Core Strategy policies.

HRA Findings: The HRA for the New Forest National Park Core Strategy Submission Document (January 2010) found that the policies included within the Core Strategy comprise an adequate framework for the mitigation of any potentially adverse impacts of the plan, both alone and in-combination.

Local Plan Review 2016-2036

A final consultation on the proposed submission draft Local Plan was held in January 2018. On the

LOCAL-LEVEL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

14th May the document was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. The larger, defined villages in the National Park (Ashurst, Brokenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway) will be the focus for appropriate new community facilities, employment, retail and housing development to meet local needs.

The HRA concludes that the New Forest National Park Local Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015 - 2020

The Dorset Heathlands cover an extensive area of South East Dorset fragmented by urban development and other land uses. It is the view of Natural England that the cumulative effect of a net increase of dwelling up to 5km from protected heathland in Dorset would have a significant effect on Dorset's lowland heaths that are covered by several international designations. Avoidance measures or mitigation is required otherwise Local Authorities will not be able to grant permission for residential development within 5km of the designated sites.

Local Authorities in South East Dorset whose administrative area is within 5km of protected heathland and which have the responsibility for the determination of residential planning applications have been operating a strategy for the protection of Heathland since 2007. This SPD will be a Local Development Document within each of the local authorities planning frameworks.

The main urban effects of Lowland Heaths area expected to arise from: reduction in area, fragmentation of habitats, loss of supporting habitat, predation, disruption to hydrology, pollution, enrichment, roads, service infrastructure, disturbance, trampling, fire, vandalism, public hostility and management costs. Since 2007 the local authorities in South East Dorset have been operating a strategy based on delivering a range of measures to mitigate the adverse effects of residential development. The strategy consists of Heathland Infrastructure projects (which are those that provide facilities to attract people away from protected heathland sites) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring.

The work of the Planning Framework should therefore help to mitigate effects on the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

WATER PLANS

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies

The Environment Agency has prepared Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) which are six-year plans detailing how the EA is going to manage water resources in each catchment. The CAMS seek to understand how much water the natural environment needs, how much water is available for abstraction, how much water is currently licensed to be used and whether this balances with what is available. Each area within the catchment is assigned a 'resource availability status' which indicates whether the catchment resources are in balance or not.

Dorset Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licencing Strategy (December 2012)

This document supersedes the Dorset Stour catchment abstraction management strategy (CAMS) (2004), the Frome, Piddle and Purbeck CAMS (2005) and the West Dorset Streams CMAS (2007).

The Dorset WFD Management Area combines two CAMS, the Frome, Piddle and West Dorset and the Dorset Stour and covers an area of approximately 2590 km².

The Dorset Heaths SPA / SAC falls within the management area and has the potential to be impacted by water abstraction, in particular thorough changes in water table levels or seepage.

If an application for a new water abstraction licence could have an impact on a SAC/SPA strict rules are followed in setting a time limit for the licence. This includes: grating the licence but only

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within a short time limit, placing conditions on the licence so it cannot affect the site, refusing the application or requiring monitoring of the impact of the licence.

Hampshire Avon WFD Management Area Abstraction Licencing Strategy (December 2012)

The Hampshire Avon WFD Management Area comprises the catchment of the River Avon and its tributaries. The area covers parts of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset, with a catchment area of approximately 1,700km². The main tributaries of the Avon are the River Nadder, River Wylye, River Ebble and the River Bourne. There are also numerous streams draining to the Avon from the New Forest. The River Mude drains directly to Christchurch Harbour at the base of the catchment.

The River Avon is considered to be one of the most biodiverse Chalk rivers in Britain, supporting habitats and species that are considered rare or threatened on an international scale. The **River Avon SAC** and River **Avon SPA/Ramsar** fall within the Management Area and so changes in water table levels here could have significant effects on both sites, especially given that water abstraction is highlighted as a factor currently affecting the condition of both sites. The New Forest SAC is drained by small streams, including the Dockens Water, which is part of the River Avon SAC. Major components of the SAC habitats are extensive wet and dry heaths, wet and dry grasslands, rivers and streams and permanent and temporary ponds. As such, the site is heavily water dependent.

If an application for a new water abstraction licence could have an impact on a SAC/SPA strict rules are followed in setting a time limit for the licence. This includes: grating the licence but only within a short time limit, placing conditions on the licence so it cannot affect the site, refusing the application or requiring monitoring of the impact of the licence.

