



## **Poole Harbour SSSI Dorset**

***Notification under section 28B of the  
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981***

Issued by Natural England's Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team on **24 May 2018**.

## Contact points and further information

This notification document is issued by Natural England's Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team. Our address for correspondence is:

Natural England  
Rivers House  
Sunrise Business Park  
Higher Shaftesbury Road  
Blandford Forum  
DT11 8ST

Telephone number: 0300 060 1821

E-mail: [stephen.treby@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:stephen.treby@naturalengland.org.uk)

Online: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/poole-harbour>

Your contact point for enquiries relating to this notification is **Stephen Treby**.

A second document (*Poole Harbour SSSI - supporting information*) is available on request from the address above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI.

The date of extension of the Poole Harbour SSSI is 24 May 2018

## Contents

### Summary

1	Introduction .....	4
2	The legal background .....	4
3	Making representations .....	5
4	Reasons for notification .....	5
5	Reasons for notification of additional land under section 28B .....	6
6	Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs .....	7
7	Management of the SSSI.....	7
8	Supporting information.....	7
9	Legal documents .....	7
	<i>Annex 1 Citation.....</i>	<i>8</i>
	<i>Annex 2 Views about Management.....</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Annex 3 List of operations requiring Natural England's consent.....</i>	<i>21</i>
	<i>Annex 4 Map(s) showing the land notified.....</i>	<i>24</i>

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document explains why Poole Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is extended to include additional land.
- 1.2 Poole Harbour is the largest microtidal estuary<sup>1</sup> in Britain and is recognised nationally and internationally for its ecological value. The Harbour encompasses over 100 km of enclosed coastline and many channels, bays and inlets. The hinterland of the Harbour comprises the heathland and wetland landscapes of Purbeck to the south and west; with the urban centres of Poole and Bournemouth to the north. The Harbour makes significant economic contributions, supporting a diverse range of industries including fisheries, tourism and ports.
- 1.3 There are four areas of additional land. By far the largest is the estuarial open water below the Mean Low Water Mark, which extends to the Harbour mouth in the east and westwards to where the estuary meets the Rivers Piddle and Frome. The other three areas comprise saltmarsh, wetland and supporting habitats around the fringes of Lytchett Bay (one area) and Holes Bay (two areas). The total area of the additional land is 1,836.36 ha, resulting in an extended Poole Harbour SSSI covering 4,112.34 ha.
- 1.4 Poole Harbour, including the additional land, is a nationally and internationally important site for its estuarine habitats which support large numbers of waterbirds and rare marine invertebrates. Fringing habitats of heathland, grassland and the islands provide additional interests, in turn supporting further nationally important flora and fauna.
- 1.5 The annexes to this document comprise the legal papers that detail the special interest of the SSSI and the management required to maintain that interest. The citation and list of operations likely to damage the features of special interest (ie those operations requiring Natural England's consent) have not been changed from the 1990 notification. The document giving views about management (VAM) is also unchanged.
- 1.6 You have a right to make representations or objections to the notification of the additional land. Part 3 of this document explains how to make representations or objections.
- 1.7 Natural England's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners and managers, as well as other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not considered likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

## 2 The legal background

- 2.1 Poole Harbour SSSI (as notified on 7 December 1990) is extended by the notification of additional land under section 28B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The notification of the additional land takes effect from the date of this notice.
- 2.2 Section 28B(2A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 clarifies that Natural England may notify additional land which lies above the Mean Low Water mark or which is covered by estuarial waters. All of the additional land notified as part of the Poole Harbour SSSI lies above the Mean Low Water mark or is covered by estuarial waters.
- 2.3 Part 9 of this document contains the following legal documents as required by section 28B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
  - a citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*)
  - a statement of Natural England's views on the management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*)
  - a list of operations requiring Natural England's consent (*Annex 3*)
  - maps identifying the land subject to this notification under section 28B (*Annex 4*).

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<sup>1</sup> Microtidal estuaries have a tidal range of less than 2 metres.

- 2.4 The 7 December 1990 notification, as modified by this notification under section 28B, continues to have effect. The key effects of that notification can be summarised as follows:
- owners and occupiers must give Natural England notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*;
  - owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify Natural England within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes;
  - it is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna; and
  - other public bodies must consult Natural England before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.
- 2.5 If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact Natural England at the address shown at the beginning of this notification document.

### **3 Making representations**

- 3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about this notification. Any representations, including those supporting the notification, or objections should be made in writing to Natural England's Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team by 24 September 2018. Representations can be sent by post, e-mail or online to the addresses shown on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.
- 3.2 Natural England's Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. If there are no unresolved objections, approval to confirm the notification will be considered by an appropriate Natural England Director within nine months of this notification.
- 3.3 Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Board of Natural England within nine months of this notification. If there are unresolved objections, confirmation of this notification is likely to be considered at the Board meeting provisionally scheduled for January 2019. Please note the desirability of the notification (for instance, for socio-economic reasons) will not form part of the Board's decision. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board of Natural England may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification. In reaching its decision the Board will consider whether, in light of the objections and representations received, Natural England remains of the opinion that the site is of special scientific interest. If you wish to emphasise any of your objections or representations to the Board in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Board meeting.
- 3.4 Natural England will accept correspondence relating to unresolved objections up to seven days prior to the Board meeting at which the confirmation is due to be considered. Correspondence received after this date will only be presented to the Board in very exceptional circumstances and you will be expected to provide justification as to why there has been a delay in providing the information. The decision whether this information will be submitted to the Board is entirely at Natural England's discretion. The reason that there is a seven day cut off is to allow Board members sufficient opportunity to consider all of the issues and read all the relevant paperwork before they meet to take their decision.
- 3.5 Natural England has a policy of openness, which reflects our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This legislation provides a legal right of access to information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We will assume, therefore, that your representation or objection can be made publicly available unless you indicate with clear and valid reasons which (if any) part(s) of these you wish to be excluded from this arrangement. However, you should be aware that the requirements

of the legislation may mean that we cannot comply with your request that this information be withheld. We do, however, respect people's privacy and will take all reasonable steps to consult you before reaching a decision on disclosure of the information.

