

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Puddletown Area Parish Council

October 2018

## Quality information

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## Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V4	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	Consultation version	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Associate

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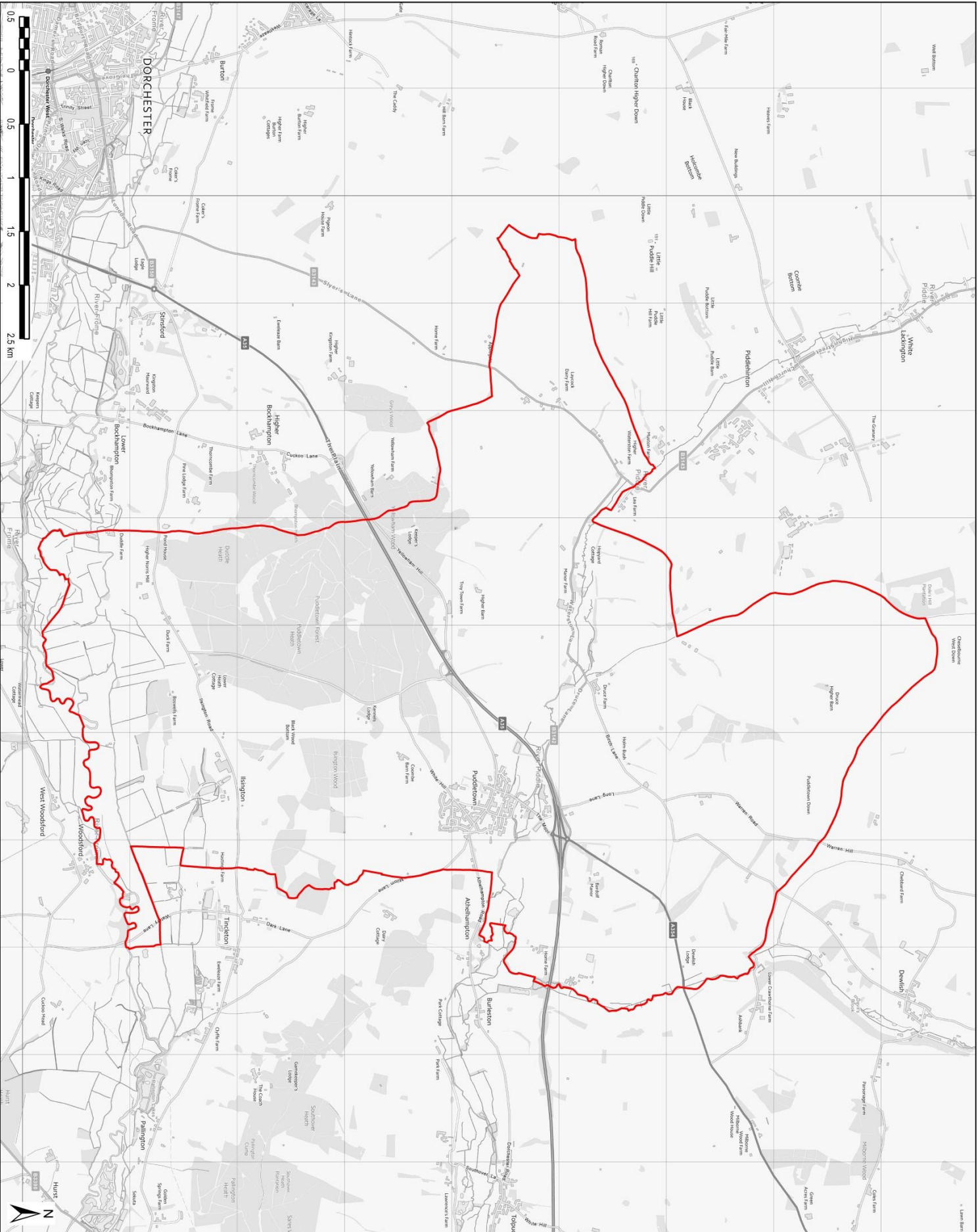
# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan (PNP).
- 1.2 The PNP is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area was designated in January 2014, and the PNP is being prepared in the context of the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015). The PNP is at an advanced stage of development, with evidence currently being collected to facilitate the development of the plan and develop policies. Key information relating to the PNP is presented below in **Table 1.1**.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Responsible Authority	Puddletown Area Parish Council
Title of Plan	Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the West Dorset, Weymouth &amp; Portland Local Plan 2015.</p> <p>The emerging Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the designated Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Puddletown in West Dorset ( <b>Figure 1.1</b> )
Summary of content	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, objectives, a strategy and range of policies to guide future development within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area. This will include allocations for housing.
Plan contact point	<p>Peter Churchill, Chair, Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Email address: <a href="mailto:pudnplan@gmail.com">pudnplan@gmail.com</a></p>



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LEGEND

-  Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Client  
**PUDDLETOWN PARISH COUNCIL**

Project Title  
**SEA FOR THE PUDDLETOWN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title  
**PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLAN AREA**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	TS	04/07/2018
AECOM Internal Project No.		Scale @ A3	1:32,500
60571087			

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FIGURE 1.1



## Relationship of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan with the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan

- 1.3 The PNP is being prepared in the context of the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015). The Local Plan sets out the spatial plan for the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland area up until 2031. Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the development framework for West Dorset, alongside the 'parent' document – the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 1.4 The Local Plan is currently under review, in response to the Inspector's report on the examination of the Local Plan, recommending an early review of the plan to identify additional housing land capable of meeting housing needs to 2036. Within this review, the Council will also consider revisions to other policies in response to changes in national policy and legislation. Issues and Options for the review of the Local Plan were consulted upon between February and April 2017. The comments received during consultation have been considered by the Council who are now preparing a 'preferred options' document.
- 1.5 The 2015 Local Plan does not identify a housing requirement target, or further employment growth for the Puddletown area, as the strategy focuses the majority of growth in the larger settlements of Beaminster, Bridport, Chickerell, Crossways, Dorchester, Littlemoor, Lyme Regis, Portland, Sherborne, and Weymouth. Policy SUS1 identifies that provisions are made in the Local Plan for a deliverable supply of housing land to accommodate around 15,500 new dwellings (around 775 dwellings a year) across the Plan area, and at least 43ha of employment land in West Dorset (with a further 17ha in Weymouth and Portland).
- 1.6 The Local Plan defines a development boundary around the settlement of Puddletown, within which development will generally be accepted. Policy SUS2 identifies that development in rural areas will be directed to the settlements with defined development boundaries, and will take place at an appropriate scale to the size of the settlement. The policy identifies that within the defined development boundaries residential, employment and other development to meet the needs of the local area will normally be permitted. Policy SUS5 identifies four general principles for Neighbourhood Plans, in that they should:
  - *Show how they are contributing towards the strategic objectives of the Local Plan and be in general conformity with its approach.*
  - *Clearly set out how they will promote sustainable development in their area at the same level or over and above that which would otherwise be delivered through the Local Plan.*
  - *Have due regard to information on local need for new homes, jobs and facilities, for their plan area and any outlying areas which they may serve.*
  - *Demonstrate that they are credible, justifiable and achievable.*

## Vision for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.7 The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan has developed the following draft vision during the early stages of plan development:

*In 2036 Puddletown will be a safe, thriving, well-connected and sustainable village, maintaining its character and sense of community spirit, and encompassing a wide range of age and income groups.*

## SEA Explained

- 1.8 The PNP has been screened in by West Dorset District Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the PNP seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.9 SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.10 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
- When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
  - A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft PNP) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives
- 1.11 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item (i) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

## SEA 'scoping' explained

- 1.12 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- Defining the broader context for the PNP and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
  - Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the PNP), in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
  - Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
  - Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.



## Structure of this report

### Key sustainability issues

1.13 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps i-iv above have been presented under a series of eight key environmental themes, as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Landscape and Historic Environment
- Climate Change (including flood risk)
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transportation

1.14 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

1.15 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under eight themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 9.

### SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

1.16 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging PNP will be assessed consistently using the framework.

1.17 The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the PNP SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 9. The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for each theme are also presented together within one 'framework' in **Appendix I**.

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<sup>1</sup> The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

## 2. Air Quality

### Focus of Theme

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

### Policy Context

2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- *'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.*
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>2</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

2.3 In terms of the local context, West Dorset District Council is required under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995) to monitor air quality across the county, report regularly to DEFRA, and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.

2.4 Additionally, at the local level, the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies through Policy ENV16 that development will only be permitted where it does not *'generate unacceptable pollution, vibration or detrimental emissions unless it can be demonstrated that the effects on amenity and living conditions, health and the natural environment can be mitigated to the appropriate standard'*.

### Baseline Summary

#### Summary of current baseline

2.5 There are no designated AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area. There are two AQMAs within West Dorset District, at Dorchester and Chideock. The Dorchester AQMA is located at

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<sup>2</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

High East Street (over 7km to the south west of the Plan area), and connected to Puddletown by the B3150/A35. Declared in 2009 for exceedances in nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), the Dorchester AQMA encompasses High East Street and any dwellings and their associated curtilage within 15 metres of the road centreline. Actions to address the exceedances include the implementation of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan to improve traffic flows and create a one way system through High West Street.

## Summary of future baseline

- 2.6 Future development within the wider area has the potential to increase traffic and congestion. This has the potential to exacerbate levels of NO<sub>2</sub> at the Dorchester AQMA. However the introduction of new technologies, including enhanced efficiency of vehicles, and increased uptake of electric cars, will help limit effects.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
  - Housing growth in the wider area may impact on traffic and congestion in the Neighbourhood Plan area, which has the potential to increase emissions and reduce air quality.
  - The closest AQMA is located in Dorchester, although it is located over 7km, the A35 provides a near direct connection to the AQMA and it is likely that residents will travel to Dorchester to access the wider range of services and facilities available there. However the likely scale of new growth in the village is unlikely to have significant effects on air quality in the AQMA.
- 2.7 Due to the absence of significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **air quality has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

## 3. Biodiversity

### Focus of Theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

### Policy Context

- 3.1 The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016–2024) aims to be congruent with the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implemented by the United Nations, since wetlands contribute towards a very broad range of the aspirations set out in the SDGs. The vision for the plan is as follows, with three strategic goals and one operational goal seeking to achieve this vision:

'Wetlands are conserved, widely used, restored and their benefits are recognised and valued by all'

- Goal 1 (Strategic): Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation;
- Goal 2 (Strategic): Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar site network;
- Goal 3 (Strategic): Wisely using all wetlands; and
- Goal 4 (Operational): Enhancing implementation.

- 3.2 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>3</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

- 3.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').

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<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP\\_resolution\\_april2012.pdf?sm\\_au=iVVvWnSn7W32krwR](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf?sm_au=iVVvWnSn7W32krwR) [last accessed 17/05/18]

- Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected for their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

3.4 Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS). A 'Natura 2000' site is the combined term for sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Dorset Heaths<sup>4</sup> SIP (covering the Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heaths SAC and Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC) identifies 12 priority issues for the site as well as measures to address them. The pressures and threats relevant to the PNP include:

- Public Access/Disturbance – public access will need to be managed so as to prevent and reduce pressures;
- Water Pollution – measures required to reduce diffuse pollution and silt/sand run-off;
- Air Pollution – measures required to reduce atmospheric nitrogen deposition; and
- Wildfire/Arson – working with partners to reduce harmful fires.

3.5 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>5</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010, and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

3.6 Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy; the 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'<sup>6</sup> aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*.

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<sup>4</sup> Natural England (2014) Site Improvement Plan: Dorset Heaths (SIP062) [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5181909839642624?category=4591548587048960> [accessed 17/05/18]

<sup>5</sup> DEFRA (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228842/8082.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf) [accessed 17/05/18]

<sup>6</sup> DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services> [accessed 17/05/18]

- 3.7 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>7</sup> sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:
- Using and managing land sustainably;
  - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
  - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
  - Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
  - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
  - Protecting and improving the global environment.
- 3.8 In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity SEA theme.
- 3.9 The Dorset Biodiversity Strategy<sup>8</sup> identifies that Dorset is one of the richest counties for wildlife in England but has been subject to widespread declines in the semi-natural habitats and populations of rare and common species in the last 80 years, mainly as a result of human activity. The county contains 21 of the 27 UK broad habitat types, and of the 45 UK priority habitats, 32 occur in Dorset. Habitat Action Plans (HAP) were prepared for each of the priority habitats under the UK Biodiversity Programme, and in Dorset priority habitats represent approximately 12% of the county (excluding priority marine habitat). In addition to the UK priority habitats, the Dorset Biodiversity Partnership has also identified local priority habitats. Of the 1288 'species of conservation concern' identified in the UK Biodiversity Programme, 560 are identified as priority species and 33% of these species occur in Dorset. Species Action Plans (SAPs) or statements have been prepared for all priority species in the UK which set targets and a broad framework for action.
- 3.10 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies a strategic objective to '*protect and enhance the outstanding natural and built environment, including its landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity, and the local distinctiveness of places within the area*', further identifying that '*this will be the over-riding objective in those areas of the plan which are particularly sensitive to change*'. Within a chapter dedicated to the Environment and Climate Change, the plan provides Policies ENV1 (Landscape, Seascape and Sites of Geological Interest), ENV2 (Wildlife and Habitats) and ENV3 (Green Infrastructure Network) to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland area.

