

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Solent & Soton Water SPA Supporting Habitat
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	25	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	4.14	Favourable	Reeds in generally good condition, no significant die back observed. Scrub associated with the edges of the reed bed, scrub encroachment on this site to to be periodically reviewed, possible management issue in the future. Also possible issue of nutrient enrichment associated with sewer storm overflow causing nettle patch in centre of reed, this issue is currently being addressed.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	26	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	25.27	Favourable	visited site with Farm director and Bob Lord to assess potential for stewardship application. advised that EN would like to see reedbeds back into rotational cutting mgt with some water level management		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	9	Neutral grassland - lowland	35.51	Favourable	This area is made up by coastal grazing marsh with a range of grassland types present. The grassland is grazed and there are occasional wet depressions so is in good condition for wintering birds. Birds counted during visit: 400 widgeon, 300 lapwing, 100+ teal, 80 black-tailed godwit, 50+ shoveler, 20 pintail. Targets for the grassland attributes are being met: there is less than 10% cover of rush, less than 5% cover of scrub and sward height is generally 10-15cm.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	10	Neutral grassland - lowland	60.57	Favourable	This area is coastal grazing marsh with a range of communities present including Scirpus maritimus beds. The grassland is grazed and there are occasional wet depressions so conditions are good for wintering birds. Birds counted during visit: 200 widgeon, 200 teal, 10 shoveler. Targets for the grassland are being met: the sward is short, scrub is less than 5% cover. Juncus inflexus is locally abundant but it is being managed by mowing.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	11	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.77	Favourable	This is an area of grazing marsh with a range of communities present including reed bed. The condition of the habitat is generally good although cover of rush is high. Overall cover of rush is about 30% although some of this is Juncus maritimus and its presence is considered acceptable. The suitability of the area for wintering and breeding birds may be compromised somewhat by the rather enclosed character - it may be beneficial to try to reduce this aspect.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	12	Neutral grassland - lowland	16.81	Favourable	This is an area of grazing marsh divided into two parts by a track and hedge. Both areas of grassland have been grazed and they are in good condition. The southern part has a small amount of encroaching scrub which may need control in due course. The grassland is in suitable condition for wintering birds. Bird counts during visit: 200 curlew, 3 black-tailed godwit, 120 lapwing.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	13	Neutral grassland - lowland	6.05	Favourable	This is a diverse area of saltmarsh with a range of communities present, as well as reed bed. Sea water appears to be seeping through the sea wall producing saline conditions. This is acceptable from the nature conservation perspective as it is producing a diverse range of habitats. The cover of scrub is within target level although there does appear to be an on-going issue with scrub encroachment.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	14	Neutral grassland - lowland	3.75	Favourable	This unit includes a gradation from upper and middle salt marsh communities through to freshwater communities. The uncommon plant Ranunculus baudotii occurs in the transitional areas. The entire area is grazed by New Forest ponies and sward height is within target.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	17	Neutral grassland - lowland	22.95	Favourable	This area has recently established grassland on a former landfill site and gravel workings. Much of the grassland lacks structural variety and has a fairly tall sward but there are also areas with a more tussocky, diverse structure. The area is potentially suitable for grazing geese and feeding curlew. It is also of potential value as a refuge area for birds. In these respects the area can be said to be in favourable condition.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	1	Littoral sediment	3.95	Favourable	No obvious signs of decline, some disturbance and erosion associated with access footpath on eastern side of the pond. Possible issues with water quality associated with storm-overflow of sewer located in reedbeds (unit 25), this is currently being addressed.		Mud-flats and saltmarshes
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	19	Coastal lagoon	4.81	Favourable	Sme concern over quantities of water coming from Manor Farm extraction site lowering salinity at southern end of system - spp diversity reduced.		Saline lagoon
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	21	Coastal lagoon	2.98	Favourable	Met with Oliver Dunne to discuss lowering of Pond for maintenance of banks and (!) covering of jetty with concrete/decking.		Saline lagoon
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	22	Coastal lagoon	14.03	Favourable			Saline lagoon

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Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	24	Coastal lagoon	3.74	Favourable	Not a very saline system ! Could be improved somewhat I reckon.		Saline lagoon
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	31	Littoral rock	24.18	Favourable	No obvious decline in condition. Apart from access track and visitor pathways, habitat and vegetation little disturbed. However trampling of vegetation maybe causing a decline, recommend that the extent of vegetated shingle is periodically reviewed. SPA birds observed roosting on shingle beach. Areas of the beach observed to be eroding and cliffing in places.		Shingle Beach
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	32	Supralittoral sediment	8.46	Favourable	The shingle spit is of importance because of its classic coastal landform. It is regarded as being in favourable condition in this respect because, despite protection and modification in places, it retains its classic shape. It also supports saltmarsh and shingle vegetation of special interest and there is a large population of the scarce plant <i>Inula crithmoides</i> . Trampling and eutrophication appear to be localised issues. There is some localised vehicle disturbance close to the ferry quayside.		Shingle Beach
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	34	Littoral sediment	27.94	Unfavourable declining	Visited by Clive Bealey. The unit is considered to be affected by 'coastal squeeze', ie hard defences are in place which are preventing retreat of the intertidal habitats in the face of sea level rise. There is also concern about the additional effect of erosion on the habitat, thought to be exacerbated by wash from boats.	Coastal squeeze	Estuaries and mud-flats
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	15	Neutral grassland - lowland	3.87	Unfavourable declining	This area is included in the SSSI because of its potential value to feeding and breeding birds. It is currently considered to be in unfavourable condition because it is not in suitable condition for birds. Sward height is generally above 30 cm and is rank and tussocky. There is a lot of encroaching bramble and there are abundant nettles, docks and ragwort. Management to create a generally short sward is required.	Undergrazing	Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	16	Neutral grassland - lowland	11.4	Unfavourable declining	Visited by Clive Bealey. The area is included in the SSSI because of its potential value in supporting feeding and breeding birds. It is considered to be in unfavourable condition because it is currently unsuitable for birds. The sward is fairly tall, c15-20cm and is developing a thick thatch. The sward is generally weedy, with frequent docks, nettle and goosegrass, and rushes are becoming abundant in places.	Undergrazing	Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	2	Littoral sediment	172.74	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing signs of extensive saltmarsh erosion indicative coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of <i>Spartina</i> die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Mud-flats and saltmarshes
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	3	Littoral sediment	109.42	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing extensive signs of saltmarsh erosion indicative of coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of <i>Spartina</i> die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Mud-flats and saltmarshes
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	4	Littoral sediment	207.93	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing extensive signs of saltmarsh erosion indicative of coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of <i>Spartina</i> die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Mud-flats and saltmarshes
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	5	Littoral sediment	194.08	Unfavourable declining	Saltmarsh erosion is taking place within this unit and at very high rates. However, much of the ground landward of the saltmarsh is naturally rising. Loss of extent and some change in saltmarsh composition is accepted as natural change where the habitat is backed by rising ground. However, the loss of ecological functionality as reflected by the loss of zonation and characteristic species indicates that this unit is declining in condition.	Coastal squeeze	Mud-flats and saltmarshes
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	8	Neutral grassland - lowland	45.1	Unfavourable recovering	Management of site meets objectives; environmental stewardship agreement covers this area.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	18	Neutral grassland - lowland	5.15	Unfavourable recovering	This area is of interest as it includes species-rich grassland and is of potential value for wintering birds. The unit is now included in a HLS scheme with prescriptions to support management to maintain the feature in favourable condition. Targets are not currently being met as although the grassland is being grazed there is very high cover of spear thistle and ragwort, well above target level.		Grazing marsh
Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	23	Coastal lagoon	3.47	Unfavourable recovering	In agri-environment scheme and water issues resolved.		Saline lagoon

SAC	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Solent Maritime SAC Primary Habitat
Solent Maritime	Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	1	Littoral sediment	3.95	Favourable	No obvious signs of decline, some disturbance and erosion associated with access footpath on eastern side of the pond. Possible issues with water quality associated with storm-overflow of sewer located in reedbeds (unit 25), this is currently being addressed.		Coastal lagoons
Solent Maritime	Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	2	Littoral sediment	172.74	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing signs of extensive saltmarsh erosion indicative coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of Spartina die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, and Spartina swards, and Atlantic salt meadows, and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.
Solent Maritime	Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	3	Littoral sediment	109.42	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing extensive signs of saltmarsh erosion indicative of coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of Spartina die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, and Spartina swards, and Atlantic salt meadows, and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.
Solent Maritime	Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	4	Littoral sediment	207.93	Unfavourable declining	This unit, which is backed by a sea wall, is showing extensive signs of saltmarsh erosion indicative of coastal squeeze. There are significant losses of lower saltmarsh and reversed succession where mid and upper marsh areas are being invaded by lower marsh species. There is undoubtedly also signs of Spartina die-back and this is contributing to the erosion rates.	Coastal squeeze	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, and Spartina swards, and Atlantic salt meadows, and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.
Solent Maritime	Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary	32	Supralittoral sediment	8.46	Favourable	The shingle spit is of importance because of its classic coastal landform. It is regarded as being in favourable condition in this respect because, despite protection and modification in places, it retains its classic shape. It also supports saltmarsh and shingle vegetation of special interest and there is a large population of the scarce plant Inula crithmoides. Trampling and eutrophication appear to be localised issues. There is some localised vehicle disturbance close to the ferry quayside.		Annual vegetation of drift lines.

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River Avon System	35	Rivers and streams	80.95	Unfavourable no change	Quality (class & P) - unfav no change Flow - unfav no change Silt - unfav no change Structure - unfav no change Management - unfav no change Disturbance - unfav no change Access - unfav no change Several large abstractions on Lower Avon taken forward under Stage 3 of RoC.	Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weirs dams and other structures, Other - specify in comments, Siltation, Water abstraction, Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation

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Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	148	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	0.71	Favourable	Wet willow scrub woodland. Some encroachment into southern compartment from adjoining house, plus associated invasive species (Cotoneaster). Unmanaged.		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	209	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	1.07	Favourable	A non intervention area of wet woodland. No signs of intervention!		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	214	Coniferous woodland	2.63	Favourable	Block of willow carr within an area of wet grassland. Cetti's warbler singing from carr.		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	151	Neutral grassland - lowland	2.99	Favourable	Riparian woodland and scrub may inhibit waterfowl use.		Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	215	Improved grassland	8.14	Favourable	The land is now being farmed under an organic system. Upgrading in the ESA scheme and a plan of ditch and gutter management is being drawn up under a conservation plan.		Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	218	Neutral grassland - lowland	21.28	Favourable	Unit includes large areas of high quality species rich wet grassland particularly in the north of the unit. Pair of redshank observed with 3 chicks. Water quality in ditches and the clockhouse stream poor with abundant algae growth and little or no aquatic flora. River level high at least level with unit suggesting raising water levels possible.		Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	212	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	2.6	Favourable			Inland water bodies
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	146	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.63	Unfavourable declining	Grassland with scrub encroachment and high weed cover. Appeared to be grazed by donkeys.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	147	Neutral grassland - lowland	5.05	Unfavourable declining	The northern section of this unit is grazed by donkeys and horses. There is an intimate mosaic of species rich neutral grassland and fen communities. Interesting ditch communities adding value floristically and structurally. Some weed cover and scrub encroachment. The majority of the unit, further south is under different ownership/management and consisted of unmanaged rank grassland with scrub and weed issues.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	150	Neutral grassland - lowland	4.4	Unfavourable declining	The unit is in unfavourable condition because it is undergrazed. The site does not appear to have been grazed for some time and there is dead thatch over the whole field. The sward height is over 15cm and is unattractive to breeding waders in its current state. Negative indicator species, i.e. thistles, docks and nettles are present on over 10% of the area of the field. There is also a significant amount of marsh ragwort on the site.	Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	153	Neutral grassland - lowland	2.54	Unfavourable declining	Heavily grazed by horses; invaded by scattered scrub and young trees (sycamore). Sward structure poor.	Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels, Overgrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	207	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.22	Unfavourable declining	This site is in unfavourable condition due to a lack of management. It is currently undergrazed and the vegetation is rank across the site, apart from the areas of shorter vegetation adjacent to the river which appear to have been cut. There are relic ditches on site but these are so choked with vegetation that they have almost disappeared and are in need of restoration. Carex acutiformis is present in large stands covering as much as 40-50% of the site. This indicates that there are problems with waterlogging here, likely to be a direct consequence of the decline in the ditch network.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	208	Neutral grassland - lowland	26.87	Unfavourable declining	Botanical interest adversely affected by lack of ditch management. Loss of botanical diversity, leading to swamp vegetation as a result of increased waterlogging, resulting in reduced ability to take a hay cut, leading to lack of aftermath grazing.	Inappropriate ditch management	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	211	Neutral grassland - lowland	4.36	Unfavourable declining	The site was very overgrazed at the time of visit. The stocking density is too high for the unit (11 horses on 3 hectares) there was and consequently supplementary feeding (hay) was occurring. A great deal of bare ground and poaching was evident as well as dunging across the whole site.	Inappropriate stock-feeding, Overgrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland

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Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	216	Neutral grassland - lowland	7.99	Unfavourable declining	Unit classified as unfavourable due to lack of ditch management, although the hay meadows have been cut regularly and are favourable.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	217	Neutral grassland - lowland	3.77	Unfavourable declining	Assessed as above due to the lack of ditch management to the point they are being lost completely and may have resulted in the southern area drying and no longer being attractive to breeding waders. The northern hay meadows are in a favourable condition and are still being cut for hay on a regular basis.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	206	Neutral grassland - lowland	11.97	Unfavourable no change	The grazing management of this unit has improved in that it is now managed by regular grazing. However, the unit has internal electric fencing which has resulted in fairly large areas of the unit remaining ungrazed, particularly around the field margins. Where grazing has occurred, the grassland sward is very tightly grazed and bordering on being overgrazed. The ditches require management (and restoration in some cases) to clean out the vegetation and to remove the tree and scrub cover on the ditch edges.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	213	Neutral grassland - lowland	14.73	Unfavourable no change	Southern area of unit includes horse paddock which is overgrazed and trampled. Whole unit relatively dry and of low botanical interest. North area consists of relatively poor quality woodland / scrub bordering track.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels, Overgrazing	Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	152	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1.9	Unfavourable no change	The site requires management to progressively remove laurel, sycamore and leylandii.	Drainage, Inappropriate scrub control	Inland water bodies
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	154	Rivers and streams	60.76	Unfavourable no change	Some of the key attributes set out in the site's conservation objectives are not being met: Water Quality - fails to meet some of the WQ targets GQA Biological target a. Meets target Un-ionised Ammonia target	Drainage, Inappropriate water levels, Siltation, Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	Inland water bodies
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)	210	Acid grassland - lowland	28.24	Unfavourable recovering	A survey was undertaken in July 2003 (by DERC under contract to English Nature) to assess the condition of the grassland sward based on botanical communities described in the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). Cowards Marsh is a large and very varied unit. The site is a mosaic of wet grassland, dry acid grassland, rush pasture and fen meadow and was found, botanically to be overall in good condition. Further visits have been made at different times of year to assess condition of the marsh for breeding waders. Significantly, management actions have recently been agreed to bring Cowards Marsh into favourable condition. These actions commence Spring 04 and include a phased management plan to reduce the encroachment of secondary birch woodland onto the Marsh; Breeding wader areas have also been agreed where grazing will be restricted during the spring and there has been a change in policy on the use of Ivermectins on the Marsh. Implementation of the next phase of the management plan will ensure that the Marsh moves to favourable condition.		Humid grassland / Mesophile grassland

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Arne	1	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	16.18	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath and wet heath favourable, but unit merits an overall unfavourable recovering status due to the need to eradicate Rhododendron and remove birch from the southern slopes of the unit. The cover of gorse also needs to be monitored. Management has been secured over much of the unit through an HLS agreement. The unit grades into saltmarsh at the eastern end.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Blue Pool & Norden Heaths	7	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	21.53	Unfavourable recovering	More recent habitat management event - pine clearance in NE in particular. Still a significant amount of trees to take out but biggest long-term problem is likely to be gorse which is regrowing vigorously after initial clearances.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Christchurch Harbour	1	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	36.14	Favourable	The headland supports stands of dry and humid heath. Calluna vulgaris and Erica cinerea dominate with scattered plants of Cuscuta epithymum, Erica tetralix and Ulex minor. There is one area where Erica tetralix is dominant and Juncus squarrosus and Molinia are also present (the topography here is a gentle slope which rises again to dry heath nice transitions between dry heath and humid heath.) Elsewhere within the Unit are stands of dry acid grassland in the western part of the unit, maritime grassland communities at the cliff edges and areas of scrub on the north facing slopes of the headland where conditions are more sheltered. The scrub will require continued management; particularly important is the ongoing management of the alien species Gaultheria shallon which to date has been very successful but requires ongoing management to prevent its spread. Extending the current grazing into this part of the site, is desirable and should be considered. Extending grazing into the area known as Long Field would be a natural first step as this area requires particular attention and is losing grassland interest to scrub.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	1	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	6.78	Unfavourable recovering	There has been good progress, although this is hampered by lack of funds from MoD. Much of the work is carried out by HCT and DEA rather than using local funds. There remains a lot of leggy gorse, birch and pine tree clearance to be carried out. The site now has good bare sand but still requires bracken spraying action in some areas. Parking of vehicles around the driver training circuit remains a problem. Also staff are using the area for setting off fireworks.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	6	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	20.62	Unfavourable no change	This unit is suffering significant public pressures resulting in fires and high levels of disturbance. Gorse needs to be more aggressively tackled with areas of birch/willow scrub cleared from wet flush areas. New fire access tracks should help but more effort on restoring heathland from gorse scrub is needed. The northern area requires grazing on a small mire. Dog faeces on the paths remains a problem.	Fire - other, Inappropriate scrub control, Public access/disturbance, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	2	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	8.16	Unfavourable recovering	Assessment done on new unit boundaries so now including area to the north of the fishing lakes. Large scale pine clearance on westernmost part of unit has been successful with much heather regeneration already apparent (along with other unwanted regen). More work needed on the northern shore of the lake and the former heath immediately behind it.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	4	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	49.56	Favourable	Still some management of trees and scrub required but overall unit in good condition with acceptable levels of trees v open heath.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	34.13	Unfavourable recovering	Unit still recovering from major tree clearance and much follow up management required to tackle young birch and bracken.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	6	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	21.23	Unfavourable recovering	All necessary actions now in hand		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	10	Neutral grassland - lowland	10.73	Favourable			Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)

