

REPORT ON THE SPOT EXPERT APPRAISAL OF THE

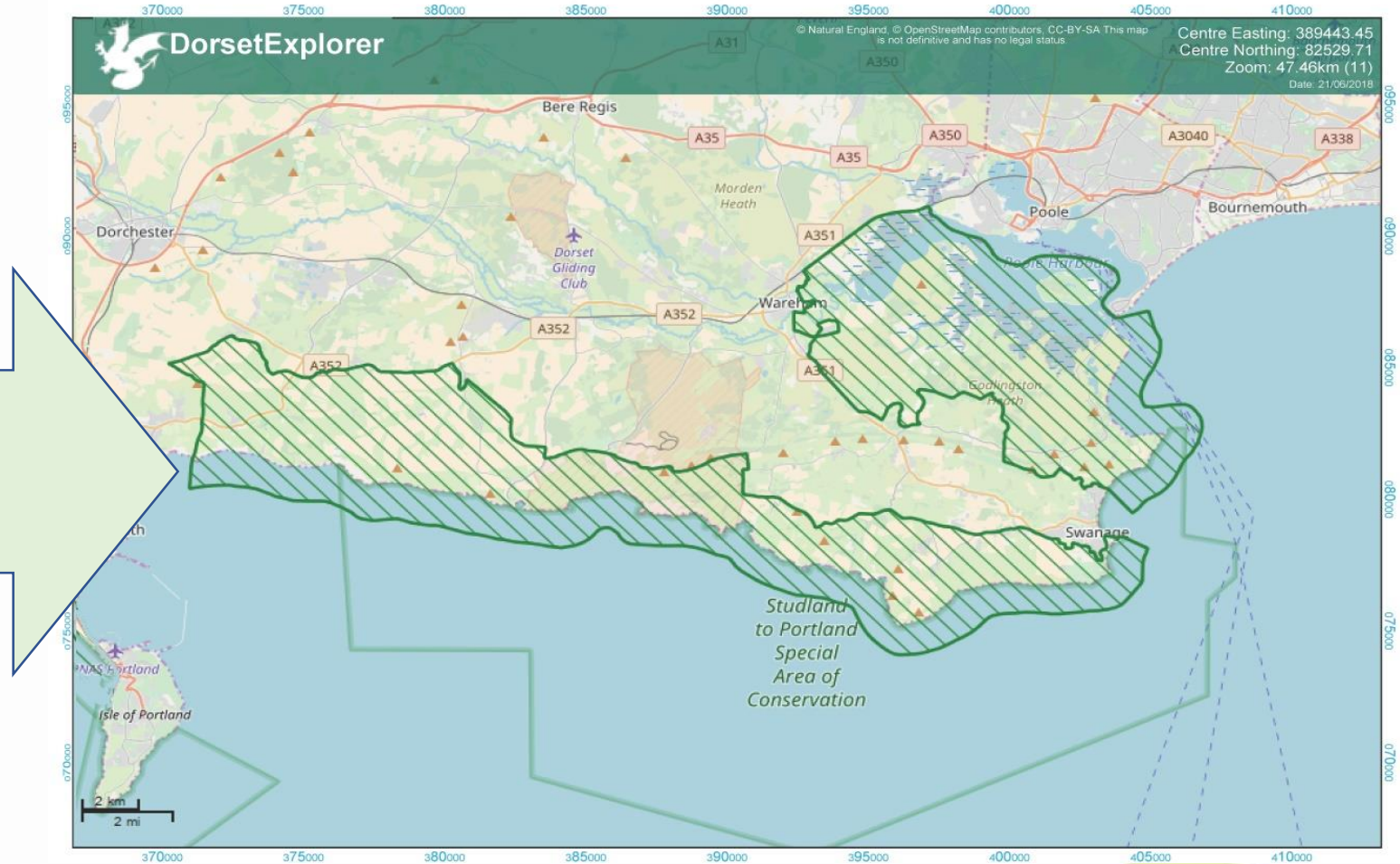
# PURBECK HERITAGE COAST

(UNITED KINGDOM)