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMP)

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) give an overview of the flood risk within catchment areas and set out plans for sustainable flood risk over the next 50 to 100 years.

Dorset Stour CFMP (June 2012)

The Dorset Stour catchment is located in the south west of England, extending from the headwaters of the River Stour at Stourhead to Christchurch Harbour. The CFMP area includes the River Stour and its tributaries including the Crane, Allen, Tarrant, Winterbourne and Loddon. The overall catchment area is about 1,240 square kilometres and has a population of around 400,000.

Within the River Stour catchment area there are three Special Areas Conservation (SAC), one Special Protection Area (SPA) and one Ramsar Site.

Currently the main sources of flood risk are from: river flooding from the River Cale at Wincanton and River Stour in Sturminster Newton and Blandford Forum; tidal flooding up to Iford; surface water drainage flooding which has occurred in Bournemouth; groundwater flooding which has occurred in Wimbourne Minster and Sixpenny Handley.

In general the document concludes that existing flood risk is being managed effectively. However, in a couple of areas including Bournemouth and Christchurch, St Leonards, Verwood, Moors and Dorset Heaths and Upper Stour and Blackmore Vale, the vision and preferred policy for managing flood risk includes:

- Opportunities to reduce flooding in Bournemouth by increasing storage on the floodplain upstream.
- Action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits.

Frome and Piddle CFMP (June 2012)

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The catchment of the rivers in the Frome and Piddle CFMP are located in the south west of England. They drain from the North Dorset Downs flowing through Dorset to outfall into Poole Harbour. The overall catchment area is about 900 square kilometres and has a population of around 170,000.

Within the catchment area there are six SAC and Poole Harbour and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar and SPA.

Currently the main sources of flood risk are from: river flooding from the River Frome in Dorchester and Maiden Newton, River Piddle in Wareham, River Carne in Cerne Abbas and River Swan in Swanage; tidal flooding in Wareham and Swanage; surface water flooding which has occurred in Frampton, Swanage and Wareham and groundwater flooding which has occurred in Milbourne St Andrew, Cerne Abbas and Dorchester.

The vision and preferred policy in areas more at risk of flooding (including Headwaters, the Chalklands, Dorchester, River Frome Corridor, Wareham Forest, Poole, Swanage and Wareham) includes:

- Action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits.
- Further action to keep pace with climate change.

Hampshire Avon CFMP (June 2012)

The catchment of the Hampshire Avon is located in the South of England. The Hampshire Avon rises in the Vale of Pewsey to the north of Salisbury and flow in a southerly direction towards Christchurch Harbour and Christchurch Bay on the south coast. The overall catchment area is about 1,750 square kilometres and has a population of about 230,000.

Within the catchment area there is nine SAC.

Currently the main sources of flood risk are from: river flooding from the River Avon at Downton, Fordingbridge and Ringwood, from the Avon and Nadder at Salisbury, from the Nadder and Wyllye at Wilton and the Bourne at Tidworth; tidal flooding at Christchurch and surface water drainage flooding which has occurred in Warminster and Enford.

The vision and preferred policy in areas more at risk of flooding (including River Bourne, Upper Avon and Wyllye, Warminster, River Nadder, Salisbury, Lower Avon and Christchurch) includes:

- Further action to keep pace with climate change.
- Action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits.
- Further action can be taken to reduce flood risk

Water Resources Management Plans

Water companies are required by law to produce Water Resource Management Plans to outline their proposals for managing water resources in the long term – i.e. how they intend to maintain the balance between demand for water and their supply.

Bournemouth and South West Water Resources Management Plan

A Draft Water Resources Management Plan was submitted to Defra in December 2017. Defra have now granted permission for Bournemouth and South West Water to publish and consult on the updated plan. The plan sets out how water resources will be maintained and managed for the next 25 years. It covers the period up to 2044/45 with a base year of 2016/17.

South West Water provides drinking water to 1.7 million people across Devon and Cornwall and parts of Dorset and Somerset. To the east South West Water operates the Bournemouth Water

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area in Hampshire and Dorset, supplying approximately 4.5 million customers. The major sources of water are from reservoirs, river intakes, groundwater sources and river abstraction.