- 3.6 As an individual with an interest in Poole Harbour SSSI, your information will be stored and processed on a computer database that will be operated within the Data Protection Act 1998 and (from 25 May 2018) the General Data Protection Regulation 2016<sup>2</sup>. The Act and the Regulation give individuals the right to know what data we hold on them, how we use it and to which third parties it is disclosed. The data controller is Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX.

## 4 Reasons for notification

- 4.1 The reasons for notification of the Poole Harbour SSSI in 1990 (see *Annex 1*) are unaffected by this notice. The site continues to be of special interest for its estuarine habitats, including marshes, mudflats and subtidal communities; fringing terrestrial habitats, including heathlands and grasslands; and species supported by these habitats, including breeding and wintering birds, lichens, rare invertebrates and red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*.

## 5 Reasons for notification of additional land under section 28B

- 5.1 **Seaward extension to include estuarial waters below the Mean Low Water mark (MLW)** – The previous seaward boundary of the SSSI was drawn to MLW and subtidal estuarial waters and lower shore intertidal mudflats were not included. Coastal and marine geomorphological processes (including hydrodynamics, sediment movements and tidal inundation) occur over the entire Harbour and are essential for the maintenance of the estuarine habitats (such as saltmarshes and intertidal mudflats). Notification of the additional land ensures the SSSI includes all the areas within which these key supporting natural processes occur.
- 5.2 This land also contributes to supporting wintering waterbirds and breeding seabirds. In particular, intertidal mudflats below MLW are used by wintering waterbirds when foraging on mud exposed at low spring tides. Other waterbirds such as goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* use subtidal areas for feeding and resting. Therefore the additional land contributes to supporting the important aggregations of wintering wildfowl and waders for which the site is of special interest. Subtidal areas are also used by foraging common terns *Sterna hirundo* and Sandwich terns *Sterna sandvicensis* and are therefore essential for supporting the breeding colonies of these two species for which the site is also of special interest.
- 5.3 Amongst the estuarine habitats of importance in the additional land are benthic (seabed) habitats (such as peacock worm *Sabella pavonina* and eelgrass *Zostera marina* beds) which are predominantly found below MLW. The benthic habitats of importance and their locations in the Harbour are described in more detail in the supporting information document (available on request from the address on page 2). They are associated with particular conditions, such as some of the shallower channels, rather than being found across the entire Harbour.
- 5.4 **Landward extension at Lytchett Fields** – In summer 2013, the embankment bounding Poole Harbour around the shore of Lytchett Bay was naturally breached. Since then, the area of previously freshwater coastal grazing marsh lying behind this embankment has been subjected to regular tidal inundation. The land supports intertidal habitats and developing saltmarsh communities similar to habitats within the previously notified SSSI. These habitats contribute to supporting a number of the features for which the site is of special interest; in particular, the important aggregations of wintering wildfowl and waders.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) 2016.

- 5.5 **Landward extensions in Holes Bay** – The SSSI boundary in Holes Bay in the north of Poole harbour is extended to the west to include two small areas of saltmarsh and reedbed habitat. The saltmarsh habitats are continuous with areas of adjacent saltmarsh within the previously notified SSSI that support wintering waders and wildfowl.

## **6 Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs**

- 6.1 The additional land between MLW and the Harbour mouth adjoins the previously notified SSSI boundary at MLW and extends to the limit of estuarial waters at the Harbour mouth and to the limits of these waters along the channels of the Rivers Piddle and Frome, where the site adjoins Wareham Meadows SSSI.
- 6.2 The additional land at Lytchett Fields adjoins the previously notified SSSI in the north-west of Lytchett Bay. It extends to the embankment protecting the A35 which provides a well-defined boundary. The additional areas of land in Holes Bay adjoin the previously notified SSSI boundary in the west of the bay.
- 6.3 Further clarification of the precise location of the boundaries is provided on the maps that form the annex to this package and more details can be obtained from Natural England's Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team at the address shown on page 2.
- 6.4 Parts of the Poole Harbour SSSI boundary (including the additional land) directly abut the following nine SSSIs that are of special interest for their geological features, heathlands, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and sand dunes, as well as species associated with these habitats: Arne SSSI, Ham Common SSSI, Hartland Moor SSSI, Holton and Sandford Heaths SSSI, Luscombe Valley SSSI, Rempstone Heaths SSSI, Studland and Godlingston Heaths SSSI, The Moors SSSI and Wareham Meadows SSSI.

## **7 Management of the SSSI**

- 7.1 This document includes at *Annex 2* a statement of the management that Natural England considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest. Different management may be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. The statement is intended to explain how we can work with and support owners and managers in continuing to achieve positive management of the SSSI.
- 7.2 This document also includes a list of the operations requiring Natural England's consent at *Annex 3*. Some of the operations may already be taking place on the additional land and where they do not cause any damage they will be given consent. We will work with landowners and managers to agree lists of such existing and planned activities, which can be approved.
- 7.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from Natural England. However, other public bodies are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- 7.4 In particular, we recognise the important roles of the owners and managers of the Harbour in managing this site. We will work with them to develop means to secure the sustainable management of Poole Harbour SSSI.

## **8 Supporting information**

- 8.1 The detailed information which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI is available on request from the address on page 2 of this paper.

## **9 Legal documents**

- 9.1 Attached at Annexes 1 - 4 are the legal documents, which are required by section 28B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

# ***Annex 1***

## **Citation**

This is a legal document that explains the 'reasons for notification' of Poole Harbour as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The 'reasons for notification' are the same as notified in 1990 and the citation now applies also to the additional land. You have a right to make objections or representations about the application of this citation and the 'reasons for notification' described in it to the additional land, as explained in part 3 of this document.