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Holton & Sandford Heaths	11	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	15.14	Favourable	Excellent piece of grazed wet heath. No obvious management problems - small area of trees and scrub at far eastern end and grazing less heavy here. Linking grazing unit with NNR across ditch would help address this.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	12	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	14.01	Unfavourable declining	Unit very heavily invaded by scrub and trees, mostly by pine. The mire contains very tussocky Molinia. Along its axis bordering a shallow stream channel former open acid mire vegetation has been replaced by alder carr with stinging nettle dominating the understorey toward the upstream end. This vegetation change indicates significant nutrient enrichment from the small upstream catchment. Also large area of sallow carr in south of unit. The history of the unit is unclear but aerial photography shows that it was open heathland and mire in the mid 20th century.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing, Water pollution - agriculture/run off	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	31.16	Unfavourable declining	Assessment made from aerial photos, combined with past knowledge of site, and viewing site from public footpath. Unit is clearly declining due to growth of trees and scrub and is badly in need of management.	Drainage, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	18	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	5.96	Unfavourable declining	The unit comprises small patches of heathland together with larger areas where most of the heathland vegetation has been lost under self sown pine. The remaining heath is being invaded by young pine. Scattered rhododendron occurs across much of the unit but there is area of dense rhododendron in the north. The unit is not currently being managed to control invasion of trees and scrub and requires both management for both maintenance and restoration of heathland. In due course the unit would be likely to benefit from being included in a grazing unit covering the whole of Sandford Heath but until tree and scrub management begins to restore habitats undergrazing is not an issue.	Inappropriate scrub control	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	2	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	48.48	Favourable	Still some areas of trees and scrub that would benefit from management in south and NE corners of site but overall these are nowhere near extensive to push this large and excellent unit into unfavourable condition. Some problems with nitrification from dog faeces but generally this is confined to narrow zones along paths. Some mowing of firebreaks has taken place in center of site - generally more could be done to diversify age of heather sward. Unit would also benefit from light grazing but overall much of the wet heath is has a reasonable structure so I would not rank this unit unfavourable because of this.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	3	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	3.89	Unfavourable no change	The same issues apply as in 1997 as scrub management and grazing have not yet been implemented. The unit is heavily overgrown with sallow and more open areas to the south are dominated by large Molinia tussocks.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	6	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	4.14	Favourable	Sandy acidic grassland in favourable condition, close grazed, open and with no signs of eutrophication. A wire fence has been installed across site for stock-handling purposes, but grassland does not currently appear affected. The fence may subsequently be removed, but if not the grassland needs to be checked for any negative effects at future visit.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	7	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	41.65	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive programme of scrub management in winter of 2000-20001 has removed the majority of the trees and scrub. Existing heathland understorey is regenerating well. Northern part of the site is Molinia dominated and grazing may be needed in this area to achieve favourable condition.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	18	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	4.26	Unfavourable no change	North part of unit (north of main access track) is secondary woodland that has developed on old fields (1952 aerial) so not restoration potential. Southern part has good heath in NW corner but much smaller than shown in 1989 aerial due to encroachment of gorse around edges. Gorse management needed but needs to take into account potential to open up access. Eastern part of unit is much more of a mixture - historically much scrubby, with bits of wet heath and a pond - management objectives more difficult to pin down.	Inappropriate scrub control	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths SAC Primary Habitat
Poole Harbour	19	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	4.92	Favourable	This is a small mainly heathland unit bordered on one side by Poole Harbour and the other by urban development. It is mainly dry heath but with wet heath in the east. The unit has some of the problems typical of urban heaths - paths are nutrient rich and grassy; the fringe next to the houses is also enriched and is now being invaded by bramble. Small areas of sand have been created away from paths, compensating for the lack of sand there. Obviously unit has suffered many fires in past but seem to have escaped any serious one recently. Gorse management of large block in south of unit has been reasonably successful - it has mostly come back to <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> . There is scattered young birch that will need attention. The eastern part of the unit - around the sewage works - is woodland. Probably little prospect of extending heathland into this area any further than current extent although perhaps some possibilities in far south-east (not looked at closely). This is a nice piece of heathland and condition has improved with management since notification. Conservation objectives should take into account small size and urban location.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	20	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	2.43	Unfavourable recovering	Rhododendron has been cleared from this site. However there is more than 15% cover of birch and pine seedlings across the site and gorse scrub covers more than 20% of the site. <i>Molinia</i> cover is also extensive with little bare ground and no forbs. New agreement to manage the site should ensure unit is restored to favourable condition. See s/des sites/sss/poole harbour/images/Unit 20 Aug 06 for photos.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	24	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1.47	Favourable	Pony grazing is managing <i>Myrica</i> and <i>Molinia</i> on heathland mire. Ponies and deer are controlling scrub regrowth. This unit is in favourable condition and although heathland in nature it does demonstrate an interesting interface between mire and brackish reedbed.		<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)
Poole Harbour	55	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	118.91	Unfavourable recovering	Management objectives for this unit are complicated by the requirement of red squirrel for conifers. There has been a significant amount of work to remove rhododendron hence the unfavourable recovering assessment, however the amount of management required to get back to fairly open pine woodland with a healthy ground flora is great and needs to be increased significantly in order to meet objectives. This should be achieved through THH.		Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains
Remptsons Heaths	1	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	2.64	Unfavourable declining	Unit adjacent to Corfe Meadows SSSI, unfavourable due to insufficient grazing, which has resulted in an increase in rank tussocks of <i>Molinia</i> and the spread of scrub including bog myrtle. Unit visited during a site meeting re. the renewal of a CS agreement, and the renewed agreement should include provision for scrub control and increased grazing here.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Remptsons Heaths	7	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	4.06	Favourable	Dominance of mature gorse over parts of the site has been successfully reduced by management. The southern part of the site is grazed with adjacent grassland to the east, the northern part is fenced out of the grazing unit. There has been a small fire caused by a fire burning brash getting out of control but otherwise the site has mature heather in good condition. The southernmost part of the site is dominated by grass and bracken, clearly the legacy of past agricultural improvement. It would be possible but not easy to restore this to heath but in the context of the site as a whole I don't think this area is large enough to make the site unfavourable.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Stoborough & Creech Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	16.82	Unfavourable recovering	Major capital works for removal of trees and scrub completed. Provision of infrastructure needed for establishment of grazing underway. The unit has much disturbed ground from old mineral working and so the recovery from the tree and scrub dominance is in many places very <i>Molinia</i> dominated. Recovery to a more varied sward may take some time.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Wareham Meadows	8	Dwarf shrub heath lowland	6.68	Unfavourable declining	Fern encroaching. Grazing may help to prevent reeds. <i>Cladium</i> recorded previously therefore timing of grazing should be chosen to avoid damage to shoots of this plant by frost or flooding.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Arne	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	16.18	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath and wet heath favourable, but unit merits an overall unfavourable recovering status due to the need to eradicate Rhododendron and remove birch from the southern slopes of the unit. The cover of gorse also needs to be monitored. Management has been secured over much of the unit through an HLS agreement. The unit grades into saltmarsh at the eastern end.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	2	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	11.37	Unfavourable recovering	Unit has to receive an overall unfavourable assessment due to the lack of regeneration within the oak woodland caused by the heavy grazing by the Sika deer. Amounts of dead wood are favourable, as are the patches of wet and dry heath. High Deer numbers are being addressed through a programme of deer management across the whole of Arne, hence the recovering assessment.		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Arne	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	72.94	Unfavourable recovering	All the remedies required to move the unit to favourable condition are in place as part of an HLS agreement (scrub control, deer management, introduction of grazing [once deer numbers are reduced]).		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.2	Unfavourable recovering	All the management actions required to move the unit to a favourable condition are now in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.85	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath at Shipstall has been hit heavily by deer. Much of the mature heather has been trampled and is dead or nearly so. There is much regeneration of young heather but nevertheless the heath structure has been shifted much too much towards the pioneer and this is likely to have had a particularly bad impact on the sand lizard population. Remedies in the form of (1) deer management to reduce deer numbers and (2) scrub removal on the southern boundary of the heath (both to re-establish heath and to reduce deer harbourage) are in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	98.06	Unfavourable recovering	Since the last assessment there have been changes to the unit caused by the large numbers of Sika deer. The mire at Coombe heath has been hit particularly badly, effects including trampled and bare areas together with changes in species composition. Dry heath has also locally been affected with stands (eg at Grip) trampled and older heather bushes broken up. Although there is regeneration from seed or rootstock there is now more pioneer vegetation. Work is ongoing controlling rhododendron in the northern part of the unit, some clearance of birch in one section of the valley between Grip and Coombe would be desirable. Deer numbers need to be significantly reduced. These actions required to achieve favourable condition together with the reintroduction of grazing with cattle and ponies (once deer numbers are low enough) have been secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering condition.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	112.37	Unfavourable recovering	Large area of mature pine on Arne Hill where restoration to heath required. Previously cleared areas are recovering well. Large areas bracken dominated.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	9	Coniferous woodland	45.75	Unfavourable recovering	A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations (plus introduction of extensive grazing) is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		Coniferous woodland
Arne	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.19	Unfavourable recovering	Open heath generally in good condition. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.66	Unfavourable recovering	The unit comprises wet and dry heath, wetter areas being mostly Molinia and Erica ciliaris. It is heavily grazed by deer with adverse effects on the dry heath - shows the classic overgrazing signs although less severe than some other places on Arne. Some areas are bracken dominated. Management work to remove trees and scrub - the reason for the previous unfavourable assessment was done some 4years ago and areas have recovered well although this mainly explain the amount Molinia and bracken in some places. recovering assessment is based on ongoing bracken control and deer control together with longer term plans to reintroduce grazing once deer numbers have declined sufficiently.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	12	Coniferous woodland	0.82	Unfavourable declining	Unit comprise Arne G well site and surrounds. Well site now concrete, awaits restoration under planning permission. Heathy surrounds are invaded by young pine.	Inappropriate scrub control, Planning permission - other mineral and waste	Coniferous woodland

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Arne	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	29.65	Unfavourable recovering	The unit is a mix of heath and woodland - mostly secondary(birch/pine) but with much older oak in places, particularly along boundary banks. Need to carefully consider which parts of the unit should be restored to heathland and where pasture woodland may be more appropriate. There are certainly some areas of pine which need to be cleared - the unfavourable recovering assessment is on the basis of a considerable amount of management work- tree clearance - recently carried out next to the Arne Road where heath is re-establishing well. The not meeting objectives assessment is because the western part of the site is not grazed and clearly needs to be included within the grazing unit covering Coombe, Grip and the eastern part of the unit. The ungrazed mires have much tussocky Molinia.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	16	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	3.81	Unfavourable no change	No change from previous assessment in 1997.	Forestry and woodland management	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Arne	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.83	Favourable	A good quality dry and wet heath and smaller areas of mire. Although in the grazing unit it would benefit from slightly increased grazing levels as animals do not use this area much. Management is providing variation in sward structure through some mowing as well as provision of sand. The amount of sand could usefully be increased		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Arne	18	Coniferous woodland	46.65	Unfavourable recovering	The comment from the 2001 assessment still applies. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		Coniferous woodland
Christchurch Harbour	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	36.14	Favourable	The headland supports stands of dry and humid heath. Calluna vulgaris and Erica cinerea dominate with scattered plants of Cuscuta epithymum, Erica tetralix and Ulex minor. There is one area where Erica tetralix is dominant and Juncus squarrosus and Molinia are also present (the topography here is a gentle slope which rises again to dry heath - nice transitions between dry heath and humid heath.) Elsewhere within the Unit are stands of dry acid grassland in the western part of the unit, maritime grassland communities at the cliff edges and areas of scrub on the north facing slopes of the headland where conditions are more sheltered. The scrub will require continued management; particularly important is the ongoing management of the alien species Gaultheria shallon which to date has been very successful but requires ongoing management to prevent its spread. Extending the current grazing into this part of the site, is desirable and should be considered. Extending grazing into the area known as Long Field would be a natural first step as this area requires particular attention and is losing grassland interest to scrub.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.78	Unfavourable recovering	There has been good progress, although this is hampered by lack of funds from MoD. Much of the work is carried out by HCT and DEA rather than using local funds. There remains a lot of leggy gorse, birch and pine tree clearance to be carried out. The site now has good bare sand but still requires bracken spraying action in some areas. Parking of vehicles around the driver training circuit remains a problem. Also staff are using the area for setting off fireworks.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.79	Unfavourable declining	Good progress has been made this winter on starting scrub control on the embankment. Network Rail staff have indicated there will be difficulties in continuing works due to lack of funds.	Inappropriate scrub control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.47	Unfavourable recovering	There has been good initial works to create bare ground and fire breaks. There remains a real issue of common gorse dominance and general level of scrub cover. There are significant difficulties with managing the heath vegetation structure on the steep slopes. It is hoped to trial goat grazing on the site.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.88	Unfavourable no change	This unit needs tree and scrub clearance, particularly gorse birch and willow as well as a fire break. Bramble needs herbicide treatment.	Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate weed control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1.39	Unfavourable no change	The unit is scrubbing up, it requires gorse, birch, willow and bramble treatment to restore dry, wet heath communities.	Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Ham Common	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	20.62	Unfavourable no change	This unit is suffering significant public pressures resulting in fires and high levels of disturbance. Gorse needs to be more aggressively tackled with areas of birch/willow scrub cleared from wet flush areas. New fire access tracks should help but more effort on restoring heathland from gorse scrub is needed. The northern area requires grazing on a small mire. Dog faeces on the paths remains a problem.	Fire - other, Inappropriate scrub control, Public access/disturbance, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Hartland Moor	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	24.76	Unfavourable recovering	Pines planted in the 1980s over the majority of the unit were cleared early in 2007 and the heathland is already starting to recover. Gorse management at the far eastern end of the unit needs to continue. The unit is included within a larger area of land where an HLS agreement has been finalised earlier this year.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	72.95	Favourable	The extensive grazing on the site has been beneficial, as shown by the 1995 to 2001 data recorded in the monitoring plot in West Bog in this unit.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	68.43	Favourable	The extensive grazing has been beneficial to the vegetation in the unit, in particular to the mire communities in the southern fen arm within this unit.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	94.67	Favourable	Unit in good condition with range of heath and mire communities.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	5	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1.41	Favourable	Taken as 0.43% of Hartland Moor SSSI, this unit is in favourable condition.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Hartland Moor	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.49	Favourable	As part of the whole SSSI the unit is in favourable condition. However, some gorse coppicing would be of benefit, particularly for reptiles on the south facing slope. In the longer term, to meet objectives, gorse, scrub and bracken management will be necessary to maintain the open dry heath.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	7	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	9.44	Unfavourable recovering			Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Hartland Moor	8	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	2.38	Unfavourable recovering	Recent clearance of sallows in one area will benefit the flora in the underlying mire. Mire at SW end of unit has bog pondweed, sundews, black bog rush, heath milkwort, sphagna and bog myrtle.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens. Acid Mires
Hartland Moor	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	7.88	Favourable	All areas of unit visited during fungus survey. Heathland grazed by ponies and in favourable condition. Some recent gorse management has occurred.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	10	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	2.27	Favourable	The western part of the unit would benefit from continued gorse management		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Holton & Sandford Heaths	1	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	15.22	Unfavourable declining	Unit is very varied. From the north comprises dry oak and hazel woodland on the slopes running down to the Sherford Valley and wet woodland, some parts alder, some Betula on the valley bottom south of the Sherford; all of this is old established woodland - there are a good number of mature oaks and it would be useful to establish better the age of the wet woodland. North of the Sherford is now mostly sallow carr with smaller areas of fen and swamp. 1980s target notes and 1970 aerial photos show fen and swamp was much more extensive. Unfavourable declining assessment made on this basis.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens, and Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Holton & Sandford Heaths	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	8.16	Unfavourable recovering	Assessment done on new unit boundaries so now including area to the north of the fishing lakes. Large scale pine clearance on westernmost part of unit has been successful with much heather regeneration already apparent (along with other unwanted regen). More work needed on the northern shore of the lake and the former heath immediately behind it.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.2	Unfavourable declining	Unit comprises the small area of heath closest to the A351 outside the HCT lease. No conservation work has been carried out and there is excessive invasion of pine onto heathland.	Inappropriate scrub control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	49.56	Favourable	Still some management of trees and scrub required but overall unit in good condition with acceptable levels of trees v open heath.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	34.13	Unfavourable recovering	Unit still recovering from major tree clearance and much follow up management required to tackle young birch and bracken.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Holton & Sandford Heaths	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	21.23	Unfavourable recovering	All necessary actions now in hand		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.14	Favourable	Excellent piece of grazed wet heath. No obvious management problems - small area of trees and scrub at far eastern end and grazing less heavy here. Linking grazing unit with NNR across ditch would help address this.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	12	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	14.01	Unfavourable declining	Unit very heavily invaded by scrub and trees, mostly by pine. The mire contains very tussocky Molinia. Along its axis bordering a shallow stream channel former open acid mire vegetation has been replaced by alder carr with stinging nettle dominating the understorey toward the upstream end. This vegetation change indicates significant nutrient enrichment from the small upstream catchment. Also large area of willow carr in south of unit. The history of the unit is unclear but aerial photography shows that it was open heathland and mire in the mid 20th century.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing, Water pollution - agriculture/run off	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	31.16	Unfavourable declining	Assessment made from aerial photos, combined with past knowledge of site, and viewing site from public footpath. Unit is clearly declining due to growth of trees and scrub and is badly in need of management.	Drainage, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.58	Part destroyed	Two (the most northern) of the four plots enclosed from the heath have been converted to ornamental lawn as garden extensions. The heathland condition on much of the most southern plot has become severely degraded from use for keeping a goat and from garden and rubbish dumping. Only one plot remains substantially heathland in character but requires scrub and pine removal.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Holton & Sandford Heaths	18	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	5.96	Unfavourable declining	The unit comprises small patches of heathland together with larger areas where most of the heathland vegetation has been lost under self sown pine. The remaining heath is being invaded by young pine. Scattered rhododendron occurs across much of the unit but there is area of dense rhododendron in the north. The unit is not currently being managed to control invasion of trees and scrub and requires both management for both maintenance and restoration of heathland. In due course the unit would be likely to benefit from being included in a grazing unit covering the whole of Sandford Heath but until tree and scrub management begins to restore habitats undergrazing is not an issue.	Inappropriate scrub control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	48.48	Favourable	Still some areas of trees and scrub that would benefit from management in south and NE corners of site but overall these are nowhere near extensive to push this large and excellent unit into unfavourable condition. Some problems with nitrification from dog faeces but generally this is confined to narrow zones along paths. Some mowing of firebreaks has taken place in center of site - generally more could be done to diversify age of heather sward. Unit would also benefit from light grazing but overall much of the wet heath is has a reasonable structure so I would not rank this unit unfavourable because of this.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.9	Favourable	Unit dominated by tussocky Molinia in this very wet part of the bog, but with small patches of Sphagnum and occasional Narthecium near SW edge. Poss. some improvement might be possible by future grazing near edges and/or modification to old ditch lines, but this area is likely to remain very wet due to its position within the mire system.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.22	Favourable	Unit dominated by tussocky Molinia in this very wet part of the bog. Poss. some improvement might be possible by future grazing near edges and/or modification to old ditch lines, but this area is likely to remain very wet due to its position within the mire system.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.14	Favourable	Sandy acidic grassland in favourable condition, close grazed, open and with no signs of eutrophication. A wire fence has been installed across site for stock-handling purposes, but grassland does not currently appear affected. The fence may subsequently be removed, but if not the grassland needs to be checked for any negative effects at future visit.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	41.65	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive programme of scrub management in winter of 2000-20001 has removed the majority of the trees and scrub. Existing heathland understorey is regenerating well. Northern part of the site is Molinia dominated and grazing may be needed in this area to achieve favourable condition.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	10.85	Unfavourable declining	Although much of the unit is in good condition, the water quality in the central drain is causing changes to fen vegetation and encouraging invasion of willow. Part of the unit are also quite Molinia dominated.	Undergrazing, Water pollution - discharge	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.31	Favourable	Amount of pines is currently acceptable.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.6	Unfavourable recovering	Unit currently has too many pines, particularly in the southern part of the unit.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.96	Unfavourable recovering	Good recovery of heath in north of unit following pine clearance. Unit would benefit from removal of the fence along the eastern boundary of the unit to allow freer movement of stock (both units are in the same grazing unit).		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	12	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	9.05	Unfavourable no change	Although some recovery has taken place since the last assessment, much of the vegetation in this unit is rank and Molinia dominated and is not likely to reach favourable condition without grazing. As a consequence it is assessed as unfavourable no change.	Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	13	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1.83	Unfavourable recovering	Management to remove excessive tree cover carried out and recovery of heather underway. Unit would benefit from removal of selected additional mature pines.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	63.08	Unfavourable recovering	Unit now split with southern part of the old unit 15 (affected by pollution) now in a separate unit. The new unit is 15 generally in good condition. Work needs to continue on ditch blocking and control of rhododendron to maintain recovering assessment.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.63	Unfavourable no change	Unit comprises small 'arm' of bog system running west from the main bog. Immediately west of the track forming the eastern boundary of the unit is open area of reasonable bog vegetation. Water levels appear high probably due to a slight damming effect from the track. Going east there is then an area of dense scots pine over molinia. Along the northern edge of the unit is a substantial ditch with flowing water with several large ditches feeding into it from the north. This needs blocking or filling in. Some alder and sallow along an older ditchline to the south. The western part of the unit is scattered stunted scots with tussocky molinia a few small patches with less molinia and rhychospora alba. Need to tackle tree and drainage issues to reach favourable condition. Obviously would also be benefits from grazing. Currently a consultation about modification to design plan to allow trees to be removed so this problem will be tackled. Need to talk to FE about ditch management.	Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	42	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.96	Unfavourable declining	The unit was previously part of unit 15. Previous comments in respect of this issue recorded for unit 15 (2003 assessment) still apply here. The unit is affected by pollution from consented sewage discharge.	Water pollution - discharge	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	18	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.26	Unfavourable no change	North part of unit (north of main access track) is secondary woodland that has developed on old fields (1952 aerial) so not restoration potential. Southern part has good heath in NW corner but much smaller than shown in 1989 aerial due to encroachment of gorse around edges. Gorse management needed but needs to take into account potential to open up access. Eastern part of unit is much more of a mixture - historically much scubbier, with bits of wet heath and a pond - management objectives more difficult to pin down.	Inappropriate scrub control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	19	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.92	Favourable	This is a small mainly heathland unit bordered on one side by Poole Harbour and the other by urban development. It is mainly dry heath but with wet heath in the east. The unit has some of the problems typical of urban heaths - paths are nutrient rich and grassy; the fringe next to the houses is also enriched and was grassland but is now being invaded by bramble. Small areas of sand have been created away from paths, compensating for the lack of sand there. Obviously unit has suffered many fires in past but seem to have escaped any serious one recently. Gorse management of large block in south of unit has been reasonably successful - it has mostly come back to Agrostis curtisii. There is scattered young birch that will need attention. The eastern part of the unit - around the sewage works - is woodland. Probably little prospect of extending heathland into this area any further than current extent although perhaps some possibilities in far south-east (not looked at closely). This is a nice piece of heathland and condition has improved with management since notification. Conservation objectives should take into account small size and urban location.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	20	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.43	Unfavourable recovering	Rhododendron has been cleared from this site. However there is more than 15% cover of birch and pine seedlings across the site and gorse scrub covers more than 20% of the site. Molinia cover is also extensive with little bare ground and no forbs. New agreement to manage the site should ensure unit is restored to favourable condition. See s/des sites/sssi/poole harbour/images/Unit 20 Aug 06 for photos.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Poole Harbour	55	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	118.91	Unfavourable recovering	Management objectives for this unit are complicated by the requirement of red squirrel for conifers. There has been a significant amount of work to remove rhododendron hence the unfavourable recovering assessment, however the amount of management required to get back to fairly open pine woodland with a heathy ground flora is great and needs to be increased significantly in order to meet objectives. This should be achieved through THH.		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland
Poole Harbour	56	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	43.12	Unfavourable recovering	Management continues to achieve positive results for nature conservation, particularly with regard to rhododendron clearance. The most recent work has focused on clearing rhododendron around the lakes. Continued work on rhododendron control will form a significant part of the next programme of work. Regeneration of Scots pine for red squirrels also continues successfully. This is due to the deer and rabbit fencing that is erected temporarily to protect regenerating pines and heather from being grazed out by rabbits and deer. Grazing pressure from rabbits is thought to be particularly severe.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Rempstone Heaths	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	9.49	Unfavourable no change	The unit comprises 2 valley mire systems draining into Wytch Moor. Both were the subject of extensive tree clearance in the mid 1990s and the vegetation has recovered considerably since then as a result. However, the recovery has gone just about as far as it can without further work hence the unfavourable no change assessment. The problems are 1) the extensive network of small ditches leading to a larger central ditch -as a result most of the unit (particularly the western arm - the eastern arm is better) is dominated by huge Molinia tussocks. This needs to be tackled through a combination of ditch blocking and the introduction of grazing. The second problem is that the central ditch through the western arm is quite enriched. Its northwards extension is shown on the the OS map - it goes through the forest and under the small road running east from Thrasher's Heath and appears to originate on the fields south of this road and east of Thrashers H. There are clear signs of enrichment throughout the section between the SSSI and the road. Source seems likely to be agricultural.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing, Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.83	Unfavourable no change	This is the lower part of the main Wytch Moor mire. The scattered pine have recently been cleared and now the main issues are drainage and grazing. The unit supports some excellent mire vegetation but past drainage has had some adverse effects. Water level is much lower in the southern ditch than the mire - attempts to fix this have not worked. The old ditches in the NW part do not seem to be functioning any more apart from the large ditch taking the stream on the NW boundary which has an area of bog myrtle alongside it. Most of the N and NW parts are OK although some of the small E-W drains are still having some effect and could be blocked To the south the valley narrows and the condition worsens with Molinia tussocks dominant. There are 2 ditches with flowing water in the valley bottom which need blocking. The Good 1930s records have a classic mire species list for this area including Lycopodiella so it has obviously deteriorated a lot. The block of trees in the southernmost part of the unit should be removed. Tree removal along the eastern edge of the mire is producing a good dry heath fringe. A combination of ditch blocking and grazing is needed for favourable condition.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.89	Unfavourable no change	Unit comprises a narrow valley mire running west from Green Pond to Wytch Moor. Conifer removal on the sides of the valley has improved the system together with the deterioration of the old drainage ditches. At the top of the valley near Green Pool there is still a functioning central ditch; this needs blocking. Nearer the cross track the mire flattens out and this drain has filled in. West of the cross track there is a system of small drains that are affecting the vegetation. Nearer to Wytch Moor the quality of the mire improves and no action is needed. A small amount of work on the drains plus grazing required for favourable condition.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	6	Bogs - lowland	13.14	Unfavourable declining	The northern end of this grazing unit is in Poole Harbour SSSI and is OK ish. The Rempstone Heath part has some very nice bits of wet heath and mire BUT the drainage ditches have become blocked leading to localised flooding to the extent that parts of the site are now being invaded by Phragmites and areas adjacent to the main ditch are a tretchorous floating mat of vegetation. Further north on the ditch sallow carr is well established and is spreading out onto the heath behind an advancing front of bog myrtle. First problem is to start sorting out the drainage.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens. Acid Mires

