

Environmental Designations in Dorset

Dr Annabel King, Senior Ecologist, DCC

Annabel.king@dorsetcc.gov.uk 07779 428 378

Underlying legislation

- ▶ **Bern Convention** (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979)
 - ▶ Signatories undertake to: ‘ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species and the conservation of endangered natural habitats.’
- ▶ **Bonn Convention** (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979)
 - ▶ Signatories undertake to: ‘conserve and restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction.’
- ▶ **Ramsar Convention** (Convention on Wetlands, 1971)
 - ▶ Signatories undertake to: ‘formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and the wise use of wetlands in their territory.’

European and English Legislation:

- ▶ In **Europe**, legal obligations from these conventions are met by
 - ▶ Council Directive 92/43/EEC the **Habitats Directive** and
 - ▶ Directive 2009/147/EC the **Birds Directive** (originally 1979)
- ▶ In **England**, legal framework:
 - ▶ **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949**
 - ▶ **Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981**
 - ▶ **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Habs Regs), 2017** (originally 1994) which transpose EC Habitats and Birds Directives into UK law
 - ▶ Strengthened by the **Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act, 2000**, and the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC), 2006**

Brexit?

- ▶ UK is a direct signatory to Bern, Bonn and Ramsar conventions.
- ▶ All UK legislation will still apply after Brexit until decision is taken to revise.
- ▶ Even if this happens, the legal obligations from the International Conventions will still apply and must be adhered to.

What are the designated sites?

▶ European and International

▶ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017

- ▶ Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - rare habitats and species
- ▶ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - rare birds

▶ Ramsar Convention, 1971

- ▶ Ramsar Sites (afforded same protection as SACs and SPAs) - wetland areas

▶ SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites = Natura 2000 network

▶ There are 338 Natura 2000 sites in England

▶ Dorset has 23 Natura 2000 sites - more than most counties.

What are the designated sites?

▶ UK

▶ Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

- ▶ Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

▶ National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949

- ▶ National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
- ▶ Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

▶ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012

- ▶ Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs)

How are these sites protected?

European and International sites

- ▶ Highest level of protection is awarded to Natura 2000 sites
 - ▶ Development must not be **likely** to have a **significant effect**
 - ▶ Development must not **adversely affect the site's conservation objectives**
 - ▶ If either of these apply, development would only be allowed if there was an **imperative reason of overriding public interest (IROPI)**.
 - ▶ eg mineral extraction of ball clay - a 'nationally significant resource'
 - ▶ Can only be determined by Secretary of State

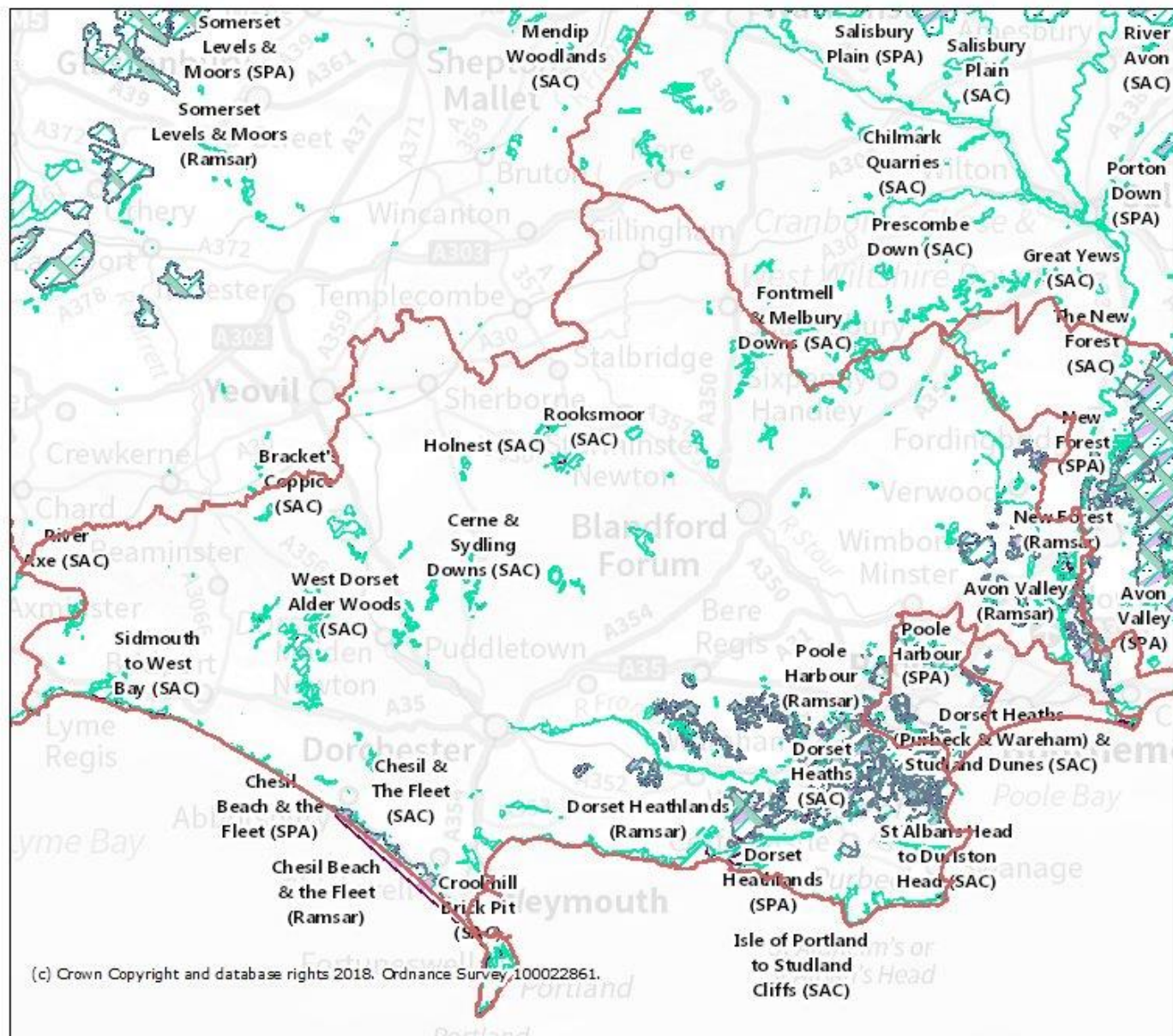
How are these sites protected?