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<sup>7</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

<sup>8</sup> Dorset Biodiversity Partnership (2003) The Dorset Biodiversity Strategy [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/the\\_dorset\\_biodiversity\\_strategy.html](https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/the_dorset_biodiversity_strategy.html) [accessed 17/05/18]

# Baseline Summary

## Summary of current baseline

### European designated sites

3.11 The designated biodiversity within and surrounding the PNP area is depicted in **Figures 3.1 and 3.2**. There are no European designated sites within the PNP area; however, there are significant areas of land designated for its biodiversity value to the east and south of the plan area, particularly leading out to the coastal areas around the Isle of Purbeck and Poole. A number of European designated sites are in close proximity to the PNP area, as depicted in **Figure 3.2**, and development within the PNP area has the potential to lead to indirect effects. The pressures/threats and positive impacts for the designated sites<sup>9</sup> in closest proximity to the Plan area are summarised in **Table 3.1** below

**Table 3.1: JNCC<sup>10</sup> identified pressures/threats and positive impacts on European designated sites**

European designated site	Identified pressures/threats	Identified positive impacts
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acid rain (with modelling indicating average or minimum depositions from airborne SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> exceed the maximum critical load for acidity on at least part of the site)</li> <li>Pollution</li> </ul>	
Poole Harbour Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eutrophication</li> <li>Introduction/invasion of non-native animal species</li> </ul>	
Chesil Beach & The Fleet Ramsar	No factors have been identified as adversely affecting the site	
Dorset Heaths SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive non-native species</li> <li>Biocenotic evolution</li> <li>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</li> <li>Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>Grazing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> <li>Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>Grazing</li> <li>Improved access to the site</li> </ul>
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</li> <li>Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>Biocenotic evolution</li> <li>Invasive non-native species</li> <li>Grazing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to the site</li> <li>Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> <li>Modification of cultivation practices,</li> <li>Grazing</li> <li>Interpretative centres</li> </ul>
St Albans Head to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing</li> </ul>

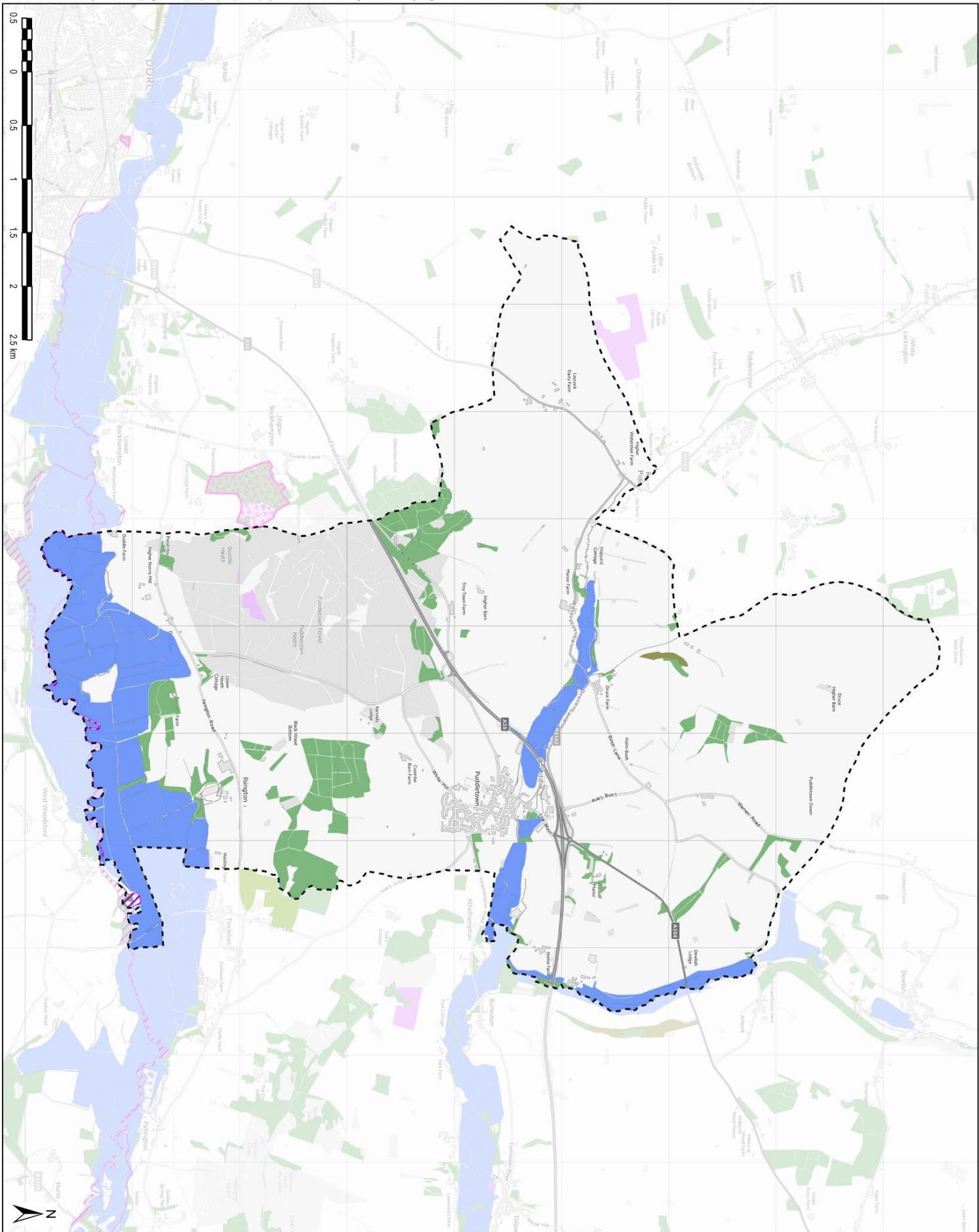
<sup>9</sup> JNCC provides detailed information for each European designated site, available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4> [accessed 21/05/18]

<sup>10</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (statutory adviser to UK Government and devolved administrations)



Durlston Head SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cultivation</li> <li>■ Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>■ Invasive non-native species</li> <li>■ Biocenotic evolution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use.</li> </ul>
Crookhill Brick Pit SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Biocenotic evolution</li> </ul>	
Chesil & The Fleet SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources</li> <li>■ Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>■ Invasive non-native species</li> <li>■ Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</li> <li>■ Changes in biotic conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Annual and perennial non-timber crops.</li> </ul>
Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Fertilisation</li> <li>■ Other ecosystem modifications</li> <li>■ Interspecific floral relations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improved access to the site</li> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Grazing</li> </ul>
West Dorset Alder Woods SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invasive non-native species</li> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</li> <li>■ Problematic native species</li> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Mowing/cutting of grassland</li> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> </ul>
Dorset Heathlands SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Invasive non-native species</li> <li>■ Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>■ Biocenotic evolution</li> <li>■ Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Forest and plantation management &amp; use</li> <li>■ Improved access to the site</li> <li>■ Interpretative centres</li> </ul>
Poole Harbour SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Exploration and extraction of oil or gas</li> <li>■ Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions</li> <li>■ Other human intrusions and disturbances</li> <li>■ Air pollution, air-borne pollutants</li> <li>■ Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</li> <li>■ Pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish)</li> <li>■ Urbanised areas, human habitation</li> <li>■ Discharges</li> <li>■ Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities</li> <li>■ Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mowing/Cutting of grassland</li> <li>■ Grazing</li> <li>■ Improved access to the site</li> <li>■ Interpretative centres</li> </ul>
Chesil Beach & The Fleet SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invasive non-native species</li> <li>■ Pollution to groundwater (point sources and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Modification of cultivation practices</li> <li>■ Improved access to the site</li> </ul>

- diffuse sources)
- Interspecific faunal relations
- Military use and civil unrest
- Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
- Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities
- Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
- Abiotic (slow) natural processes
- Improved access to the site
- Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture
- Interpretative centres



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ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

#### LEGEND

- Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Good Quality Semi-Improved Grassland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland Heathland
- Traditional Orchard

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Project Title  
**SEA FOR THE PUDDLETOWN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Client  
**PUDDLETOWN PARISH COUNCIL**

Drawing Title  
**BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS  
AND HABITATS**

Drawn	Checked	TS	Approved	Date
CN	AW	TS	TS	04/07/2018
AECOM Internal Project No.		Scale @ A3		
60571087		1:32,500		

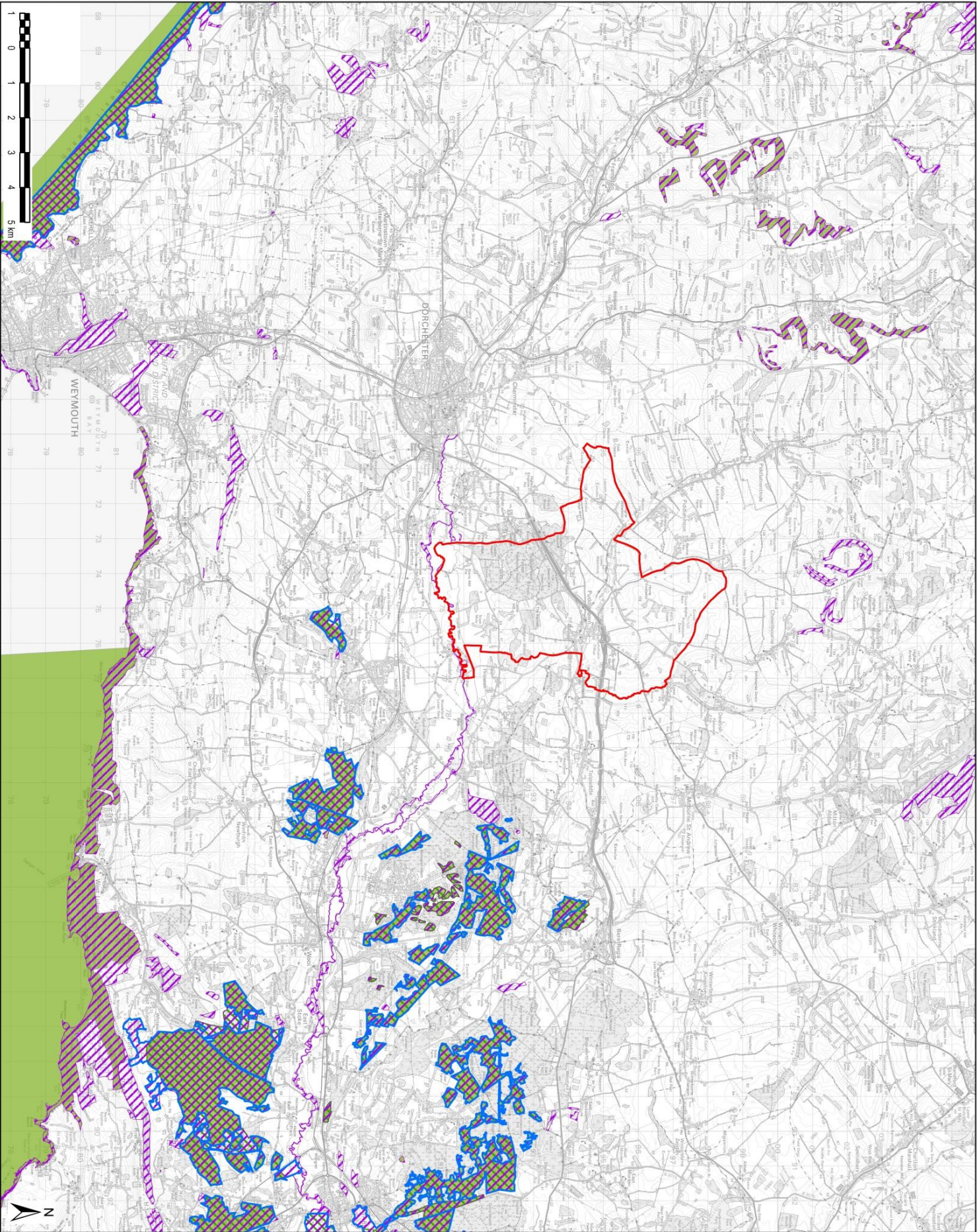
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FIGURE 3.1

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01





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**LEGEND**

- Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Ramsar Area
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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Purpose of Issue  
**DRAFT**

Client  
**PUDDLETOWN PARISH COUNCIL**

Project Title  
**SEA FOR THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title  
**EUROPEAN DESIGNATE BIODIVERSITY SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PLAN AREA**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
DN	JW	TS	05/07/2018
Project Reference No.		1:100,000	
60571087			

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Project Reference  
**60571087**

Revision  
**01**



## Nationally designated sites

- 3.12 The River Frome Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) runs along the southern border of the Plan area, and this is the only nationally designated site within the PNP area.<sup>11</sup> However, there are a significant number of SSSIs in close proximity, particularly in the east and south. The River Frome SSSI and the SSSIs in closest vicinity are explored below.<sup>12</sup>

### *River Frome SSSI*

- 3.13 The River Frome SSSI is a major chalk stream covering an area of over 150ha and overlapping with the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar. The majority of the component units are considered to be in an '*unfavourable-no change*' condition. There are species-rich plant communities and the site supports rare and scarce aquatic invertebrates, a characteristic assemblage of breeding riverside birds and a range of fish species. The River Frome is mostly fed by tributaries from the chalk of the South Wessex Downs but then drains into a geology of sands, gravels and clays below Dorchester. This gives rise to a chalk stream community which differs from the classic type found on the rivers Test and Itchen in Hampshire.
- 3.14 The PNP area falls within the identified River Frome SSSI Impact Risk Zone.<sup>13</sup> Residential, rural residential or rural non-residential developments are identified as categories with the potential for impacts on the River.

### *Black Hill Heath SSSI*

- 3.15 The Black Hill Heath SSSI covers an area of nearly 70ha, and overlaps with the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heaths SAC. The whole site is considered to be in an '*unfavourable – recovering*' condition. Blackhill forms an elevated ridge of Reading Beds and London Clay, overlain in part by plateau gravels, on the north-western edge of the Poole Basin. The south and west facing slopes support dry heathland grading through wet heath to bog and fringing wet woodland. Dry heath of different character covers the north-eastern slope. The site supports a variety of animals, and former gravel workings occur on part of the ridge top.