**Site name:** Poole Harbour

**County/Unitary Authority:** Dorset, Poole

**District:** Purbeck

**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and additional land notified under Section 28B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

**Local Planning Authority:** Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole, Purbeck District Council

**National Grid reference:** SY996886

**Area:** 4,112.34 ha

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 195

**Date notified:** 7 December 1990

**Date additional land notified:** 24 May 2018

### **Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Poole Harbour is one of the largest natural harbours in the world, a very high proportion of its area comprising intertidal marshes and mudflats. These, together with the permanent channels, support large numbers of non-breeding waterbirds, for which Poole Harbour has national and international significance. Fringing habitats of heathland, grassland and the islands provide additional interests, in turn supporting further scarce and restricted flora and fauna. Several rare marine invertebrates also occur within the harbour.

Covering an area of nearly 4,000 ha., Poole Harbour occupies a shallow depression in the acidic, Tertiary deposits towards the south-western extremity of the Hampshire Basin and has been formed over the past 5,000 years by a rising sea level. The 4 main islands represent high ground between former river valleys and these now have fringing marshes and in places cliffs cut in the underlying sands and clays. A relatively low volume of freshwater from several small rivers enters the Harbour and this, together with a narrow entrance and shallow form, provide poor flushing characteristics, giving rise to extensive intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes. Tides are variable but of low vertical range and with a 'double high' phenomenon causing water to be held at or above mean level for 16 out of 24 hours. The original heathland landscape in which the Harbour is set has been severely modified by human activity, particularly in the past 200 years, but some remaining natural transitions from saltmarsh to bog and heathland still occur. Grazing marshes and fragments of fen and carr woodland also persist, with extensive reedswamp fringes. The north-eastern shores are mostly urbanized to high water mark.

Deep water channels maintained by natural scour supplemented by dredging are restricted: some 80% of the Harbour area comprises inter-tidal, fine-grained mud, sandflats and marshes. The variety of inter-tidal and sub-tidal habitats reflects the range of substrate types and degree of exposure. Most marine invertebrate species are of widespread distribution but, especially in the case of the sheltered intertidal bays, often are in very large numbers. Associated with subtidal fine sands of the central Harbour are species-rich communities dominated by beds of the tube worm *Sabella pavanina*: such extensive beds represent a habitat not so well developed elsewhere. Whilst species diversity is generally low, Poole Harbour is notable in supporting several rare and restricted marine invertebrates. The sponge *Suberites massa*, rarely recorded in British waters, is locally abundant on suitable substrates together with an interesting community of Sea squirts, Ascidians and Sea mats, Bryozoans. Among these *Anguinella palmata* and *Farella repens* are also rare. The Starlet Sea Anemone *Nematostella vectensis* is a rare species found only in a few similar lagoonal situations and the mollusc *Aeolidiella sanguinea* is otherwise only recorded from western Ireland.

The mud and sandflats are mostly fringed on their landward sides by saltmarshes or stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. Much of the saltmarsh is dominated by Common Cord Grass *Spartina anglica* which arose as a hybrid and rapidly colonized several south coast estuaries earlier this century. Some retreat or 'die-back' is now occurring across its range in southern Britain. The mid

and higher level saltmarshes are characterised by more diverse communities with many typical saltmarsh species present. The local Shrubby Seablite *Suaeda vera* occurs in places, towards the western limit of its distribution in Britain.

These fringes of saltmarsh or reed are important for several nesting birds such as Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* associated with reed stands and a particularly high density of nesting Redshank *Tringa totanus* on some of the marshes. The small colonies of Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* mostly on the islands sometimes shelter a pair of Mediterranean Gulls *L. melanocephalus* and on Brownsea locally important colonies of Sandwich and Common Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* and *S. hirundo*. The expanse of intertidal flats with large populations of invertebrates is of great importance as a feeding resource for large numbers of wading birds and wildfowl in winter. These wintering birds have been recorded in Poole Harbour over the past 3 decades and at least 14 species regularly attain levels in excess of 1% of their British populations. Two species, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* and Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, also regularly occur at internationally significant levels, with an excess of 1% of their western European populations present. In addition to the intertidal feeding areas, adjoining grasslands, notably at Keyworth and in the Lower Frome Valley, are important as feeding sites and high water roosts.

Poole Harbour SSSI adjoins a number of other SSSIs, notably heathland on its southern and western margins, but does include some areas of these fringing habitats, particularly at Lytchett Bay. The reedswamp merges with acidic bog communities which then grade into wet and dry heathland. There is also dry heathland of the Heather *Calluna vulgaris*/Western Gorse *Ulex gallii* type on the islands, though this has been reduced in extent through tree planting and invasion. The open dry heathland at Brownsea is particularly notable for its lichen assemblage which is of national importance. Some areas of heathland on the islands are regularly mown as lawns, modifying the vegetation to acidic grassland with heath species and a high moss content.

Wetter grasslands occur on the Harbour shores with neutral, herb-rich swards at Lytchett and more extensive brackish grazing marshes at Keyworth, the latter dominated by Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, with frequent Strawberry Clover *Trifolium fragiferum* and Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus tenuis*. Wet woodlands of Birch and Sallow adjoin these areas, whilst particularly on the islands, stands of Scots and Maritime Pines *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. maritima* dominate the drier soils. Here there are populations of the rare and protected Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* and also on Brownsea the largest colony of nesting Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* in Dorset with about 100 pairs present.

This range of habitats and their continuity with one another supports several scarce and restricted species. The nationally scarce Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* and Small Red Damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum* are recorded from heathland in the site, as is the Silver-studded Blue Butterfly *Plebejus argus*. The rare shore bug *Saldula setulosa* is recorded only from Poole Harbour, on sandy areas near high water mark and the rare and endangered ground beetle *Drypta dentata* occurs on Brownsea. Both of these insects are listed in the Red Data Book.

## ***Annex 2***

### **Views about Management**

This is a legal document and it remains the same as when issued in 2005. It now also applies to the additional land. You have a right to make objections or representations about the application of the management principles to the additional land, as explained in part 3 of this document.