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Rempstone Heaths	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.06	Favourable	Dominance of mature gorse over parts of the site has been successfully reduced by management. The southern part of the site is grazed with adjacent grassland to the east, the northern part is fenced out of the grazing unit. There has been a small fire caused by a fire burning brash getting out of control but otherwise the site has mature heather in good condition. The southernmost part of the site is dominated by grass and bracken, clearly the legacy of past agricultural improvement. It would be possible but not easy to restore this to heath but in the context of the site as a whole I don't think this area is large enough to make the site unfavourable.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.51	Unfavourable no change	Green Pond has some good quality wet heath (mainly in the west) and dry heath (in the south east). To the south and in the southern 'arm' the quality is less good with lots of Molinia. The central part of the unit, west of Green Pond itself, is very wet and dominated by big Molinia tussocks with quite a lot of scattered birch and a few pine. Good records the area as rushy but it obviously wasn't mire. It could do with some thinning of birch before it becomes too dense (and removal of pine). The unit would benefit from grazing although I wouldn't expect a large change to the very wet parts. Some removal of pine from dryer areas in the west would also be beneficial. Grazing and some tree/scrub work required for favourable condition.	Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	10.48	Unfavourable no change	Between Green Pond and Shotover is a narrow valley largely covered with willow. There is some kind of central channel but hard to see whether this would have any drainage impact in summer - mostly flooded at present. Birch, willow and bog myrtle form a wooded 'plume' where this valley meets Shotover Moor. North of this wet woodland the mire has some high quality patches, interspersed with Molinia dominated bits. The two drains shown on the map had partially filled in and did not seem to be functioning but this would need checking in the summer. The woodland alongside the Shotover stream was also present in 1924 although it has since extended slightly northwards. South the woodland 'plume' again there is good quality mire amongst more Molinia dominated patches. A few small cross ditches were still in the mire and need blocking. South of a bank and dry ditch the veg. is mainly Molinia. Most of the existing distribution of wet woodland vis a vis fen is well established and need not be changed apart from the wet woodland nearest Green Pond and encroachment around the edges of the south eastern mire - needs only a small amount of ditch blocking	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.86	Unfavourable no change	Western part of unit is a tributary mire of the main Shotover system. Most is very Molinia dominated and there is still a functioning drain running down the middle. Grazing and ditch blocking are required for favourable condition. North of this the vegetation is better with more mire elements. The small patch of dry heath west of Shotover is in good condition.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	11	Bogs - lowland	5.12	Unfavourable declining	Unit comprises mainly wet woodland and mire in the Shotover Valley. A similar woodland belt in the valley is evident on the 1924 aerial photo. The mire in the northern part of the unit is of good quality (no evidence of past drainage) with significant areas of Rhychosporion. The woodland has encroached around the edges and needs taking back to its previous extent which is pretty much the same in both the 1924 and 1952 photos. South of the track that divides the unit the northern part of the area comprises a few derelict old fields with boundary oaks and wet woodland and some areas of rush nearer the stream and in the southernmost part of the unit. The stream itself has been artificially deepened with spoil deposited alongside. To achieve favourable condition some scrub work around the edges of the mire is needed and the unit should be included within a grazing unit. No specific work is necessary in the woodland.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens. Acid Mires
Rempstone Heaths	12	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	26.17	Unfavourable no change	The area of wet heath is too Molinia dominated and requires grazing for favourable condition.	Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	13	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	12.11	Unfavourable no change	Unit was formerly a mix of heath and small fields, bounded by veteran oaks. Now most of the heath is invaded by pine - only tiny glades left - plus one area of dense conifer plantation. Most of the old fields are now bracken dominated but the veteran oaks are excellent. Much restoration needed.	Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.33	Unfavourable recovering	A felling licence has been granted and a programme of management agreed.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	15	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	3.1	Unfavourable recovering	Unit into recovery phase following major pine removal in 2007/2008		Broad-leaved deciduous woodland

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Rempstone Heaths	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	16.73	Unfavourable recovering	Visited on 19 Feb 2003 with Sax and on 20 Feb with Jim White. A substantial programme of tree removal has been completed in the last two months. Some follow up work is still necessary - repair to boundary fence and ensuring future grazing programme. We would also like to see the tree density further reduced over the coming years. However the bulk of the work needed on this unit is completed.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	8.29	Unfavourable recovering	Substantial felling work has now begun on the area SW of the track. Even when this is complete further work will be needed to facilitate grazing - but this, relatively, be quite simple. The small area of the unit NE of the track will not be touched in this programme of work - hence not yet meeting objectives		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	18	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	8.44	Unfavourable recovering	Recovery continuing but still a substantial amount of management to do consisting mainly of (1) control of the abundant seedling pine (2) removal of mature pine - main remaining area is in NE of unit (3) removal of scattered rhododendron before it becomes more of a problem		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	19	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	7.3	Unfavourable recovering			North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	28	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	12.53	Unfavourable no change	No change since last assessment - comments still apply	Inappropriate scrub control, Planning permission - other mineral and waste, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Stoborough and Creech Heaths	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	51.61	Favourable	Unit is a superbe mixture of heathland, mire and acid grassland. Continuing gorse management and grazing is breaking up the once too dense gorse stands and achieving a better structure. Grazing regime and level seems to cater for most interests- some monitoring of the spread of heather onto richer acid grasslands would be useful. Other main management issue is the deep drain along the west side of the unit (or the Stoborough stream as it is euphemistically called). This is having a local effect on the surrounding vegetation.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	15	Littoral sediment	16.96	Favourable	A number of plants of Prickly saltwort growing in strandline area towards E. end of unit.		Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	5.89	Favourable	Some minor problems with grazing which I will try to ease by negotiating an extension to the grazing unit with Forestry Commission		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	44.98	Unfavourable declining	Most of the problems with this unit are in the southern part of it, in the area south of the three east-west fairways in the middle of the unit. This part of the unit is approximately 11ha in area (unit area 44ha) but excluding the fairways (9ha - not included in the assessment) it comprise a third of the unit area. Problems are as follows: excessive rank gorse - compared to aerial photos of 1972 and 81 the area of gorse has increased substantially and now dominates some 5ha within this area. The upper sections of the are now dominated by sallow - some sallow was present in 1972 but the area has increased significantly. The area of bracken has interest but the bracken front may be spreading down the hill. This area needs to be brought into the grazing unit and a scrub management programme begun. The rest of the unit is generally in good condition. However, the fence on the west side of the unit is restricting the grazing leaving substantial areas of wet heath ungrazed. At least the older fence should be removed.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	25.86	Favourable	The unit comprises dry and wet heath in good condition with no major management issues. The western part of the unit comprises the upper part of a large mire. There has been a (apparently unconsented) discharge to the head of this mire which has resulted in nutrient enrichment and invasion by sallow. It is not known whether this discharge is continuing. The part of the mire affected by the discharge (partly in unit 4, partly in unit 3) will need re-assessment when the position is clarified.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	121.03	Favourable			North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	192.08	Favourable			North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.78	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive gorse mowing has resulted in good Calluna, Erica, Agrostis, Molinia regeneration with little litter problems. Gorse regeneration will still need to be managed in the future but large stands of mature gorse & bracken have been broken up. Bracken is much reduced also and has not invaded cleared areas. Some smaller stands of less accessible dense gorse remain but overall the unit is looking much healthier.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	11.13	Favourable	Unit comprises high quality heath and mire. Change in tenancy since last assessment means that unit could now be combined with a neighbouring larger unit (4 or 5).		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.06	Favourable	Overall the unit is in favourable condition. There are several small rhododendron bushes which could be tackled when the bushes in the unit to the north are removed (NT). The salallows between the stream and the mire could be knocked back but they are not spreading due to the deer, which are also keeping the part of the mire outwith the grazing unit well grazed and trampled.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.23	Favourable	Unit has recovered after gorse clearance. There is widespread heather regeneration; heathy acid grassland has developed. The unit has also benefited from the change in management of adjacent grasslands at Greenlands Farm.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	10	Supralittoral sediment	19.67	Unfavourable no change	Still problem with excessive trees/scrub particularly in the northern part of the unit. Much of the rest is probably best managed as open woodland/scrub. Some management has taken place since the last visit along Studland chine. Existing hard sea defences in the form of gabion baskets protecting beachhuts along part of the shoreline will also keep unit in unfavourable condition until removed. NT intend to do this in due course. The shoreline is rapidly retreating in this area with dune being loss. There is no indication that this is due to anything other than natural processes. Also very high recreation pressures here - not an easy unit to manage!	Coastal squeeze	Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair.
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	64.58	Unfavourable recovering	Ongoing gorse and pine clearance occurring. Much of unit now in favourable condition.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	12	Supralittoral sediment	31.36	Favourable	Full survey of lake carried out. Good range of aquatics, including Littorella, Elatine, Potamageton spp. and charophytes.		Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	14	Littoral sediment	8.55	Favourable	The two main issues affecting this shoreline unit are of accretion/erosion - continuing accretion is necessary for the maintenance of some of the pioneer dune communities - and erosion from public use of the beach and foredunes. The northern part of the unit is continuing to accrete and small new dunes are forming on the wide beach. In the south of the unit the beach is narrower and there is no accretion; evidence suggests that this alteration in beach configuration may be due to natural changes (perhaps more easterly storms). Public use is great and it is hard to assess its full impact but there are no large eroded areas present.		Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair.
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	45.96	Unfavourable recovering	Scrub clearance has removed some of the birch and young pines.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
Studland and Godlingston Heaths	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.59	Unfavourable no change	The condition of this unit has improved significantly since the last assessment through the clearance of pine, mainly on neighbouring areas. The result is these sites are now connected within a larger heathland unit. They are also now grazed with the adjoining Godlingston Heath. Guidance dictates that they must still be recorded as unfavourable no change because of effects of past drainage still need to be tackled. This is particularly apparent on the mire in the north of the unit and the southern mire also needs examination in this respect.	Drainage	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heathlands SPA Supporting Habitat
The Moors	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.18	Favourable	One of few tightly grazed areas of wet heath and mire, with an abundant occurrence of sphagnum carpets and peat habitat. The boundary drain on the west side has been cleared of dense gorse but may also require desilting in the near future.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
The Moors	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1.42	Unfavourable no change	1.35ha of wet heath with a narrow strip of dry heath alongside the track. Much of the wet heath area comprises tussocky Molinia but this is mixed up with abundant Dorset heath. There are 2 areas - in the far north and west where there tussocky Molinia gives way to good quality M16. There were numerous silver-studded blues in first of these 2 areas. Near to the ditch alongside the northern boundary the vegetation changes to become Juncus acutiflorus/articulatus dominated (probably M23). The ditch itself is mostly overgrown with reed and some willow but a small open section in the far north has excellent selection of aquatics including abundant marsh St.John's wort. Although a big ditch, the water level was quite high. The dry heath area in the south is largely overgrown with pine with areas of large mature trees. Would benefit from some grazing but given the existing interest of the ungrazed heath, the small area and the presence of a larger area of well grazed heath immediately to the north I would not consider the unit unfavourable on this basis. The unfavourable assessment is based on the excessive amount of pine covering most of the area of potential dry heath and perhaps 50% of	Inappropriate scrub control	North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths
The Moors	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	19.76	Unfavourable recovering	Much is grazed by ponies, reducing the dominance of Molinia and producing a varied sward structure. Some combined grazing with cattle would further reduce the tussocky Molinia and may more readily achieve a favourable condition. Except near Bank Scatter of copses might be retained for nightjar and invertebrate value. Gorse scrub is rather abundant and for favourable condition needs to be in a more balanced coppice cycle, with less at a mature, leggy stage. In the west woodland has developed. Some heath remains but densely encroached with scrub until recent clearance and is now dominated by Molinia re-growth but with some remaining Dorset heath. The fen part of the unit is little managed although was grazed in the past. Further scrub removal is required in the Cladium fen and over the whole fen some sward management by grazing would be beneficial in reducing, but not eliminating due to invertebrate interest, the dominance of rank growth in the different fen vegetation types. There is potential for the whole unit to form part of a large scale grazing area with the adjoining heaths across the Arne Road. This would provide more varied grazing and vegetation dynamics.		North Atlantic wet heaths, and European dry heaths