The strategy concludes that no material change in the supply capacity over the planning period is expected. Through selecting a range of leakage reduction, water efficiency, water re-use and by investigating water transfer options with Southern Water, this Plan is considered to perform better overall than a plan with no intervention.

Wessex Water Resources Management Plan

Wessex Water has published their new updated plan as a draft for public consultation, which closed on 1st June 2018. The plan describes how Wessex Water expects to balance the demand for water from customers with available supplies and protect the environment over the next 25 years.

Wessex Water supplies around 340 million litres of water per day to 1.3 million people and nearly 50,000 businesses. Some of the main towns supplied include Bath, Chippenham, Salisbury, Bournemouth and Poole.

Similarly to the 2014 plan, this updated plan forecasts that, given the investments made, Wessex Water has access to enough water to meet the needs of its customers for at least the next 25 years without the need to develop new sources of water.

MINERALS AND WASTE PLANS

Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole (March 2018)

The Waste Plan and Minerals Sites Plan for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole have been submitted to the Secretary of State.

The new Waste Plan identifies sites for new waste management facilities to meet the county's needs. Once adopted it will provide the policy framework for determining planning applications for waste management facilities up to 2033.

Policy 3 sets out the sites allocated for waste management development, intensification or expansion:

- Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, Three Legged Cross
- Land south of Sunrise Business Park, Blandford
- Land at Brickfields Business Park, Gillingham
- Land at Blackhill Road, Holton Heath Industrial Estate, Wareham
- Land east of Loudsmill, Dorchester
- Old Radio Station, Dorchester
- Eco Sustainable Solutions, Chapel Lane, Parley
- Land at Canford Magna, Magna Road, Poole
- Land at Mannings Heath Industrial Estate, Poole
- Binnegar Environmental Park, East Stoke
- Land at Bourne Park, Piddlehinton
- Gillingham Sewerage Treatment Works
- Maiden Newton Sewage Treatment Works

HRA Findings: it was concluded that, providing the recommended additions and changes in wording to policy, accompanying text and development guidelines are incorporated, the draft Waste Plan is compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Although one of the sites listed above, Eco Sustainable Solutions, Chapel Lane, Parley, was originally identified as having potential likely significant effects on European sites as a result of gaseous emissions, amendments to the wording of Policy 3 have been agreed with Natural England and additional safeguards have also been incorporated into the Plan. These measures are considered sufficient to ensure that, at this stage in the Plan process, there will be no likely significant effect as a result of the proposal.

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The new Minerals Sites Plan is expected to be adopted in December 2018. New allocated sites and extensions to existing sites include:

- Great Plantation, Bere Regis
- Hurn Court Farm Quarry Extension
- Philliol's Farm, Hyde
- Roeshot Quarry Extension, Christchurch
- Tatchells Quarry Extension, Wareham
- Woodsford Quarry Extension, Woodsford
- Station Road, Moreton
- Hurst farm, Moreton
- Swanworth Quarry Extension, Purbeck
- Trigon Hill Extension, Wareham
- Blacklands Quarry Extension, Langton Matravers
- Southard Quarry, Swanage
- Downs Quarry Extension and Broadmead Field Langton Matravers
- Home Field, Acton
- Gallows Gore, Harmans Cross
- Marnhull Quarry
- Frogden Quarry, Osborne
- Whithill Quarry, Lillington

HRA findings: it was concluded in the HRA Screening Report that, providing the recommended additions and changes in wording to policy, accompanying text and development guidelines are incorporated, the pre-submission Minerals Sites Plan is compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017.

Hampshire (Adopted October 2013)

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan was adopted in October 2013. It ensures that the county have enough minerals for their needs and can deal with waste effectively until 2030. Site allocations include:

- Basingstoke Sidings
- Bleak Hill Quarry Extension, Ringwood
- Bramshill Quarry Extension, Blackbushe Airport
- Cutty Brow, Longparish
- Forest Lodge Home Farm, Butts Ash
- Hamble Airfield
- Michealdever Sidings
- Michelmersh Brickworks, Romsey
- Purple Haze, Ringwood Forest
- Roeshot, Highcliffe
- Selbourne Brickworks, Shootash
- Squabb Wood Landfill
- Mineral Safeguarding areas at Whitehill and Bordon

HRA Findings: The HRA concluded that there are no likely significant effects as a result of the plan policies and that all negative effects on the plan in relation to conservation objectives of European sites can be satisfactorily avoided and reduced and do not require further assessment in-combination with effects of other plans and projects, provided the recommended avoidance and mitigation measures are adopted and implemented.