## Views About Management

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4) as inserted by  
Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

### **A statement of Natural England's views about the management of Poole Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

This statement represents Natural England's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Natural England has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation. Natural England's written consent is still required before carrying out any operation likely to damage the features of special interest (see your SSSI notification papers for a list of these operations). Natural England welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

### **Management principles**

#### Coastal lagoons

Coastal lagoons are saline water bodies separated from the sea by a barrier (e.g. sand, shingle or rock sill). A small number are separated by tidal narrows which restrict the flow of water into and out of the lagoon. This separation from the sea makes them unique among coastal habitats and means that saline lagoons are either tideless, or where inlets occur, the tide has only a restricted effect on the lagoon. They retain part of their water-body at low tide, and this water may be either saline or brackish. They often support unusual assemblages of marine, estuarine and aquatic plants and animals, including lagoonal specialist species.

Any management needs to be carefully tailored to the needs of each individual lagoon and should be based on an understanding of the natural features of importance and the external factors affecting the lagoon. Indeed, where a lagoon is in a good and stable condition, active management is unlikely to be necessary. Maintaining salinity and water depths can be a key management priority, particularly where some lagoons become increasingly separated from the sea as a result of natural coastal processes - the balance between freshwater (e.g. from rainfall, streams or artificial outputs) and saline (i.e. sea water) inputs may change as a result. It may be necessary to actively manage freshwater and seawater input to favour certain species or communities. Whilst freshwater input is not essential to the conservation of lagoons, some connectivity with seawater is.

The water depth is also critical to many of the lagoonal specialist species with a depth between 0.5 and 1m being desirable. Some deeper water refuges are also beneficial. Siltation from surrounding land run-off may need to be addressed.

Water quality, and any direct and/or diffuse inputs from the surrounding land, can have a profound effect upon the productivity of lagoons and well-being of specialist species. Saline lagoons can show extreme reactions to a build-up of some types of nutrients and therefore it may be necessary to actively manage inputs, especially where in close proximity to farmland.

In some cases, it may be desirable to allow vegetation to encroach into the lagoon to increase the diversity of habitats present, particularly for some breeding and migratory bird species. However vegetation should not be allowed to encroach to such an extent that it significantly reduces the areas of open water and shallow water, thus reducing the variety of habitats available to specialist species within the lagoon itself.

Islands in saline lagoons can be important for breeding birds and some management of the vegetation on these islands may be necessary to provide the best conditions for breeding birds. Two typical methods of vegetation control include flooding and hand clearance.

#### Littoral sediments (mud and sand flats)

Intertidal mud and sand flats include a range of generally muddy or sandy low-gradient shores that are exposed to air during low tide and submerged during the higher tides. High energy shores, such as those on open coasts, are generally sandy in nature whilst more sheltered, low energy flats are muddier. They support a wide variety of marine invertebrates that represent an important food source for many fish and bird species.

Good water quality and sediment quality should be maintained, and the sediment budget within the estuarine or coastal system should not be restricted by anthropogenic influences.

The birds that use mud and sandflats for feeding and roosting are vulnerable to disturbance from human activities, for example, bait digging, dog walking and wildfowling. These activities can lead to reduced time spent feeding, or individuals being restricted to areas with a poor food supply. Disturbance should therefore be minimised, especially at times when bird populations may be stressed, such as during severe winter weather.

The location and extent of mud or sandflats is dependent on the extent to which the estuary or coast where they occur is constrained from responding to sea level rise and changing sediment regimes. Management needs to create space to enable landward roll-back to take place in response to sea-level rise, and should also allow the system to be dynamic and retain the flexibility to respond to associated changes such as the movement of physical features within the system, e.g. migrating subtidal sandbanks.

#### Coastal saltmarsh

Saltmarshes form the upper vegetated portions of intertidal mudflats in sheltered coastal locations, such as estuaries, lagoons and beach plains. There is typically a zonation of vegetation, from plants adapted to regular immersion by the tides (halophytes), through to more widespread plant species in the areas less frequently covered by the sea. The halophyte plant species are confined to this type of habitat, and areas of structurally diverse vegetation provide good invertebrate habitat. Saltmarshes are also important nursery sites for several fish species, and important refuge, feeding and breeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl.

Where saltmarshes require management this has traditionally been achieved by grazing, and previously used regimes should be continued. Grazing provides a variety of different habitats, particularly for wintering bird species, and if grazing were to cease there may be a loss of botanical diversity. The precise timing and intensity will vary according to local conditions and requirements, for example the type or availability of stock, or the need to avoid trampling ground nesting birds. However on many sites, the aim will be to create a short turf that can be attractive to non-breeding wildfowl, with a reduction in stock density in the early summer for the benefit of ground-nesting birds. Indeed, careful reduction of grazing can increase the number of breeding birds, without significantly altering the plant species composition. Care should be taken not to overgraze the site, as this may reduce the diversity of animal and plant species that the saltmarsh is able to support, as well as potentially impact the sediments supporting the saltmarsh.

Not all saltmarsh habitats require active management to retain their conservation interest. Where there has not been a history of grazing, the saltmarsh will be able to maintain itself and grazing-sensitive species are likely to be present, therefore grazing should not be introduced.

There are a number of factors that are contributing to saltmarsh change that management may need to take into consideration. These include coastal erosion as a result of coastal flood-defence works, rising sea-levels, variations in sediment deposition, and land claim for development.

### Swamp

Swamp habitats develop on the fringes of open water, or in shallow depressions with permanent standing water. The plants may be rooted in the submerged soil or form a floating mat of inter-twined roots, rhizomes and stems. Swamps usually consist of a dominant single species of plant (e.g. reeds, tussock sedges, reedmace, reed sweet grass, reed canary grass and bull rushes) with a few other species thinly distributed among them. In common with most other types of wetland, swamps represent a transient stage in the change from open water to dry land.

Management should either seek to retain swamp communities in the same place or should acknowledge the dynamics of succession by ensuring there is always a new niche for the swamp communities to develop in. The succession from swamp into floodplain fen, for example, as the diversity of species present increases, may be slowed by raising the water table and by periodically removing any encroaching scrub. If the vegetation surface of the whole wetland appears to be building up or drying out for some other reason it may be necessary to lower the ground level by creating scrapes or ponds. On reedbed a programme of rotational cutting and occasional controlled burning may be necessary to encourage the vigorous growth of reed whilst preventing excessive build up of litter. Cutting or burning should take place during the winter (November – February) and all cut material should be removed. Deer may need to be managed if the browsing pressure is degrading the reedbed and promoting its replacement with other habitats of lower conservation interest.