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	The Moors	1	Neutral grassland - lowland	1005592	18.33	11-Apr-2008	Unfavourable recovering	On this grazing marsh unit there is conservation management supported by a management agreement and this allows an assessment of unfavourable recovering condition against NE guidance. However aspects of the special interest are vulnerable to change from increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Conservation management of the grazing marsh includes extensive water level management, control of rush, ditch clearance and gutter works to benefit the bird and ditch interests. Breeding waders remain, the numbers (with unit 11) increasing substantially in 2005. There is a tendency for some grassland to be undergrazed for both the grassland and bird interest. A higher stocking density with a longer stocking period into winter would be desirable. Further condition monitoring is required on the ditches to confirm whether the management is sufficient for favourable condition. There is a special interest in the upper saltmarsh vegetation which a 2007 survey shows to have increased in conservation value from a partially improved state noted during re-notification of the SSSI in 1984. But notable brack		Grassland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	4	Neutral grassland - lowland	1005594	44.71	30-Jun-2008	Unfavourable recovering	This unit is re-assessed as unfavourable following further monitoring, but meets requirements for recovering in that a new management agreement has been put in place that should address the unfavourable condition. However aspects of the special interest are vulnerable to change from increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Grassland survey shows widespread establishment of (M23) rush pasture since cessation of agricultural improvement due to notification of the SSSI in 1985. The quality of this grassland is variable, a lot being fairly species poor, especially for herbs. Recovery to favourable condition may be long term. Management of this and other grassland is by cattle grazing, including winter grazing. For the wading bird interest there is a generally excellent short sward structure with some rush tussocks and high field water levels into early summer (widespread squiggly ground and some splash flooding). However the scale of rush cutting remains insufficient both for the wader and grassland interest a		Grassland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005611	3.18	09-Jan-2004	Favourable	One of few tightly grazed areas of wet heath and mire, with an abundant occurrence of sphagnum carpets and peat habitat. The boundary drain on the west side has been cleared of dense gorse but may also require desilting in the near future.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005623	1.42	04-Jul-2002	Unfavourable no change	This is a small unit (1.35ha) of wet heath with a narrow strip of dry heath alongside the track. Much of the wet heath area comprises tussocky Molinia but this is mixed up with abundant Dorset heath. There are 2 areas - in the far north and west part of the unit where there tussocky Molinia gives way to good quality M16. There were numerous silver-studded blues in first of these 2 areas. Near to the ditch alongside the northern boundary of the unit the vegetation changes to become Juncus acutiflorus/articulatus dominated (probably M23). The ditch itself is mostly overgrown with reed and some willow but a small open section in the far north has an excellent selection of aquatics including abundant marsh St.John's wort. Although a big ditch, the water level was quite high (following heavy rain 24hrs earlier). The dry heath area in the south of the unit is largely overgrown with pine with areas of large mature trees. The unit would benefit from some grazing but given the existing interest of the ungrazed heath, the small area of the unit and the presence of a larger area of well grazed heath immediately to the north I would not c	In appropriate scrub control	Heathland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1029100	19.76	25-Oct-2007	Unfavourable recovering	Much of the heathland is now grazed by a few ponies which have reduced the dominance of Molinia and produced a varied sward structure with many patches of bare peat. Some combined grazing with cattle would further reduce the tussocky Molinia and may more readily achieve a structure consistent with favourable condition, but grazing management needs to take account of deer grazing and trampling to avoid too much pressure on areas of dry heath. Except near Bank Gate Cottages where the heathland remains rather scrub encroached, the scrub has been substantially reduced to a scatter of copses. These might be retained for nightjar and invertebrate value within the wider heathland area. Gorse scrub is rather abundant and for favourable condition needs to be in a more balanced coppice cycle, with less at a mature, leggy stage. In the west woodland has developed on what were probably old fields and before that heathland. Some heath remains but had become densely encroached with scrub until recent clearance and is now dominated by Molinia re-growth but with some remaining Dorset heath. The fen part of the unit is little managed although was grazed in the past. Further scrub removal		Heathland

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	The Moors	9	Neutral grassland - lowland	1029101	2.51	11-Aug-2005	Unfavourable no change	This field has re-gained a significant grassland interest from a partially improved state noted during re-notification of the SSSI in 1984. Much of the field is tending toward an M24 Molinia fen-meadow with Molinia dominant and a fine range of associated species. The field lies on, and this community exemplifies, a transition between heath and grazing marsh. However the sward is densely tussocky - there appears to have been little or no sward management in the last few years - and almost all the associated species are only occasional to rare in frequency. Cattle grazing pressure on the Molinia is required, whilst retaining some tussocky structure for Orthoptera, to bring the sward into recovering condition.	In appropriate water levels	Grassland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	10	Neutral grassland - lowland	1029102	1.04	25-Oct-2007	Unfavourable no change	The vegetational character of this field had changed substantially since surveys in the 1980s, from mostly open grassland and fen-meadow to isolated clearings of these habitats within stands of reed, tussocky Molinia and rank rush and sedge species. Recent re-establishment of grazing and cutting has returned an open and mostly short sward. Ideally the grazing should be on a more extensive basis with adjacent land as in the past. The grassland and fen-meadow habitat remains floristically rich, but occupies less than half the field, mostly in the western part. Here plants of particular conservation importance are occasional to frequent but their populations are probably reduced by the vegetation change. Vipers grass was a dominant plant in the sward, numbering thousands in the late 1980s. The extent of sedge and reed swamp vegetation, notably in the north and east of the field bordering large ditches, suggests that the land may have become wetter. An increased wetness will also need to be addressed, especially if water levels in the bordering ditches are being affected by water level management on adjacent	In appropriate water levels	Grassland
Poole Harbour	The Moors	11	Neutral grassland - lowland	1029103	66.93	11-Apr-2008	Unfavourable recovering	On this grazing marsh unit there is conservation management supported by a management agreement and this allows an assessment of unfavourable recovering condition against NE guidance. However aspects of the special interest are vulnerable to change from increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Conservation management of the grazing marsh includes extensive water level management, control of scrub and rush, ditch clearance and re-profiling, gutter works and spoil bank clearance to benefit the bird and ditch interests. Breeding waders remain, the numbers (with unit 1) increasing substantially in 2005. There is a tendency for some grassland to be undergrazed and a higher stocking density with a longer stocking period into winter would be desirable, though some managed tall grassland is required for the Orthoptera interest. Further condition monitoring is required on the ditches to confirm whether the management is sufficient for favourable condition. There is a special interest in some of the grassland communities, notably the Molinia fen-meadows, and a 2007 survey shows this interest		Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	1	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007107	1.02	25-Jun-2002	Unfavourable declining	Phragmites reeds have taken over much of this unit. Species list - Symphatium officinale, Lychnis, Glyceria, Carex, Lysimachia, Filipendula, Scutellaria, Mentha	Undergrazing	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	2	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007108	2.03	19-Jun-2007	Unfavourable recovering	This and adjoining units 3 and 4 of tidally wetted floodplain have been returned to traditional grazing marsh management with cattle freely grazing over most of the units and with clearance of the old ditch system. The wetland vegetation and structure shows considerable diversity, varying through the units depending on wetness, local grazing pressure by the cattle or an absence of grazing. On the south field in this unit grazing by mid June had achieved a condition approaching favourable condition with a mostly tussocky grass sward, more so where sedge dominates, within which there was some splash tidal flooding especially on patches of bare peat from poaching, and frequent wetland herbs. Continuation of this grazing management with no additional grazing pressure - at time of visit the drove access was severely poached and needed resting to avoid adverse degradation of the ditches alongside and preferably with grazing over a later period of the year in some years to allow more flowering and seeding of wetland plants, should increase wetland plant diversity and abundance to achieve favourable condition. A		Grassland

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	4	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007109	3.3	19-Jun-2007	Unfavourable recovering	This and the adjoining units of tidally wetted floodplain have been returned to traditional grazing marsh management with cattle freely grazing over most of the units and with clearance of the old ditch system. The wetland vegetation and structure shows considerable diversity, varying through the units depending on wetness, local grazing pressure by the cattle or an absence of grazing. On the fields in this unit grazing by mid June had achieved a condition approaching favourable condition with a mostly shortish grass sward, but locally tussocky where sedge dominates, within which there was much splash tidal flooding, patches of bare peat from poaching and frequent wetland herbs. Continuation of this gazing management with no additional grazing pressure - at time of visit the drove access was severely poached and needed resting to avoid adverse degradation of the ditches alongside and preferably with grazing over a later period of the year in some years to allow more flowering and seeding of wetland plants, should increase wetland plant diversity and abundance to achieve favourable condition. An ungrazed area of sedge swamp adjacent to the mobile homes park adds to the wetland diver		Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	5	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1007099	1.54	25-Jun-2002	Favourable	Good diversity of plants. Site could be improved by light grazing to open up areas and increase botanical diversity. Eastern end drier with bracken present and could be improved by appropriate water level management depending on the water quality of the ditch running through the site. Species list - Phragmites, Glyceria, Filipendula, Eupatorium, Iris, Calystegia sepium, Urtica, Salix cinerea, Epilobium hirsutum, Carex acutiformis, Thalictrum, Valeriana officinalis, Symphytum, Caltha		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	6	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007111	12.88	25-Jun-2002	Unfavourable declining	Dominated by rush in the east and tussocky sedge in the west. Cut likely to be required prior to grazing. Species list - Juncus, Carex, Holcus, Iris, Glyceria. Ditch with branched bur reed and Schoenoplectus lacustris (club rush)	Inappropriate cutting/mowing, Undergrazing	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	7	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1007082	0.79	25-Jun-2002	Favourable	Could be enhanced by some cutback of willow. Species list - Salix, Juncus, Iris, Lysimachia, Hydrocotyle, Lychnis, Symphytum officinale, Mentha, Scutellaria, Potentilla palustris, Eupatorium cannabinum. Species list - Salix, Juncus, Iris, Lysimachia, Hydrocotyle, Lychnis, Symphytum officinale, Mentha, Scutellaria, Potentilla palustris, Eupatorium cannabinum		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1007092	6.68	25-Jun-2002	Unfavourable declining	Fern encroaching. Grazing may help to prevent reeds. Cladium recorded previously therefore timing of grazing should be chosen to avoid damage to shoots of this plant by frost or flooding.	Undergrazing	Heathland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	9	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1007083	17.22	25-Oct-2000	Favourable	Assessment based on survey results in Cook, K. Poole Harbour Reedbed Survey 2000. The large reedbed unit is described as being in good, stable condition and quite wet throughout with no serious problems other than limited drying at the edges with some scrub. The small reedbed unit to east is drier but is open to natural processes of the tidal river and as such is substantially natural in condition.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	11	Rivers and streams	1007087	2.44	12-Jul-2002	Favourable	Insufficient information on whether water quality on this part of the tidal Piddle, which receives discharge from Wareham STW, detrimentally affects the tidally inundated swamp and fen vegetation on the north side.		Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent / rivers
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	12	Rivers and streams	1007085	10.34	01-Mar-2002	Favourable	Marginally favourable. In places the navigation channel is squeezed by moorings, sometimes unauthorised double width moorings, placing pressure on the Environment Agency to maintain the navigation channel at the expense of dredging reedbed from other parts of the channel width. The high density of moorings on some parts acts to fragment and degrade the quality of bank edge swamp habitat.		Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent / rivers
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	13	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1007095	2.2	24-Nov-1999	Favourable	Mostly unmanaged reedbed.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	14	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007116	27.21	21-Oct-2008	Unfavourable no change	The grassland can have a widespread and varied mosaic of splash flooding and wetness when tidal or wet weather conditions overwhelm drainage, but the area lacks a consistency in wetness due to drainage through tidal flap gates on the borrow dyke for the tide bank. Control on water levels is required to achieve a favourable wetness condition for the wintering wildfowl interest. The grassland sward is variable in condition. Some areas are favourable with a sparse scatter of rush tussocks and a short grass sward. But a tallish grass sward unsuitable for most wildfowl tends to predominate over large parts of the unit, and in some parts the openness of the grassland is compromised by a high density of rush tussocks or a scatter of very large tussocks. The openness of the grazing marsh as a whole is also compromised by a developing wooded fringe along Bestwall Road and on parts of the tide banks. Few of the ditches have been cleared in recent years. Some lack shallow edges and most are choked or almost choked over with emergent reed, sedge and other vegetation. A programme of ditch clearing and some re-profiling	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Grassland

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	15	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007118	12.94	21-Apr-2009	Unfavourable no change	This grazing marsh has been re-entered into a Stewardship agreement that supports corrective actions on its management for the SSSI features. However the unit assessment remains at unfavourable no change against NE guidance as water management is inappropriate, in part due to an absence of management control on ditch water levels that discharge through a tidal flap gate on the borrow dyke of the tide bank. There are also inappropriate drainage conditions on the ditch system and in the fields. The improved grassland recorded in the past is now a rather uniform MG11 type grassland with some interest for brackish species but with little evidence of recovery to the more conservation important grassland types of this SSSI. This seems due to the character of the drainage. The tide bank cuts off a brackish tidal influence restricting any development of saltmarsh grassland, and conversely the poor field drainage is inappropriate for fen meadow or rush pasture grassland types. Only the main ditches remain mostly open, subsidiary drains are at an advanced stage of succession to reed fen, several culverted crossings appear to be blocked and the field gutters are redundant with water pooling in	Inappropriate water levels	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	16	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007119	28.01	14-Apr-2008	Unfavourable recovering	On this grazing marsh unit there is conservation management supported by a management agreement. 2007 survey of the grassland has revealed that this element of the special interest is not in favourable condition, but correction of the management regime through an agreement allows an assessment of unfavourable recovering condition against NE guidance. Elements of the special interest are also vulnerable to change from external factors, notably increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Conservation management of the grazing marsh includes extensive water level management, control of rush, ditch clearance and gutter works. This has benefited some elements of the special interest, notably wintering birds and also some plant species interest, but the situation for other elements is mixed or uncertain. Increased wetness has encouraged a much increased prevalence of MG13 grassland - valued for wetland birds. This has replaced grassland types of low conservation interest, but comparison of surveys in 1997 and 2007 shows that in some fields there has been a relative decline in the occurrence of		Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	17	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007120	2.03	05-Feb-2003	Unfavourable no change	Small rank compartment with abundant Carex cf. acutiformis, locally frequent Juncus and Phragmites abundant nearer the river plus a small amount of Typha. Botanically the compartment would undoubtedly benefit from grazing, although in its current state it provides habitat for birds such as reed and sedge warblers and it is probably also of value for invertebrates. The unit was viewed from the adjacent public footpath.	Undergrazing	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	18	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007122	28.8	17-Apr-2009	Unfavourable recovering	This grazing marsh has been re-entered into a Stewardship agreement that supports corrective actions on its management for the SSSI features. This allows an unfavourable recovering assessment against NE guidance. However the condition of the grazing marsh for its SSSI features has declined substantially during the last few years due to a fall off in grassland, ditch and water level management. Tall, dense tussocks of rush have grown up in abundance over much of the grassland, perhaps 20% cover overall but reaching in excess of 75% cover in parts. This degrades the condition of the grassland habitat features and is unsuitable for the wintering bird features. The rush control regime needs to be more successful than in the past at reducing the abundance of soft rush plants in the sward. Nearly all the ditches were restored by dredging but there has been little or no follow on slubbing out of excessive silt and vegetation. This is unfavourable for the ditch interest as nearly all but the arterial ditches now lack open water - many have grown over with emergent vegetation, notably reed sweet grass, and some have filled		Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	19	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007123	0.74	06-Aug-2003	Unfavourable declining	A field that forms part of the wider grazing marsh at Redcliff but is in separate ownership. Its condition as a component of the grazing marsh special interest is severely compromised by the presence of a double row of tall Italian poplar on a ditch with the adjacent grazing marsh which also act to shade much of the land, and an absence of appropriate grassland and ditch management for some years. As a consequence the grassland is rank with much bramble invasion, and drains and wet features have become silted and clogged with emergent vegetation. The Wareham & District Development Trust are securing a lease over the land with the aim to bring the land back into management for amenity use and wildlife interest with guidance from the Dorset Wildlife Trust. This is likely to secure management of the ditches and grassland but retention of the poplars is retained with the owner for personal reasons.	Inappropriate ditch management. Inappropriate weed control. Other - specify in comments	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	20	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007124	6.22	17-Nov-2008	Unfavourable no change	This land has been entered into an ELS Agreement with low nitrogen input and herbicide application targeted to agricultural weeds, and buffer measures along ditch sides. This should encourage an increase in the diversity of the grassland and ditch side vegetation. However ELS does not address ditch management and most ditches are closed over with swamp vegetation or completely silted over to the detriment of ditch conservation interests.	Inappropriate ditch management	Grassland