4-5 June 2018

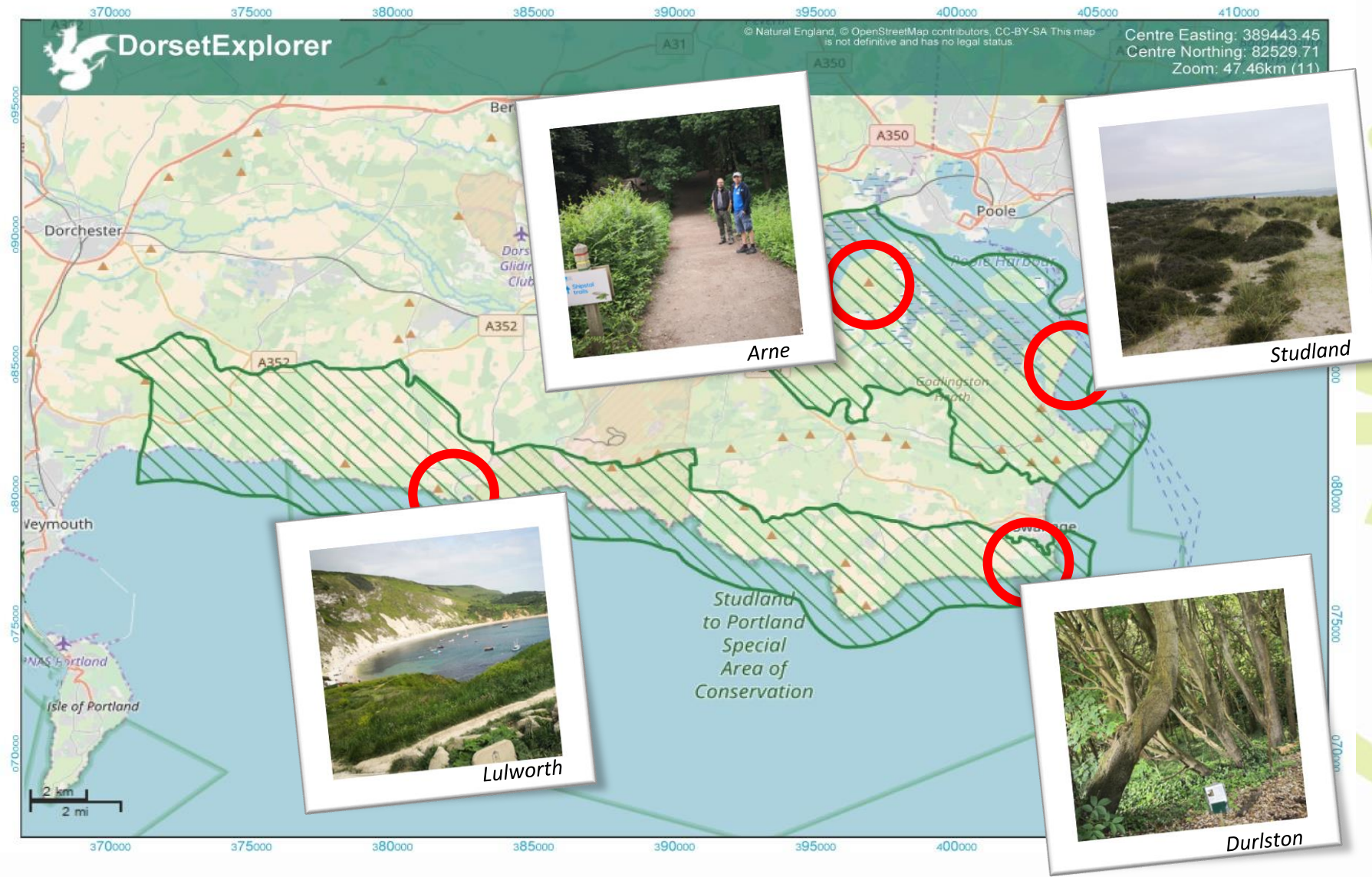


# PURBECK HC - Location





# PURBECK HC - The visit





# PURBECK HC – European Interest

- Biological heritage
  - Several habitats of European interest
    - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (2130);
    - Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (2150)
    - Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *E. tetralix* (4020)
    - Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion devallianae* (7210)
    - Bog woodlands (91D0)
  - High plant richness
    - Early gentian (*Gentianella anglica*), endemic UK
  - High faunistic interest
    - Two Natura 2000 Special Protection Areas
    - Two species listed in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive
    - 35 species of butterfly and over 1000 species of moth
    - 33 species of land snails





# PURBECK HC – European Interest

- Non-native species



Canada goose



Sika deer



# PURBECK HC – European Interest

- Landscape interest
  - The Purbeck HC is integrated in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
  - This is a site of major importance for the conservation of significant evidence of the Earth's history
  - Outstanding coastal area with some dramatic cliffs and featuring diverse coastal formations like the Lulworth cove, Durdle door and the Stair hole.