Management should ensure that appropriate water quality is maintained according to the requirements of the wetland communities present. Where swamp is wetted from a river or other waterbody, the water quality in the waterbody will affect the swamp. While some communities, such as reed swamp are unlikely to be very sensitive to nutritional enrichment, others, such as tussock sedge and narrow leaved reedmace, will be out-competed by other species (e.g. reed or reed sweet grass) where any increase in the amount of nutrients present occurs.

Swamp habitats have often survived where the vegetation has traditionally been cut for a variety of purposes, including use as building materials or animal bedding. It may be beneficial to consider re-instating these traditional management practices where they are not in conflict with other nature conservation objectives, such as the specific requirements of certain birds or invertebrates.

### Floodplain and coastal grazing marsh

Flat grassland around sluggish rivers and inland of salt marshes, particularly where the land has been reclaimed from natural wetland through the construction of flood banks and a network of ditches, is often referred to as grazing marsh. Although poorly drained and very wet in winter, these marshes can be dry in summer except for the water that remains in the ditches. Traditional methods of management have produced a mixture of flower-rich meadows, pasture and ditches that support a rich variety of plants, invertebrates, birds and amphibians.

Grazing marsh requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest. Generally, each year's growth of the grassland must be removed. Otherwise the sward becomes dominated by tall, vigorous grasses and rushes which, together with an associated build up of dead plant matter, suppress less vigorous species and lower the botanical richness of the sward.

In hay meadows grassland management is traditionally achieved by closing the fields to stock by February and cutting the spring growth as hay. The cut is usually done in early July, but the precise timing depends on local factors, including past management and weather conditions. It should always be after ground-nesting birds have fledged their young and any short-lived, characteristic plants have set seed. The aftermath is then grazed in late summer/autumn. Aftermath grazing is important for maintaining a species-rich sward, both through controlling competitive grasses and through hoof-prints providing suitable sites for seedlings to establish. Heavy poaching must be avoided, however.

On pasture the grassland is managed primarily by grazing. Cattle are often the preferred stock, being relatively tolerant of wet conditions and able to control tall grasses and rank vegetation. Cattle also tend to produce a rather uneven, structurally diverse sward. However, ponies, or even sheep, can be used if necessary. Grazing usually takes place at times between spring and winter, but the precise timing and intensity will depend on local conditions and requirements, such as water levels and the needs of wetland birds, including a predominantly short grassland sward during winter and spring and a low trampling pressure during spring to reduce the loss of nests. Heavy poaching should be avoided but light trampling later in the year can be beneficial in breaking down leaf litter and providing areas for seed germination. Management may also be required to control rush tussocks, for example by summer cutting. Agricultural operations in general should be avoided before mid-June to minimise disturbance to breeding birds or the destruction of nests.

Periodic dressings of well-rotted farmyard manure may be acceptable in hay meadows and on pasture if the sward does not receive regular input of nutrients from flooding. Lime should be used with caution. The grassland should not be re-seeded.

Partial winter flooding is important in maintaining suitable roosting and feeding habitat for non-breeding wildfowl and waders. A mosaic of shallow and some deeper flooded grassland and permanently un-flooded grassland is desirable, with both temporary and permanent pools present. Care should be taken on botanically rich grassland as changes in the historic water level regime can affect the composition of the sward. From April onwards, the area of standing surface water should be reduced to increase the area available for nesting waders. Some shallow areas of flooding (splashes) should be maintained until late June to provide patches of bare muddy ground on which the birds and their young can feed as feeding on the drier areas becomes more difficult.

Birds using grazing marsh are directly vulnerable to disturbance, which can cause them to lose time spent feeding or drive them to areas with a poorer supply of food. Management should seek to minimise any harmful disturbance, especially during their breeding period and at times when bird populations are under stress, such as during severely cold conditions. Predators, especially crows and related species, should be controlled and this may be best achieved by limiting the availability of near-by nesting and perching sites provided by scrub or trees.

Regular and careful maintenance or restoration of ditches, gutters and other wetland features may be necessary. They may represent the only remaining freshwater habitat within former wetland areas, and often support a wide range of aquatic plant and animal (in particular invertebrate) species that would have previously been more widespread in ponds and wetlands.

If left unmanaged, silt accumulates in the bottom of the ditches, and emergent plants such as reeds are able to colonise across the width of the ditch, leading to a loss of aquatic plant diversity and a gradual drying out of the ditch. To prevent this, periodic removal of sediment and vegetation may be necessary to return the ditch to an early stage of the management cycle. Ideally, ditch management should be undertaken on a rotation, creating a series of different management stages across a site at any one time.

All stages of the management cycle have wildlife interest; recently cleared ditches are good for plants and animals which favour newly created habitats and cannot tolerate competition with other species; middle-stage ditches support a rich aquatic plant flora; and late-stage ditches may be important for reed dwelling species or for a variety of invertebrates. The removal of both sediment and vegetation is usually better than simply cutting the vegetation, which does not recreate the earliest stages of the ditch management cycle. Where possible, management should aim to create shallow shelving margins rather than steep ditch sides. Where water voles are known to be present, the relevant good practice guidelines for ditch management and conservation should be followed. Usually, ditch spoil should be spread thinly away from ditch margins, taking care to avoid levelling out the field surface and, where possible, avoiding botanically rich grassland. Old spoil banks may need to be spread to restore suitable wetland conditions for the conservation interest. Deepening or increasing the effectiveness of surface drainage should be avoided.

Generally, ditch margins and other wetland features should be open to livestock grazing since, as on the grassland, this can control the more vigorous plant species. Light poaching of the wet margins also creates a diversity of habitat conditions that favour different wetland plants and invertebrates, and feeding opportunities for wading birds.