TRANSPORT PLANS

Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole (2011 to 2026)

The Local Transport Plan 3 for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole (April 2011) sets out a vision for a safe, reliable and accessible low carbon transport system that assists in the development of a

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strong low carbon economy, maximises the opportunities for sustainable transport and respects and protects the areas unique environmental assets.

The actual transport schemes and projects identified will be set out in Implementation Plans, which will each cover a three year period of the 15 year LTP. The LIP outlines a number of infrastructure projects including: Implementation of quality bus corridors, Bournemouth Airport Transport Hub, key junction improvements, Swanage rail connection, South East Dorset Park and Ride sites and development of a Dorset Rapid Transit Scheme.

HRA Findings: It was concluded that, assuming that the recommendations in the HRA were included and appropriate avoidance and mitigation can be identified within subsequent project or plan level HRAs, no significant impacts to Natura 2000 sites will result from the implementation of the LTP3.

Hampshire (2011 to 2031)

The Hampshire Local Transport Plan was adopted in 2011 and sets out a long term vision for how the transport network of Hampshire will be developed up until 2031.

The Local Implementation plan from 2014/15 to 2016.17 sets out the major schemes to be implemented.

HRA Findings: The HRA concluded that it is unlikely that the LTP3 would lead to significant effects on any European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Appendix 3

Screening Matrix for the Local Plan Review Options

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Chapter 3 Strategic Policy: Challenges, Vision & Strategic Objectives				
Christchurch Local Plan Vision	None – development will not occur as a direct result of the Christchurch Local Plan Vision. The Vision will be implemented through the more detailed policies in the Local Plan which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 1: To manage and safeguard the natural environment of Christchurch	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 2: To maintain and improve the character of the towns and villages, and to create vibrant local centres	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 3: To adapt to the challenges of Climate Change	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on	N/A	N/A	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	European sites.			
Objective 4: To enable the mixed economy of Christchurch to grow, and to develop new employment sectors	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 5: To deliver a suitable, affordable and sustainable range of housing to provide for local needs	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 6: To reduce the need for people to travel and to have more travel choices	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Objective 7: To help our communities to thrive and help people support each other	None directly – the strategic objective will be implemented through more detailed policies which are being assessed separately for their potential to have significant effects on European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.