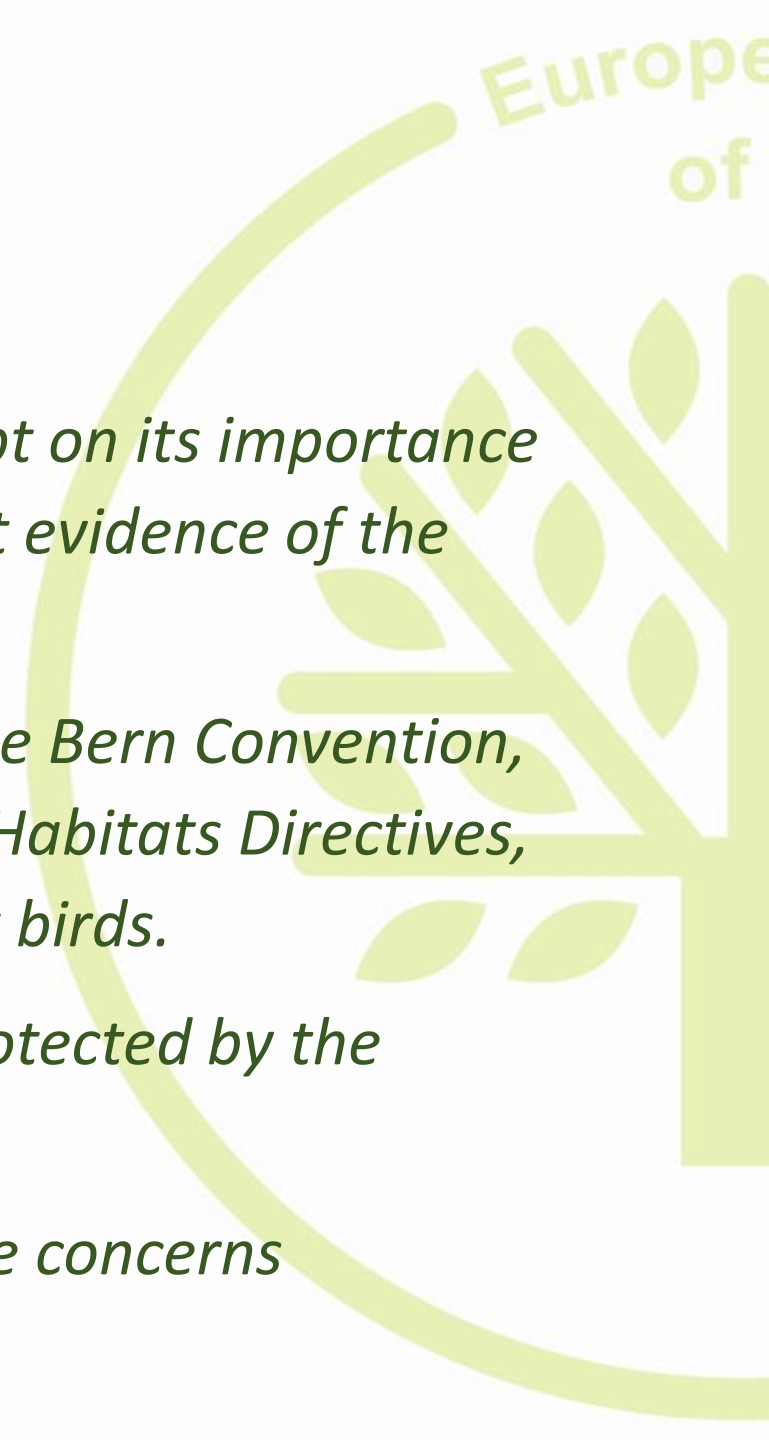
# PURBECK HC – European Interest

*The Purbeck HC is not a pristine area but there is no doubt on its importance for the conservation of biological diversity and significant evidence of the Earth's history at a European level.*

*It comprises breeding sites for species protected under the Bern Convention, it harbours several species protected under the Bird and Habitats Directives, providing resting and feeding areas for several migratory birds.*

*The diverse landscape includes several of the habitats protected by the Habitats Directive.*