Most ditch systems are subject to water level control, which should be managed to ensure that there is a sufficient depth of water (0.3-0.5m) in ditches throughout the year. Management should allow winter flooding to occur and some shallow splash flooding into spring where breeding wetland birds are important. During these times of year ditch water levels should not generally fall more than 0.3m below mean field level and ideally should be close to field level for much of the time. Rapid or extreme changes in water level should be avoided unless they are known to be important to plant or animal communities relying on such fluctuations.

The maintenance of good water quality is essential to maintaining a healthy wetland system. Management should minimise pollution from point and diffuse sources, including discharges of domestic and industrial effluent, and run-off from agriculture and urban land. Increased levels of nutrients, for example, can cause a loss of aquatic plants and increases in algal growth. Other activities that can lead to this include the control or removal of aquatic plants, or the introduction of species such as bottom feeding coarse fish which uproot plants and disturb ditch sediments. Ditches are also susceptible to invasion by non-native aquatic plants such as floating pennywort and water fern, which are able to grow rapidly taking up available habitat and smothering other plants. Some native plants including a number of duckweed species are also able to take over in this way (although such growths are usually exacerbated by increased nutrients in the water) and management may be necessary to control such invasions where they cause a problem.

An important feature of many coastal ditch systems relating to water quality is the transition between freshwater and brackish water conditions, which often results in interesting changes in plant and animal species along ditch lengths or across the site. Management should aim to maintain such freshwater-brackish transitions where they occur. An element of managed scrub, particularly on the borders of grazing marsh, can be of importance to bird and invertebrate species but should be confined to small, scattered groups.

### Floodplain fen

Floodplain fens develop on flat areas that have historically been flooded by waters from rivers and streams that meander across the plains. Floodplain vegetation may also be dependent on water seepage from subterranean aquifers or from seepage down or at the base of the constraining slopes.

Floodplain fen is commonly composed of tall grasses and herbs, such as reed, willowherb, milk parsley, meadowsweet, angelica and nettles. If left unmanaged the sward becomes dominated by tall, vigorous grasses and rushes which, together with an associated build up of dead plant matter and the encroachment of scrub and trees, suppress less vigorous species, thus lowering the botanical richness of the sward. The conservation interest is also likely to be reduced where trees have been planted into fen vegetation. Rotational cutting or clearance of scrub, the removal of plantation trees and cutting or intermittent grazing of the vegetation is usually required. Cattle are often the preferred stock, being relatively tolerant of wet conditions and able to control tall grasses and rank vegetation. Cattle also tend to produce a rather uneven, structurally diverse sward. However, ponies, or even hill sheep, can be used if necessary. Grazing usually takes place at times between late spring and early autumn, but the precise timing and intensity will depend on local conditions and requirements, such as the need to avoid trampling ground-nesting birds. Heavy poaching should be avoided but light trampling can be beneficial in breaking down leaf litter and providing areas for seed germination. Cutting may be appropriate during winter or at other times of year depending on local requirements, but all cut material should be removed.

Rivers are dynamic and can cause erosion on some parts of the floodplain and deposit of silt in others. Management should not necessarily aim to maintain each component of the floodplain fen in exactly the same place, but should ensure that the full range of niches remain available for use by plants and animals over the course of time.

Where ditches are present these may need to be managed in the ways described for ditches in grazing marsh. When considering ditch clearing, particular care should be taken to avoid effects on the water level regime required in the fen for the conservation interest.

River water quality is important for floodplain fen and management should ensure it remains within acceptable limits. It is normal for the lower reaches of rivers to contain more plant nutrients than at source, and most floodplain fens depend on an adequate supply of nutrients being maintained.

However, excessive nutrient enrichment may result in the replacement of the characteristic floodplain fen communities with very species-poor vegetation, composed of little but a tall dominant grass such as reed or reed sweet grass with nettles.

Winter flooding is an important factor in the management of some floodplain habitats and management should ensure the frequency and extent of flooding is appropriate for maintaining the nature conservation interest of the site where this is the case. For example, river engineering has in many cases reduced the frequency and extent of flooding. Changes in agriculture and the use of floodplains for built development have also often resulted in smaller floodplains and the requirements of floodplain habitats should be considered in the design of such schemes in the future. The balance between groundwater and floodwater influence on the floodplain should be identified and maintained when designing the extent and frequency of controlled flood events.

### Lowland wet woodland and scrub

Wet woodland includes a range of different woodland types but usually is dominated by ash, alder and willow species. Scrub is generally a transitional stage that will develop from swamp and floodplain fen into woodland if unmanaged. The main woody components are bushes or small trees, especially willows. Both woodland and scrub often support important invertebrate species and assemblages and the edge zone with rivers and streams and open wetland habitat can be especially important.

Maintaining structural diversity and a mosaic of age classes within areas of scrub is important for maintaining the diversity of species the scrub is able to support. This can be achieved using rotational cutting, which should aim to maintain a mosaic of scrub at different stages of growth. Scrub can also be cut in small patches to create an intimate mixture of scrub and grass and/or heath.

Grazing is another method for managing scrub and in some situations, for example where scrub occurs in conjunction with fen or heathland, may be a more suitable management tool than cutting. By its nature, grazing can help to create a patchy mosaic of scrub and other habitats. As with cutting, it can also help to maintain a range of age classes. However, stock levels do need to be carefully controlled. If grazing pressure is too high the structure of the scrub vegetation may become impoverished. Also, the scrub may not be able to regenerate naturally, leading to a loss of cover over time. Fencing to control grazing may be required where the objective is to increase the area of scrub or allow a transition to wet woodland.

In contrast wet woodland usually benefits from minimum intervention and is often best left undisturbed to limit damage to the fragile soils. This allows the development of old stands where individual trees reach maturity and die naturally to create gaps in the canopy, leading to a diverse woodland structure. However, works to remove dangerous trees in areas of public access may be necessary.

Where particularly important light-demanding or glade species interests are present, including where the woodland is spreading on to valuable open wetland habitat, it may be necessary to periodically clear areas of vegetation. In some woods a more active programme of management by coppice may be appropriate, where this has been the historical management and the conditions are such that it will not lead to heavy ground disturbance.