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	21	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007125	0.7	17-Nov-2008	Unfavourable declining	This small unit continues to support a rush pasture with a greater abundance of flowering herbs than other fields in the Redcliffe grazing marsh. However the abundance of coarse rushes has increased to form a rush sward over much of the field. This may be due to a change in grazing practice from, in summer, a few Shetland ponies occasionally augmented by Holstein cattle to just the occasional Holsteins which on wet ground tend to encourage rush growth. Also in recent years there has been no cutting to suppress the build up of rush growth. Conservation of the pasture interest is not helped by tree planting along the south side of the field and this area (c15% of unit) is excluded from grazing management to detriment of flowering grassland plants.	Inappropriate cutting/mowing	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	22	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007127	6.16	17-Nov-2008	Unfavourable no change	This land has been entered into an ELS Agreement with low nitrogen input and herbicide application targeted to agricultural weeds, and buffer measures along ditch sides. This should encourage an increase in the diversity of the grassland and ditch side vegetation. However ELS does not address ditch management and most ditches are closed over with swamp vegetation or completely silted over to the detriment of ditch conservation interests.	Inappropriate ditch management	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	23	Neutral grassland - lowland	1007114	30.25	21-Oct-2008	Unfavourable no change	This grazing marsh unit requires improvements in grassland and water level management for waterfowl and ditch interests. Grazing has more consistently achieved a very short winter sward for wetland birds. But the extent of dense tussocky rush growth needs to be controlled more successfully to give a predominantly open grassland with only occasional young tussocks, although some rotational areas of denser tussocks are useful for some species. Water levels vary enormously between winters and within years - from flooded to almost dry. The outfall pipe with a tidal flap to Poole Harbour is inadequate in evacuating floods but also drains the marsh too effectively, particularly during dry periods or when tidal levels are low. Winter splash flooding can be frequent or become mainly confined to sections of old tidal creeks, while in summer water levels in subsidiary drains can be very low and some may be dry. A modified outfall arrangement is required. Implementation of a WLM has been hampered by uncertainty over the future of the tide banks but these have recently been brought back to their design form. Management of the tide banks needs to be restored to prevent scrub formation which would com	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Invasive freshwater species	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	24	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1026673	6.08	21-Oct-2008	Unfavourable no change	Since the last assessment much of the scrub has been cleared and the area brought into grazing management with cattle. This has achieved an open wetland enclave within surrounding woodland and scrub on higher ground and much more of the ditch length open to sunlight. The management has largely prevented re-growth of the cut willow scrub. However the intensity of grazing, type of stock, or perhaps the level/stock combined with the wet conditions in recent summers, is too intensive for enhancement of the fen special interest. Fen vegetation now has a very sparse presence while a grass sward with much rush has become predominant, and in parts there is intensively poached bare ground. A lower grazing pressure, especially in wet summers and perhaps with no grazing or a hay cut in some years would be desirable to encourage a taller fen vegetation and invertebrate interest.	Inappropriate weed control, Overgrazing	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Arne	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005800	16.18	15-Nov-2007	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath and wet heath favourable, but unit merits an overall unfavourable recovering status due to the need to eradicate Rhododendron and remove birch from the southern slopes of the unit. The cover of gorse also needs to be monitored. Management has been secured over much of the unit through an HLS agreement. The unit grades into saltmarsh at the eastern end.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	2	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	1005786	11.37	15-Nov-2007	Unfavourable recovering	Unit has to receive an overall unfavourable assessment due to the lack of regeneration within the oak woodland caused by the heavy grazing by the Sika deer. Amounts of dead wood are favourable, as are the patches of wet and dry heath. High Deer numbers are being addressed through a programme of deer management across the whole of Arne, hence the recovering assessment.		Woodland
Poole Harbour	Arne	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005805	72.94	27-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	All the remedies required to move the unit to favourable condition are in place as part of an HLS agreement (scrub control, deer management, introduction of grazing [once deer numbers are reduced]).		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005859	22.2	27-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	All the management actions required to move the unit to a favourable condition are now in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005794	15.85	15-Feb-2008	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath at Shipstall has been hit heavily by deer. Much of the mature heather has been trampled and is dead or nearly so. There is much regeneration of young heather but nevertheless the heath structure has been shifted much too much towards the pioneer and this is likely to have had a particularly bad impact on the sand lizard population. Remedies in the form of (1) deer management to reduce deer numbers and (2) scrub removal on the southern boundary of the heath (both to re-establish heath and to reduce deer harbourage) are in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		Heathland

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Arne	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005806	98.06	10-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	Since the last assessment there have been changes to the unit caused by the large numbers of Sika deer. The mire at Coombe heath has been hit particularly badly, effects including trampled and bare areas together with changes in species composition. Dry heath has also locally been affected with stands (eg at Grip) trampled and older heather bushes broken up. Although there is regeneration from seed or rootstock there is now more pioneer vegetation. Work is ongoing controlling rhododendron in the northern part of the unit, some clearance of birch in one section of the valley between Grip and Coombe would be desirable. Deer numbers need to be significantly reduced. These actions required to achieve favourable condition alongside together with the reintroduction of grazing with cattle and ponies (once deer numbers are low enough) have been secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering condition.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005808	112.37	16-Feb-2000	Unfavourable recovering	Large area of mature pine on Arne Hill where restoration to heath required. Previously cleared areas are recovering well. Large areas bracken dominated.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	9	Coniferous woodland	1005797	45.75	18-Sep-2007	Unfavourable recovering	A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations (plus introduction of extensive grazing) is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		Woodland
Poole Harbour	Arne	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005862	22.19	18-Sep-2007	Unfavourable recovering	Open heath generally in good condition. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005795	2.66	16-Dec-2008	Unfavourable recovering	The unit comprises wet and dry heath, wetter areas being mostly Molinia and Erica ciliaris. It is heavily grazed by deer with adverse effects on the dry heath - shows the classic overgrazing signs although less severe than some other places on Arne. Some areas are bracken dominated. Management work to remove trees and scrub - the reason for the previous unfavourable assessment was done some 4 years ago and areas have recovered well although this mainly explains the amount Molinia and bracken in some places. recovering assessment is based on ongoing bracken control and deer control together with longer term plans to reintroduce grazing once deer numbers have declined sufficiently.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	12	Coniferous woodland	1005799	0.82	26-Jan-2009	Unfavourable declining	Unit comprise Arne G well site and surrounds. Well site now concrete, awaits restoration under planning permission. Heathy surrounds are invaded by young pine.	Inappropriate scrub control, Planning permission - other mineral and waste	Woodland
Poole Harbour	Arne	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005857	29.65	27-Jan-2001	Unfavourable recovering	The unit is a mix of heath and woodland - mostly secondary (birch/pine) but with much older oak in places, particularly along boundary banks. Need to carefully consider which parts of the unit should be restored to heathland and where pasture woodland may be more appropriate. There are certainly some areas of pine which need to be cleared - the unfavourable recovering assessment is on the basis of a considerable amount of management work - tree clearance - recently carried out next to the Arne Road where heath is re-establishing well. The not meeting objectives assessment is because the western part of the site is not grazed and clearly needs to be included within the grazing unit covering Coombe, Grip and the eastern part of the unit. The ungrazed mires have much tussocky Molinia.		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	16	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	1005789	3.81	27-Jan-2001	Unfavourable no change	No change from previous assessment in 1997.	Forestry and woodland management	Woodland
Poole Harbour	Arne	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1005813	22.83	23-Dec-2003	Favourable	Good quality dry and wet heath and smaller areas of mire. Although in the grazing unit it would benefit from slightly increased grazing levels as animals do not use this area much. Management is providing variation in sward structure through some mowing as well as provision of sand. The amount of sand could usefully be increased		Heathland
Poole Harbour	Arne	18	Coniferous woodland	1005798	46.65	18-Sep-2007	Unfavourable recovering	The comment from the 2001 assessment still applies. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		Woodland
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	1	Littoral rock	1005298	4.44	31-Jul-2002	Favourable	Unit consists of a relatively thin strip of largely degraded shoreline with hard sea defence, numerous jetties and slipways. The current assessment is based on the fact that the condition of the unit has not changed since notification and that there is no scope for improving condition through management.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	2	Littoral sediment	1005301	40.95	28-May-2001	Favourable	Small area of Spartina - dominated marsh, plus very small stands of Bolboschoenus and Phragmites. Also area of sand and some shingle to west of salt-marsh. Dune area has Legumu arenarius and Elytrigia pyracanthus, plus a little Ammophila arenaria. Good strandline flora along sand and shingle areas, including Cakile maritima and Elytrigia juncea. NOTABLE FEATURES Nationally scarce species: Festuca arenaria, Sarcocornia perennis Red Data Book species: Lynodon dactylon Annex 1 Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.38ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT - None POTENTIAL THREATS Salt marsh is being actively eroded. Dune and strandline areas are heavily trampled, particularly in summer months.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	3	Littoral rock	1005299	20.97	18-Jul-2001	Favourable	Small area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica and Atriplex portulacoides. Also area of vegetated dune with abundant Elytrigia atherica. Small beach in east has the best strandline flora noted in the harbour, including Atriplex spp., Cakile maritima, Elymus juncea and Honckenya peploides. NOTABLE FEATURES Nationally scarce species: Sarcocornia perennis Annex 1 Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.17ha, Annual driftlines 0.02ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS Used for recreation which could threaten driftline flora if the pressure increases.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	4	Littoral sediment	1018844	4.01	26-Mar-2004	Favourable	This inter-tidal section is narrow and only exposed for relatively short periods. Red breasted merganser use the areas offshore this unit for feeding. There is a wader roost on the stone breakwater at the marina - dunlin and ringed plover tend to use this. Relatively low disturbance levels on this section. Oystercatcher and redshank use the upper beach area for roosting and loafing.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	5	Littoral rock	1018845	11.04	26-Mar-2004	Favourable	The main species that occur here are oystercatcher, dunlin and redshank. The adjoining recreational open space is also utilised by oystercatchers as a feeding area and for loafing when mudflats covered at high water. Generally open section of foreshore in this area.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	6	Littoral sediment	1005302	9.34	09-Aug-2006	Favourable	Stoney cobbly substrate with a variety of seaweeds. Ulva and Enteromorpha sparse with patches of higher cover. Jetty report (2003) noted site to be of high importance for waterfowl - over 1000 feeding and roosting birds recorded (dunlin, oystercatcher, ringed plover, brent geese). Refer to prey availability report (2004) for infauna recorded (site 71) biomass high and species rich eg high biomass of Nereis virens. Bait digging very evident at this site with many holes across the site and 5 bait diggers observed. None appeared to be backfilling holes. However uncertain how much bait digging occurs here during the winter. This urban site could benefit from more interpretation to raise awareness of importance of the site for overwintering birds and increase awareness of the bait digging code of conduct. See s/des sites/poole Harbour/images Unit 6 Aug 06 for photos.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	7	Littoral sediment	1005304	35.49	28-Feb-2006	Unfavourable no change	Parts of the harbour are subject to eutrophication due to diffuse sources such as agricultural run off and sewage discharges. This can result in more extensive algal mats over the mudflats. Algal mats are present through out the year within this unit. A study found this has resulted in a decrease in diversity and abundance of bird prey availability.	Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	8	Littoral sediment	1005305	5.85	31-Jul-2001	Favourable	Large area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica, with Atriplex portulacoides and A. prostrata both locally abundant. Narrow fringe of mid-upper marsh along northern shore with Juncus gerardii, J. maritimus and Limonium vulgare, plus strands of Bolboschoenus and Phragmites. NOTABLE FEATURES CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS Salt-marsh is being actively eroded by natural processes.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	9	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	1005350	6.21	01-Nov-2002	Favourable	Pergins Island supports mature woodland incl. 200 yr (approx.) beech, sweet chestnut, oak and scots pine. Understorey includes hawthorn and areas of mature gorse and broom. Island includes small banked enclosure which would appear to be of been used to pen animals grazing on the saltmarsh as it is too small to be a grazing unit in itself. Management is one of non intervention although occasion fires have occurred. It is recommended that bat roost and breeding bird surveys should be undertaken.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	10	Littoral sediment	1005306	99.68	31-Jul-2001	Favourable	Large area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica, with few other species present. NOTABLE FEATURES CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS Salt-marsh is being eroded by natural processes.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	11	Littoral sediment	1005307	26.06	16-Aug-2001	Favourable	Area of mainly <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominated lower marsh with few other species present except for <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> . The western shore has small strands of mid-upper marsh with <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . There is also a stand of <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> in the north-west of the site. NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.65ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.25ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	12	Littoral sediment	1005308	35.63	29-Jun-2001	Favourable	Area of lower <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominated marsh, with few other species present. Very small stand of mid-upper marsh with <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> and <i>Juncus gerardii</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.07ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	14	Littoral sediment	1005303	5.61	26-Mar-2004	Favourable	A relatively narrow strip of sand and gravel beaches and is completely covered at high tide. The intertidal habitat is flanked by residential areas and the recreational ground at Hamworthy. As such this unit tends to be quite heavily used all year round. Oystercatchers are the most regular visitor in this unit and use the area for feeding. Recent survey considers that this unit is important as it provides connectivity along the north shore of Poole Harbour.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	15	Littoral sediment	1005349	14.52	29-Jun-2001	Favourable	Sand and shingle shoreline of Ham Common NNR, supporting some vegetation including <i>Honckenya peploides</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Annual driftlines 0.03ha, Vegetated shingle 0.10ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: Trampling of strandline and shingle flora due to tourist pressure.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	16	Littoral sediment	1005309	22.61	29-Jun-2001	Favourable	Small area of lower and middle marsh at the western end of Turlin Moor. Lower marsh is dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with <i>Limonium vulgare</i> , <i>Triglochin maritimum</i> and <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> also present. Mid marsh vegetation is dominated by <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> and <i>Juncus maritimum</i> . The northern shore is dominated by <i>Phragmites</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 1.6ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.16ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted, but some rubbish dump along edge of marsh.		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	17	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005311	39.04	29-Jun-2001	Favourable	Area of mostly lower marsh vegetation with <i>Aster tripolium</i> , <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> and <i>Spartina anglica</i> all locally dominant. Mid-upper marsh is restricted to small, narrow stands of <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . Adjoining the salt-marsh are extensive reedbeds. NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 4.12ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.08ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	22	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1027109	46.63	07-Sep-2001	Favourable	DERC. Small meadow receiving brackish water at the highest tide. Rough grassland dominated by <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> and <i>Festuca rubra</i> . Showing some invasion of <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Much more rank than when visited in 1996. NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 1.59ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: Some cattle grazing. POTENTIAL THREATS: Grazing not that intensive and <i>Phragmites</i> invading. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Increase grazing, preferably in spring and/or autumn.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	26	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005337	27.01	03-Aug-2001	Favourable	Small fenced meadow behind sea wall. <i>Juncus maritimus</i> dominant with some shorter <i>Juncus gerardii</i> - <i>Festuca rubra</i> marsh. Pans inundated at high tide support <i>Salicornia</i> spp. and <i>Suaeda maritima</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES: Nationally scarce: <i>Suaeda vera</i> . CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: Invasion by Gorse or expansion of reedbed which has increased since visit in 1994. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Extensive grazing in early spring and autumn. Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 2.81ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 1.08ha.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	27	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005312	38.16	03-Aug-2001	Favourable	Large expanse of lower marsh dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> . Area in north also has area of <i>Aster tripolium</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> marsh, plus a large stand of <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> . Area around Otter Island heavily grazed by Sika deer. NOTABLE FEATURES: Atlantic salt meadows: 7.64ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None. POTENTIAL THREATS: Heavy Sika deer grazing in SW around Otter Island. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Monitor Sika deer grazing around Otter Island.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	28	Neutral grassland - lowland	1005341	0.92	07-Sep-2001	Favourable	Small field with SW corner inundated at high tide. Most of field is tightly horse-grazed. SW corner dominated by Puccinellia maritima, this grades into Agrostis stolonifera - Festuca rubra grassland with local species such as Lotus glaber and Trifolium fragifolium. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 1.03ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT Horse grazing POTENTIAL THREATS Slightly overgrazed and current horse grazing patchy and introducing weed species. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Graze with cattle if possible.		Grassland
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	30	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005313	71.37	03-Aug-2001	Favourable	Extensive area of lower Spartina dominated marsh with Aster tripolium, Atriplex portulacoides and Puccinellia maritima. Also a thin strip of Armeria maritima - Puccinellia maritima - Triglochin maritimum marsh. Upper marsh areas dominated by Elytrogia atherica and Bolboschoerus maritimus. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 5.58ha Perennial vegetation of stony banks 0.02ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	31	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005338	114.98	17-Aug-2006	Favourable	Mudflat part of this site to be one preferentially used for feeding birds there are a number of potential issues at this site that could potentially effect this habitat. The area is a popular site for shellfishing using pump scoop dredging and the impact of this technique is yet to be fully understood. This area, however, has on several occasions been prohibited for shellfishing for human consumption due to E-coli levels - it is uncertain whether the source of this problem is the nearby sewage treatment work or diffuse pollution from land run off. Either way these impacts on the water quality could also have an effect on the nature conservation interest of the site. In some areas of this part of mudflat algal cover of >25% was recorded in Winter 2002. Another issue is contamination from the old coldite factory appears to have led to elevated levels of metals in marine invertebrates in the vicinity. This had not resulted in any obvious impact on the benthic community but could have possible bioaccumulation effects. Further investigation of these potential threats is required. Little apparent change in the favourable condition.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	32	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005314	130.21	27-Sep-2001	Favourable	Extensive area of lower marsh, dominated by Spartina anglica and Puccinellia maritima, with Elytrogia maritima along creek levees. Also small stands of Aster tripolium - dominated marsh. Mid-upper marsh has Festuca rubra Juncus gerardii and several stands of Juncus maritimus. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 16.80ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.68ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT Cattle grazing POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	33	Neutral grassland - lowland	1005342	66.9	13-Mar-2006	Unfavourable no change	The condition has improved since the last assessment. The grazing has achieved an ideal short overwinter sward and the dense cover of old rush tussocks has been reduced to a frequent, widespread scatter of open young rush tussocks. Continued rush management (cutting and maybe some localised weed wiping) is required to maintain scattered young tussocks but reduced in frequency. Many drains, including former saltmarsh creeks, are in poor condition, having closed over to grass and dense rush or, on the larger drains, to linear reed bed. A more substantial programme of drain clearance and bankside rush cutting/reduction is required. The grassland is damp to wet but, except occasionally in derelict creeks, lacks shallow splash flooding with some muddy edges for the bird interest. Raised water level management is required. Given the condition of the sea wall and sea level rise, managed re-alignment with re-creation of grazed saltmarsh and creeks, but retention of some brackish to freshwater grazing marsh near the landward edge, would be an acceptable alternative option for achieving favourable SSSI condition.	Inappropriate coastal management, Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control	Grassland
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	34	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005315	25.39	02-Aug-2001	Favourable	Area of mid-upper marsh dominated in the west by Elytrogia atherica with few other species present. The rest comprises a mixture of Spartina anglica, Puccinellia maritima, Aster tripolium and Triglochiri maritimum. The salt marsh is bordered on three sides by reedbed. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 4.87ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS Encroachment by reeds and Elytrogia atherica MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Cattle graze northern third of Swineham Point to halt invasion of reedbed and seach couch.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	35	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005339	15.56	23-Aug-2006	Favourable	No obvious change in the condition of the reedbeds since Cook 2000 Reedbed survey. Little litter or exposed substrate. Non natives absent and only several birch trees noted.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	36	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005316	149.88	23-Aug-2006	Favourable	Site highly utilised by overwintering feeding birds with birds appearing to be preferentially feeding over this area compared to areas holding a similar biomass of prey items. A high abundance and biomass of infauna were found at the site.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	37	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005317	91.05	27-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	38	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005318	41.03	27-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	39	Littoral sediment	1005343	0.38	22-Aug-2001	Favourable	Small bay dominated by stands of <i>Bolboschoerus maritimus</i> , <i>Juncus maritimus</i> and <i>Phragmites australis</i> .NOTABLE FEATURES:Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.1haCURRENT MANAGEMENT:NonePOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Tidal flats; saltmarshes
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	40	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005319	52.08	27-Mar-2008	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	41	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005340	1.06	09-Aug-2006	Favourable	Small area of reedbed fed by saline water. Healthy reedbed with no invasives or woody species. Hardly any litter cover or exposed substrate.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	42	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005320	95.53	20-Jul-2001	Favourable	A very extensive area of lower marsh dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with <i>Aster tripolium</i> , <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> and <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> all locally abundant. Very varied mid-upper marsh with <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>Juncus maritimus</i> . Fields at end of peninsula support brackish grassland. Meadows by mouth of Corfe River have interesting transitional vegetation.NOTABLE FEATURES:Atlantic salt meadows: 21.19haMediterranean salt meadows: 2.59haSarcocornia perennis - Nationally ScarceCURRENT MANAGEMENT:Some cattle grazingPOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	43	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005331	59.6	29-Aug-2001	Favourable	Extensive area of <i>Spartina anglica</i> - dominated lower marsh with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> along creek levees. Also good stands of <i>Aster tripolium</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> marsh. Wych Moor has stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh, plus very interesting transitional vegetation from salt-marsh to mire.NOTABLE FEATURES:Atlantic salt meadows: 15.34haMediterranean salt meadows: 1.64haCURRENT MANAGEMENT:Some cattle grazingPOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	46	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005321	65.54	24-Mar-2003	Favourable	Saltmarsh unit assessed using aerial photographs - 1952, 1982,1990 and 1992 to determine extent of saltmarsh erosion. Although retreat can be seen on SE tip and to the NE, there has been relatively little saltmarsh loss around the islands.		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	47	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005322	98.59	06-Aug-2001	Favourable	This large SMU includes the whole of the Fitzworth Peninsula. Lower <i>Spartina</i> marsh covers large areas but is mostly species poor. The mid-upper marsh is very varied with <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> all abundant. The southern end of Ower Bay itself has important transitional vegetation influenced by freshwater seepage.NOTABLE FEATURES:Atlantic salt meadows: 10.77haMediterranean salt meadows: 2.35haSarcocornia perennis - Nationally scarceCURRENT MANAGEMENT:Some areas are cattle grazedPOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	50	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005323	169.59	19-Jul-2001	Favourable	The shores of both Green and Furzey Islands support areas of <i>Spartina</i> - dominated lower marsh, with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> , <i>Limonium vulgare</i> and <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> all locally abundant. There are also linear stands of upper salt marsh dominated by <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . The north-east corner of Furzey island has the largest stand of <i>Suaeda vera</i> in the harbour.NOTABLE FEATURES:Atlantic salt meadows: 1.6haMediterranean salt meadows: 0.2haMediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.25haSalicornia on mud and sand 0.02haSuaeda vera - Nationally scarceSarcocornia perennis - Nationally scarceCURRENT MANAGEMENT:Some of the upper marsh on Green Island is mownPOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	52	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005325	58.64	06-Aug-2001	Favourable	Species-poor <i>Spartina</i> marsh dominates the lower marsh areas with few other species present. Around the fringes are stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh plus brackish swamp with <i>Bolboschoerus maritimus</i> and <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> .NOTABLE FEATURES:Atlantic salt meadows: 1.4haMediterranean salt meadows: 0.48haCURRENT MANAGEMENT:NonePOTENTIAL THREATS:None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)