*The occurrence of invasive species in the area raises some concerns*





# PURBECK HC – Conservation

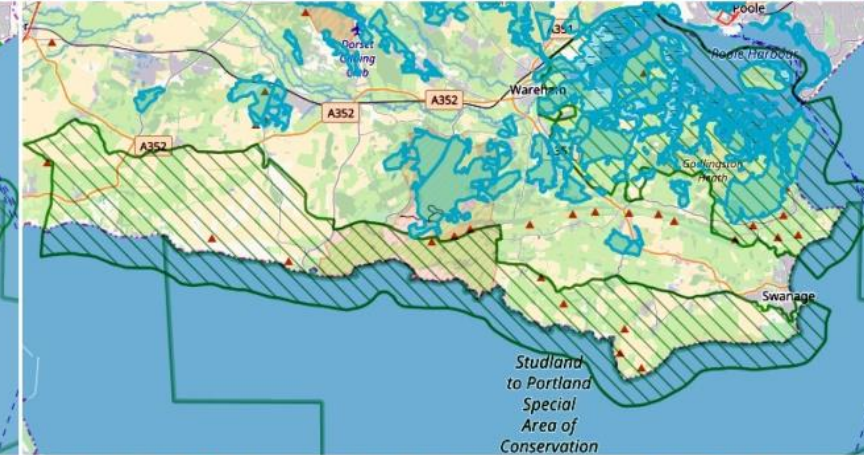
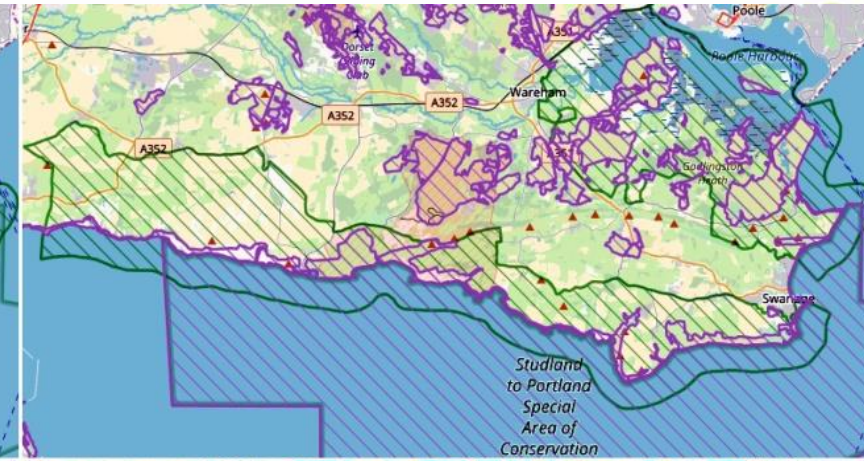
- Legal protection status and zoning

- National:

- Nature Reserves
- Sites of Scientific Interest
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- International:

- Special Areas of Conservation
- Ramsar sites
- World Heritage Site



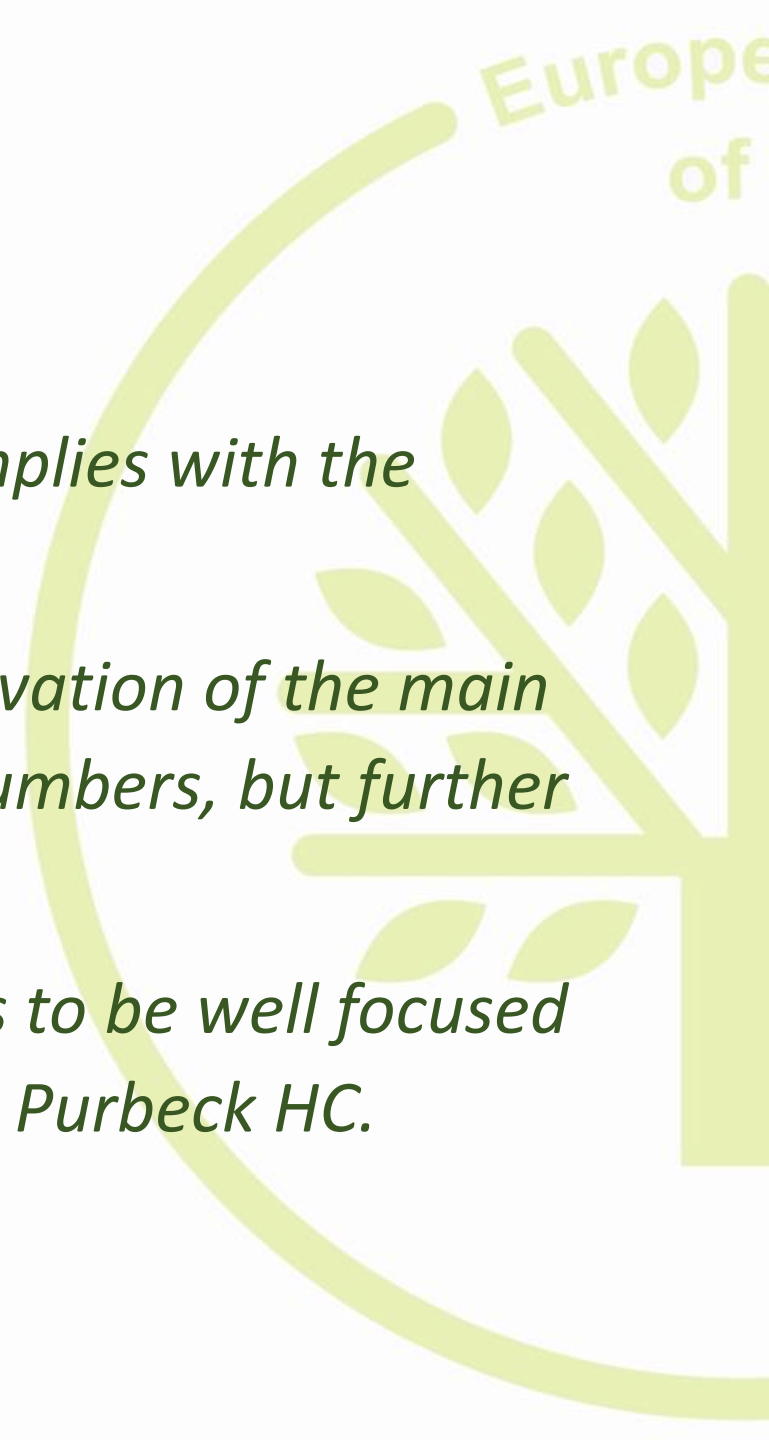


# PURBECK HC – Conservation

*The legal regime of protection of the Purbeck HC complies with the EDPA requirements.*