Chapter 3 Strategic Policy: The Key Strategy

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 3.1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	None directly – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 3.2: Settlement Hierarchy	<p>Larger-scale development in Christchurch and smaller-scale development in Highcliffe. Some development will also be directed to the villages of Burton and Hurn, and a number of hamlets.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase in recreation activities.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar</p>	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p> <p>The fact that this policy directs most development to Christchurch means that the European sites most likely to be affected by development are those closest to the town i.e. Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p>	
Policy 3.3: Green Belt	Limited changes to the existing Green Belt boundary to enable some new housing to meet local needs and to correct local anomalies.	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution in combination with other development proposed</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general</p>	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
		disturbance from recreation.	and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes) SAC, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 3.4: Housing Provision in Christchurch	<p>5,270 new homes (including 2,460 homes within the existing urban areas and 1,120 provided at existing allocated new neighbourhoods at Christchurch and Burton).</p> <p>Area 1: Bransgore and Hoburne – 190 dwellings</p> <p>Area 2: Town Centre, Stony Lane and Bridge Street – 213 dwellings</p> <p>Area 3: Land South and East of</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	<p>Burton – 568 dwellings</p> <p>Area 4: Former West Hants Water, Knapp Mill and Avon Trading Park – 55 dwellings</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase in recreation activities.</p>		<p>to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
Policy 3.5: Strategic Green Infrastructure and Heathland Mitigation	None – the policy will not itself result in development, instead it is likely to help protect European sites from adverse effects.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 3.6: Provision of Employment Land	<p>Employment development (54 ha identified in Map 3.3 of the Options document at Bournemouth Airport, Avon Trading Park, Stony Lane/Gasworks Site, Airfield Way and Cimex International).</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and</p>	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. Increased air pollution could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 3.7: Future Retail Provision	Retail development, although this would be focussed in Christchurch Town Centre and Highcliffe District Centre, and therefore away from most sensitive European sites except River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution in combination with other development proposed.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are within close proximity to Christchurch Town Centre and the Land between Bridge Street, Stony Lane South and the Civic Offices will contribute to the delivery of the future retail requirement. Increased air pollution could affect all of the sites listed	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	
Policy 3.8: Town Centre Hierarchy	Retail development, although this would be focussed in Christchurch Town Centre and Highcliffe District Centre, and therefore away from most sensitive European sites except River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution in combination with other development proposed.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are within close proximity to Christchurch Town Centre. Increased air pollution could also affect the sites listed above.	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
Policy 3.9: Role of Town and District Centres	None directly – the policy seeks to ensure that Town and District Centres are the focus for commercial, leisure and community activities, and to avoid main town centre uses being developed outside of these centres. Therefore it should steer any new development away from sensitive European sites.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 3.10: Transport Strategy and Prime Transport Corridors	Development of and improvements to transport infrastructure. The following transport corridors are proposed for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A35 Iford Bridge – Fountains roundabout – Stony Lane roundabout 	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site because these three European sites cross the prime transport corridor by the town of Christchurch to	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Somerford roundabout – Roeshot Hill – Hampshire boundary • B3073 Christchurch town centre – Bargates – Fairmile – Blackwater Interchange. (A3338 junction); • A337 Somerford roundabout – Highcliffe – Hampshire boundary. <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p>		<p>the south.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution could affect all of the European sites within 200m of the Prime Transport Corridors within the Borough but also on those same routes into neighbouring districts and boroughs, i.e. Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA and New Forest Ramsar site.	
Policy 3.11: Strategic Transport Improvements	<p>Transport improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B3073 Hurn roundabout improvement; • B3073 Blackwater Junction improvements; • A338 widening from A338/B3073 Blackwater junction – County boundary (joint scheme with Bournemouth Borough Council which will deliver the section from County Boundary – A3060 Cooper Dean); • A35 Stony Lane roundabout and Staple Cross junction improvements. • A35 Fountains roundabout improvements. <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p>	<p>The Blackwater Junction improvements could result in physical damage/loss of habitat and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) to Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site due to the location of this junction adjacent to these European sites. Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) brought about by the Hurn Roundabout improvements could also affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site due to their location in close proximity to the roundabout.</p> <p>The Stony Lane Roundabout improvements could result in physical damage/loss of habitat and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) to River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA,</p>	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA due to the location of the roundabout adjacent to these European sites.</p> <p>The Staple Cross Junction improvements, Stony Lane Roundabout improvements and Fountains Roundabout improvements could have an adverse effect on air pollution in relation to River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site due to their close proximity to these European sites. Other European sites within the Borough are also likely to be affected by these improvements, namely Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site.</p> <p>Air pollution as a result of the Hurn Roundabout and Blackwater Junction improvements, as well as the widening of the A338 could affect the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, in addition to the River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site.</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			European sites within 15km of Christchurch Borough could also be affected, namely Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham & Studland Dunes) SAC, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Isle of Wight Downs SAC, Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, The New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, The New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.	
Policy 3.12: Transport and Development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 3.13: Parking Provision	Car parking provision could result in an increase in vehicle traffic.	Increased air pollution.	Increased air pollution could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC,	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 3.14: Community Facilities and Services	<p>Development of community facilities and services to be concentrated in the settlements of Christchurch, Highcliffe and Burton. Some facilities to be provided in smaller settlements and suburban areas in innovative ways.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC,</p>	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	

Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Environment

Policy 4.1: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity	None – the policy will not itself result in development, instead it is likely to help protect European sites from adverse effects.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.2: Protection of the Dorset Heathlands	None – the policy will not itself result in development, instead it is likely to help protect European sites from adverse effects.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.3: Sustainable Development and New Development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.4: Renewable energy provision for residential and non-residential developments	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 4.5: Sources of Renewable Energy	Renewable energy development	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 4.6: Flood Management, Mitigation, and Defence	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.7: Waste Facilities in new development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.8: Pollution and existing development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.9: Drainage and new development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.10: Development in the Coastal Zone	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Green Belt				
Policy 4.11: Replacement Buildings in The Green Belt	None – the policy relates to the replacement of existing buildings rather than entirely new development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.12: Extensions to Existing Buildings in the Green Belt	None – the policy relates to small-scale extensions to existing buildings rather than entirely new development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.13: Portfield School, Hurn	Development of additional facilities within the existing school site. Increased vehicle traffic.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution.	The school is located within 400m of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site. Therefore, physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) could affect	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>these sites. However, given the site is in existing school use, there is unlikely to be any functionally connected off-site habitat for these European sites, as the qualifying bird species would be unlikely to forage or roost on school playing fields.</p> <p>Given that the site is already in an existing school use, the level of increase in traffic (and therefore air pollution) to access any new facilities that may come forward is unlikely to be significant.</p>	
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Housing (general policies)				
Policy 4.14: Size and type of new dwellings	None – the policy will not itself result in development, rather it sets out criteria that will apply to housing development resulting from other policies.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.15: Design, layout and density of new housing development	None – the policy will not itself result in development, rather it sets out criteria that will apply to housing development resulting from other policies.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.16: Provision of affordable housing	None – the policy will not itself result in development, rather it sets out criteria that will apply to housing development resulting	N/A	N/A	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	from other policies.			
Policy 4.17: Exception sites for the provision of affordable housing	<p>Affordable housing development, albeit small in scale.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and</p>	<p>Uncertain at this stage for physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance for a number of European sites – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			general disturbance from recreation is unlikely to be significant due to the small-scale nature and low number of exception sites that are likely to come forward.	
Policy 4.18: Loss of residential accommodation in Christchurch town centre	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.19: Residential infill development criteria	Residential development, albeit small in scale (infill development). Increased vehicle traffic. Increased recreation pressure.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent	Uncertain at this stage for physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance for a number of European sites – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation is unlikely to be significant due to the small-scale nature of residential infill development proposals that are likely to come forward.</p>	
Policy 4.20: Housing and Accommodation Proposals for Vulnerable People	None – the policy will not itself result in development , rather it sets out criteria that will apply to housing development resulting from other policies.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.21: Criteria for elderly persons accommodation	<p>Residential development, albeit small in scale (elderly persons accommodation).</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>(There is unlikely to be increased recreation pressure as elderly people are less likely to be using the European sites for recreation than younger residents.)</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands</p>	Uncertain at this stage for physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance for a number of European sites – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution is unlikely to be significant due to the small-scale nature and low number of elderly persons accommodation proposals that are likely to come forward.</p>	
Policy 4.22: Criteria for development of “granny annexes” on residential dwellings	None – the policy will not itself result in development, rather it relates to extensions to existing properties.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.23: Agricultural Dwellings	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Heritage & Conservation				
Policy 4.24: Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.25: Demolition of unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.26: New Development in or close to Conservation Areas	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Landscape, Design & Open Spaces				
Policy 4.27: Design of New Development	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.28: Landscape Quality and Character	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.29: Open Space, Leisure and Green Infrastructure	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Chapter 4 Core Policies & Development Management: Economic Growth				
Policy 4.30: Christchurch Employment Land Hierarchy	Employment development (B1, B2 and B8 use) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bournemouth Airport Northern Business Park (North West and North East Sectors). 	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar	Uncertain – as Stony Lane South (including the Gasworks) adjoins Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site, and is in close proximity to the River Avon SAC and Solent and Dorset