### *Cull-Peppers Dish SSSI*

- 3.16 The site, in an area of less than 1ha, covers a single large subsistence doline which is the largest karst feature on the Bryants Puddle heathland. It is formed in Tertiary and Quaternary sands overlying the Chalk, and provides an example of a landscape feature formed by the extensive subsurface solution of the Chalk of southern England. The whole site is considered to be in a '*favourable*' condition.

### *Oakers Wood SSSI*

- 3.17 At over 45ha, Oakers Wood lies on a narrow area of Reading Beds and London Clays between the Frome and Piddle Valleys. It is predominantly acid oak woodland but contains hazel coppice and stands of birch and ash. Although only a small part has a continuous history of woodland cover, the flora of Oakers Wood has many elements typical of Ancient Woodland including some uncommon species. It also has a rich fauna. The whole site is considered to be in an '*unfavourable – recovering*' condition.

### *Oakers Bog SSSI*

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<sup>11</sup> Natural England (2018) Magic Map Application [online] available at: <http://magic.gov.uk/> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>12</sup> Natural England – Search for designated site details [online] <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx> [accessed 22/05/18]

<sup>13</sup> Natural England (2018) Magic Map Application [online] available at: <http://magic.gov.uk/> [accessed 02/07/18]

- 3.18 Oakers Bog, at over 30ha, is a relatively large and undamaged valley mire near the western extremity of the Poole Basin with its highly acidic sands and clays. At its edges there is gradation to wet and then dry heathland communities, though most of the latter have been lost to the extensive forestry plantations on the original Bryants Puddle Heath. The site has a rich assemblage of heathland plants and animals. There is also considerable geological interest at the solution pits of Rims Moor and Oakers dolines where an unusually deep accumulation of peat provides a valuable palynological record. The majority of the site is considered to be in an *'unfavourable – recovering'* condition.

#### **Turners Puddle Heath SSSI**

- 3.19 This extensive area (around 390ha) of lowland heathland lies between the rivers Piddle and Frome. It has developed on infertile soils derived from Bagshot sands and clays overlain locally with plateau gravels. A small area of heath also occurs on Reading Beds. The site contains one of the largest continuous heathland tracts remaining in Dorset although the heath has been fragmented by forestry plantation and military activity. Many of the typical Dorset heathland species that have become nationally rare through heathland loss are well represented. The majority of the site is considered to be in an *'unfavourable – recovering'* condition.

#### **Winfrith Heath SSSI**

- 3.20 Winfrith Heath is a substantial and varied tract of heathland (around 285ha) near the western limit of the Dorset Heaths natural area. Here a small chalk stream (Tadnoll Brook) has cut through early Eocene-aged sands and clays belonging to the Bagshot Beds. A range of heath and mire communities have developed on the valley sides and unimproved wet pastureland occurs on the valley floor. The site is important both for its heath and mire plant communities and for its wet grasslands (these habitats have declined substantially throughout Britain) and for a number of rare or scarce species associated with these habitats. The majority of the site is considered to be in a *'favourable'* condition; however, smaller areas of the site are considered to be in an *'unfavourable – declining'* (around 7.5ha) and *'unfavourable – no change'* (around 19.5ha) condition.

#### **Warmwell Heath SSSI**

- 3.21 The Warmwell Heath site is over 55ha and represents one of the most westerly blocks of Dorset heathland. It has a long history of isolation which is of interest for the study of habitat fragmentation and the resulting faunal and floral richness. The heathland lies over the acidic Bagshot Beds and Plateau Gravels of the Poole Basin, with alluvial deposits and peat predominant within the adjacent river valley. The area supports a range of heathland habitats from dry heath to bog. Associated with the heathland are peripheral areas of woodland, carr and swamp vegetation. The majority of the site is considered to be in an *'unfavourable – recovering'* condition; however, smaller areas of the site are considered to be in an *'unfavourable – declining'* (around 1.2ha) and *'unfavourable – no change'* (around 5.28ha) condition.

## Locally designated sites

- 3.22 Thorncombe Wood Local Nature Reserve is located in the south west just adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary and connected to Puddletown Forest.<sup>14</sup> The site incorporates an area of around 25ha of deciduous and mixed woodland and Black Heath. There is great habitat diversity with mature oak, sweet chestnut, beech and mixed woodland giving way to birch and open areas of bracken and fragments of heath.<sup>15</sup>
- 3.23 The PNP area also includes seven Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) which are areas of local wildlife importance.<sup>16</sup> The sites are:
- Hills Coppice – 7.7ha site of ash/hazel coppice with good ground flora;
  - Home Eweleaze – 2.3ha site consisting of a west-facing chalk bank;
  - Stafford Park Copse – 4.1ha site of mixed plantation and semi-natural woodland;
  - Yellowham Wood – 49.8ha site that lies partly within the PNP area, it is a large mainly deciduous woodland with a rich flora and butterfly populations;
  - Ilsington Wood – 82.2ha site that lies partly within the PNP area, it is a very large woodland, which is mostly deciduous with a rich ground flora;
  - Puddletown Forest – 26.1ha site of areas of open managed heathland;
  - Duddle Heath – 16.6ha site, a large area of heathland restoration; and
  - Druce Watermeadows – 7.7ha site of old watermeadows with a relic flora.
- 3.24 There are a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within the PNP area. BAP Priority Habitats include:
- Grassland – Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh in the north of the PNP area and around the River Frome in the south.
  - Heathland – an area of Lowland Heathland is located in Puddletown Forest.
  - Woodland – There are areas of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, Replanted Woodland, Deciduous Woodland, and Woodpasture and Parkland located all over the Plan area, with particular concentrations of Ancient Woodland and Deciduous Woodland in and around Ilsington Wood. An area of Woodpasture and Parkland is also located just east of the Puddletown settlement area, and lies partially within the PNP area.

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<sup>14</sup> Natural England (2018) Magic Map Application [online] available at: <http://magic.gov.uk/> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>15</sup> Natural England – Search for designated site details [online] <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx> [accessed 22/05/18]

<sup>16</sup> West Dorset District Council (2018) Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report



## Summary of future baseline

- 3.25 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. This has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats. Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within decision making, as observed in a number of policies outlined in the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan 2011-2031 and a range of local initiatives seeking to enhance ecological networks in the wider area.
- 3.26 The PNP presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. Planning for growth can ensure that suitable mitigation measures (for example the provision of recreational space to minimise residents travelling outside of the plan area to access sensitive sites for recreational purposes) are in place to alleviate the pressures of growth on biodiversity. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but also to support the connections between them. It will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised both within the PNP area and in the surrounding areas.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- Whilst there are no European sites within the PNP area, there are significant areas of land designated at the European and national level for biodiversity values in the wider area.
- The nationally designated River Frome SSSI is located along the southern border of the PNP area.
- The entirety of the PNP area is located within a residential, rural residential or rural non-residential Impact Risk Zone for one more of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) surrounding the Plan area.
- Thorncombe Wood Local Nature Reserve is located in the south west just adjacent to the Plan area boundary and connected to Puddletown Forest.
- The integrity of the Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats present both in and around the PNP area should be preserved and protected in order to prevent the loss, fragmentation and deterioration of ecological values.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the integrity and continued improvements to the status of European designated sites of significance outside of the PNP area?</li><li>• Support the status of nationally designated sites within and outside of the PNP area? In particular, support the integrity and ecological quality of the River Frome SSSI?</li><li>• Support the status of the locally designated Thorncombe Wood adjacent to the Plan area?</li><li>• Protect and enhance Priority Habitats, and the habitats of Priority Species?</li><li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li><li>• Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?</li><li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li></ul>

## 4. Climate Change

### Focus of Theme

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

### Policy Context

4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, identified below<sup>17</sup>:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

4.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>18</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 6 'Protecting and improving the global environment', Goal 4 'A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought' and Goal 7 'Mitigating and adapting to climate change' directly relate to the Climate Change SEA theme.

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<sup>17</sup> GOV.UK (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>18</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

- 4.3 The UK Climate Change Act<sup>19</sup> was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.
- 4.4 The Climate Change Act includes the following:
- The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
  - Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
  - The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page.<sup>20</sup>
- 4.5 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
  - There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>21</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
    - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
    - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
    - Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
    - Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
    - Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in GHG emissions and reduce congestion.
  - Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
  - Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

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<sup>19</sup> GOV.UK (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 [online] available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents?sm\\_au=iVVt4Hr6tbignqNi](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents?sm_au=iVVt4Hr6tbignqNi) [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>20</sup> Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK Adaptation Policy [online] available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>21</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

- 4.6 The Flood and Water Management Act<sup>22</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:
- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
  - Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
  - Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
  - Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
  - Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).<sup>23</sup>
- 4.7 Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.<sup>24</sup> This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.
- 4.8 At the local level, The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies strategic objectives to '*reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, both by minimising the potential impacts and by adapting to those that are inevitable*' identifying that '*this will be the over-riding objective in those areas of the plan which are at highest risk*', and '*provide greater opportunities to reduce car use; improve safety; ensure convenient and appropriate public transport services; and seek greater network efficiency for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians*'. Within a chapter dedicated to the Environment and Climate Change, and a chapter on Community Needs and Infrastructure, the plan provides the following policies which relate to the Climate Change SEA theme:
- ENV2 (Wildlife and Habitats)
  - ENV3 (Green Infrastructure Network)
  - ENV5 (Flood Risk)
  - ENV6 (Local Flood Alleviation Schemes)
  - ENV7 (Coastal Erosion and Land Instability)
  - ENV8 (Agricultural Land and Farming Resilience)
  - ENV9 (Pollution and Contaminated Land)
  - ENV11 (The Pattern of Streets and Spaces)
  - ENV13 (Achieving High Levels of Environmental Performance)
  - ENV16 (Amenity)
  - COM7 (Creating a Safe and Efficient Transport Network)
  - COM8 (Transport Interchanges and Community Travel Exchanges)
  - COM11 (Renewable Energy Development)
- 4.9 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy<sup>25</sup> identifies a vision '*for the people of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole to work together to improve energy efficiency in our homes, communities and workplaces and cut our carbon emissions*', with the following targets:

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<sup>22</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>23</sup> The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

<sup>24</sup> CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDS – making it happen [online] available at: [https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free\\_publications/Planning\\_for\\_SuDS\\_ma.aspx](https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx) [accessed 18/05/18]

- To achieve a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020, relative to 2005, in line with national targets.
- To seek to eliminate fuel poverty in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by 2016.
- To work in partnership to achieve an average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating of 65-70 in the housing stock by 2016.
- To ensure that there will be no dwelling with a SAP rating of 35 or less in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by 2016.

4.10 The 2009 West Dorset Climate Change Strategy<sup>26</sup> (in line with the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy and Climate Change Act 2008) set a target of a 30% reduction in total carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2020, as well as the target to produce a Comprehensive Action Plan to prepare for the risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate change by 2011. Actions are outlined for each of the identified 10 priorities, including (but not limited to):

- Adopting the right planning policies – based on sound evidence and covering: design standards; renewable and low carbon energy supplies; floodrisk, SuDS and water conservation; green infrastructure; reducing the need to travel; provision for walking, cycling and public transport; and adapting to climate change.
- Increasing sustainable travel options available – promoting and expanding park and ride services and making cycling a safer and more attractive option.
- Reducing vulnerability to climate change – supporting and extending the Environment Agency Flood Warden Scheme and providing sandbags in case of emergency, producing emergency plans, and investigating the feasibility of creating wetlands in the main river catchments

4.11 The West Dorset Local Energy Plan 2011<sup>27</sup> further explores how the West Dorset Partnership and West Dorset District Council can contribute towards achieving the targets set within the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Act 2008, with a number of recommendations identified.

4.12 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy (2013)<sup>28</sup> promotes a common awareness of the latest situation (in relation to renewable energy in the area) and provides an understanding of potential local renewable energy resources. The Strategy identifies the target of at least 15% of Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole's energy needs to be met from renewable sources by 2020. To reflect the expectation that around 7.5% of this will be delivered via renewable energy resources considered by Government as 'national' resources, regardless of local action, the Strategy identifies a secondary target of a minimum of 7.5% of Dorset's energy needs to be met from local renewable energy resources (roughly 1200GWh per year powering

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<sup>25</sup> Centre for Sustainable Energy (2009) Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/214874/The-Bournemouth-Dorset-and-Poole-Energy-Efficiency-Strategy/pdf/Bournemouth\\_Dorset\\_and\\_Poole\\_Energy\\_Efficiency\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/214874/The-Bournemouth-Dorset-and-Poole-Energy-Efficiency-Strategy/pdf/Bournemouth_Dorset_and_Poole_Energy_Efficiency_Strategy.pdf) [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>26</sup> West Dorset Partnership (2009) West Dorset Climate Change Strategy: a local framework for action [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/138061/West-Dorset-Climate-Change-Strategy-2009/pdf/West\\_Dorset\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Strategy\\_2009\\_aug\\_on.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/138061/West-Dorset-Climate-Change-Strategy-2009/pdf/West_Dorset_Climate_Change_Strategy_2009_aug_on.pdf) [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>27</sup> Regen SW (2011) West Dorset Local Energy Plan [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/174609/West-Dorset-Local-Energy-Plan/pdf/Final\\_West\\_Dorset\\_report\\_230311.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/174609/West-Dorset-Local-Energy-Plan/pdf/Final_West_Dorset_report_230311.pdf) [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>28</sup> Dorset Energy Group (2013) Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/environment-and-sustainability/ClimateChangeandCarbonReduction/Documents/BournemouthDorsetandPooleRenewableEnergyStrategyto2020.pdf> [accessed 18/05/18]

250,000 homes or heating 85,000 homes). The strategy outlines strategic actions across six priority areas for action, which are necessary to realise Dorset's renewable energy potential, including (but not limited to):

- Preparing for forthcoming changes in the planning system, which may present new opportunities and challenges in the development of renewable energy;
- Developing local energy plans and/or other forms of mapping for identifying the renewable energy opportunities across Dorset;
- Improving information about energy use and carbon reduction on planning applications;
- Exploring opportunities for local authority planners to facilitate district heating networks;
- Developing an up to date resource for signposting for information and legislation for use by planners, members, developers, Parish and Town Councils and local communities;
- Providing objective information to the public, planning officers and councillors about the pros and cons of renewable energy technologies; and
- Raising awareness amongst rural landowners of the opportunities for renewable energy technologies and energy crops.