*The little information collected on the state of conservation of the main species suggests some increase in their population numbers, but further information from monitoring would be welcome.*

*Current management of some protected areas seems to be well focused in preserving or increasing the biological value of the Purbeck HC.*



# PURBECK HC – Management

*Management supported by a large number of organizations - partnerships. Important to keep good relations between the Dorset AONB and local NGOs and conservation charities.*

*The Dorset AONB Management Plan has a solid set of objectives and management policies focusing biodiversity protection and restoration.*

*The new Management Plan, due in 2019, should keep or even strengthen these policies and promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area*





# PURBECK HC – Socio-economic activities

- ☹ Agriculture
- 😊 Grazing
- ☹ Quarrying and mining
- ☹ Tourism / leisure activities
- ☹ Car traffic and public access

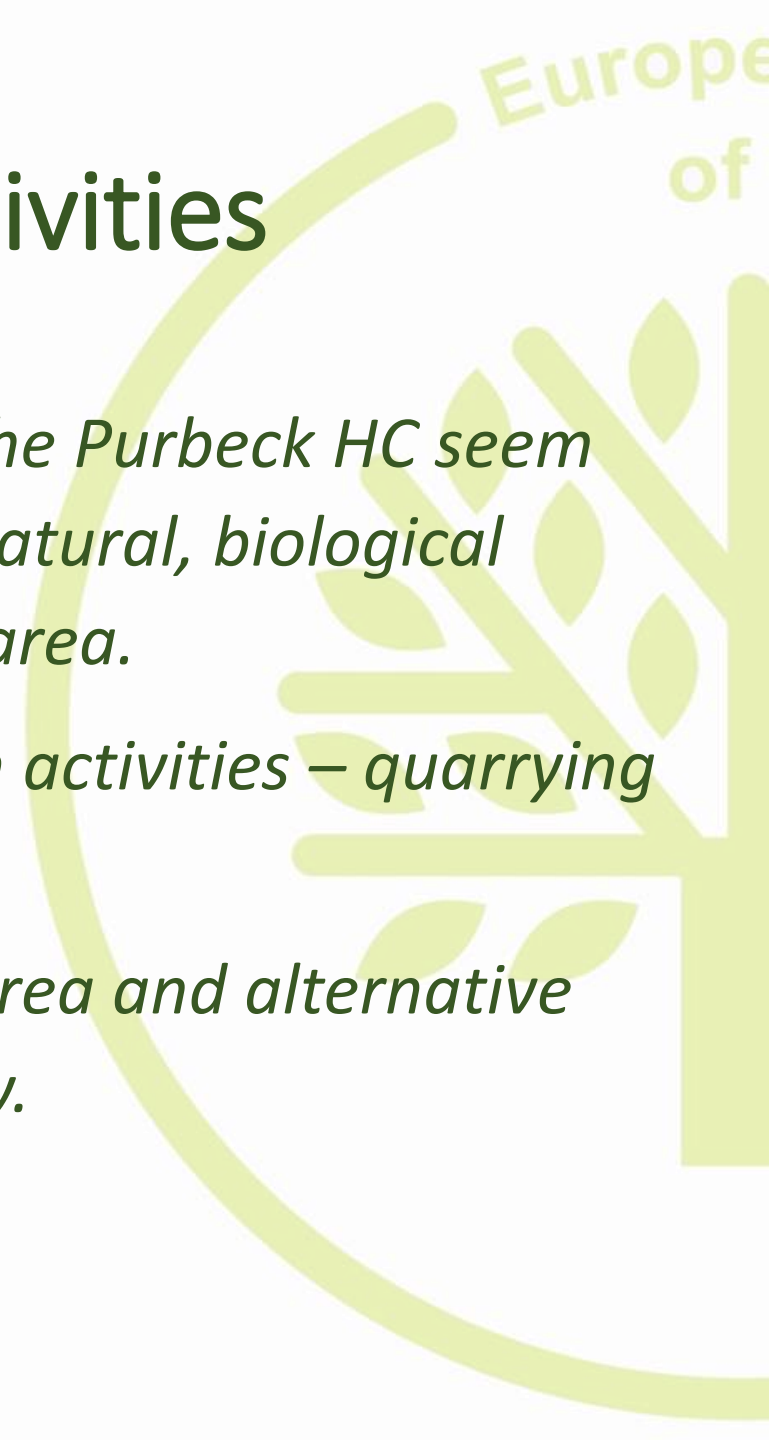


# PURBECK HC – Socio-economic activities

*Some of the uses and socio-economic activities within the Purbeck HC seem to be potentially or effectively damaging the physical, natural, biological integrity as well as the cultural values of the protected area.*