### Dorset heathlands

The Dorset heathlands were maintained through a long history of subsistence farming. Traditionally the heathland was lightly grazed by livestock and exploited to provide fuel and materials from cutting gorse, turves and other vegetation and from local, small-scale mineral winning. These uses depleted the thin acid soils of nutrients, caused some localised disturbance and kept the land mostly free of scrub and trees. In this way the varied uses, along with natural variation in soil conditions and drainage, created conditions favouring a diversity of acid grassland, heath and mire habitats at various stages of vegetation development.

Without such management heathland becomes progressively dominated by bracken, gorse and, on wet ground, purple moor-grass tussocks. Eventually the heath will scrub over with pine and other trees that are usually of lower nature conservation value. Management that re-creates the historic

conditions is required today to maintain the conservation interest. The precise management requirements and their intensity and timing will vary both between and within sites according to the needs of different heathland interests and site conditions.

Low intensity grazing using a mix of hardy livestock is the best form of management. By feeding selectively in different areas and on different plants, free roaming livestock help to maintain variation in the vegetation composition and structure. They can also suppress scrub encroachment and provide some light poaching, creating pockets of bare peat and sandy ground that is needed by a variety of specialised plants, reptiles and invertebrates. Although some grazing all year is beneficial, the heathland should be stocked mainly between late spring and early autumn. Hardy breeds of cattle and ponies are the preferred stock because of their diet and grazing behaviour. They are also relatively tolerant of wet conditions and able to exploit poor forage with no need for supplementary feed. Exceptionally, local measures may be needed to guard against excessive trampling damage to some areas of mature heather of especial importance for rare reptiles.

Additional management is likely to be required to control any dense bracken invasion and to remove scrub and tree encroachment. This may be achieved either by mechanical control or manual cutting, and the careful application of a suitable herbicide where necessary. At most sites the heathland should appear a predominantly open landscape, but with possibly some retained individual trees and small clumps of mainly Scots pine, birch and willow. An element of native, self-established deciduous woodland fringing the heathland may add to the conservation interest by providing habitat edge environments favoured by some heathland birds and invertebrates. Mature oak is particularly valuable for these interests. A diverse woodland structure with some open space, some areas of dense understorey, and an overstorey of more mature trees is important. This may be achieved by grazing wooded areas with the heathland, creating local mosaics of woodland and heath, with some scrub and young trees.

Gorse requires active management to retain its heathland conservation value. Scattered stands with a bushy structure within the heath are more beneficial than large continuous blocks. Winter cutting of 'leggy' stands and removal of the cut material maintains gorse at different stages of re-growth for heathland species and avoids nutrient accumulation in the soil. Where gorse has become invasive, large blocks can be fragmented to encourage a mosaic with heathers either by mechanical control or manual cutting, and the careful application of a suitable herbicide where necessary. Controlled winter burning of old gorse stands can achieve similar results to cutting.

Controlled winter burning of selected, relatively small areas of heath vegetation may be a further suitable way of maintaining a diversity of vegetation structure and re-establishing areas of pioneer heath required by some species. Special care is required when some sensitive species are present, with consideration being given to timing and to providing the necessary manpower to control the burn.

Where extensive grazing or patch burning is not practical, often for example on small and isolated heathland fragments, a varied regime of patch mowing with some ground disturbance can help to encourage a more diverse heathland sward structure. The cut material needs to be removed to avoid nutrient accumulation and to allow the cut plants to re-sprout successfully and to enable new plants to grow from the seed bank in the soil. However, mowing is unlikely to be suitable on mire vegetation and on mature stands of dry heath of importance for rare reptiles.

Patches of bare sandy ground, especially within heather vegetation and associated with banks or other topographic features, are important for reptiles and many specialised heathland invertebrates. On some sites more extensive areas of bare ground, acid grassland and heath at early stages of development provide suitable conditions for a different range of heathland interests. Livestock and burrowing animals such as rabbits can create new bare ground, but there may be advantages for the conservation interests in creating further areas through periodic mechanical disturbance. The timing and scale of such disturbance will depend on local factors such as, for example, the needs of individual species of conservation concern and historical management practices on the site.

Fen often develops within valleys and the origins and movement of the water within the fen give rise to a number of different vegetation zones. The variety of plant and animal life in the valley mire is closely linked to the number and type of zones it contains.

Management should aim to maintain the groundwater quality and quantity, though the quantity is not likely to be naturally constant throughout the seasons or between wet and dry years. The groundwater is often susceptible to contamination by agricultural fertilisers or by pollution, such as from landfill sites.

Grazing is important in the management of the valley mire as part of the wider grazing regime on the heathland area. Animals help to break up the tussocks of rank grasses opening the sward up to a greater variety of plants. Some (but not excessive) trampling is necessary to create open soil, for invertebrates, mosses and seedling establishment. Grazing also limits the spread of willow, alder and birch carr, which naturally tends to develop around the central watercourse and it should be restricted to this area, other than for a few isolated clumps elsewhere for the benefit of birds and invertebrates. Swamps are also important for invertebrates and birds and, where naturally present, some swamp vegetation, such as reedbed, within the mosaic of habitats will add to the conservation value of the site. However, excessive spread of reed, reed canary grass, or reed sweet grass is likely to be an indication of worsening water quality, the cause of which should be investigated and addressed to maintain the characteristic fen communities.

Drainage schemes should not intercept the sources of ground and surface water to the valley mire. It is important for the watercourses of the valley mire not to receive run-off from fertilised land or flows contaminated by other point and diffuse sources, including discharges of domestic and industrial effluent and drainage from urban land. The bed of the watercourse should not be lowered, nor should its water level be artificially raised, other than as part of a well thought-out conservation scheme to restore natural drainage conditions. This will ensure the various vegetation components of the valley mire are maintained in their ideal proportions, and that 'head-ward' erosion is not triggered, in which increased flow gradually erodes the peat and silt on which the valley mire has developed.