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAE site, Grange Road – not within close proximity to any European sites. • Christchurch Business Park. • Avon Trading Park, Christchurch. • Stony Lane South including the Gasworks Site, Christchurch. • Groveley Road, Christchurch. • Somerford Road, Christchurch. • Priory Industrial Park. <p>Employment development (B1, B2 and B8 use) at sites located directly off Airfield Way, Airfield Road and Wilverley Road, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver Business Park. • Airfield Industrial Estate. • Ambassador Industrial Estate. • Beaver Industrial Estate. • Sea Vixen Industrial Estate. • Somerford Business Park. • Hughes Business Centre. 		<p>site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA. This is especially the case for Stony Lane South (including the Gasworks) because it immediately abuts the Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. The Avon Trading Park is located adjacent to the River Avon SAC, Avon Valley</p>	<p>Coast pSPA, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out from physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution). However, it is recognised that there is already development on the site, therefore, any re-development is unlikely to significantly increase effects already generated from this site.</p> <p>Likely significant effects may also occur from physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) for River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site, Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site as the Avon Trading Park and Bournemouth Airport Northern Business Park sites are adjacent to or in close proximity to these European sites.</p> <p>Effects are also uncertain at this stage for physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>SPA and Avon Valley Ramsar site, and therefore likely to effect the aforementioned European sites.</p> <p>Bournemouth Airport Northern Business Park is also likely to have an effect because it lies adjacent to Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heathlands SPA, and is also within close proximity to Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	<p>physical disturbance on the remaining listed European sites and air pollution/recreation disturbance for all of the sites listed including Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p> <p>Further consideration of the above effects is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>
<p>Policy 4.31: Alternative Uses for Employment Land Where Justified by Market Evidence</p>	<p>Redevelopment of existing employment sites.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased recreation pressure (depending on the nature of the redevelopment).</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands</p>	<p>Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
Policy 4.32: Electronic Communications Network	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.33: Conversion and Re-use of Existing Buildings for Economic Development	<p>Redevelopment of existing buildings for economic development, including tourism uses.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased recreation pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p>	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	(depending on the nature of the redevelopment).	Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	<p>and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 4.34: New Economic Development and Rural Diversification	<p>Agricultural diversification.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased recreation pressure (depending on the nature of the diversification).</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and</p>	<p>Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect all of the sites listed above as well as Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 4.35: Safeguarding Local Shops, Services and Facilities	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 4.36: Tourism	None – the policy will not itself result in new tourism development, rather it sets out measures to conserve and enhance the environment of Christchurch which is attractive to tourists.	N/A	N/A	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Housing (allocations)				
Policy 5.1: Christchurch Urban Extension, Roeshot Hill	Residential development with associated local centre. Increased vehicle traffic. Increase in recreation activities.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the site allocation is not within the boundaries of any European site. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon	No – as planning application for the majority of this site has been approved, including the provision of the SANG required in the policy, it is considered unlikely that significant effects will occur because the effects will have been considered and mitigated through the planning approval process.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 5.2: Housing Option – Stony Lane/Bridge Street, Christchurch	Residential development, with associated retail, leisure and commercial uses. Increased vehicle traffic. Increase in recreation activities.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the site allocation is not within the boundaries of any European site. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>site. The sites most likely to be affected in this way could be River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are directly adjacent to the site allocation.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
Policy 5.3: Housing Option – Knapp Mill and Avon Trading	Residential development. Increased vehicle traffic.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could affect River Avon SAC,	Yes – the fact that the site allocation is partly within the boundaries of River Avon SAC,

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Park, Christchurch	Increase in recreation activities.	<p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are partly within the site allocation.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. Again, the sites most likely to be affected are River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are partly within the site allocation.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and</p>	<p>Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site means that there are likely significant effects from physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution).</p> <p>Uncertain at this stage for physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site) and non-physical disturbance on the remaining listed European sites and air pollution/recreation disturbance for all of the sites listed including Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p> <p>Further consideration of the above effects is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 5.4: Land South of Burton village	Residential development, potentially with associated community facilities. Increased vehicle traffic. Increase in recreation activities.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the site allocation is not within the boundaries of any European site. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. The sites most likely to be affected in this way could be River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site as they are within 500m of the site allocation to the west.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
<p>Policy 5.5: Housing options – Burton and Winkton</p>	<p>Residential development with associated community facilities and potential transport infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase in recreation activities.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the site allocation is not within the boundaries of any European site.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland</p>	<p>Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. The sites most likely to be affected in this way could be River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site due to their close proximity to the site allocation to the west.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA,</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 5.6: Housing options – East and North of Christchurch	Residential development and potential transport infrastructure improvements. Increased vehicle traffic. Increase in recreation activities.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only). Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the site allocation is not within the boundaries of any European site. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site.</p> <p>Increased air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Open Space (allocations)				
Policy 5.7: Land East of Salisbury Road: Open Space	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Sustainable Transport				