*Particularly attention should be placed to the extraction activities – quarrying and oil – but also to tourism.*

*Promoting and improving public transportation in the area and alternative ways to access the most visited sites should be a priority.*

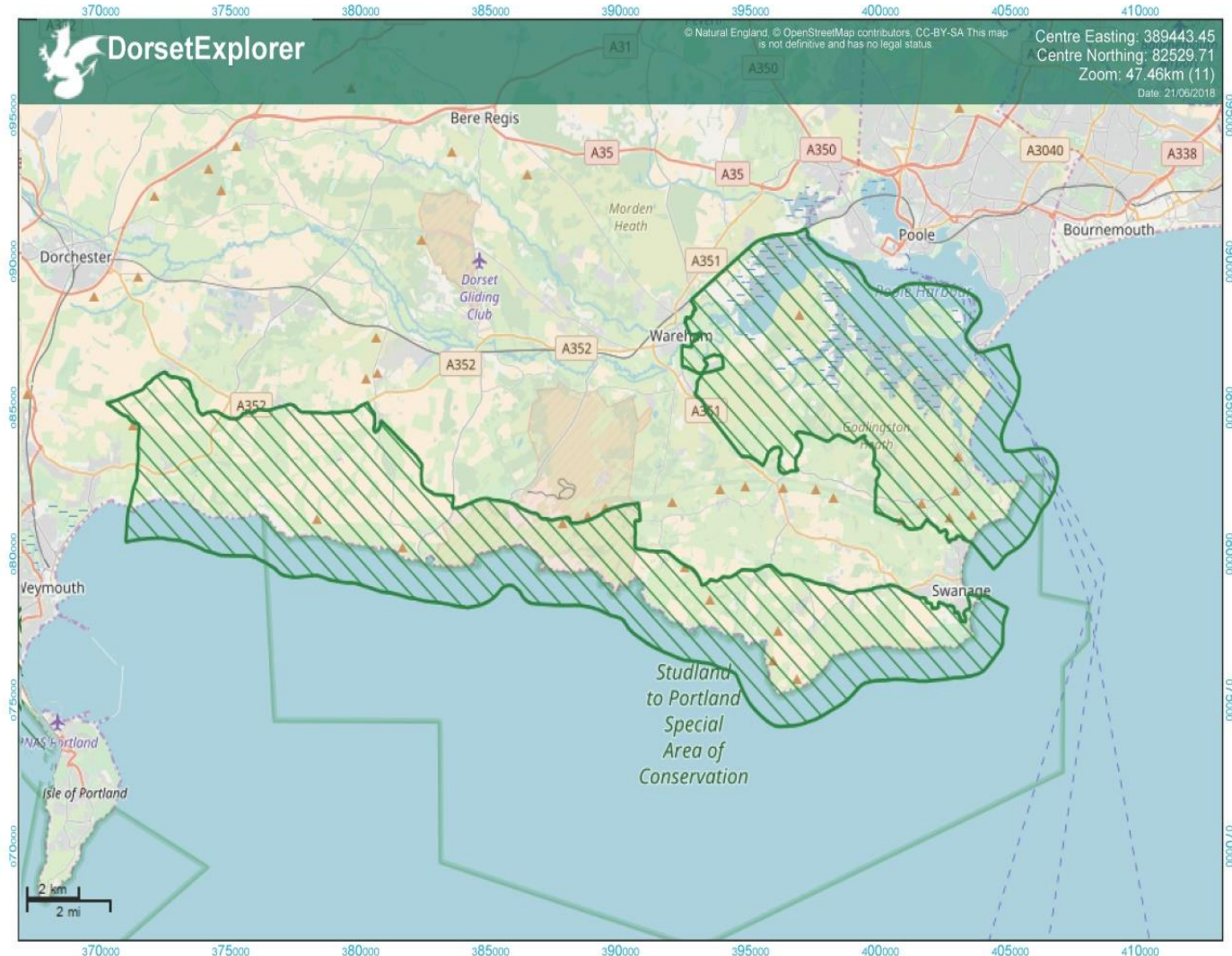




# PURBECK HC – Connectivity

*The poor ecological connectivity is one important issue in the Purbeck HC*

*Further efforts are necessary to reduce the barrier effect created by the intensive human land use in Corfe valley.*