4.13 The West Dorset Strategic Flood Risk Assessment<sup>29</sup> (SFRA) was produced as part of the evidence base for the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan, and aims to map all forms of flood risk and use this evidence in regards to locating new development (primarily in low flood risk areas). It allows the planning authority to; prepare appropriate policies for the management of flood risk; inform the Local Plan SA when considering options and in the preparation of strategic land use policies; identify the level of detail required for site-specific Flood Risk Assessments; and determine the acceptability of flood risk in relation to emergency planning capability. The SFRA informs the site selection process for future development sites and provides recommendations for policies to deal with non-allocated sites.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Contribution to Climate Change

4.14 In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that West Dorset District has had consistently higher per capita emissions total than that of both the South West of England and England as a whole since 2005 (see **Table 4.1** below). The transport sector is also identified as the biggest contributor to these emissions.

**Table 4.1: Per capita local CO<sub>2</sub> emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors<sup>30</sup>**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

<sup>29</sup> Halcrow Group Ltd (2008) West Dorset District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework Level 1 [online] available from: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/e/West\\_Dorset\\_District\\_Council\\_SFRA\\_Full.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/e/West_Dorset_District_Council_SFRA_Full.pdf) [accessed 22/05/18]

<sup>30</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates> [accessed 22/05/18]



## West Dorset

Industrial and Commercial (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3
Domestic (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.5
Transport (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
Total per capita (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.0	7.5	7.8	7.1	7.3

## South West

Industrial and Commercial (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.2
Domestic (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.2
Transport (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6
Total per capita (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.2	6.4	5.8	6.1

## England

Industrial and Commercial (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.4
Domestic (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.2
Transport (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
Total per capita (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.1	6.3	5.7	6.0

- 4.15 In 2015, West Dorset consumed a total of 2,292.9GWh (Gigawatt hours) of energy from all fuels. The largest consuming sector in 2015 in West Dorset was the transport sector, consuming around 42% of the total figure. The total energy consumed in West Dorset in 2015 has reduced by around 4.8% from 2010 levels; a greater reduction than achieved at the regional level (3.68%).

This has contributed to an overall reduction of 5.48% of energy consumed from all fuels in England since 2010.<sup>31</sup>

- 4.16 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy to 2020<sup>32</sup> identifies that current renewable energy generation capacity (electricity and heat) in Dorset is estimated at 146GWh (only 0.95% of total energy demand). The assessment of potential local renewable energy resources in Dorset indicates that using a combination of resources and technologies and assuming a contribution from 'national' renewable energy installations, that a 15% target could be achieved in Dorset.
- 4.17 In 2005 Dorset agreed to a target of 64-84 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity generating capacity to be online by 2010. In 2011 the installed capacity was identified as 19.2 MW, 75% of which is generated from landfill gas. However, following this assessment, a number of solar photovoltaic schemes were undertaken, giving Dorset, as of February 2012, an estimated current installed capacity of 36.67 MW of electricity generation.
- 4.18 In 2011, a total of 302 renewable heat installations were identified; the majority of the schemes are solar thermal installations, although the 39 biomass projects contribute most in terms of installed capacity.
- 4.19 Dorset's total energy demand is estimated to be 15,904 GWh by 2020 (including Bournemouth and Poole). For Dorset to generate 15% of this total energy demand from renewable sources will require an estimated 2,386 GWh to be generated in the area from renewable electricity or heat installations by 2020. As current generation is estimated at 146 GWh, this presents a significant challenge for the area.

## Potential effects of climate change

- 4.20 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>33</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.21 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South West by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>34</sup> are likely to be as follows:
- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperatures is 2.1°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.7°C
  - The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 17% and summer mean precipitation is -20%
- 4.22 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the PNP area. These include:

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<sup>31</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2017) Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics: 2005-2015 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level> [accessed 20/06/18]

<sup>32</sup> Dorset Energy Group (2013) Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/environment-and-sustainability/ClimateChangeandCarbonReduction/Documents/BournemouthDorsetandPooleRenewableEnergyStrategyto2020.pdf> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>33</sup> Data released 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21684> [accessed 22/05/18]

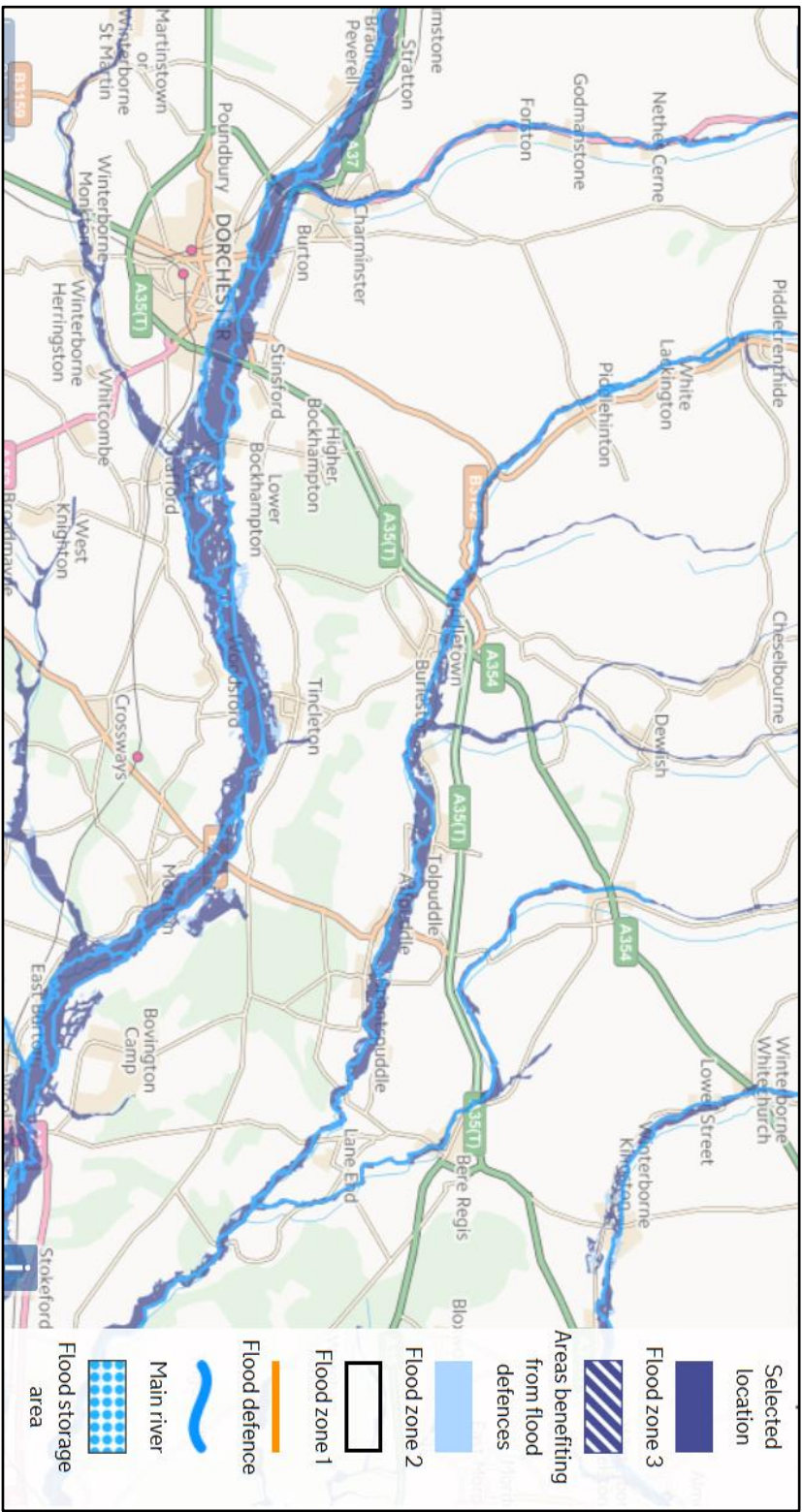
<sup>34</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) South West 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23687?emission=medium> [accessed 22/05/18]

- Effects on water resources from climate change
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers
- A need to upgrade flood defences
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution
- Increased demand for air-conditioning
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature
- Flooding of roads

## Flood Risk

- 4.23 The areas at highest risk of flooding in the PNP area are largely concentrated around the river corridors of the Frome and Piddle, as depicted in **Figure 4.1** below.

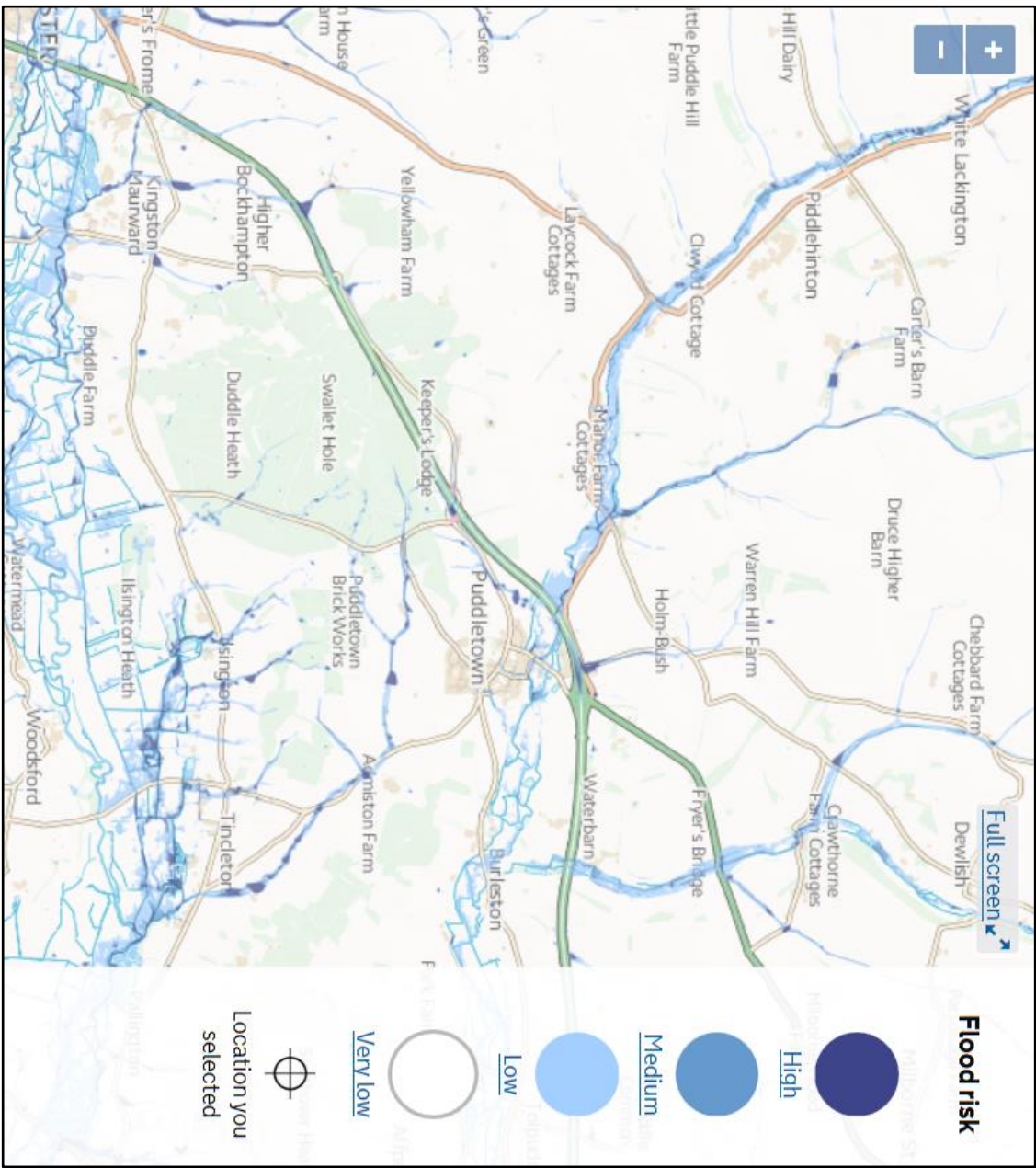
**Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area** <sup>35</sup>



- 4.24 The river corridors are in Flood Zone 3, showing that there is a 1% (1 in 100) or greater chance of flooding happening each year.
- 4.25 Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the PNP area. Again, this is largely concentrated around the river corridors in the Plan area, as depicted in **Figure 4.2** below.

<sup>35</sup> Environment Agency (2018) Flood Map for Planning [online] available at: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/> [accessed 22/05/18]

**Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area**





## Summary of future baseline

- 4.26 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the PNP area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter, and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.27 In terms of climate change contribution, GHG emissions may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. There is also a substantial need for renewable energy development in Dorset, which Local and Neighbourhood Planning can contribute to delivering. However, increases in the built footprint of the PNP area would contribute to increases in the levels of GHG emissions.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- Any increase in the built footprint of the PNP area (associated with the delivery of any new housing or employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- The transport sector is identified as the greatest consumer of energy and the biggest contributor to GHG emissions in the wider District.
- There is significant scope for renewable energy development to increase the renewable energy capacity of Dorset.
- There are areas at risk of flooding (fluvial and surface water flooding) within the PNP area.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>• Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Improve and extend green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>• Sustainably manage water run-off?</li> <li>• Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area?</li> </ul>

## 5. Landscape and Historic Environment

### Focus of Theme

- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Setting of cultural heritage assets
- Archaeological assets

### Policy Context

5.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an *'irreplaceable resource'* that should be conserved in a *'manner appropriate to their significance'*, taking account of *'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits'* of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop *'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'*.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt *'proactive strategies'* to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

5.2 Additionally, the National Planning Policy Guidance states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, *'about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale'* and *'about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions'*.