Ramsar	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour Ramsar Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	53	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005326	110.4	24-Aug-2001	Favourable	The shore of this extensive area is very indented. Along Goathorn and around Drove Island there are expanses of <i>Spartina</i> marsh, with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> and <i>Limonium vulgare</i> both locally abundant. Between Goathorn and Greenland Farms there are large stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> middle-upper marsh. On the eastern tip of Goathorn <i>Suaeda vera</i> is locally abundant. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 4.04ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 3.0ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.05ha <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	54	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005327	62.26	28-Jun-2001	Favourable	The shoreline from Greenland to South Haven is very varied. Salt-marsh is restricted to a narrow strip, with lower, middle and upper zones compacted to 10m in places. Besides salt-marsh there are small sand dunes, a shingle beach and a small stand of <i>Suaeda vera</i> . At the southern end (Brand's Creek) there is important transitional vegetation from mire to salt-marsh. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 2.86ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 1.15ha Mobile dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> : 0.6ha Perennial vegetation on stony banks: 0.03ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.03ha <i>Salicornia pusilla</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	57	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005329	33.5	31-Aug-2001	Favourable	The Lagoon is no longer tidal, with a pump controlling water levels. The area is most notable for the largest stands of annual <i>Salicornia</i> marsh in the harbour. These areas are kept short and open by geese grazing. There are several stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh along the northern and eastern edges. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 0.91ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.91ha <i>Salicornia</i> colonizing mud and sand: 1.4ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None noted POTENTIAL THREATS Some intensive deer grazing		Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	58	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1005330	46.87	31-Aug-2001	Unfavourable declining	Area of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> around small pools behind sandy ridge. Some remnants of <i>Limonium</i> marsh which are heavily grazed by deer. Grazed stands of <i>Suaeda vera</i> present behind ridge, inclosures built to help regeneration. Sandy ridge has an abundance of <i>Senecio viscosus</i> , plus scattered <i>Honckenya reploides</i> . There are two small stands of <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 0.06ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.06ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.11ha Mobile dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> : 0.07ha <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT Heavily deer grazed, some inclosures to help <i>Suaeda vera</i> regrowth POTENTIAL THREATS Intensive deer grazing MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Fencing of whole of Seymer's Marsh desirable to stop over-grazing	Overgrazing	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Arne	13	Littoral sediment	13.06	Favourable	A diverse reedbed with open water, pools, fresh and saline areas including saltmarsh and dry banks but mostly fresh. Reed in good condition and overall a good quality reedbed. Noable species reed bunting, water rail, reed warbler, good population of water vole. No present management.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Arne	14	Littoral sediment	20.07	Unfavourable recovering	The condition and factors affecting it remain as in the previous assessment. However, measures to redress the impacts of the bund have been agreed with RSPB and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Holton & Sandford Heaths	10	Neutral grassland - lowland	10.73	Favourable			Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	1	Littoral rock	4.44	Favourable	Unit consists of a relatively thin strip of largely degraded shoreline with hard sea defence, numerous jetties and slipways. The current assessment is based on the fact that the condition of the unit has not changed since notification and that there is no scope for improving condition through management.		Not supporting habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	2	Littoral sediment	40.95	Favourable	Small area of Spartina - dominated marsh, plus very small stands of Bolboschoenus and Phragmites. Also area of sand and some shingle to west of salt-marsh. Dune area has Legumu arenarius and Elytrigia pyracanthus, plus a little Ammophila arenaria. Good strandline flora along sand and shingle areas, including Cakile maritima and Elytrigia juncea.NOTABLE FEATURES Nationally scarce species: Festuca arenaria, Sarcocornia perennisRed Data Book species: Lynodon dactylonAnnexe 1 Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.38haCURRENT MANAGEMENT- NonePOTENTIAL THREATSSalt marsh is being actively eroded. Dune and strandline areas are heavily trampled, particularly in summer months.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	3	Littoral rock	20.97	Favourable	Small area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica and Atriplex portulacoides. Also area of vegetated dune with abundant Elytrigia atherica. Small beach in east has the best strandline flora noted in the harbour, including Atriplex spp., Cakile maritima, Elymus juncea and Honckenya peploides.NOTABLE FEATURES Nationally scarce species: Sarcocornia perennisAnnexe 1 Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.17ha, Annual driftlines 0.02haCURRENT MANAGEMENT: NonePOTENTIAL THREATSUsed for recreation which could threaten driftline flora if the pressure increases.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	4	Littoral sediment	4.01	Favourable	This inter-tidal section is narrow and only exposed for relatively short periods. Red breasted merganser use the areas offshore this unit for feeding. There is a wader roost on the stone breakwater at the marina - dunlin and ringed plover tend to use this. Relatively low disturbance levels on this section. Oystercatcher and redshank use the upper beach area for roosting and loafing.		Intertidal mud-flats
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	5	Littoral rock	11.04	Favourable	The main species that occur here are oystercatcher, dunlin and redshank. The adjoining recreational open space is also utilised by oystercatchers as a feeding area and for loafing when mudflats covered at high water. Generally open section of foreshore in this area.		Exposed rocky shore (not supporting habitat identified in SPA citation)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	6	Littoral sediment	9.34	Favourable	Stoney cobbly substrate with a variety of seaweeds. Ulva and Enteromorpha sparse with patches of higher cover. Jetty report (2003) noted site to be of high importance for waterfowl - over 1000 feeding and roosting birds recorded (dunlin, oystercatcher, ringed plover, Brent geese). Refer to prey availability report (2004) for infauna recorded (site 71) biomass high and species rich eg high biomass of Nereis virens . Bait digging very evident at this site with many holes across the site and 5 bait diggers observed. None appeared to be backfilling holes. However uncertain how much bait digging occurs here during the winter. This urban site could benefit from more interpretation to raise awareness of importance of the site for overwintering birds and increase awareness of the bait digging code of conduct. See s/des sites/poole Harbour/images Unit 6 Aug 06 for photos.		Intertidal mud-flats
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	7	Littoral sediment	35.49	Unfavourable no change	Parts of the harbour are subject to eutrophication due to diffuse sources such as agricultural run off and sewage discharges. This can result in more extensive algal mats over the mudflats. Algal mats are present through out the year within this unit. A study found this has resulted in a decrease in diversity and abundance of bird prey availability.	Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	Intertidal mud-flats
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	8	Littoral sediment	5.85	Favourable	Large area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica, with Atriplex portulacoides and A. prostrata both locally abundant. Narrow fringe of mid-upper marsh along northern shore with Juncus gerardii, J. maritimus and Limonium vulgare, plus strands of Bolboschoenus and Phragmites.NOTABLE FEATURES CURRENT MANAGEMENT: NonePOTENTIAL THREATSSalt-marsh is being actively eroded by natural processes.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	9	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	6.21	Favourable	Pergins Island supports mature woodland incl. 200 yr(approx.) beech, sweet chestnut, oak and scot's pine. Understorey includes hawthorn and areas of mature gorse and broom. Island includes small banked enclosure which would appear to of been used to pen animals grazing on the saltmarsh as it is too small to be a grazing unit in itself. Management is one of non intervention although occasion fires have occurred. It is recommended that bat roost and breeding bird surveys should be undertaken.		Not supporting habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	10	Littoral sediment	99.68	Favourable	Large area of lower marsh dominated by Spartina anglica, with few other species present.NOTABLE FEATURES CURRENT MANAGEMENT: NonePOTENTIAL THREATSSalt-marsh is being eroded by natural processes.		Saltmarsh

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	11	Littoral sediment	26.06	Favourable	Area of mainly <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominated lower marsh with few other species present except for <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> . The western shore has small strands of mid-upper marsh with <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . There is also a stand of <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> in the north-west of the site. NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.65ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.25ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	12	Littoral sediment	35.63	Favourable	Area of lower <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominated marsh, with few other species present. Very small stand of mid-upper marsh with <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> and <i>Juncus gerardii</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 0.07ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	14	Littoral sediment	5.61	Favourable	A relatively narrow strip of sand and gravel beaches and is completely covered at high tide. The intertidal habitat is flanked by residential areas and the recreational ground at Hamworthy. As such this unit tends to be quite heavily used all year round. Oystercatchers are the most regular visitor in this unit and use the area for feeding. Recent survey considers that this unit is important as it provides connectivity along the north shore of Poole Harbour.		Intertidal mud-flats (and sandflar)
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	15	Littoral sediment	14.52	Favourable	Sand and shingle shoreline of Ham Common NNR, supporting some vegetation including <i>Honckenya peploides</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Annual driftlines 0.03ha, Vegetated shingle 0.10ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS: Trampling of strandline and shingle flora due to tourist pressure.		Not supporting habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	16	Littoral sediment	22.61	Favourable	Small area of lower and middle marsh at the western end of Turlin Moor. Lower marsh is dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with <i>Limonium vulgare</i> , <i>Triglochin maritimum</i> and <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> also present. Mid marsh vegetation is dominated by <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> and <i>Juncus maritimum</i> . The northern shore is dominated by <i>Phragmites</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 1.6ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.16ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted, but some rubbish dump along edge of marsh.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	17	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	39.04	Favourable	Area of mostly lower marsh vegetation with <i>Aster tripolium</i> , <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> and <i>Spartina anglica</i> all locally dominant. Mid upper marsh is restricted to small, narrow stands of <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . Adjoining the salt-marsh are extensive reedbeds. NOTABLE FEATURES Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 4.12ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 0.08ha. CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS: None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	22	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	46.63	Favourable	DERC. Small meadow receiving brackish water at the highest tide. Rough grassland dominated by <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> and <i>Festuca rubra</i> . Showing some invasion of <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Much more rank than when visited in 1996. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows 1.59ha CURRENT MANAGEMENTS Some cattle grazing POTENTIAL THREATS Grazing not that intensive and <i>Phragmites</i> invading MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Increase grazing, preferably in spring and/or autumn.		Grazing marsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	26	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	27.01	Favourable	Small fenced meadow behind sea wall. <i>Juncus maritimus</i> dominant with some shorter <i>Juncus gerardii</i> - <i>Festuca rubra</i> marsh. Pans inundated at high tide support <i>Salicornia</i> spp. and <i>Suaeda maritima</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Nationally scarce: <i>Suaeda vera</i> CURRENT MANAGEMENT: None POTENTIAL THREATS Invasion by Gorse or expansion of reedbed which has increased since visit in 1994. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Extensive grazing in early spring and autumn. Annex I Habitats: Atlantic salt meadows 2.81ha, Mediterranean salt meadows 1.08ha.		Grazing marsh / Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	27	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	38.16	Favourable	Large expanse of lower marsh dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> . Area in north also has area of <i>Aster tripolium</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> marsh, plus a large stand of <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> . Area around Otter Island heavily grazed by Sika deer. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 7.64ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS Heavy Sika deer grazing in SW around Otter Island. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Monitor Sika deer grazing around Otter Island.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	28	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.92	Favourable	Small field with SW corner inundated at high tide. Most of field is tightly horse-grazed. SW corner dominated by <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> , this grades into <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Festuca rubra</i> grassland with local species such as <i>Lotus glaber</i> and <i>Trifolium fragifolium</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 1.03ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT Horse grazing POTENTIAL THREATS Slightly overgrazed and current horse grazing patchy and introducing weed species. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Graze with cattle if possible.		Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	30	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	71.37	Favourable	Extensive area of lower <i>Spartina</i> dominated marsh with <i>Aster tripolium</i> , <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> and <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> . Also a thin strip of <i>Armeria maritima</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> - <i>Triglochin maritimum</i> marsh. Upper marsh areas dominated by <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> and <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 5.58ha Perennial vegetation of stony banks 0.02ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	31	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	114.98	Favourable	Mudflat part of this site to be one preferentially used for feeding birds there are a number of potential issues at this site that could potentially effect this habitat. The area is a popular site for shellfishing using pump scoop dredging and the impact of this technique is yet to be fully understood. This area, however, has on several occasions been prohibited for shellfishing for human consumption due to E-coli levels - it is uncertain whether the source of this problem is the nearby sewage treatment work or diffuse pollution from land run off. Either way these impacts on the water quality could also have an effect on the nature conservation interest of the site. In some areas of this part of mudflat algal cover of >25% was recorded in Winter 2002. Another issue is contamination from the old coldite factory appears to have led to elevated levels of metals in marine invertebrates in the vicinity. This had not resulted in any obvious impact on the benthic community but could have possible bioaccumulation effects. Further investigation of these potential threats is required. Little apparent change in the favourable condition of the reedbeds.		Intertidal mud-flats / Fens
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	32	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	130.21	Favourable	Extensive area of lower marsh, dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> and <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> , with <i>Elytrigia maritima</i> along creek levees. Also small stands of <i>Aster tripolium</i> - dominated marsh. Mid-upper marsh has <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and several stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> .NOTABLE FEATURESAtlantic salt meadows: 16.80haMediterranean salt meadows: 0.68haCURRENT MANAGEMENTCattle grazingPOTENTIAL THREATSNone noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	33	Neutral grassland - lowland	66.9	Unfavourable no change	The condition has improved since the last assessment. The grazing has achieved an ideal short overwinter sward and the dense cover of old rush tussocks has been reduced to a frequent, widespread scatter of open young rush tussocks. Continued rush management (cutting and maybe some localised weed wiping) is required to maintain scattered young tussocks but reduced in frequency. Many drains, including former saltmarsh creeks, are in poor condition, having closed over to grass and dense rush or, on the larger drains, to linear reed bed. A more substantial programme of drain clearance and bankside rush cutting/reduction is required. The grassland is damp to wet but, except occasionally in derelict creeks, lacks shallow splash flooding with some muddy edges for the bird interest. Raised water level management is required. Given the condition of the sea wall and sea level rise, managed re-alignment with re-creation of grazed saltmarsh and creeks, but retention of some brackish to freshwater grazing marsh near the landward edge, would be an acceptable alternative option for achieving favourable SSSI condition.	Inappropriate coastal management, Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	34	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	25.39	Favourable	Area of mid-upper marsh dominated in the west by <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> with few other species present. The rest comprises a mixture of <i>Spartina anglica</i> , <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> , <i>Aster tripolium</i> and <i>Triglochiri maritimum</i> . The salt marsh is bordered on three sides by reedbed.NOTABLE FEATURESAtlantic salt meadows: 4.87haCURRENT MANAGEMENTNonePOTENTIAL THREATSEncroachment by reeds and <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONSCattle graze northern third of Swineham Point to halt invasion of reedbed and seach couch.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	35	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	15.56	Favourable	No obvious change in the condition of the reedbeds since Cook 2000 Reedbed survey. Little litter or exposed substrate. Non natives absent and only several birch trees noted.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	36	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	149.88	Favourable	Site highly utilised by overwintering feeding birds with birds appearing to be preferentially feeding over this area compared to areas holding a similar biomass of prey items. A high abundance and biomass of infauna were found at the site.		Intertidal mud-flats / Fens
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	37	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	91.05	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	38	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	41.03	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	39	Littoral sediment	0.38	Favourable	Small bay dominated by stands of <i>Bolboschoerus maritimus</i> , <i>Juncus maritimus</i> and <i>Phragmites australis</i> .NOTABLE FEATURESAtlantic salt meadows: 0.1haCURRENT MANAGEMENTNonePOTENTIAL THREATSNone noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	40	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	52.08	Unfavourable recovering	The saltmarsh remains as described in the previous assessment with the saltmarsh badly affected by Sika deer. However, additional deer control measure have been instigated by RSPB and a target for reducing deer numbers agreed as part of an HLS agreement.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	41	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1.06	Favourable	Small area of reedbed fed by saline water. Healthy reedbed with no invasives or woody species. Hardly any litter cover or exposed substrate.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	42	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	95.53	Favourable	A very extensive area of lower marsh dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with <i>Aster tripolium</i> , <i>Atriplex portulocoides</i> and <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> all locally abundant. Very varied mid-upper marsh with <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>Juncus maritimus</i> . Fields at end of peninsula support brackish grassland. Meadows by mouth of Corfe River have interesting transitional vegetation.NOTABLE FEATURESAtlantic salt meadows: 21.19haMediterranean salt meadows: 2.59haSarcocornia perennis - Nationally ScarceCURRENT MANagementsome cattle grazingPOTENTIAL THREATSNone noted		Saltmarsh