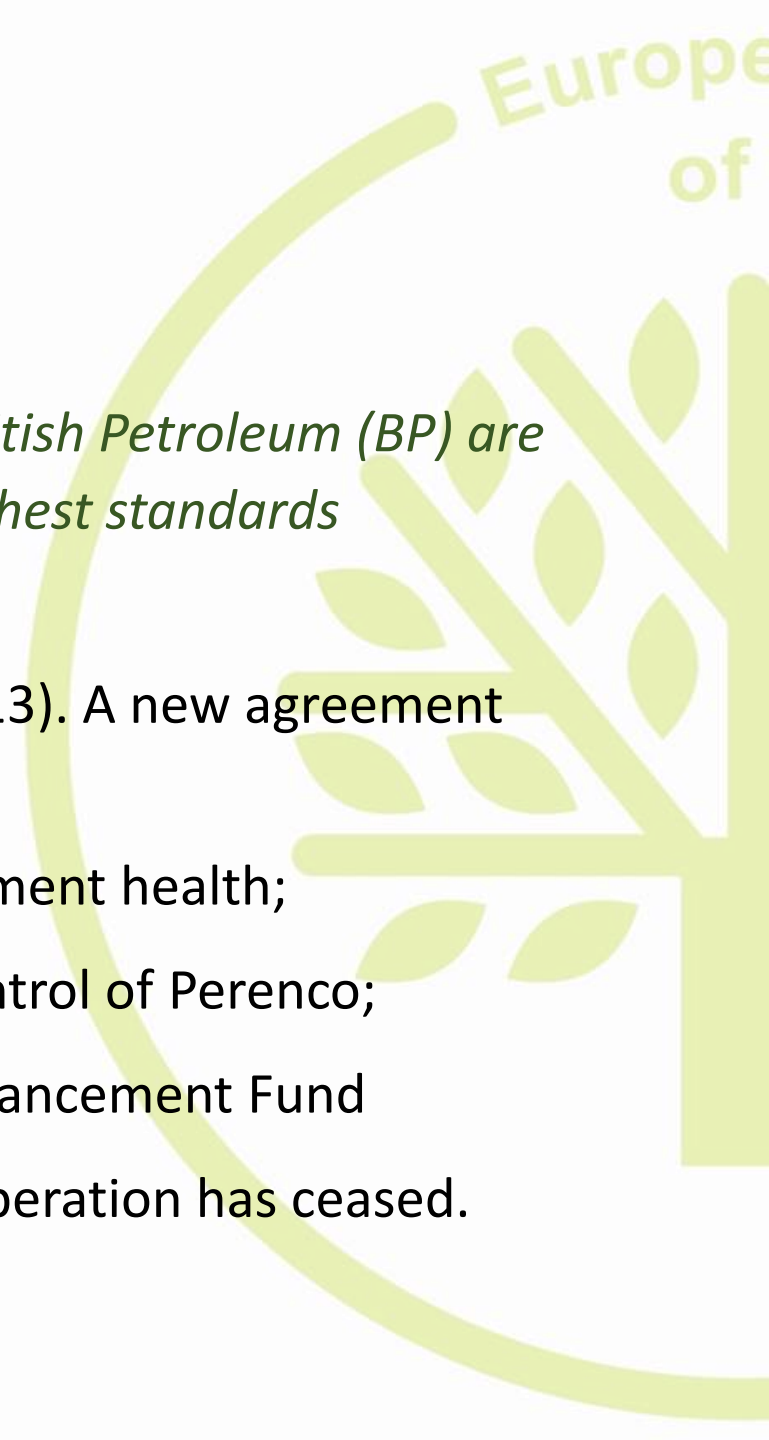


# PURBECK HC – Current conditions

*The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum (BP) are being strictly adhered to, and BP should continue to work to the highest standards*

The Wytch Farm oilfield is currently operated by Perenco (since 2013). A new agreement was prepared, ensuring:

- (a) safety in operation and controls to ensure human and environment health;
- (b) environmental management of areas in the estate in direct control of Perenco;
- (c) the already mentioned Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Enhancement Fund
- (d) the effective decommissioning and site restoration once the operation has ceased.





# PURBECK HC – Current conditions

*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:*

- (a) their scale and length;*
- (b) their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities;*
- (c) the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work*



# PURBECK HC – Current recommendations

- *Work should continue on the inventory of natural areas calling for more adequate protection, as should research on these sites, particularly in the marine reserves, where the periodic inventories of fauna and flora should be continued*
- *Any progress to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs would be welcome*
- *Work should continue to restore eroded paths, in particular through finding innovative solutions such as those used at Lulworth Cove*
- *Efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport by visitors (bus, train, bicycle, walking and riding) should be increased*





# PURBECK HC – Current recommendations

- *Measures should continue to be taken to address risks of oil, chemical and other pollution from shipping and marine waste in general*
- *New resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and its effective presentation to the public*
- *The Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented;*
- *Co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue as it is the key method for future management of the coast*

