

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2019)4
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 september 2019
at the 1352th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: ***United Kingdom***

Name of the area: ***Purbeck Heritage Coast***

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

Renewal granted 4th September 2019 for 10 years (6 years since renewal)

Central authority concerned:

Name: Dorset Council
Address: County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ
Tel: 01305 228237
Fax: 01305 224835
e-mail: tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
www: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/home

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Dorset National Landscape Partnership
Address: c/o Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ
Tel: 01305 228237
Fax: 01305 224835
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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. ensure that the terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and Perenco are strictly adhered to; Perenco should continue to work to the highest standards;

The Wytch Farm oilfield's operating agreement with Dorset Council, the minerals planning authority, ensures:

1.1 Safety in operation and controls to ensure human and environmental health

1.2 Environmental management of areas in the estate in direct control of the company. Significant open habitat restoration has taken place; work continues. Perenco carries out a number of annual ecological surveys around its land management areas with positive results on species/diversity.

1.3 A contribution (£1,700,000) towards off-site environmental improvements in the landscape character areas affected, largely within the Purbeck Heritage Coast. This fund has now been committed to dedicated projects; many have completed.

1.4 Effective decommissioning and site restoration once the operation has ceased

This agreement was finalised in July 2017 and remains valid for the extent of oilfield operation (to be fully decommissioned and sites restored by 2037).

2. ensure that the enlargement of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conform to the "exceptions" principle that they should only be permitted if they do not impair the character of the Purbeck Heritage Coast as a result of any one or a combination of the following:

– the scale and duration of the project;

– the negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities;

– the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work;

No new quarries have been permitted in this year. The team continues to work with Dorset Council on the compensation mechanism for Swanworth Quarry which was given permission to expand last year.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. secure appropriate funding incentives for continuing environmentally friendly management of the landscape;

As described in the 2024 report, partners are hopping for another opportunity to bid for development funds into the UK Government's Landscape Recovery scheme to deliver significant, long-term investment in environmentally-beneficial management at a landscape scale. It is expected that this potential opportunity will be communicated in early 2026.

National agri-environment schemes continue to support the majority of environmentally-friendly landscape management on farmed land.

Additionally, the Dorset National Landscape have provided funding to support environmentally beneficial change via the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, for example supporting innovation in regenerative farming on the coast at Kimmeridge. The Dorset Peat Partnership have secured further funds for delivery of heathland valley mires in this year; interventions at Greenlands and Agglestone mires have been very successful in re-wetting formerly drained areas to stop peat oxidation and encourage further peat formation.

2. promote and improve public transportation and more sustainable methods of transport, particularly near the most visited sites;

In a continuation from 2024, Dorset National Landscape is supporting Dorset Council's work on a cycling route from Corfe Castle to Studland encouraging active exploration of the peninsula, particularly the honeypot site of Studland (with the Wytch Farm Fund).

The seasonal bus service 2RN continues, supported by many partners most notably the RSPB, to shuttle visitors to the popular Arne reserve from Wareham. This continues to be a great success.

The National Trust as a significant landowner of visitor hotspots continues to engage with the traffic-reduction agenda

3. monitor the number of visitors in order to determine their impact on the environment; a visitor-management strategy should be prepared for the areas with the largest number of visitors in order to avoid any negative impact either on the quality of the recreational experience or on the natural treasures of the Purbeck Heritage Coast;

A visitor management strategy has been developed for the Purbeck Heaths through the auspices of the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR) partnership. Partners are considering a substantial expansion of this National Nature Reserve to encompass much land for nature across the Isle of Purbeck (now >3000 ha; proposed c6,000 ha). An expanded NNR will help with the wider visitor management strategy and consequent coordinated management.

4. consider further investments to improve the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck Heritage Coast;

Significant works to expand habitats are being undertaken on the coast between Durlston and St Aldhelm's Head, supported by national agri-environment schemes. Largely on National Trust land this is underpinned by a 'nature first' national strategy for that organisation.

The landowning and farming stakeholders continue to explore the potential for joining a Landscape Recovery 20-year programme of transformational works – whenever this opportunity is announced by government, the Dorset National Landscape Partnership will lead a bid.

5. promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage partners to co-ordinate efforts and produce high-quality data for the whole diploma-holding area;

The Purbeck Natural Heritage Forum continues to be a central point for biodiversity recording volunteering mainly around the heaths, being guided and led by experts from Natural England, RSPB, National Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Trust. Over 6,000 hours volunteer recording effort was undertaken in the summer of 2025. High quality data is fed into, and managed by Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

The monitoring strategy for the Purbeck Heaths NNR is widely known as being a national exemplar of good and innovative practice.

More coordination and effort is required to scale this effort into the southern portion of the Heritage Coast. Declaration of a new South Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve would bring organisational focus to this effort.

6. initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien species occurring in the Purbeck Heritage Coast, particularly the Canada goose and the sika deer, and, if deemed necessary, prepare a strategic plan for their control.

Partners no longer consider the Canada goose to be a priority as impacts and harms are deemed to be low.

The coordinated management of Sika continues to improve, although funding it and developing supply chain strategies for enhancing local markets for venison will be key activities for the Landscape Recovery programme, if successful. In March 2025 a coordinated drone survey of deer of the majority of the Heritage Coast was undertaken to inform management strategies; excellent data was returned and has been disseminated to deer managers and landowners. Further work is required to increase coordination of control efforts.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Risk: Public finance continues to represent a risk; all conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No change

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Following a previously-reported re-brand of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to National Landscapes in November 2023, website & organisation information on this webpage needs updating

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/-/purbeck-heritage-coast>

Following a previously reported rearrangement of local government in Dorset in 2019, manager information on this website needs updating <https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites/UK940005>

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

8. Education and scientific interest

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
 - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

- 10.1. Improvements made
 - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

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