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	43	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	59.6	Favourable	Extensive area of <i>Spartina anglica</i> - dominated lower marsh with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> along creek levees. Also good stands of <i>Aster tripolium</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> marsh. Wych Moor has stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh, plus very interesting transitional vegetation from salt-marsh to mire. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 15.34ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 1.64ha CURRENT MANAGEMENTS Some cattle grazing POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	46	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	65.54	Favourable	Saltmarsh unit assessed using aerial photographs - 1952, 1982, 1990 and 1992 to determine extent of saltmarsh erosion. Although retreat can be seen on SE tip and to the NE, there has been relatively little saltmarsh loss around the islands.		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	47	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	98.59	Favourable	This large SMU includes the whole of the Fitzworth Peninsula. Lower <i>Spartina</i> marsh covers large areas but is mostly species poor. The mid-upper marsh is very varied with <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> all abundant. The southern end of Ower Bay itself has important transitional vegetation influenced by freshwater seepage. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 10.77ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 2.35ha <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENTS Some areas are cattle grazed POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	50	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	169.59	Favourable	The shores of both Green and Furzey Islands support areas of <i>Spartina</i> - dominated lower marsh, with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> , <i>Limonium vulgare</i> and <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> all locally abundant. There are also linear stands of upper salt marsh dominated by <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and <i>J. maritimus</i> . The north-east corner of Furzey island has the largest stand of <i>Suaeda vera</i> in the harbour. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 1.6ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.2ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.25ha <i>Salicornia</i> on mud and sand 0.02ha <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENTS Some of the upper marsh on Green Island is mown POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	52	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	58.64	Favourable	Species-poor <i>Spartina</i> marsh dominates the lower marsh areas with few other species present. Around the fringes are stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh plus brackish swamp with <i>Bolboschoerus maritimus</i> and <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 1.4ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.48ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	53	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	110.4	Favourable	The shore of this extensive area is very indented. Along Goathorn and around Drove Island there are expanses of <i>Spartina</i> marsh, with <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> and <i>Limonium vulgare</i> both locally abundant. Between Goathorn and Greenland Farms there are large stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> middle-upper marsh. On the eastern tip of Goathorn <i>Suaeda vera</i> is locally abundant. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 4.04ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 3.0ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.05ha <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	54	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	62.26	Favourable	The shoreline from Greenland to South Haven is very varied. Salt-marsh is restricted to a narrow strip, with lower, middle and upper zones compacted to 10m in places. Besides salt-marsh there are small sand dunes, a shingle beach and a small stand of <i>Suaeda vera</i> . At the southern end (Brand's Creek) there is important transitional vegetation from mire to salt-marsh. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 2.86ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 1.15ha Mobile dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> : 0.6ha Perennial vegetation on stony banks: 0.03ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.03ha <i>Salicornia pusilla</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> - Nationally scarce <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT None POTENTIAL THREATS None noted		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	57	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	33.5	Favourable	The Lagoon is no longer tidal, with a pump controlling water levels. The area is most notable for the largest stands of annual <i>Salicornia</i> marsh in the harbour. These areas are kept short and open by geese grazing. There are several stands of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> upper marsh along the northern and eastern edges. NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 0.91ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.91ha <i>Salicornia</i> colonizing mud and sand: 1.4ha CURRENT MANAGEMENT None noted POTENTIAL THREATS Some intensive deer grazing		Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Poole Harbour	58	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	46.87	Unfavourable declining	Area of <i>Juncus maritimus</i> around small pools behind sandy ridge. Some remnants of <i>Limonium</i> marsh which are heavily grazed by deer. Grazed stands of <i>Suaeda vera</i> present behind ridge, inclosures built to help regeneration. Sandy ridge has an abundance of <i>Senecio viscosus</i> , plus scattered <i>Honckenya reploides</i> . There are two small stands of <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> . NOTABLE FEATURES Atlantic salt meadows: 0.06ha Mediterranean salt meadows: 0.06ha Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrub: 0.11ha Mobile dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> : 0.07ha <i>Suaeda vera</i> - Nationally scarce CURRENT MANAGEMENT Heavily deer grazed, some inclosures to help <i>Suaeda vera</i> regrowth POTENTIAL THREATS Intensive deer grazing MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS Fencing of whole of Seymer's Marsh desirable to stop over-grazing	Overgrazing	Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Studland and Godlingston Heaths	12	Supralittoral sediment	31.36	Favourable	Full survey of lake carried out. Good range of aquatics, including <i>Littorella</i> , <i>Elatine</i> , <i>Potamogeton</i> spp. and charophytes.		Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Studland and Godlingston Heaths	13	Supralittoral sediment	156.12	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive scrub clearance has occurred on this unit benefiting the mire and swamp vegetation. Progress underway to continue the control efforts re. invasive plants.		Mires
Poole Harbour	The Moors	1	Neutral grassland - lowland	18.33	Unfavourable recovering	On this grazing marsh unit there is conservation management supported by a management agreement and this allows an assessment of unfavourable recovering condition against NE guidance. However aspects of the special interest are vulnerable to change from increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Conservation management of the grazing marsh includes extensive water level management, control of rush, ditch clearance and gutter works to benefit the bird and ditch interests. Breeding waders remain, the numbers (with unit 11) increasing substantially in 2005. There is a tendency for some grassland to be undergrazed for both the grassland and bird interest. There is a special interest in the upper saltmarsh vegetation which have increased in conservation value, but notable brackish plants remain much diminish in abundance. The brackish interest is vulnerable to higher or more frequently high freshwater levels and would benefit from re-introduction of a controlled tidal brackish regime prescribed by the management agreement.		Grazing marsh / Saltmarsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	9	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	17.22	Favourable	The large reedbed unit is described as being in good, stable condition and quite wet throughout with no serious problems other than limited drying at the edges with some scrub. The small reedbed unit to east is drier but is open to natural processes of the tidal river and as such is substantially natural in condition.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	11	Rivers and streams	2.44	Favourable	Insufficient information on whether water quality on this part of the tidal Piddle, which receives discharge from Wareham STW, detrimentally affects the tidally inundated swamp and fen vegetation on the north side.		Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	12	Rivers and streams	10.34	Favourable	Marginally favourable. In places the navigation channel is squeezed by moorings, sometimes unauthorised double width moorings, placing pressure on the Environment Agency to maintain the navigation channel at the expense of dredging reedbed from other parts of the channel width. The high density of moorings on some parts acts to fragment and degrade the quality of bank edge swamp habitat.		Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	13	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	2.2	Favourable	Mostly unmanaged reedbed.		Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	14	Neutral grassland - lowland	27.21	Unfavourable no change	The grassland can have a widespread and varied mosaic of splash flooding and wetness when tidal or wet weather conditions overwhelm drainage, but lacks consistency in wetness due to drainage through tidal flap gates on the borrow dyke for the tide bank. Control on water levels is required to achieve a favourable wetness condition for the wintering wildfowl interest. Some areas are favourable with a sparse scatter of rush tussocks and a short grass sward. But a tallish grass sward unsuitable for most wildfowl tends to predominate over large parts of the unit, and in some parts the openness of the grassland is compromised by a high density of rush tussocks or a scatter of very large tussocks. A programme of ditch clearing and some re-profiling is required to provide a balance of ditches at different stages of succession. There may be a disturbance issue from the proximity of dog walking along peripheral paths. The tide banks are in poor condition and with predicted sea level rise managed realignment with re-creation of grazed saltings and creeks is a potential alternative to restoring the condition of the grazing marsh.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	15	Neutral grassland - lowland	12.94	Unfavourable no change	The unit assessment remains at unfavourable no change as water management is inappropriate, in part due to an absence of management control on ditch water levels that discharge through a tidal flap gate on the borrow dyke of the tide bank. There are also inappropriate drainage conditions on the ditch system and in the fields. The improved grassland recorded in the past is now a rather uniform MG11 type grassland with some interest for brackish species but with little evidence of recovery to the more conservation important grassland types due to the character of the drainage. The tide bank cuts off a brackish tidal influence restricting any development of saltmarsh grassland, and conversely the poor field drainage is inappropriate for fen meadow or rush pasture grassland types. Grassland management is hindered as some land can be too wet for desired management when the grass is in growth, while not providing ditch or winter field water regimes favoured by the various SSSI features. As the ditch and field gutter systems are opened up, water level management will be required to achieve winter high levels for wetland birds and to retain deep water in ditches with aquatic plant features.	Inappropriate water levels	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	16	Neutral grassland - lowland	28.01	Unfavourable recovering	Not in favourable condition, but correction of the management regime through an agreement allows an assessment of unfavourable recovering condition. Elements of the special interest are also vulnerable to change from external factors, notably increased wetness with deterioration of the tidal flood bank and entrapment of runoff, and the future functioning of the flood bank is insecure. Conservation management of the grazing marsh includes extensive water level management, control of rush, ditch clearance and gutter works. This has benefited some elements of the special interest, notably wintering birds and also some plant species interest, but the situation for other elements is mixed or uncertain. Increased wetness has encouraged a much increased prevalence of MG13 grassland - valued for wetland birds. This has replaced grassland types of low conservation interest, but there has been a relative decline in the occurrence of grassland types of high botanical interest, especially MG12 and M23. Some adjustment in water level management is needed on the main areas with these high value grasslands, to achieve favourable condition.		Grazing Marsh

SPA	SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Poole Harbour SPA Supporting Habitat
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	17	Neutral grassland - lowland	2.03	Unfavourable no change	Small rank compartment with abundant <i>Carex cf. acutiformis</i> , locally frequent <i>Juncus</i> and <i>Phragmites</i> abundant nearer the river plus a small amount of <i>Typha</i> . Botanically the compartment would undoubtedly benefit from grazing, although in its current state it provides habitat for birds such as reed and sedge warblers and it is probably also of value for invertebrates. The unit was viewed from the adjacent public footpath.	Undergrazing	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	18	Neutral grassland - lowland	28.8	Unfavourable recovering	Unfavourable recovering assessment. However the condition of the grazing marsh has declined substantially during the last few years due to a fall off in grassland, ditch and water level management, which degrades the condition of the grassland habitat features and is unsuitable for the wintering bird features. The rush control regime needs to be more successful than in the past at reducing the abundance of soft rush plants in the sward. Nearly all the ditches were restored by dredging but there has been little or no follow on slubbing out of excessive silt and vegetation. This is unfavourable for the ditch interest as nearly all but the arterial ditches now lack open water - many have grown over with emergent vegetation, notably reed sweet grass, and some have filled in parts or are not flooded. A cutting regime is needed. An abundance of algae on aquatic vegetation in some ditches, and reported duckweed carpets suggests nutrient enrichment but any cause is unclear. Water levels have not been managed to achieve the winter patch flooding required by the wintering waterfowl features. The Stewardship agreement should correct this situation.		Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	19	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.74	Unfavourable declining	A field that forms part of the wider grazing marsh at Redcliff but is in separate ownership. Its condition as a component of the grazing marsh special interest is severely compromised by the presence of a double row of tall Italian poplar on a ditch with the adjacent grazing marsh which also act to shade much of the land, and an absence of appropriate grassland and ditch management for some years. As a consequence the grassland is rank with much bramble invasion, and drains and wet features have become silted and clogged with emergent vegetation. The Wareham & District Development Trust are securing a lease over the land with the aim to bring the land back into management for amenity use and wildlife interest with guidance from the Dorset Wildlife Trust. This is likely to secure management of the ditches and grassland but retention of the poplars is retained with the owner for personal reasons.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate weed control, Other - specify in comments	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	20	Neutral grassland - lowland	6.22	Unfavourable no change	This land has been entered into an ELS Agreement with low nitrogen input and herbicide application targeted to agricultural weeds, and buffer measures along ditch sides. This should encourage an increase in the diversity of the grassland and ditch side vegetation. However ELS does not address ditch management and most ditches are closed over with swamp vegetation or completely silted over to the detriment of ditch conservation interests.	Inappropriate ditch management	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	21	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.7	Unfavourable declining	This small unit continues to support a rush pasture with a greater abundance of flowering herbs than other fields in the Redcliffe grazing marsh. However the abundance of coarse rushes has increased to form a rush sward over much of the field. This may be due to a change in grazing practice from, in summer, a few Shetland ponies occasionally augmented by Holstein cattle to just the occasional Holsteins which on wet ground tend to encourage rush growth. Also in recent years there has been no cutting to suppress the build up of rush growth. Conservation of the pasture interest is not helped by tree planting along the south side of the field and this area (c15% of unit) is excluded from grazing management to detriment of flowering grassland plants.	Inappropriate cutting/mowing	Grazing Marsh
Poole Harbour	Wareham Meadows	23	Neutral grassland - lowland	30.25	Unfavourable no change	This grazing marsh unit requires improvements in grassland and water level management for waterfowl and ditch interests. Grazing has more consistently achieved a very short winter sward for wetland birds. Water levels vary enormously between winters and within years - from flooded to almost dry. The outfall pipe with a tidal flap to Poole Harbour is inadequate in evacuating floods but also drains the marsh too effectively, particularly during dry periods or when tidal levels are low. Winter splash flooding can be frequent or become mainly confined to sections of old tidal creeks, while in summer water levels in subsidiary drains can be very low and some may be dry. A modified outfall arrangement is required. Implementation of a WLMP has been hampered by uncertainty over the future of the tide banks but these have recently been brought back to their design form. Management of the tide banks needs to be restored to prevent scrub formation which would compromise the openness of the grazing marsh for wintering wildfowl. Improved management is also required on the ditches. A control programme for <i>Azolla</i> is required unless the plant is killed off by winter cold.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate water levels, Inappropriate weed control, Invasive freshwater species	Grazing Marsh

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Arne	3						
Arne	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	72.94	Unfavourable recovering	All the remedies required to move the unit to favourable condition are in place as part of an HLS agreement (scrub control, deer management, introduction of grazing [once deer numbers are reduced]).		European dry heaths
Arne	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.2	Unfavourable recovering	All the management actions required to move the unit to a favourable condition are now in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		European dry heaths
Arne	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.85	Unfavourable recovering	Dry heath at Shipstall has been hit heavily by deer. Much of the mature heather has been trampled and is dead or nearly so. There is much regeneration of young heather but nevertheless the heath structure has been shifted much too much towards the pioneer and this is likely to have had a particularly bad impact on the sand lizard population. Remedies in the form of (1) deer management to reduce deer numbers and (2) scrub removal on the southern boundary of the heath (both to re-establish heath and to reduce deer harbourage) are in place and secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering assessment.		European dry heaths
Arne	7	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	98.06	Unfavourable recovering	Since the last assessment there have been changes to the unit caused by the large numbers of Sika deer. The mire at Coombe heath has been hit particularly badly, effects including trampled and bare areas together with changes in species composition. Dry heath has also locally been affected with stands (eg at Grip) trampled and older heather bushes broken up. Although there is regeneration from seed or rootstock there is now more pioneer vegetation. Work is ongoing controlling rhododendron in the northern part of the unit, some clearance of birch in one section of the valley between Grip and Coombe would be desirable. Deer numbers need to be significantly reduced. These actions required to achieve favourable condition together with the reintroduction of grazing with cattle and ponies (once deer numbers are low enough) have been secured through an HLS agreement, hence the recovering condition.		European dry heaths, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Arne	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	112.37	Unfavourable recovering	Large area of mature pine on Arne Hill where restoration to heath required. Previously cleared areas are recovering well. Large areas bracken dominated.		European dry heaths
Arne	9	Coniferous woodland	45.75	Unfavourable recovering	A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations (plus introduction of extensive grazing) is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		European dry heaths
Arne	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.19	Unfavourable recovering	Open heath generally in good condition. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year and allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		European dry heaths
Arne	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.66	Unfavourable recovering	The unit comprises wet and dry heath, wetter areas being mostly <i>Molinia</i> and <i>Erica ciliaris</i> . It is heavily grazed by deer with adverse effects on the dry heath - shows the classic overgrazing signs although less severe than some other places on Arne. Some areas are bracken dominated. Management work to remove trees and scrub - the reason for the previous unfavourable assessment was done some 4 years ago and areas have recovered well although this mainly explains the amount of <i>Molinia</i> and bracken in some places. Recovering assessment is based on ongoing bracken control and deer control together with longer term plans to reintroduce grazing once deer numbers have declined sufficiently.		European dry heaths, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Arne	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	29.65	Unfavourable recovering	The unit is a mix of heath and woodland - mostly secondary(birch/pine) but with much older oak in places, particularly along boundary banks. Need to carefully consider which parts of the unit should be restored to heathland and where pasture woodland may be more appropriate. There are certainly some areas of pine which need to be cleared - the unfavourable recovering assessment is on the basis of a considerable amount of management work- tree clearance - recently carried out next to the Arne Road where heath is re-establishing well. The not meeting objectives assessment is because the western part of the site is not grazed and clearly needs to be included within the grazing unit covering Coombe, Grip and the eastern part of the unit. The ungrazed mires have much tussocky Molinia.		European dry heaths, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Arne	16	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	3.81	Unfavourable no change	No change from previous assessment in 1997.	Forestry and woodland management	Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains
Arne	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	22.83	Favourable	A good quality dry and wet heath and smaller areas of mire. Although in the grazing unit it would benefit from slightly increased grazing levels as animals do not use this area much. Management is providing variation in sward structure through some mowing as well as provision of sand. The amount of sand could usefully be increased		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens
Arne	18	Coniferous woodland	46.65	Unfavourable recovering	The comment from the 2001 assessment still applies. A phased programme of removal of the conifer plantations is part of a HLS agreement with the owners concluded earlier this year allowing the unit to move to unfavourable recovering condition.		European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	24.76	Unfavourable recovering	Pines planted in the 1980s over the majority of the unit were cleared early in 2007 and the heathland is already starting to recover. Gorse management at the far eastern end of the unit needs to continue. The unit is included within a larger area of land where an HLS agreement has been finalised earlier this year.		European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	72.95	Favourable	The extensive grazing on the site has been beneficial, as shown by the 1995 to 2001 data recorded in the monitoring plot in West Bog in this unit.		European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	68.43	Favourable	The extensive grazing has been beneficial to the vegetation in the unit, in particular to the mire communities in the southern fen arm within this unit.		European dry heaths, and fens
Hartland Moor	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	94.67	Favourable	Unit in good condition with range of heath and mire communities.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens
Hartland Moor	5	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	1.41	Favourable	Taken as 0.43% of Hartland Moor SSSI, this unit is in favourable condition.		Fens
Hartland Moor	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.49	Favourable	As part of the whole SSSI the unit is in favourable condition. However, some gorse coppicing would be of benefit, particularly for reptiles on the south facing slope. In the longer term, to meet objectives, gorse, scrub and bracken management will be necessary to maintain the open dry heath.		European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	7	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	9.44	Unfavourable recovering			Fens