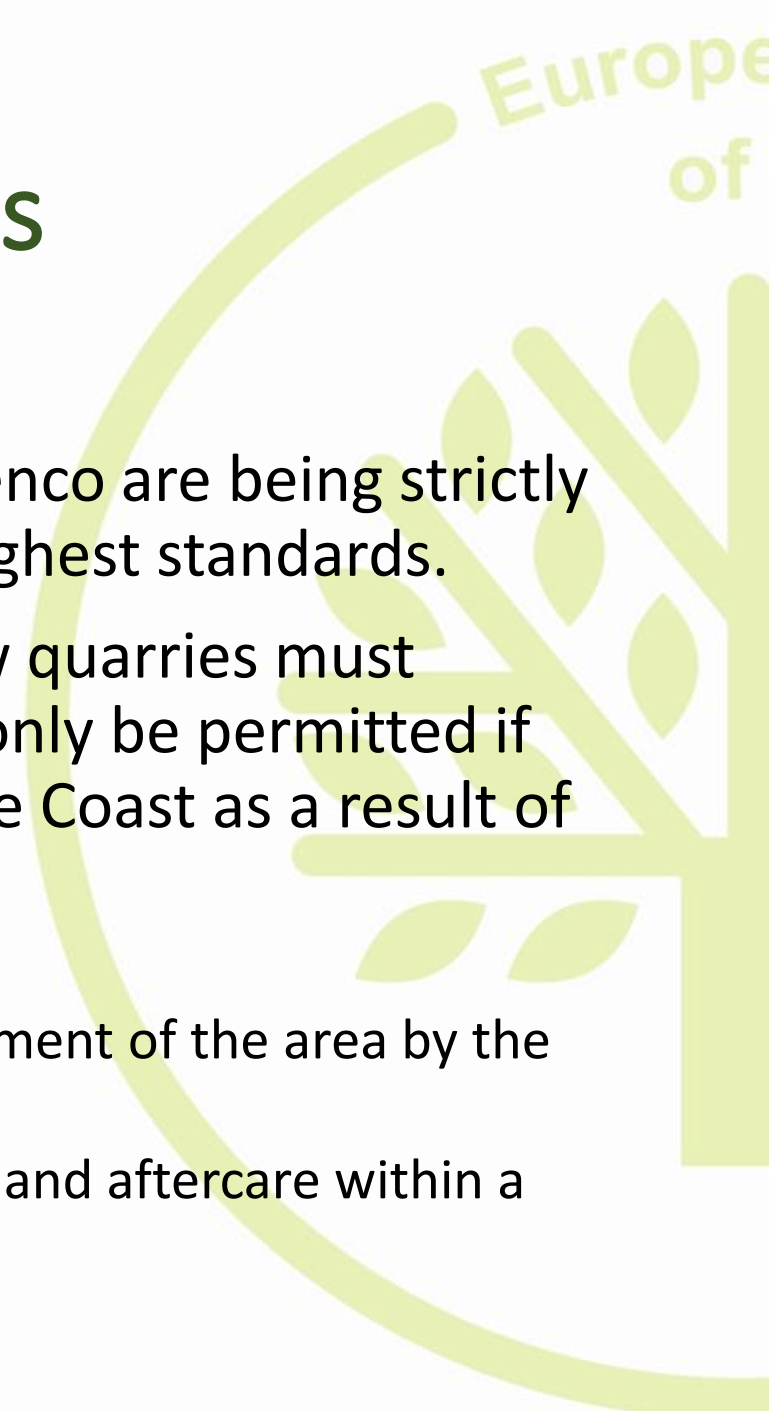
*The conditions and recommendations from the last Resolution (Resolution CM/ResDip(2009)10) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 have been taken into account and mostly resolved by the Management body and by other stakeholders.*





# PURBECK HC – Proposed conditions

1. Ensure that the terms of the agreement made with Perenco are being strictly adhered to and the Perenco continues to work to the highest standards.
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:
  - a) their scale and length;
  - b) their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities;
  - c) the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work



# PURBECK HC – Proposed recommendations

1. Secure appropriate funding incentives for continuing environment-friendly management of the landscape.
2. Promote and improve public transportation and other more sustainable methods of transport, particularly near the most visited sites.
3. Monitor the number of the visitors in order to determine its impact on the environment. A visitor management strategy should be prepared for the areas with the larger number of visitors in order to avoid any negative impact either in the quality of recreational experience as well as in the natural resources of the Purbeck HC.





# PURBECK HC – Proposed recommendations

4. Further investments should be made towards the improvement of the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck HC.
5. Promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage the partners to coordinate efforts and produce good quality data for all the Diploma area.
6. Initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien species occurring in the Purbeck HC, particularly the Canada goose and the sika deer, and if deemed necessary, prepare a strategic plan for their control.