5.3 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>36</sup> directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

5.4 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England<sup>37</sup> sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

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<sup>36</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

<sup>37</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx) [accessed 18/05/18]



- 5.5 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies a strategic objective to '*achieve high quality and sustainability in design, reflecting local character and distinctiveness of the area*'. Within a chapter dedicated to the Environment and Climate Change, the plan provides Policies ENV1 (Landscape, Seascape and Sites of Geological Interest), ENV3 (Green Infrastructure Network), ENV4 (Heritage Assets), ENV10 (The Landscape and Townscape Setting), ENV11 (The Pattern of Streets and Spaces) and ENV12 (The Design and Positioning of Buildings) to protect and enhance landscapes, townscapes and the historic environment (including their settings) in the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland area.
- 5.6 As part of the wider Dorset Cultural Strategy, the Dorset Heritage Strategy<sup>38</sup> has a vision that '*all the assets should be known, made accessible to a wide range of users, enjoyed in a responsible and sustainable manner and passed on intact to future generations. Dorset's heritage should inform, stimulate and enhance people's lives and be a catalyst to the regeneration of places and communities*'. The Plan identifies the following six objectives:
- Identification – to identify, catalogue and record those elements of the heritage which combine to provide our essential sense of time and place.
  - Conservation – to ensure that those items or physical heritage assets which are of such quality that they contribute to our current knowledge and enjoyment of the past are conserved and passed on to succeeding generations in at least as good a condition as they were passed to us.
  - Education and interpretation – to provide high quality information and education facilities to promote a wide understanding, appreciation and empathy with articles and physical elements which represent our heritage.
  - Management – to promote sensitive stewardship of the large range of natural and man-made heritage assets in ways which ensure the preservation of their quality and diversity.
  - Access – To ensure that all who wish to have physical or intellectual access to heritage items, areas or buildings are able to do so consistent with the conservation objectives.
  - Community involvement – to encourage and support local organisations concerned with protection of the heritage.
- 5.7 The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan<sup>39</sup> seeks to work towards a future in which:
- Local people and visitors are inspired by the AONB landscape and are actively involved in enjoying and caring for it;
  - The character, beauty and diversity of the AONB landscape are enhanced, with tranquil areas and unspoilt panoramic views;
  - The landscape is carefully managed to protect, enhance and make best use of the natural resources and services it provides and to ensure that these are undiminished for future generations;
  - Wildlife in the AONB thrives, with large, well-connected habitats supporting more viable species populations;
  - The coastline of the AONB, which is a World Heritage Site, is valued and enjoyed, retaining its natural undeveloped character and with a thriving marine environment;

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<sup>38</sup> Dorset County Council et al (no date) Dorset Heritage Strategy [online] available at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/f/4/HeritageStrategyMain.pdf> [accessed 21/05/18]

<sup>39</sup> Dorset AONB Partnership (2014) Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A Framework for the Future [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/199128/AONB-Management-Plan-2014-2019/pdf/AONB\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2014.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/199128/AONB-Management-Plan-2014-2019/pdf/AONB_Management_Plan_2014.pdf) [accessed 21/05/18]

- Greater understanding of the historic environment of the AONB has revealed much about the evolution of the landscape, and a higher value is placed on caring for heritage and culture;
- A diverse farming and forestry sector thrives in the AONB, underpinning the sustainable management of landscape, natural resources, wildlife and heritage;
- Communities in the AONB enjoy sustainable economic and social prosperity, with better service provision and a high quality of life, benefiting from, shaping decisions about, and contributing to the area's outstanding environmental quality;
- The AONB is able to adapt to the changing climate and AONB management actively contributes to efforts to mitigate further climate change;
- All people are equally able to access the AONB in a sustainable way, enjoying the recreational and lifelong learning opportunities it has to offer and benefits to wellbeing and high quality local products that a sensitively farmed and managed landscape can provide; and
- The AONB's management is an inspirational example to others.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Landscape Baseline

##### **National Landscape Designations**

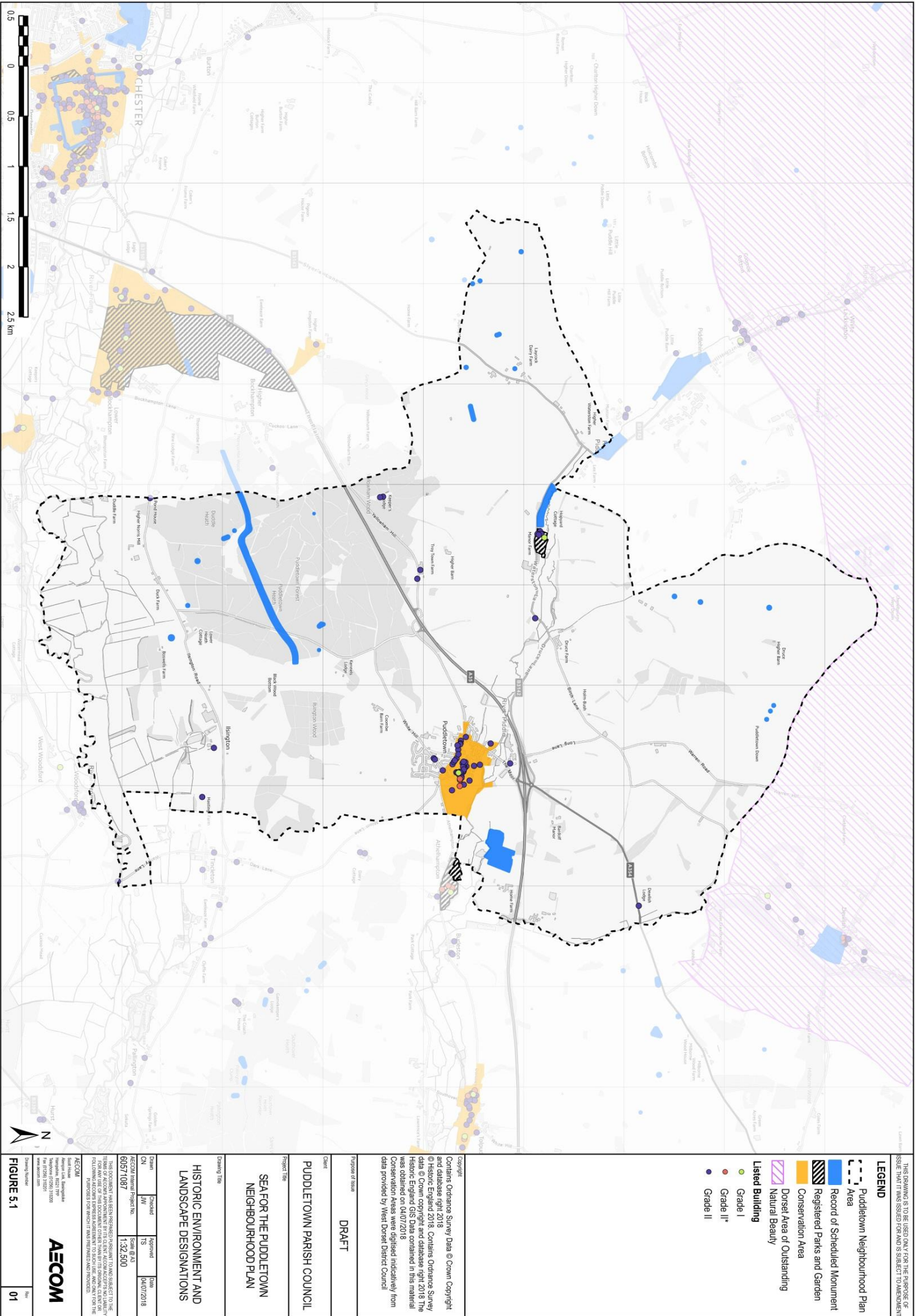
- 5.8 The PNP area lies adjacent to the Dorset AONB (see **Figure 5.1**) which was designated in 1959 and is the fifth largest AONB in the country. It covers 1,129km<sup>2</sup> (approximately 42% of the county) stretching from Lyme Regis in the west, along the coast to Poole Harbour in the east, and north to Hambledon Hill near Blandford Forum. The Dorset AONB has approximately 70,000 people living within it and 1.35 million people living within 20 miles of the boundary. Significant and growing urban populations adjacent to the AONB at Dorchester, Weymouth, Yeovil, Taunton and the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation look to the AONB as an area for leisure and recreation. The AONB also has links to the marine environment with harbour, estuarine and intertidal areas within the boundary; activities within these areas as well as out at sea can therefore have significant implications for the character and qualities of the AONB. Key challenges for the Dorset AONB include; environmental change; economic downturn and reduced public finance; and development pressure.
- 5.9 The PNP area lies within the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area (NCA).<sup>40</sup> The NCA forms the south-western limb of England's Cretaceous Chalk outcrop and lies across the counties of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. The NCA has a strong rural and agricultural character, and the area's outstanding landscape is recognised by the designation of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), which cover 78% of the NCA. The signature chalk downland of the area is also internationally recognised in three Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and around 3% of the NCA is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are three Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) for this NCA:
- SEO 1: Plan for and manage changes in the agricultural landscape by encouraging and supporting business choices that balance food production with protecting soils and water,

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<sup>40</sup> Natural England (2013) National Character Area Profile 134: Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5846213517639680?category=587130> [accessed 20/06/18]

enhancing ecosystems (particularly those associated with semi-natural grasslands) and restoring ecosystem services.

- SEO 2: Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA, including the rich assemblage of settlement and field patterns, heritage features (including prehistoric assets), and the patterns of woodland, vegetation and geodiversity that give the NCA its sense of place
- SEO 3: Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Aim to heighten people's enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the NCA, as well as their ability to take positive, informed action to enjoy and conserve their surroundings.





### **Local Landscape Baseline**

5.10 The West Dorset Landscape Character Assessment<sup>41</sup> identifies the following 15 Landscape Character Types in the wider District:

- Limestone Hills
- Valley Pasture
- Clay Vale
- Rolling Vales
- Chalk / Ridge Escarpment
- Chalk Valley and Downland
- Open Chalk Downland
- Ridge and Vale
- Undulating River Valley
- Wooded Hills
- Clay Valley
- Coastal Grassland
- Heath Forest Mosaic
- Heath Farmland Mosaic
- Urban

5.11 These character types are found across 35 identified Landscape Character Areas, and the PNP area lies within the Cerne and Piddle Valleys and Chalk Downland Landscape Character Area. The area is summarised as follows:

*'The flat-bottomed River Piddle Valley and its associated pattern of deep branching valleys and dry coombes incise the upstanding hills of the chalk downland. In the northern parts of the valleys, the field pattern appears piecemeal suggesting enclosure by individuals or local communities. In contrast, the field pattern to the south appears more organised suggesting enclosure of large areas or manors by powerful tenants or landlords'.*

5.12 Landscape characteristics of this area are identified as:

- Open and expansive chalk downland incised by flat-bottomed valleys and associated branching chalk streams and dry coombes;
- Regular pattern of large-scale arable fields, with trimmed hazel hedgerow boundaries at lower elevations and post and wire fencing at higher elevations offering long distance views;
- Many prehistoric monuments such as barrows and prehistoric field systems have survived and are often visible as humps along the skyline;
- Occasional small regular native woodlands and tree groups associated with built form and corners of fields, or functioning as shelterbelts;
- On the south facing dry slopes, surviving patches of semi-natural chalk habitat support a rich diversity of grassland, scrub and woodland including relic hazel coppice. Soil creep is often visible across the steep valley sides;
- Small-scale pattern of pasture fields within the valley floor. The fertile alluvial soils support a diversity of vegetation and wet grazing pasture enclosed by thick, species rich hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. Historic water meadows are evident as subtle field patterns and some water meadow channels survive;

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<sup>41</sup> West Dorset District Council (2009) West Dorset Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/m/r/Landscape\\_Character\\_Assessment\\_February\\_2009.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/m/r/Landscape_Character_Assessment_February_2009.pdf) [accessed 20/06/18]

- Linear woods of riparian species such as willow and alder follow watercourses flanked by wet sedge and rush;
- The A35 road corridor is a major feature in this open landscape; and
- Lanes have a rural character with small humped bridges, and traditional fingerpost signs. Straight Roman roads radiate from nearby Dorchester.

5.13 Detrimental features within the landscape are identified as:

- The A35 corridor has localised major impact within this open landscape. The majority of the road in this area is dual carriageway with the associated grade separated junctions and substantial, very angular cuttings. The associated noise and lighting also add to the impact;
- Pylons and masts are visually prominent creating visual clutter and interrupting the characteristic open views;
- Unsympathetic Laylandii and conifer planting has a detrimental impact on landscape character;
- A growth in the use of pastures for horse grazing is changing the rural character of settlement edges;
- Historic loss of traditional orchards around settlements; and
- Some traditional barns and farm buildings are in a poor state of repair.

## Historic Environment Baseline

5.14 There are 19 Scheduled Monuments in the PNP area, identified in **Table 5.1** below. The table identifies that 5 of these assets are listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register<sup>42</sup>; the condition of these 5 assets is identified as 'extensive significant problems' with a 'declining' trend and a principal vulnerability of arable ploughing.