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Hartland Moor	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	7.88	Favourable	All areas of unit visited during fungus survey. Heathland grazed by ponies and in favourable condition. Some recent gorse management has occurred.		European dry heaths
Hartland Moor	10	Fen, marsh and swamp - lowland	2.27	Favourable	The western part of the unit would benefit from continued gorse management		Fens
Holton and Sandford Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	31.16	Unfavourable declining	Assessment made from aerial photos, combined with past knowledge of site, and viewing site from public footpath. Unit is clearly declining due to growth of trees and scrub and is badly in need of management.	Drainage, Inappropriate weed control, Undergrazing	European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	4.9	Favourable	Unit dominated by tussocky Molinia in this very wet part of the bog, but with small patches of Sphagnum and occasional Narthecium near SW edge. Poss. some improvement might be possible by future grazing near edges and/or modification to old ditch lines, but this area is likely to remain very wet due to its position within the mire system.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.22	Favourable	Unit dominated by tussocky Molinia in this very wet part of the bog. Poss. some improvement might be possible by future grazing near edges and/or modification to old ditch lines, but this area is likely to remain very wet due to its position within the mire system.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	10.85	Unfavourable declining	Although much of the unit is in good condition, the water quality in the central drain is causing changes to fen vegetation and encouraging invasion of willow. Part of the unit are also quite Molinia dominated.	Undergrazing, Water pollution - discharge	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and fens
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.31	Favourable	Amount of pines is currently acceptable.		European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.6	Unfavourable recovering	Unit currently has too many pines, particularly in the southern part of the unit.		European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.96	Unfavourable recovering	Good recovery of heath in north of unit following pine clearance. Unit would benefit from removal of the fence along the eastern boundary of the unit to allow freer movement of stock (both units are in the same grazing unit).		European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	12	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	9.05	Unfavourable no change	Although some recovery has taken place since the last assessment, much of the vegetation in this unit is rank and Molinia dominated and is not likely to reach favourable condition without grazing. As a consequence it is assessed as unfavourable no change.	Undergrazing	European dry heaths, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	13	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1.83	Unfavourable recovering	Management to remove excessive tree cover carried out and recovery of heather underway. Unit would benefit from removal of selected additional mature pines.		European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	15	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	63.08	Unfavourable recovering	Unit now split with southern part of the old unit 15 (affected by pollution) now in a separate unit. The new unit is 15 generally in good condition. Work needs to continue on ditch blocking and control of rhododendron to maintain recovering assessment.		European dry heaths, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.63	Unfavourable no change	Unit comprises small 'arm' of bog system running west from the main bog. Immediately west of the track forming the eastern boundary of the unit is open area of reasonable bog vegetation. Water levels appear high probably due to a slight damming effect from the track. Going east there is then an area of dense scots pine over molinia. Along the northern edge of the unit is a substantial ditch with flowing water with several large ditches feeding into it from the north. This needs blocking or filling in. Some alder and willow along an older ditchline to the south. The western part of the unit is scattered stunted scots with tussocky molinia a few small patches with less molinia and <i>rhychospora alba</i> . Need to tackle tree and drainage issues to reach favourable condition. Obviously would also be benefits from grazing. Currently a consultation about modification to design plan to allow trees to be removed so this problem will be tackled. Need to talk to FE about ditch management.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens
Morden Bog & Hyde Heath	42	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	15.96	Unfavourable declining	The unit was previously part of unit 15. Previous comments in respect of this issue recorded for unit 15 (2003 assessment) still apply here. The unit is affected by pollution from consented sewage discharge.	Water pollution - discharge	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens
Rempstone Heaths	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	9.49	Unfavourable no change	The unit comprises 2 valley mire systems draining into Wytch Moor. Both were the subject of extensive tree clearance in the mid 1990s and the vegetation has recovered considerably since then as a result. However, the recovery has gone just about as far as it can without further work hence the unfavourable no change assessment. The problems are 1) the extensive network of small ditches leading to a larger central ditch - as a result most of the unit (particularly the western arm - the eastern arm is better) is dominated by huge <i>Molinia tussocks</i> . This needs to be tackled through a combination of ditch blocking and the introduction of grazing. The second problem is that the central ditch through the western arm is quite enriched. Its northwards extension is shown on the OS map - it goes through the forest and under the small road running east from Thrasher's Heath and appears to originate on the fields south of this road and east of Thrasher's H. There are clear signs of enrichment throughout the section between the SSSI and the road. Source seems likely to be agricultural.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing, Water pollution - agriculture/run off, Water pollution - discharge	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens
Rempstone Heaths	4	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.83	Unfavourable no change	Scattered pine have recently been cleared and now the main issues are drainage and grazing. Supports some excellent mire vegetation but past drainage has had some adverse effects as follows. Water level is much lower in the ditch than the mire - attempts to fix this have not worked. The old ditches in the NW part do not seem to be functioning any more apart from the large ditch taking the stream on the NW boundary which has an area of bog myrtle alongside it. Most of the N and NW parts are OK although some of the small E-W drains are still having some effect and could be blocked To the south the valley narrows and the condition worsens with <i>Molinia tussocks</i> dominant. There are 2 ditches in the valley bottom which need blocking at several points. The block of trees in the southernmost part of the unit should be removed. Tree removal along the eastern edge of the mire is producing a good dry heath fringe. A combination of ditch blocking and grazing is needed for favourable condition - in my view it could be achieved without the need to do anything about the large ditch on the western boundary as this is only affecting a small part of the edge of the unit.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , European dry heaths, and fens
Rempstone Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.89	Unfavourable no change	Unit comprises a narrow valley mire running west from Green Pond to Wytch Moor. Conifer removal on the sides of the valley has improved the system together with the deterioration of the old drainage ditches. At the top of the valley near Green Pool there is still a functioning central ditch; this needs blocking. Nearer the cross track the mire flattens out and this drain has filled in. West of the cross track there is a system of small drains that are affecting the vegetation. Nearer to Wytch Moor the quality of the mire improves and no action is needed. A small amount of work on the drains plus grazing required for favourable condition.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , European dry heaths, and fens
Rempstone Heaths	6	Bogs - lowland	13.14	Unfavourable declining	The northern end of this grazing unit is in Poole Harbour SSSI and is OK ish. The Rempstone Heath part has some very nice bits of wet heath and mire BUT the drainage ditches have become blocked leading to localised flooding to the extent that parts of the site are now being invaded by <i>Phragmites</i> and areas adjacent to the main ditch are a tetcherous floating mat of vegetation. Further north on the ditch willow carr is well established and is spreading out onto the heath behind an advancing front of bog myrtle. First problem is to start sorting out the drainage.	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and fens

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Rempstone Heaths	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	6.51	Unfavourable no change	Green Pond has some good quality wet heath (mainly in the west) and dry heath (in the south east). To the south and in the southern 'arm' the quality is less good with lots of Molinia. The central part of the unit, west of Green Pond itself, is very wet and dominated by big Molinia tussocks with quite a lot of scattered birch and a few pine. Good records the area as rushy but it obviously wasn't mire. It could do with some thinning of birch before it becomes too dense (and removal of pine). The unit would benefit from grazing although I wouldn't expect a large change to the very wet parts. Some removal of pine from dryer areas in the west would also be beneficial. Grazing and some tree/scrub work required for favourable condition.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	10.48	Unfavourable no change	Between Green Pond and Shotover is a narrow valley largely covered with sallow. There is some kind of central channel but hard to see whether this would have any drainage impact in summer - mostly flooded at present. Birch, sallow and bog myrtle form a wooded 'plume' where this valley meets Shotover Moor. North of this wet woodland the mire has some high quality patches, interspersed with Molinia dominated bits. The two drains shown on the map had partially filled in and did not seem to be functioning but this would need checking in the summer. The woodland alongside the Shotover stream was also present in 1924 although it has since extended slightly northwards. South the woodland 'plume' again there is good quality mire amongst more Molinia dominated patches. A few small cross ditches were still in the mire and need blocking. South of a bank and dry ditch the veg. is mainly Molinia. Most of the existing distribution of wet woodland vis a vis fen is well established and need not be changed apart from the wet woodland nearest Green Pond and encroachment around the edges of the south eastern mire - needs only a small amount of ditch blocking	Inappropriate ditch management, Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, European dry heaths, and fens
Rempstone Heaths	10	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	0.86	Unfavourable no change	Western part of unit is a tributary mire of the main Shotover system. Most is very Molinia dominated and there is still a functioning drain running down the middle. Grazing and ditch blocking are required for favourable condition. North of this the vegetation is better with more mire elements. The small patch of dry heath west of Shotover is in good condition.	Inappropriate ditch management, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	11	Bogs - lowland	5.12	Unfavourable declining	Unit comprises mainly wet woodland and mire in the Shotover Valley. A similar woodland belt in the valley is evident on the 1924 aerial photo. The mire in the northern part of the unit is of good quality (no evidence of past drainage) with significant areas of Rhychosporion. The woodland has encroached around the edges and needs taking back to its previous extent which is pretty much the same in both the 1924 and 1952 photos. South of the track that divides the unit the northern part of the area comprises a few derelict old fields with boundary oaks and wet woodland and some areas of rush nearer the stream and in the southernmost part of the unit. The stream itself has been artificially deepened with spoil deposited alongside. To achieve favourable condition some scrub work around the edges of the mire is needed and the unit should be included within a grazing unit. No specific work is necessary in the woodland.	Inappropriate scrub control, Undergrazing	Bog woodland
Rempstone Heaths	12	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	26.17	Unfavourable no change	The area of wet heath is too Molinia dominated and requires grazing for favourable condition.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	13	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	12.11	Unfavourable no change	Unit was formerly a mix of heath and small fields, bounded by veteran oaks. Now most of the heath is invaded by pine - only tiny glades left - plus one area of dense conifer plantation. Most of the old fields are now bracken dominated but the veteran oaks are excellent. Much restoration needed.	Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	14	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.33	Unfavourable recovering	A felling licence has been granted and a programme of management agreed.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix, and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Rempstone Heaths	15	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	3.1	Unfavourable recovering	Unit into recovery phase following major pine removal in 2007/2008		Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains
Rempstone Heaths	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	16.73	Unfavourable recovering	A substantial programme of tree removal has been completed in the last two months. Some follow up work is still necessary - repair to boundary fence and ensuring future grazing programme. We would also like to see the tree density further reduced over the coming years. However the bulk of the work needed on this unit is completed.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	17	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	8.29	Unfavourable recovering	Substantial felling work has now begun on the area SW of the track. Even when this is complete further work will be needed to facilitate grazing - but this, relatively, be quite simple. The small area of the unit NE of the track will not be touched in this programme of work - hence not yet meeting objectives		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	18	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	8.44	Unfavourable recovering	Recovery continuing but still a substantial amount of management to do consisting mainly of (1) control of the abundant seedling pine (2) removal of mature pine - main remaining area is in NE of unit (3) removal of scattered rhododendron before it becomes more of a problem		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	19	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	7.3	Unfavourable recovering			Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , European dry heaths
Rempstone Heaths	28	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	12.53	Unfavourable no change	No change since last assessment - comments still apply	Inappropriate scrub control, Planning permission - other mineral and waste, Undergrazing	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Stoborough & Creech Heaths	1	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	51.61	Favourable	Unit is a superbe mixture of heathland, mire and acid grassland. Continuing gorse management and grazing is breaking up the once too dense gorse stands and achieving a better structure. Grazing regime and level seems to cater for most interests - some monitoring of the spread of heather onto richer acid grasslands would be useful. Other main management issue is the deep drain along the west side of the unit (or the Stoborough stream as it is euphemistically called). This is having a local effect on the surrounding vegetation.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Stoborough & Creech Heaths	2	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	19.21	Unfavourable recovering	Once supported small numbers of warbler but not since 1990s despite intensive management measures including attempted captive breeding. The reasons for this are not known. The habitat is unlike that of any of other populations in England; the reasons why a warbler population existed on this site and not anywhere else on heathland are unknown and even speculative reasons are unconvincing. No nightjar were recorded in the 2004 survey but this is not unusual. The SSSI as a whole has fewer than expected nightjar based on predictions from its area. However, this part of the Purbeck Heaths supported a slightly greater number of territories (in 2004) than predicted from heathland area. (133 v 120). The SSSI Dartford warbler population recorded in 2006 was well above the indicative population level for favourable condition. The previous problems on the unit have been addressed. Scrub management has been completed on the southern part of the unit (1.5ha) and a programme to control bracken is in place. A programme of selected sallow clearance on the wetland along the main valley is in place. The lower part of the deep ditch has been filled and water levels in the remainder are being raised by log dams.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Stoborough & Creech Heaths	3	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	40.71	Favourable			Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	192.08	Favourable			Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.78	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive gorse mowing has resulted in good <i>Calluna</i> , <i>Erica</i> , <i>Agrostis</i> , <i>Molinia</i> regeneration with little litter problems. Gorse regeneration will still need to be managed in the future but large stands of mature gorse & bracken have been broken up. Bracken is much reduced also and has not invaded cleared areas. Some smaller stands of less accessible dense gorse remain but overall the unit is looking much healthier.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.06	Favourable	Overall the unit is in favourable condition. There are several small rhododendron bushes which could be tackled when the bushes in the unit to the north are removed (NT). The shallows between the stream and the mire could be knocked back but they are not spreading due to the deer, which are also keeping the part of the mire outwith the grazing unit well grazed and trampled.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	9	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	2.23	Favourable	Unit has recovered after gorse clearance. There is widespread heather regeneration; heathy acid grassland has developed. The unit has also benefited from the change in management of adjacent grasslands at Greenlands Farm.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	10	Supralittoral sediment	19.67	Unfavourable no change	Still problem with excessive trees/scrub particularly in the northern part of the unit. Much of the rest is probably best managed as open woodland/scrub. Some management has taken place since the last visit along Studland chine. Existing hard sea defences in the form of gabion baskets protecting beachhuts along part of the shoreline will also keep unit in unfavourable condition until removed. NT intend to do this in due course. The shoreline is rapidly retreating in this area with dune being lost. There is no indication that this is due to anything other than natural processes. Also very high recreation pressures here - not an easy unit to manage!	Coastal squeeze	Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	11	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	64.58	Unfavourable recovering	Ongoing gorse and pine clearance occurring. Much of unit now in favourable condition.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	12	Supralittoral sediment	31.36	Favourable	Full survey of lake carried out. Good range of aquatics, including <i>Littorella</i> , <i>Elatine</i> , <i>Potamogeton</i> spp. and charophytes.		Oligotrophic waters: Little Sea
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	13	Supralittoral sediment	156.12	Unfavourable recovering	Extensive scrub clearance has occurred on this unit benefiting the mire and swamp vegetation. Progress underway to continue the control efforts re. invasive plants.		Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Juncetea</i>), and Humid slack dunes, and Fens

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC Primary Habitat
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	14	Littoral sediment	8.55	Favourable	The two main issues affecting this shoreline unit are of accretion/erosion - continuing accretion is necessary for the maintenance of some of the pioneer dune communities - and erosion from public use of the beach and foredunes. The northern part of the unit is continuing to accrete and small new dunes are forming on the wide beach. In the south of the unit the beach is narrower and there is no accretion; evidence suggests that this alteration in beach configuration may be due to natural changes (perhaps more easterly storms). Public use is great and it is hard to assess its full impact but there are no large eroded areas present.		Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes'), Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>), and Humid slack dunes
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	15	Littoral sediment	16.96	Favourable	A number of plants of Prickly saltwort growing in strandline area towards E. end of unit.		Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')
Studland & Godlingston Heaths	16	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	45.96	Unfavourable recovering	Scrub clearance has removed some of the birch and young pines.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
The Moors	5	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	3.18	Favourable	One of few tightly grazed areas of wet heath and mire, with an abundant occurrence of sphagnum carpets and peat habitat. The boundary drain on the west side has been cleared of dense gorse but may also require desilting in the near future.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
The Moors	6	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	1.42	Unfavourable no change	Much of the wet heath area comprises tussocky <i>Molinia</i> but this is mixed up with abundant Dorset heath. There are 2 areas - in the far north and west part of the unit where there tussocky <i>Molinia</i> gives way to good quality M16. There were numerous silver-studded blues in first of these 2 areas. Near to the ditch alongside the northern boundary of the unit the vegetation changes to become <i>Juncus acutiflorus/articulatus</i> dominated (probably M23). The ditch itself is mostly overgrown with reed and some sallow but a small open section in the far north has an excellent selection of aquatics including abundant marsh St.John's wort. Although a big ditch, the water level was quite high. The dry heath area in the south of the unit is largely overgrown with pine with areas of large mature trees. The unit would benefit from some grazing but given the existing interest of the ungrazed heath, the small area of the unit and the presence of a larger area of well grazed heath immediately to the north I would not consider the unit unfavourable on this basis. The unfavourable assessment is based on the excessive amount of pine covering most of the area of potential dry heath and perhaps 50% of the unit overall.	Inappropriate scrub control	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths
The Moors	8	Dwarf shrub heath - lowland	19.76	Unfavourable recovering	Grazing by ponies has reduced the dominance of <i>Molinia</i> and produced a varied sward structure. Some combined grazing with cattle would further reduce the tussocky <i>Molinia</i> and may more readily achieve a structure consistent with favourable condition, but grazing management needs to take account of deer grazing and trampling to avoid too much pressure on areas of dry heath. Except near Bank Gate Cottages where the heathland remains rather scrub encroached, the scrub has been substantially reduced to a scatter of copses. These might be retained for nightjar and invertebrate value within the wider heathland area. Gorse scrub is rather abundant and for favourable condition needs to be in a more balanced coppice cycle, with less at a mature, leggy stage. Further scrub removal is required in the <i>Cladium</i> fen and over the whole fen some sward management by grazing would be beneficial in reducing, but not eliminating due to invertebrate interest, the dominance of rank growth in the different fen vegetation types. This might be achieved by occasional light cattle grazing in combination with the open heath and the heathy woodland.		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and European dry heaths, and fens

SSSI	Unit	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC Primary Habitat
Purbeck Ridge (East)	2	Calcareous grassland - lowland	6.39	Favourable	Calcareous grassland on main south-facing slope well-grazed with good range of calcicoles, including Horseshoe vetch, Yellw-wort and Common Rockrose. Unit currently favourable but likely that future works will be needed to control levels of gorse regrowth.		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
Purbeck Ridge (East)	3	Calcareous grassland - lowland	35.41	Unfavourable recovering	Calcareous grassland areas well-grazed with good range of herbs, including Ploughman's spikenard, common rockrose, wild thyme and eyebright. Vervain is local at margins of paths. Future checks of levels of gorse regrowth will be needed.		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
South Dorset Coast	41	Neutral grassland - lowland	56.91	Favourable	Unit in favourable condition, with good range of calcicoles in sward, including Thesium humifusum. <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> in flower.		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
Purbeck Ridge (East)	1	Supralittoral rock	20.55	Favourable	South-east-facing maritime cliffs increasing in height from the SW to NE. The lower cliffs at the SW end of the unit have a greater proportion of scrub cover, but overall the unit is in favourable condition.		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
South Dorset Coast	42	Supralittoral rock	18.39	Favourable			Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
Studland Cliffs	1	Supralittoral rock	4.29	Favourable	Maritime cliffs in favourable condition. Cliff-top grassland has frequent Wild Cabbage, plus abundant Wild Carrot, and locally frequent Greater Knapweed, Alexanders and Wild Parsnip.		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
Studland Cliffs	3	Supralittoral rock	13.22	Favourable	Maritime cliffs in favourable condition. Cliff-top grassland smaller in extent than in unit 1, but includes Wild Cabbage, Wild Carrot, Lady's Bedstraw and Greater Knapweed, and small amounts of Restharrow, Small Scabious and Common Rockrose.		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts