

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1  
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2019**

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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 for 10 years (0 years since renewal)***

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: Dorset Council  
Address: County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ  
Tel: 01305 228239  
Fax: 01305 224835  
e-mail: [tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)  
www: [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership  
Address: c/o Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ  
Tel: 01305 228239  
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e-mail: [tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)  
www: [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> 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. The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and Perenco are being strictly adhered to, and Perenco should continue to work to the highest standards;

**The Wytch Farm oilfield is now operated by Perenco which took over from BP in 2013. A new agreement has been agreed which 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.**

**1.3 A contribution (£1,700,000) towards off-site environmental improvements in the landscape character areas affected, largely within the Purbeck Heritage Coast**

**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. The extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries must 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:

- their scale and length;
- their 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.

**Dorset County Council adopted a new minerals strategy in May 2014, available online (<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mcs>). This strategy sees a strengthening of policy for the conservation of designated areas (Purbeck Heritage Coast and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).**

**Following its adoption, Dorset Council (formerly Dorset County Council) has been developing a Minerals Sites Plan (draft available here <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mineral-sites>); it was consulted on between May & July 2016. A public hearing on this plan led by a Planning Inspector was carried out in September 2018. The proposed plan still describes a potential extension to Swanworth Quarry, northeast of Worth Matravers within the Purbeck Heritage Coast area. The Dorset AONB team have advised that development of this site would impair the character of the Heritage Coast and be in contravention of this condition; there is significant public opinion supporting this position. While the plan has not yet been finalised, the planning authority has received an application for this extension which is a concern to this team. Its potential impacts have not been fully assessed at this stage.**

**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 environment-friendly management of the landscape.

**The Wild Purbeck Partnership continues to meet to discuss work programmes to tailor for appropriate funding sources.**

**Additionally, the Dorset AONB Team service the panel which recommends payment from the Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Fund (the £1.7M referred to in 1.1). To date around £60,000 has been paid out for environmental enhancements; a further £600,000 has been committed to larger projects which are exemplars of excellent environmental management and public access provision.**

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

**The Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Fund promotes non-car access in the eligible area. The panel has made a commitment to fund a new offroad cycle between Corfe Castle and Studland, and new pedestrian access from Norden (a train/bus point) to the visitor attractions of Corfe Castle.**

3. Monitor the number of visitors in order to determine its 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 recreational experience or on the natural resources of the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

**A visitor management strategy is being drawn up for the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR – see 4b for details).**

**A wider visitor management strategy is a planned action for the Dorset Tourism Association. The Dorset AONB is represented on this body and will promote the interests of the diploma area.**

**The AOB team is also enabling contact between managers of sites which have experienced visitor damage (erosion) so good practice and best learning can be shared.**

4. Consider further investments towards the improvement of the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

**a) Dorset AONB are leading on the development of a Nature Recovery Plan for the whole AONB, which includes the Heritage Coast. This will develop the mapping previously undertaken for existing and potential ecological networks:**

**<https://explorer.geowessex.com/?layers=14746,14745&basemap=26&x=393489.54&y=83427.84&epsg=27700&zoom=12>**

**b) The new Purbeck Heaths NNR is to be officially opened in 2020, which brings together several former NNRs (approx. 1000ha) as well as another newly designated 2,500ha to form the country's second largest NNR. NNRs are areas to be promoted for conservation and sensitive access.**

**c) A beaver reintroduction feasibility study is being led by National Trust with 3 potential introduction sites on the south shores of Poole Harbour. Beavers are a keystone species, the introduction of which will improve habitat quality. This project is seeking a licence from UK government, and would be the first unfenced release of beavers into the wild in this country.**

5. Promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage partners to coordinate efforts and produce good quality data for the whole Diploma holding area.

**Bournemouth University and the NNR partner organisations are putting together a comprehensive monitoring programme for the NNR.**

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.

**These species have greatest effect on the northern part of the Heritage Coast that will form the new NNR. The emerging NNR management plan has a section on their management. Sika management in particular will encourage collaborative working with landowners across the Heritage Coast area.**

**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.

**Organisational:** Dorset County Council merged with the District Councils within the same geography to become Dorset Council. This was largely an exercise to gain efficiency. While management structures have changed, there is little impact on direct delivery teams of, and hosted by the Council (namely Dorset Countryside and Dorset AONB). The obligations on Dorset County Council of the legal agreement with Perenco (1.1) have been transferred to Dorset Council; there is no change to Perenco's obligations.

**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. A national Landscapes Review has been published (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>) and recommends strengthening both funding and legal protections for AONBs and National Parks which would benefit the Heritage Coast area. The Dorset and East Devon AONBs have been recommended to be considered as a potential new National Park. This would significantly increase resources and protection for the Heritage Coast designation. UK Government is likely to respond in spring 2020.

**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 changes.
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**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.

None
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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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