**Table 5.1: Scheduled Monuments in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area**

Scheduled Monument	Identified as 'At Risk'?
Bowl barrow 615m north east of Hardy's Birthplace	No
Three bowl barrows on Puddletown Heath, 550m south west of Beacon Corner	No
Bowl barrow on Puddletown Heath, 800m south west of Coombe Barn	No
Roman road over Thorncombe Wood and Black Heath	No
The Rainbarrows, a group of three bowl barrows on Duddle Heath	No
Bowl barrow 450m north west of Duck Dairy House	No
Bowl barrow on Puddletown Heath, 400m north east of Duck Dairy House	No
Round barrow north of Boswell's Plantation	No
Deserted village of Bardolfeston	No
Four bowl barrows at the eastern end of Waterston Ridge,	No

<sup>42</sup> Historic England (2018) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> [accessed 27/06/18]

490m south west and 500m south east of Ridge Farm

Two bowl barrows 320m south west of Laycock Dairy Farm	Yes
Bowl barrow 75m south east of Laycock Dairy Farm	No
Bowl barrow on Little Puddle Hill, 920m north west of Fidler's Green Farm	Yes
Medieval settlement immediately west of Waterston House	No
Two round barrows SW of Well House Cottage	Yes
Round barrow west of Druce Higher Barn	Yes
Three round barrows on Puddletown Down	Yes
Three bowl barrows at the western end of Waterston Ridge, 360m north west of Fidler's Green Farm	No
Medieval settlement of North Louvard	No

- 5.15 Further to this, Puddletown contains 58 of Listed Buildings (see **Figure 5.1**), predominantly concentrated within Puddletown village, and along the B3142 stretch to Piddlehinton; but also in Ilsington, Tincleton and around the edges of Puddletown Forest. The majority (53) of these are Grade II Listed Buildings, however Ilsington House, the Old Vicarage adjoining it, and No.8, The Square, are Grade II\*, and the Church of Saint Mary and Waterston Manor are both Listed Grade I.
- 5.16 At Lower Waterston in the east is also Waterston Manor Registered Park and Garden. Athelhampton Registered Park and Garden also lies partially within the PNP area in the east.
- 5.17 Puddletown lies within the Puddletown, Stinsford & Lower Bockhampton & Tolpuddle Conservation Area. The Conservation Area Appraisal<sup>43</sup> identifies that the key points of quality analysis for Puddletown are:
- A fine landscape setting, with undulating topography, an attractive river course, remnants of managed water meadows and mature trees;
  - Good clean edges to the settlement to the north, north-east and east;
  - Related to this, well defined entry points, particularly from the west and east, on the former A35;
  - A rich archaeological heritage, with a range of sites from Prehistoric barrows and cultivation remains, a Roman road, a Medieval settlement site, and Post-medieval vernacular buildings, industrial and farming structures and the earthworks and channels relating to water meadow management;
  - 39 Listed Building entries, including a Grade I church, three Grade II\* gentry houses, a strong underpinning of smaller cottages and substantial buildings relating to a major mid-Victorian development of a model farming estate;
  - Over a dozen unlisted buildings and building groups of character and/or group value;
  - Coherent groups of Listed and unlisted buildings, boundary walls, railings, trees and details, notably on the western part of High Street, Mill Street, The Square, the ancillary buildings of Ilsington House and The Green;

<sup>43</sup> West Dorset District Council (2007) Puddletown, Stinsford & Lower Bockhampton & Tolpuddle Conservation Area Appraisal [online] available at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning/planning-constraints/conservation-areas/west-dorset/pdfs/puddletown-stinsford-and-lower-bockhampton-and-tolpuddle-conservation-area-appraisal.pdf> [accessed 27/06/18]



- Consistent use of South Dorset limestone, cob, local brick clays, thatch and vernacular building details that given an overall unity to the village;
- Some good quality modern infill and building conversions that add to the sense of place and enhance the historic core; and
- Some good details, including shop fronts, doorways, walling and ironwork.

5.18 Further to this, it is also noted that there are some detrimental features, such as;

- Unsympathetic alterations to unlisted buildings of value;
- The loss of details such as chimney pots;
- Poles and wires around Mill Street and The Square;
- A shop front with inappropriate colours and materials;
- A boundary on High Street with potential for landscaping enhancement; and
- The intrusion of modern development into green space on Blandford Road.

5.19 There are also a number of Important Local Buildings identified through the Conservation Area Appraisal, not only do they contribute individually as attractive and interesting unlisted buildings, but they also contribute to the value of larger groups. They are as follows:

- |                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| ■ No. 3 High Street        | ■ Nos. 1-13 Mill Street  | ■ Home Farm's barns, sheds and grist and saw mill |
| ■ Puddletown House         | ■ No.16 Mill Street  | ■ Myrtle Cottage                                  |
| ■ Nos. 27-41 High Street   | ■ Nos. 18 and 20 Mill Street                                   | ■ The K6 telephone box                            |
| ■ Nos. 38a-46b High Street | ■ Nos. 1 and 2 Styles Lane                                     |   |
| ■ No. 4-8 The Green        | ■ The cob and pantilled boundary wall adj. to No.3 Styles Lane |   |
| ■ No.1 The Square          |  |   |

## Summary of future baseline

5.20 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the PNP area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. However, new development also has the potential to enhance the historic setting of the town and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance, educating both local residents and visitors.

5.21 New development also has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets; for example through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- The PNP area lies within NCA 134: Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase; which is identified for having a strong rural and agricultural character. Further development has the potential to impact upon this character.
- The Dorset AONB lies adjacent to the PNP area, and development in the PNP area could impact upon landscape character and viewpoints from the AONB.
- Development has the potential to affect the integrity of heritage assets and their settings, both positively and negatively.

- There are designated heritage assets within the PNP area which are identified by Historic England as 'at risk'.
- Development within the PNP area has the potential to affect, both positively and negatively; the Puddletown, Stinsford & Lower Bockhampton & Tolpuddle Conservation Area.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the historic environment and archaeological assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the Puddletown, Stinsford &amp; Lower Bockhampton &amp; Tolpuddle Conservation Area?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the Dorset AONB?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape character?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance key landscape and townscape features?</li> </ul>

## 6. Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of Theme

- Soil resources
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

### Policy Context

6.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>44</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

6.2 The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention to establish a '*framework for integrated catchment management*' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD, namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

6.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being '*adversely affected*' by the presence of '*unacceptable levels*' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate '*despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate*'.
- Encourage the effective use of land through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, '*provided that this is not of high environmental value*'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to '*set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances*'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.

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<sup>44</sup> European Commission (2006) Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm) [accessed 18/05/18]

- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.
- 6.4 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>45</sup> directly relates to the land, soil and water resources SEA theme.
- 6.5 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England<sup>46</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>47</sup>, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England<sup>48</sup> recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.
- 6.6 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan provides Policies ENV8 (Agricultural Land and Farming Resilience), ENV9 (Pollution and Contaminated Land) and ENV15 (Efficient and Appropriate Use of Land) which are relevant to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Soil resources

- 6.7 A belt of land surrounding Puddletown is graded agricultural land. Much of this belt in the south is Grade 2 best and most versatile agricultural land and an area of Grade 1 best and most versatile land is in the south east. The remainder of the belt is Graded 3a and 3b, interspersed with further areas of Grade 2 in the east and west. This belt however is only immediately adjacent to the settlement area in the north (Grades 3a and 3b north of High Street and largely concentrated west of Blandford Road / The Moor) and in the south (Grade 2) below White Hill. The land south of the PNP area is largely Grade 1 and 2 best and most versatile agricultural land. Overall therefore it is considered that there is a strong presence of the highest quality agricultural land within, and surrounding the PNP area.

#### Water Resources

- 6.8 Water resources (water supply and sewerage services) in the PNP area are managed by Wessex Water, who supply around 340 million litres of water a day to 1.3 million people and nearly 50,000 businesses across areas in the south west including; Dorchester, Poole, Yeovil, Taunton,

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<sup>45</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

<sup>46</sup> DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>47</sup> DEFRA (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228861/8230.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228861/8230.pdf) [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>48</sup> DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf) [accessed 18/05/18]

Bridgwater, Salisbury, Chippenham and Bath. The Draft Water Resources Management Plan<sup>49</sup> identifies that there is access to enough water to meet the needs of customers in the plan area for at least the next 25 years, without the need to develop new sources of water. Despite this, Wessex Water is still seeking to implement proposals to reduce the water taken from the environment, improve the resilience of services, and potentially support areas of the country where water scarcity is a growing problem.

## Water Quality

- 6.9 The PNP area lies within the Poole Harbour Rivers operational catchment<sup>50</sup>, as part of the wider Dorset management catchment. The operational catchment contains 19 waterbodies, all of which fall within the 'river, canals and surface water transfers' category.
- 6.10 Within the PNP area there are two waterbodies; the River Piddle (Upper), and the River Frome Dorset (Lower) downstream Louds Mill Dorchester. Further to this, Devils Brook also lies adjacent to the PNP area in the east (just north east of Athelhampton).
- 6.11 The River Piddle (Upper) is classified by the Environment Agency as having 'good' chemical quality, but 'poor' ecological quality, while the River Frome Dorset (Lower) downstream Louds Mill Dorchester is considered to have 'good' chemical quality and 'moderate' ecological quality. Both Rivers are linked to the Nitrates Directive and Shellfish Water Directive (Poole Harbour West), and the River Frome Dorset (Lower) downstream Louds Mill Dorchester is also linked to the Habitats and Species Directive affecting the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Dorset Heaths and Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Devils Brook is also linked to the Nitrates Directive and Shellfish Water Directive (Portland Harbour West), and is classified as of 'good' chemical quality and 'bad' ecological quality.
- 6.12 The entire PNP area lies within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone for eutrophic water and groundwater.

## Summary of future baseline

- 6.13 Water Companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive is likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the PNP and wider area. Despite this, any further development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modifications.
- 6.14 It is considered unlikely that limited development proposed through the PNP would have a significant impact on the wider area's Nitrate Vulnerable Zone unless agricultural intensification occurs. The River Frome in the south of the PNP area is linked to European Designated Sites however, and development may need to mitigate impacts of diffuse pollution.
- 6.15 New development within the PNP area also has the potential to impact upon areas of best and most versatile agricultural land; however, there may also be the potential to avoid its permanent loss by directing development towards areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality.

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<sup>49</sup> Wessex Water (2017) Draft Water Resource Management Plan [online] available at: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterplan/> [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>50</sup> Environment Agency (2018) Catchment Data Explorer [online] available at: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3367> [accessed 28/06/18]

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- The ecological status of waterbodies in the PNP area is 'poor' to 'moderate'.
- The entire PNP area lies within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone for eutrophic water and groundwater.
- The PNP area contains significant areas of land classified as Grades 1, 2 and 3a land, which is land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>• Avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 – 3a)?</li> </ul>
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the amount of waste produced?</li> <li>• Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste?</li> <li>• Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?</li> </ul>
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Protect groundwater resources?</li> </ul>



# 7. Population and Community

## Focus of Theme

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Homelessness
- Education and skills

## Policy Context

7.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To '*boost significantly the supply of housing*', local planning authorities should meet the '*full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing*' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating '*sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities*' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves '*supporting vibrant and healthy communities*'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

- Ensuring that there is a '*sufficient choice of school places*' is of '*great importance*' and there is a need to take a '*proactive, positive and collaborative approach*' to bringing forward '*development that will widen choice in education*'.
- 7.2 The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change<sup>51</sup> warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that '*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*'. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.
- 7.3 Policies contained in Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>52</sup> directly relates to the Population and Communities SEA theme.
- 7.4 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan provides the following policies which are relevant to the Population and Community theme:
- ENV16 (Amenity)
  - SUS1 (The Level of Economic and Housing Growth)
  - SUS2 (Distribution of Development)
  - SUS3 (Adaptation and Re-use of Buildings Outside Defined Development Boundaries)
  - SUS5 (Neighbourhood Development Plans)
  - ECON1 (Provision of Employment)
  - ECON2 (Protection of Key Employment Sites)
  - ECON3 (Protection of Other Employment Sites)
  - ECON4 (Retail and Town Centre Development)
  - ECON5 (Tourism Attractions and Facilities)
  - ECON6 (Built Tourist Accommodation)
  - ECON7 (Caravan and Camping Sites)
  - ECON8 (Diversification of Land-Based Rural Businesses)
  - ECON9 (New Agricultural Buildings)
  - ECON10 (Equestrian Development)
  - HOUS1 (Affordable Housing)
  - HOUS2 (Affordable Housing Exception Sites)
  - HOUS3 (Open Market Housing Mix)
  - HOUS4 (Development of Flats, Hostels and Houses in Multiple Occupation)
  - HOUS5 (Residential Care Accommodation)
  - HOUS6 (Other Residential Development Outside Defined Development Boundaries)
  - COM1 (Making Sure New Development Makes Suitable Provision for Community Infrastructure)
  - COM2 (New or Improved Local Community Buildings and Structures)
  - COM3 (The Retention of Local Community Buildings and Structures)

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<sup>51</sup> Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldselect/ldpublic/140/140.pdf> [accessed 18/05/18]

<sup>52</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

- COM6 (The Provision of Education and Training Facilities)

7.5 The Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy<sup>53</sup> has a vision for Dorset to thrive and prosper, with a commitment to supporting this through 5 key strategic themes; infrastructure; homes and employment sites; employment and skills; business and sectors; and assets and policy. Each of these themes has a number of projects, and by 2033 the Strategy seeks to have supported and delivered:

- 20,000 new homes;
- 13,200 new full-time equivalent jobs;
- A minimum of 70 hectares of new employment land;
- An increase from 25% to 35% in the proportion of workforce with Level 4 qualifications or higher; and
- An additional £564 million of GVA to the Western Dorset Area.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

7.6 The geographical extent of the PNP area is depicted in **Figure 1.1** (see Chapter 1). For the purposes of this report, the economic and social baseline for the PNP area has used data pertaining to the Puddletown Lower Super Output Area (LSOA);<sup>54</sup> however, it is recognised that this is a larger area than the Neighbourhood Plan area, as it includes land to east around Tolpuddle, and land to the north including Dewlish and Cheselbourne.

### Population

- 7.7 In 2011, in the Puddletown LSOA, there were 2,437 usual residents over an area of around 6,185 ha at a density of 0.4 people per hectare. Of these people, 17.4% were aged 15 or under, and 2.5% were aged 85 or over. The majority of residents were aged between 30 and 59 (42.3%).<sup>55</sup>
- 7.8 The resident population has increased since 2001 in which the Census recorded 2,133 usual residents at a density of 0.34 people per hectare. The percentage of residents aged 15 or below has decreased since 2001 (a decrease of 19%), and the alternatively the number of people aged 85 or over has increased since 2001 (an increase of 2%).<sup>56</sup>
- 7.9 98.6% of the usual residents in 2011 identified themselves as white, and 0.9% as mixed/multiple ethnic groups and 0.5% as Asian/Asian British.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> North Dorset District, West Dorset District, Weymouth and Portland Borough, Dorset County Council and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (2017) Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2033 [online] available at: <https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/2018/01/26/wdegsl/> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>54</sup> Puddletown Lower Super Output Area E01020540: West Dorset 004E

<sup>55</sup> ONS (2011) Query – dataset selection using 2011 Census - Super Output Area (Lower) E01020540: West Dorset 004E [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?> [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>56</sup> ONS (2011) Query – dataset selection using 2001 Census - Super Output Area (Lower) E01020540: West Dorset 004E [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?> [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>57</sup> ONS (2011) Query – dataset selection using 2011 Census - Super Output Area (Lower) E01020540: West Dorset 004E [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?> [accessed 28/06/18]

- 7.10 Of the 2,437 usual residents in 2011, 68.4% identified with a religion, the majority of which were Christian (67%). 0.5% of residents identified themselves as Buddhist, and 0.1% as Muslim. 0.7% identified an 'other' religion. 23.7% of residents did not identify with a religion, and 7.9% preferred not to state their religious beliefs.<sup>58</sup>
- 7.11 Of the 2,014 usual residents aged 16 and over, 59.4% were married, 21.3% were single, and 0.1% of residents were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. 11.6% of these residents were either separated or divorced and 7.5% were widowed.<sup>59</sup>

## Deprivation

- 7.12 In 2011, the Puddletown LSOA was ranked 22,602 out of 32,844 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (where 1 is the most deprived), indicating low levels of deprivation in the PNP area.<sup>60</sup> Statistics at the County level<sup>61</sup> identify that many of the areas in West Dorset are ranked as the least deprived, and that deprivation is largely concentrated in the market towns of Dorchester and Bridport with pockets of deprivation in Beaminster and Sherborne.

## Housing

- 7.13 In 2011, there were 1,135 dwellings in the Puddletown LSOA; however, 87 of these were household spaces with no usual residents. The majority were detached (37.6%) or semi-detached (36.3%) houses or bungalows, followed by terraced housing / bungalows (20.7%). 5.4% were flats, maisonette's or apartments either; within purpose-built blocks of flats or tenements (3.2%); as part of a converted or shared house (1.7%); or within a commercial building (0.5%).
- 7.14 Of the 1,048 households (dwellings containing residents), 71% owned their dwellings; either outright (39%), or with a mortgage or loan (32%), and a further 1.4% were in shared ownership. 10.4% socially rented, 14.3% were privately renting and 2.9% of residents were living rent free.
- 7.15 In the last 12 months Zoopla identify 36 sales in the Puddletown (Dorchester, DT2) area with an average price paid of £287,748. The average price paid for a detached house in the area is £343,500, which is lower than the average for Dorset and England. The average price paid for a semi-detached house is lower than the average for Dorset, but higher than the average for England as a whole. The average price paid for terraced housing or flats in Puddletown is higher than the averages for Dorset and England, as depicted in **Table 7.1** below.<sup>62</sup>

**Table 7.1: Average paid price for housing in Puddletown, Dorset and England**

Dwelling Type	Puddletown	Dorset	England
Detached	£343,500	£440,890	£402,488
Semi-detached	£270,500	£286,510	£257,940

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> MHCLG (2015) English indices of deprivation 2015 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015> [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>61</sup> Dorset County Council (2005) West Dorset – Dorset Deprivation Indices [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/7/1/WestDorsetDorsetDeprivationIndices\\_1.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/7/1/WestDorsetDorsetDeprivationIndices_1.pdf) [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>62</sup> Zoopla (2018) House prices in Puddletown, Dorset and England [online] available at: <https://www.zoopla.co.uk/house-prices/browse/puddletown/?q=Puddletown%2C%Dorchester%20DT2> [accessed 29/06/18]

Terraced	£276,151	£254,147	£241,918
Flat	£280,250	£213,231	£269,963

7.16 The West Dorset Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention Strategy<sup>63</sup> identifies the following key local factors for the District and Weymouth and Portland Borough areas:

- 25% of households across the two Council areas cannot afford housing at current market prices/rents without the need for some form of subsidy.
- House prices in West Dorset District Council (WDDC) area are relatively high. From a 2013 survey of estate and letting agents across the area, the entry level cost of purchasing a home ranged from £89,000 for a 1-bedroom flat to £271,000 for a 4-bedroom house. This compares to £85,000 and £227,000 in Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (WPBC). This makes access to housing difficult for a significant minority.
- Entry level rents in the private sector range from £450 per month in Weymouth to £525 in Sherborne, while three-bed properties range from £625 in Portland to £725 in Dorchester.
- Domestic violence and abuse continues to be a significant reason for homelessness in all six Dorset Boroughs and District Councils. Homelessness acceptances over the period 2008-12 resulting from domestic violence and abuse numbered 15 in West Dorset and 5 in Weymouth and Portland.
- Dorset County Council (DCC) has a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service that works with both authorities to provide permanent and transit sites.

## Education, Skills and Employment

7.17 In 2011, of all usual residents aged 16 years and over (of which there were 2,014); there were 706 residents with 'Level 4 qualifications and above', and a further 771 residents with qualifications at levels 1 to 3. 94 residents had apprenticeships, and 115 were students (of which 16 were economically active and in employment). 366 residents had no qualifications.<sup>64</sup>

7.18 In terms of occupation, of all usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment the week before the 2011 census, the majority were employed in professional occupations (19.9% – with a slightly higher number of females than males) followed by people employed in skilled trades (15.9% – of which significantly more people were men (165 men compared to 32 women)). At the highest level, 13.7% of residents were employed as managers, directors or senior officials, with more men employed in this occupation than women (97 men and 73 women). Resident occupations in 2011 are summarised in **Table 7.2** below.<sup>65</sup>

**Table 7.2: Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in Puddletown LSOA**

Occupation	All persons	Males	Females
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<sup>63</sup> West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (2014) Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2014-19 [online] available at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/housing/pdfs/homelessness-and-homelessness-prevention-strategy.pdf> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>64</sup> ONS (2011) Query – dataset selection using 2011 Census – Super Output Area (Lower) E01020540: West Dorset 004E [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?> [accessed 28/06/18]

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
All categories: occupation	1,241	100	660	100	581	100
Mangers, directors and senior officials	170	13.7	97	14.7	73	12.6
Professional occupations	247	19.9	122	18.5	125	21.5
Associate professional and technical occupations	138	11.1	80	12.1	58	10.0
Administrative and secretarial occupations	108	8.7	17	2.6	91	15.7
Skilled trades occupations	197	15.9	165	25.0	32	5.5
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	111	8.9	14	2.1	97	16.7
Sales and customer service occupations	70	5.6	30	4.5	40	6.9
Process plant and machine operatives	81	6.5	76	11.5	5	0.9
Elementary occupations	119	9.6	59	8.9	60	10.3

- 7.19 In terms of industry, the majority of residents were employed in the wholesale and retail trade (including motor repairs), followed by human health and social work activities, and then the education industry. At the time of the 2011 census, only one resident worked in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply industry. The employment of residents by industry is summarised in **Table 7.3** below:<sup>66</sup>

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.



**Table 7.3: Employment industry for usual residents aged 16 to 74 in Puddletown LSOA**

Industry	All persons		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
All categories: industry	1,241	100	660	100	581	100
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	82	6.6	56	8.5	26	4.5
Mining and quarrying	3	0.2	3	0.5	0	0.0
Manufacturing	82	6.6	59	8.9	23	4.0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1	0.1	1	0.2	0	0.0
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation services	18	1.5	14	2.1	4	0.7
Construction	102	8.2	94	14.2	8	1.4
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	173	13.9	96	14.5	77	13.3
Transport and storage	30	2.4	24	3.6	6	1.0
Accommodation and food service activities	61	4.9	25	3.8	36	6.2
Information and communication	19	1.5	9	1.4	10	1.7
Financial and insurance activities	26	2.1	14	2.1	12	2.1
Real estate activities	23	1.9	11	1.7	12	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	86	6.9	52	7.9	34	5.9
Administrative and support service activities	55	4.4	32	4.8	23	4.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	123	9.9	68	10.3	55	9.5
Education	140	11.3	43	6.5	97	16.7
Human health and social work activity	154	12.4	35	5.3	119	20.5
Other	63	5.1	24	3.6	39	6.7

- 7.20 The data further identifies that 0.7% of residents aged 16 to 74 were unemployed, and a further 0.6% were long term unemployed.<sup>67</sup>

## Summary of future baseline

- 7.21 Population trends indicate an ageing population and reduced numbers of younger children in the plan area. An ageing population may have implications for housing, and may indicate a need for more specialist accommodation to meet the needs of the elderly in the future.
- 7.22 Smaller housing types are relatively high priced in comparison to Dorset and England averages. This could have implications for the younger population as first-time buyers are more likely to experience difficulty in terms of accessibility to and affordability of housing.
- 7.23 Overall levels of deprivation in the PNP area are likely to remain low.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- Population trends indicate an ageing population.
- Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decline in the number of people aged 15 and under.
- Terraced housing and flats are priced higher than the average for Dorset and England.
- There are low levels of deprivation within the PNP area.

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<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high quality community services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities?</li> <li>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>Minimise fuel poverty?</li> </ul>
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li> <li>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> </ul>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li> <li>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>

## 8. Health and Wellbeing

### Focus of Theme

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well-being

### Policy Context

8.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- The social role of the planning system involves '*supporting vibrant and healthy communities*'.
- A core planning principle is to '*take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all*'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating health, inclusive communities.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities.

8.2 The policies contained in Chapter 3 'Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>68</sup> directly relates to the health and wellbeing SEA theme.

8.3 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives<sup>69</sup> ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is '*overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities*'.

8.4 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

8.5 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)<sup>70</sup> for Dorset provides information about Dorset's population and the factors affecting health, wellbeing, and social care needs. It brings together

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<sup>68</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 27/06/18]

<sup>69</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170106161952/http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106> [accessed 21/05/18]

<sup>70</sup> Public Health Dorset (2015-16) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Thematic Narratives [online] available at: <http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/our-partners/> [accessed 21/05/18]

information from different sources and partners to create a shared evidence base, which supports service planning, decision-making, and delivery. Thematic narratives have been produced exploring the key issues in relation to wage levels in social care, older and vulnerable adults, and the economy.

- 8.6 The Dorset Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>71</sup> identifies the key priorities for health and wellbeing and the key work that must be coordinated to ensure that Dorset *'takes a more preventative approach in supporting people and tackling the inequalities in health'*. The strategy identifies three priorities in closing the health and wellbeing gap; reducing inequalities; promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing ill health; and working better together to deliver prevention and early intervention at scale, high quality care and better value.
- 8.7 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies a strategic objective to *'support sustainable, safe and healthy communities with accessibility to a range of services and facilities'*. The plan provides Policies ENV3 (Green Infrastructure Network), ENV16 (Amenity), COM1 (Making Sure New Development Makes Suitable Provision for Community Infrastructure), COM2 (New or Improved Local Community Buildings and Structures), COM3 (The Retention of Local Community Buildings and Structures), COM4 (New or Improved Local Recreational Facilities), COM5 (The Retention of Open Space and Recreational Facilities) and COM7 (Creating a Safe and Efficient Transport Network) to support health and wellbeing in the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland area.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