Streams and ponds considerably add to the heathland interest in providing habitat for specialised plants, amphibians and invertebrates such as dragonflies. Careful maintenance of existing ponds to establish a mixture of open water and vegetated areas is usually acceptable practice. Particular care should be taken to avoid habitat of conservation value when disposing of dredgings, and new ponds may only be acceptable in certain locations of low conservation value.

### Red squirrel

There are two main objectives when managing a forest that is suitable for the red squirrel. The first is to make the forest as unsuitable for the grey squirrel as possible. These have largely been responsible for the decline of the red squirrel, as they utilise large tree seeds more efficiently. To do this, the forest should consist primarily of species that directly benefit the red squirrel, i.e. trees that produce small seeds such as Scots pine, larch, Norway spruce, lodgepole, firs, yew and hawthorn. Whilst small seeded broadleaved species (such as birch, rowan, ash, willow, aspen and alder) do not directly benefit the red squirrel, they do not encourage greys, and so can remain in the forest. Large seeded trees such as oak, beech, chestnut and hazel should generally be removed if grey squirrel are liable to colonise the forest. If the above does not deter grey squirrel colonisation, the animals must be removed, and cage trapping is the best method for this.

The second objective is to maintain a constant supply of food. Conifer seed is their favoured food source, and management should therefore ensure a continuous proportion of the forest is composed of conifer species of seed-bearing age and with a high seed yield.

Both of the above objectives will inevitably involve felling. This should only take place between November and February, when young red squirrels are not nesting in their dreys. Felling can also be used advantageously, as selective felling can target trees with small crowns that produce little seed and favour trees with larger crowns which in a more open canopy are likely to produce more seed.

In addition to managing the forest itself, it is important to maintain a buffer zone, between 1 to 5km wide, consisting of a habitat unsuitable for the grey squirrel. This can include coniferous woodland and broad leaved trees with small seeds, but moorland or even arable land can be equally effective. Island populations of red squirrel provide some of the best opportunities for long term survival of the species in Britain and should be protected against any colonisation by grey squirrel.

## Heronry

Grey Herons nest in groups, known as heronries, high in the crowns of mature trees. Where nesting Grey Herons are present, management should aim to maintain areas of woodland with a high proportion of tall mature trees (typically between 15-30m high) to provide suitable roosting and nesting sites for the species. Grey Herons require quiet and undisturbed places in which to nest, usually preferring a commanding position over the surrounding open landscape. Nesting Grey Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance and the disturbance of woodland in the immediate vicinity of nesting birds should be kept to a minimum during the breeding season mid-March to July. Recreational use of the woodland should be discouraged, whilst shooting for game should be avoided completely in areas where Grey Herons are nesting. Grey Herons forage over extensive areas including shallow water, marshes, lagoons, estuaries, reservoirs, ditches, rivers, ponds, lakes and canals. Any open water or wetland habitats present on site should be retained to maintain local foraging habitat.

## All habitats

The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas. The use of persistent veterinary products on livestock, or other fertilisers, including manures and liming, can also be detrimental on many of the habitats and should be avoided where possible.

The habitats are also susceptible to invasive introduced species, including animals such as mink and plants such as *Rhododendron*, *Gaultheria* and, in wet situations, parrot's feather, Australian swamp stonecrop and Himalayan balsam. Such species should be controlled and, where practical, eliminated from the site. Herbicides may be useful in targeting certain invasive plants, but should be used with extreme care.

Measures are likely to be necessary to control recreational and other activities which can be damaging, particularly for heathland and wetland habitats and species. Suitable measures on heathland may include a system to allow for the effective control of fires, such as access for fire-fighting vehicles, firebreaks and emergency water, and the management of access. Controlled burning or mowing can, if carefully located, also help to reduce the risk from uncontrolled fires.

Date issued: 27 June 2005

Date additional land notified: 24 May 2018

## ***Annex 3***

### **List of operations requiring Natural England's consent**

The operations listed in this document are the same as those listed in the 1990 notification of Poole Harbour SSSI. They now apply also to the additional land. You have a right to make representations or objections about the application of the listed operations to the additional land, as explained in part 3 of this document.

## Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) substituted by Schedule 9 to the  
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of Poole Harbour SSSI. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England, and may require our consent.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities please contact your Natural England Area Team who will give you advice and where appropriate issue a consent. Please help us by using the 'notice form' (provided at notification and available on request) to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible the Area Team will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable a consent to be issued. To proceed without Natural England's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

<b>Standard reference number</b>	<b>Type of operation</b>
----------------------------------	--------------------------

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1.   | Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.  |
| 2.   | The introduction of grazing or changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).  |
| 3.   | The introduction of stock feeding.  |
| 4.   | The introduction of or changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).  |
| 5.   | Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.  |
| 6.   | Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).  |
| 7.   | Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.   |
| 8.   | Burning.  |
| 9.   | The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.  |
| 10.  | The killing or removal of any wild animal* including pest control.  |
| 11.  | The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould, turf.                                     |
| 12.  | Tree and/or woodland management (including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management). |
| 13a. | Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).  |
| 13b. | Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg streams, springs, ditches, dykes, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.   |
| 13c. | Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.  |
| 14.  | The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).   |
| 15.  | Infilling of ditches, drains, ponds, pools or marshes.  |

<b>Standard reference number</b>	<b>Type of operation</b>
16a.	The introduction of freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
16b.	Coastal fishing or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection including the use of traps or fish cages.
17.	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
18.	Bait digging in intertidal areas.
19.	Erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or land-slip drainage or stabilisation measures.
20.	Extraction of minerals, including peat, shingle, clay, sand and gravel, topsoil, shells and spoil.
21.	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22.	Storage of materials.
23.	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24.	Modification of natural or man-made features, clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and battering, buttressing or grading rock-faces and cuttings, infilling of pits and quarries.
26.	Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27.	Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest.
28.	Introduction of or changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

\* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

**Date notified:** 7 December 1990

**Date additional land notified:** 24 May 2018

**National grid reference:** SY996886

## ***Annex 4***

### **Maps showing the land notified**

These are legal documents on which you have a right to make objections or representations about the notification of the additional land, as explained in part 3 of this document.