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 5.8: Cycle Routes	<p>The following cycle routes are proposed for delivery/improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel Gate to Christchurch Hospital • Avenue Road • Tricketts Cross Bridlepath • Iford to Town Centre • Stour Road • Avon Buildings to Avon Causeway • Stanpit to Tuckton • Mudeford Woods to Mudeford Quay • Coastal Cycle Path • Castle Avenue to Somerford • Somerford to Town Centre • The Runway to Highcliffe School • Stony Lane • Castle Street to Purewell • Burton Cycle Routes – linking existing cycle ways and Burton Primary School (<i>no route yet agreed</i>) 	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site and off-site).</p> <p>Noise, vibration and light pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site because the proposed cycle route referred to as ‘Avon Buildings to Avon Causeway’ goes through the aforementioned European sites. Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) could also affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA because the ‘Somerford to Town Centre’, ‘Stour Road’ and ‘Stanpit to Tuckton’ proposed cycle routes cross these European sites.</p> <p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon</p>	<p>Yes – the fact that some of the proposed cycle routes fall within Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA means that there are likely significant effects.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA because a number of the proposed cycle routes run directly adjacent to these European sites.	

Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Town, District & Local Centres

Policy 5.9: Christchurch Town Centre Vision	<p>Retail development in Christchurch Town Centre.</p> <p>Improvements to public transport infrastructure and car parking provision.</p> <p>Development of community facilities.</p> <p>High density residential development.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Significant effects as a result of physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site or off-site) and non-physical disturbance could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA as the Vision focuses development in Christchurch Town Centre which is in close proximity to these sites.</p> <p>An increase in vehicle traffic and recreation pressure from new residential and other development could result in air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation which could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset</p>	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
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Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 5.10: Christchurch Town Centre Boundary	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.11: Christchurch Primary Shopping Area and Shopping Frontages	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.12: Christchurch Town Centre Retail Allocations	Retail development within Christchurch Town Centre and associated residential development as part of mixed-use schemes. Increased vehicle traffic.	Increased air pollution. Erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation.	Significant effects as a result of physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site or off-site) and non-physical disturbance could affect River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA, Avon Valley Ramsar and Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA as the policy directs	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>retail development within in Christchurch Town Centre which is in close proximity to these sites.</p> <p>An increase in vehicle traffic and recreation pressure from new residential and other development could result in air pollution and erosion/trampling and general disturbance from recreation which could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	
Policy 5.13: Highcliffe	Retail development in Highcliffe	Increased air pollution.	Significant effects as a result of physical damage/loss of	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
District Centre Vision	(600 sqm). Development of community services.		<p>habitat (on-site or off-site) and non-physical disturbance are not expected as the policy directs retail development within Highcliffe District Centre and therefore away from sensitive European sites.</p> <p>An increase in air pollution could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.</p>	required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
Policy 5.14: Highcliffe Shopping Frontages	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Policy 5.15: Barrack Road Local Centre	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.16: Purewell Local Centre	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Cemetery Provision				
Policy 5.17: Cemetery provision	Cemetery provision.	None – this very small-scale proposal would not result in physical damage/loss of habitat, non-physical disturbance or in any notable increase in vehicle traffic.	N/A	No.
Chapter 5 Site Allocations and Area Based Policies: Bournemouth Airport & Business Park				
Policy 5.18: Vision for Bournemouth Airport	None – development will not occur as a direct result of the Vision for Bournemouth Airport, which will be delivered through Policy 5.19, screened separately below.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.19: Strategy for the Operational Airport and Strategy for the Airport Northern Business Parks	Supporting infrastructure development for Bournemouth Airport. Employment development and ancillary uses at Northern Business Park. Increased vehicle traffic.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site only). Noise, vibration and light pollution. Increased air pollution.	Physical damage/loss of habitat (on-site) is not expected as the Airport is not within the boundaries of any European site. Physical damage/loss of habitat (off-site) and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution) could affect Dorset Heaths	Uncertain at this stage – further consideration is required as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			<p>SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site. The sites most likely to be affected in this way could be Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar site site due to their close proximity on the northern boundary of the Northern Business Park.</p> <p>Increased air pollution could affect Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA Avon Valley Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, Dorset</p>	

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
			Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham and Studland Dunes SAC), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA, Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, New Forest Ramsar site, Poole Harbour Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site and Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.	
Policy 5.20: Bournemouth Operational Airport Development Zoning	None – the policy itself will not lead to new development, rather it defines which parts of the Airport site can accommodate certain types of development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.21: Bournemouth Airport Public Safety Zones	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.22: Bournemouth Airport Aerodrome Safeguarding	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.
Policy 5.23: Development and Aircraft Noise	None – the policy will not itself result in development.	N/A	N/A	No.