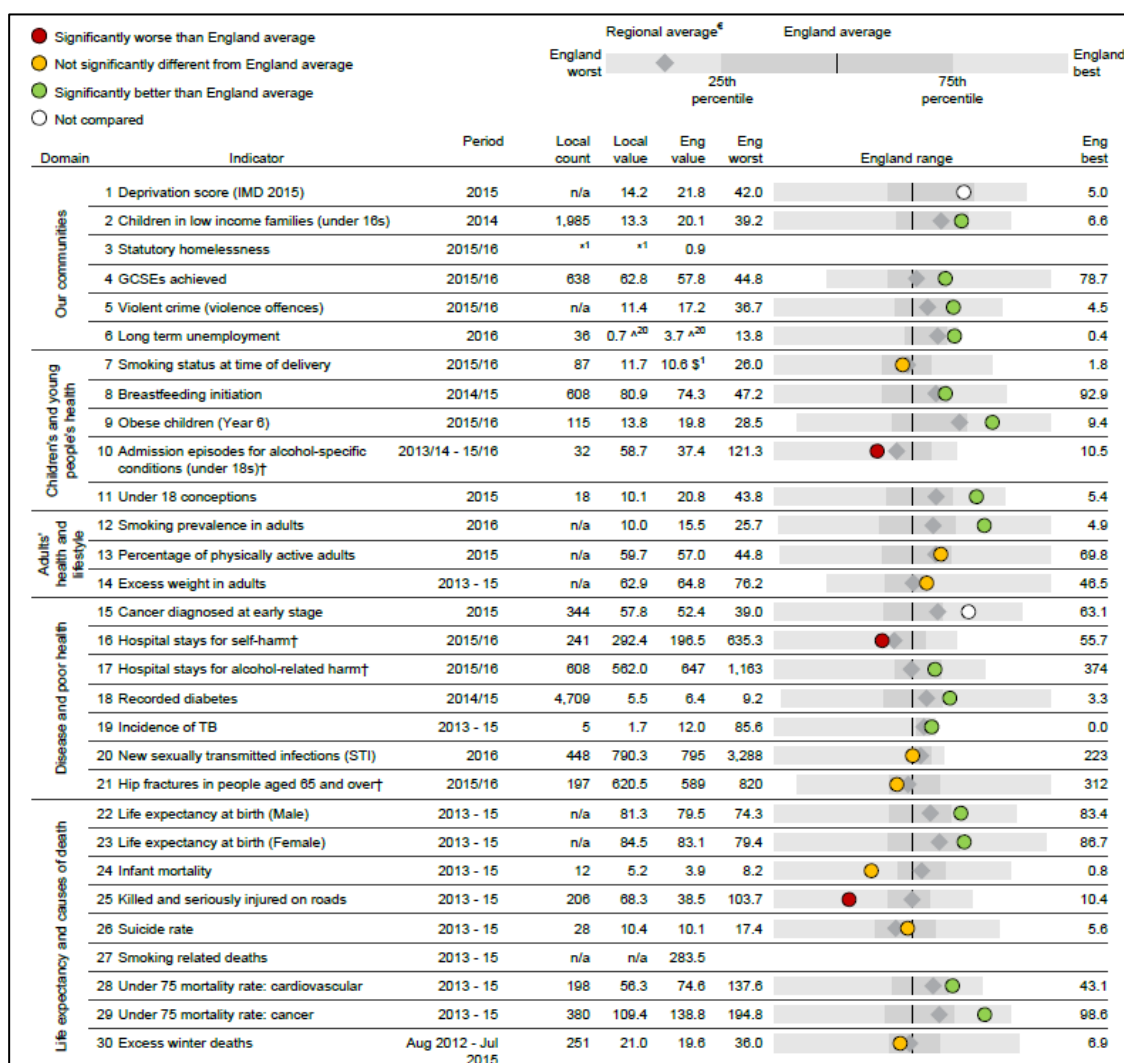
- 8.9 The health profile for West Dorset<sup>72</sup> identifies that the health of people in West Dorset is generally better than the England average. Around 13% (2,000) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average. **Figure 8.1** is taken from Public Health England's health profile and shows how the health of the residents in West Dorset compares with the rest of England.

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<sup>71</sup> Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board (2016) Dorset Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019 [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/187381/Dorset-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2016-2019/pdf/Dorset\\_Joint\\_Health\\_and\\_Wellbeing\\_Strategy\\_2016\\_-\\_2019.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/187381/Dorset-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2016-2019/pdf/Dorset_Joint_Health_and_Wellbeing_Strategy_2016_-_2019.pdf) [accessed 21/05/18]

<sup>72</sup> Public Health England (2017) West Dorset District Health Profile 2017 [online] available at: <http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2017/e07000052.pdf> [accessed 29/06/18]

**Figure 8.1: Health Profile for West Dorset District**



8.10 The health profile above identifies that the health indicators which are significantly worse than England averages are; admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions; hospital stays for self-harm; and those killed and seriously injured on roads. Local priorities for West Dorset are reducing inequalities, promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing ill health, and working better together to deliver prevention and early intervention at scale, high quality care and better value.

8.11 The area profile produced by Dorset Statistics for Puddletown<sup>73</sup> identifies that 48% of residents are in very good health, and 35.4% are in good health. 2.5% of residents are identified as having bad health and 0.9% as having very bad health.

8.12 There are limited leisure facilities within the PNP area, however a number of leisure centres, parks, gardens and activities are available within and surrounding Dorchester.

## Summary of future baseline

8.13 Health and wellbeing levels within the PNP area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health.

<sup>73</sup> Dorset Statistics (2018) Area Profile for Puddletown [online] available at: <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/Ward/puddletown> [accessed 29/06/18]



- 8.14 An ageing population within the PNP area might place future pressures on health services in the area.
- 8.15 The PNP has the potential to support the promotion of healthy lifestyles (as a local health priority) through enhancements to leisure, sport and recreational facilities, which are currently limited within the PNP area.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- Health and wellbeing levels within the PNP area are very good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health.
- There are limited leisure facilities available within the PNP area; development has the potential for improvements in this respect, to promote healthy and active lifestyles.
- Noise pollution, including from the A35, is an issue for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>• Address local health priorities?</li> <li>• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>• Reduce noise pollution?</li> <li>• Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?</li> <li>• Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?</li> </ul>

## 9. Transportation

### Focus of Theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

### Policy Context

- 9.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.
- 9.2 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. The Local Transport Plan for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset<sup>74</sup> sets out the proposed transport solutions for the Plan area up to 2026. With a vision for *'a safe, reliable and accessible low carbon transport system for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset that assists in the development of a strong low carbon economy, maximises the opportunities for sustainable transport and respects and protects the area's unique environmental assets'*, the following five goals are identified to guide the approach to transport:
- Supporting economic growth;
  - Tackling climate change;
  - Equality of opportunity;
  - Better safety, security and health; and
  - Improved quality of life.
- 9.3 The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan identifies a strategic objective to *'provide greater opportunities to reduce car use; improve safety; ensure convenient and appropriate public transport services; and seek greater network efficiency for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians'*. The plan includes Policies COM7 (Creating a Safe and Efficient Transport Network), COM8 (Transport Interchanges and Community Travel Exchanges), and COM9 (Parking Standards in New Development), to support sustainable transport options in the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland area. The Plan identifies further strategies and site allocations

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<sup>74</sup> Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council and Dorset County Council (2011) Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 2001 to 2026 Summary Document [online] available at: [https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/164555/Bournemouth-Poole-and-Dorset-Local-Transport-Plan-Summary-Documents/pdf/BournemouthPooleDorsetLTP3\\_Summary\\_Document\\_Final.pdf](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/164555/Bournemouth-Poole-and-Dorset-Local-Transport-Plan-Summary-Documents/pdf/BournemouthPooleDorsetLTP3_Summary_Document_Final.pdf) [accessed 21/05/18]

for key towns, which includes proposed transport improvements in Weymouth, Portland, Littlemoor, Chickerell, Dorchester, Crossways, Bridport, Beaminster, Lyme Regis, and Sherborne.

## Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Rail Network

- 9.5 There are no direct rail connections within the PNP area. The closest stations are located at Dorchester (Dorchester West and Dorchester South around 8km away) and at Moreton (around 5.5km away).<sup>75</sup>

#### Bus Network

- 9.6 There are bus connections along High Street/Athelhampton Rd and The Moor within the Puddletown settlement area; connecting to services 187 and X12. Service X12 provides connections between Blandford and Weymouth, and service 187 connects Winterborne Kingston to Dorchester. The services are infrequent (stopping around every 2 hours and do not run on Sundays and Bank Holidays).<sup>76</sup>

#### Road Network and Congestion

- 9.7 The A35 is the main road running through the PNP area, which connects with the A354 just north of Puddletown village. The A35 provides east west connections, directly connecting to Poole and Bournemouth in the east, and Dorchester, Bridport and Honiton in the west. The A354 connects to the A350 at Blandford Forum to provide northward connections, and similarly in the west, the A35 connects to the A37 at Dorchester to provide northwards connections. Links to the south coast between Weymouth and Poole are via local roads.
- 9.8 The Local Transport Plan<sup>77</sup> identifies that minerals extraction, along with freight generated by the Port of Poole create significant flows along the A350, A37 and A35. The vast majority of freight is transported by road, and this trend is expected to continue due to rail infrastructure constraints. This is known to cause local issues of noise, vibration and pollution, particularly on routes that pass through settlements.

#### Cycle and Footpath Network

- 9.9 There are no national cycle network connections within the PNP area; however, just south of the area, National Route 2 runs along the south coast, and when complete will link Dover in Kent with St. Austell in Cornwall. The route runs south of the plan area through Dorchester, West Stafford, Woodsford, Moreton, Wool and Stoborough. There are also connections to National Route 26 just north of Dorchester, which runs from Portishead on the Somerset coast to the Isle of Portland on the Dorset coast via Wells, Castle Cary, Yeovil and Dorchester.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Natural England (2018) Magic Map Application – using distance measurement tool [online] available at: <http://magic.gov.uk/> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>76</sup> Bus Times (2018) Puddletown, Dorset [online] available at: <https://bustimes.org/localities/E0045865> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>77</sup> Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council and Dorset County Council (2011) Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 2001 to 2026 – Part 1 [online] available at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/roads-and-pavements/documents/lt3-bournemouth-poole-dorset-strategy-document-final-chapters-1-to-3.pdf> [accessed 02/07/18]

<sup>78</sup> Sustrans (2018) National Cycle Network [online] available at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map> [accessed 02/07/18]

## Car Ownership

9.10 The majority of households in the Puddletown LSOA have 2 cars or vans (38.7%) followed closely by 1 car or van (36.5%). 11.8% of households have 3 cars or vans, and 3.8% have 4 or more cars or vans. 9.2% of households have no cars and vans. In comparison in West Dorset, the highest percentage of households have 1 car or van (44.9%) followed by 2 cars or vans (29.2%), this is similar to England averages where 42.2% have 1 car or van, and 24.7% have 2 cars or vans. At the District and national level, a higher percentage of households have no cars or vans (15.7% in West Dorset and 25.8% in England) compared to Puddletown. The figures indicate increased reliance on the private vehicle within the PNP area.<sup>79</sup>

## Summary of future baseline

- 9.11 Any further development in the vicinity of the PNP area is likely to increase traffic within and outside of the plan area; particularly along the A35 and A354, as these roads provide connections to larger settlements, such as Dorchester and Blandford Forum, which offer a wider range of services and facilities for residents.
- 9.12 Additionally, public transport use has the potential to remain low compared with private car use; largely due to the absence of a railway station within the PNP area. Existing bus services are limited and infrequent.
- 9.13 Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated to some degree by the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

## Headline Sustainability Issues

- There are no rail connections within the PNP area; the closest train station is located at Moreton around 5.5km away, and Dorchester approximately 7km away.
- Bus services within the PNP area are limited and infrequent.
- Freight traffic on the A35 could cause local issues of noise, vibration and pollution.
- There are no national cycle route connections within the PNP area; however, National Route 2 is just south of the plan area and runs along the south coast.
- There are high levels of car ownership in the Plan area - the majority of residents (over 75%) have access to at least one car or van - and high levels of reliance on the private vehicle.

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<sup>79</sup> ONS (2011) Query – dataset selection using 2011 Census - Super Output Area (Lower) E01020540: West Dorset 004E, West Dorset District and England [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp>? [accessed 28/06/18]

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</li><li>• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?</li><li>• Facilitate working from home and remote working?</li><li>• Improve road safety?</li><li>• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?</li></ul>

# 10. Next Steps

## Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 10.1 The five stages of the SEA process<sup>80</sup> are identified below. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process.
1. Screening
  2. Scoping
  3. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan
  4. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation
  5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')
- 10.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative different approaches to development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Neighbourhood Group so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 10.3 Once the next draft of the plan has been prepared, it will be subjected to SEA, and the Environmental Report will be prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 10.4 Following the consideration of consultation responses, the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to West Dorset District Council for subsequent Independent Examination. As part of this process, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report will be publicized for consultation for a period of six weeks.

## Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 10.5 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 10.6 The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees. Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

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<sup>80</sup> In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance



## Download and viewing details

- 10.1 The Scoping Report can be downloaded at: <http://www.puddletownndp.org/home/>
- 10.7 This consultation period runs from 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to: [cheryl.beattie@aecom.com](mailto:cheryl.beattie@aecom.com)
- 10.8 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

# Appendix I

## SEA Framework

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the integrity and continued improvements to the status of European designated sites of significance outside of the PNP area?</li> <li>Support the status of nationally designated sites within and outside of the PNP area? In particular, support the integrity and ecological quality of the River Frome SSSI?</li> <li>Support the status of the locally designated Thorncombe Wood adjacent to the Plan area?</li> <li>Protect and enhance Priority Habitats, and the habitats of Priority Species?</li> <li>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> </ul>
Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</li> <li>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>Improve and extend green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>Sustainably manage water run-off?</li> <li>Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?</li> <li>Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area?</li> </ul>
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest?</li> <li>Conserve and enhance the Puddletown, Stinsford &amp; Lower</li> </ul>

## SEA objective

## Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

environment and archaeological assets	<p>Bockhampton &amp; Tolpuddle Conservation Area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest?</li> <li>Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the Dorset AONB?</li> <li>Conserve and enhance landscape character?</li> <li>Protect and enhance key landscape and townscape features?</li> </ul>
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>Avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 – 3a)?</li> </ul>
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the amount of waste produced?</li> <li>Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste?</li> <li>Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?</li> </ul>
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>Protect groundwater resources?</li> </ul>
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high quality community services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities?</li> <li>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>Minimise fuel poverty?</li> </ul>
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li> <li>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> </ul>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li> <li>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy</li> </ul>

## SEA objective

## Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

	access to a range of local services and facilities?
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>■ Address local health priorities?</li> <li>■ Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>■ Reduce noise pollution?</li> <li>■ Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?</li> <li>■ Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?</li> </ul>
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</li> <li>■ Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?</li> <li>■ Facilitate working from home and remote working?</li> <li>■ Improve road safety?</li> <li>■ Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?</li> </ul>