➤ NERC Act, 2006

- ▶ confers a '**Biodiversity Duty**' on all authorities to 'have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.'
- ▶ Lists Priority species and habitats (Sect 41) which are a material consideration in planning

▶ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012

- ▶ Development should be refused where it affects SSSIs, ancient woodland, veteran trees (Para 118)
- ▶ Development must follow the hierarchy: avoid, mitigate, enhance, compensate to achieve no net loss of biodiversity



Legend

- Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)
- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

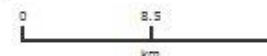
Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 296100

ymin = 68990

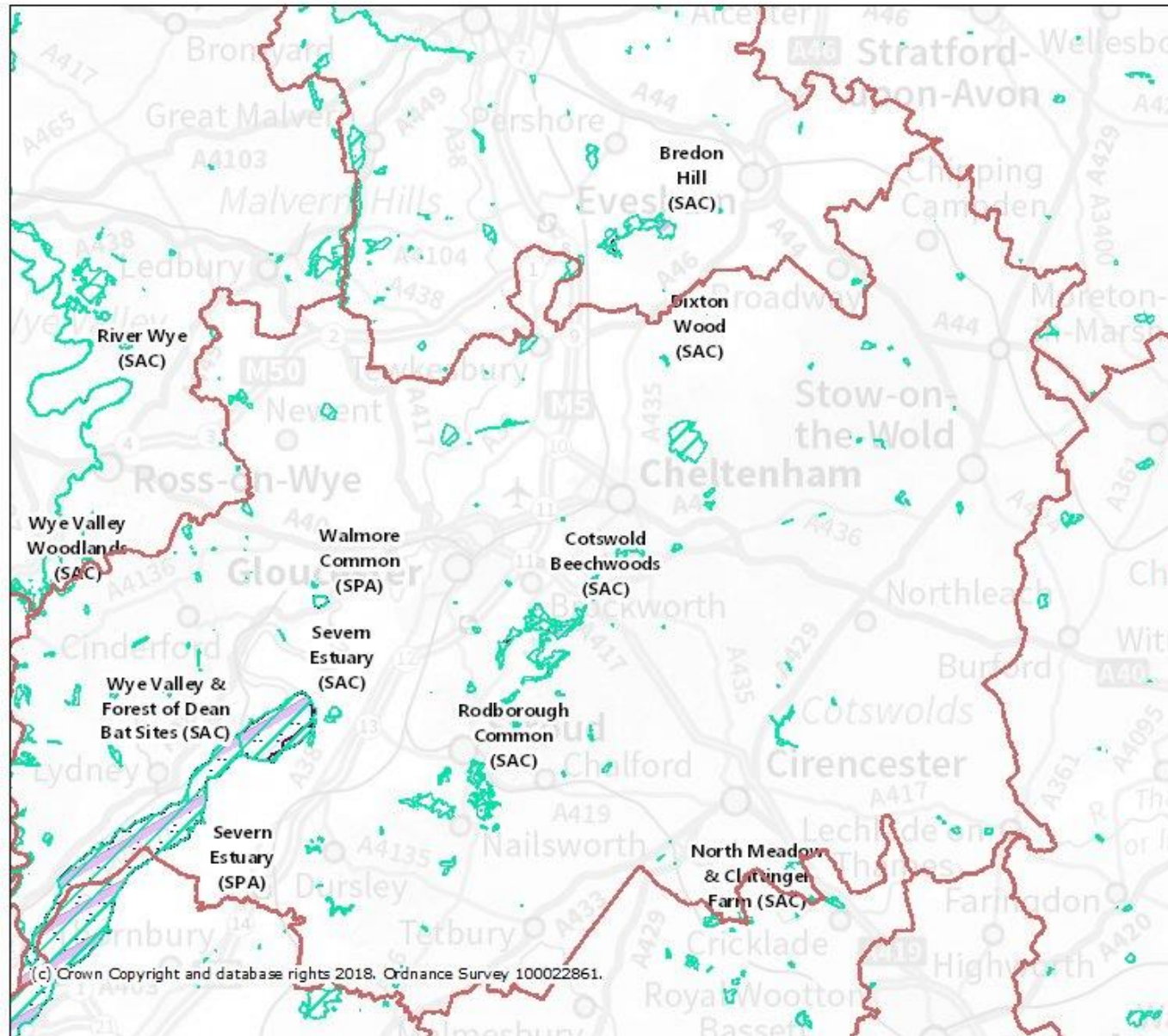
xmax = 457000

ymax = 143200



Map produced by MAGiC on 22 July, 2018.

Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGiC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.



(c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

Legend

- Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

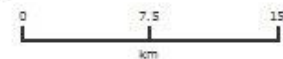
Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 321700

ymin = 187500

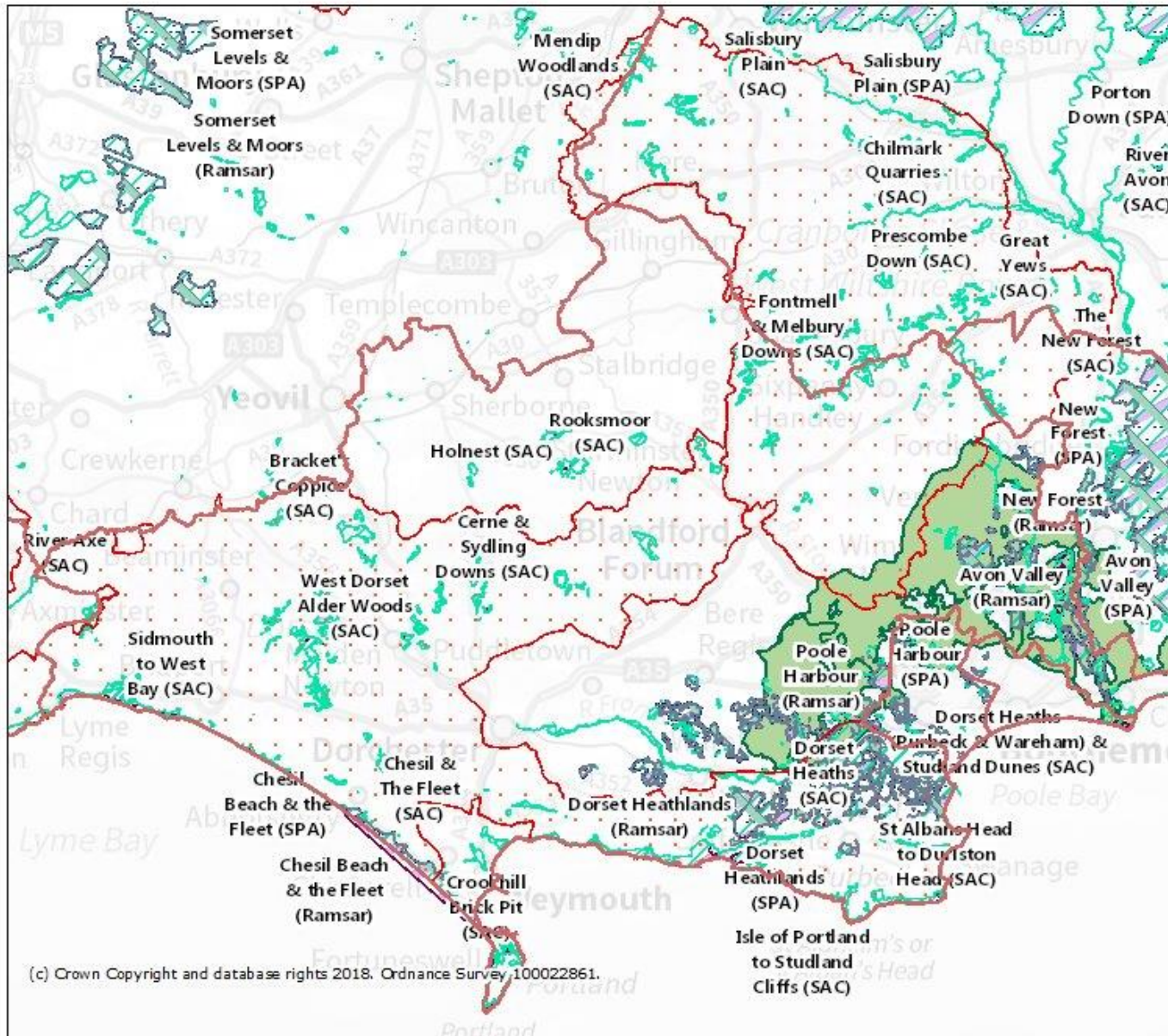
xmax = 464700

ymax = 253400



Map produced by MAGIC on 22 July, 2018.

Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.



Legend

- Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)
- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)
- Green Belt (England)

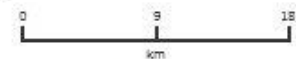
Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 293900

ymin = 68650

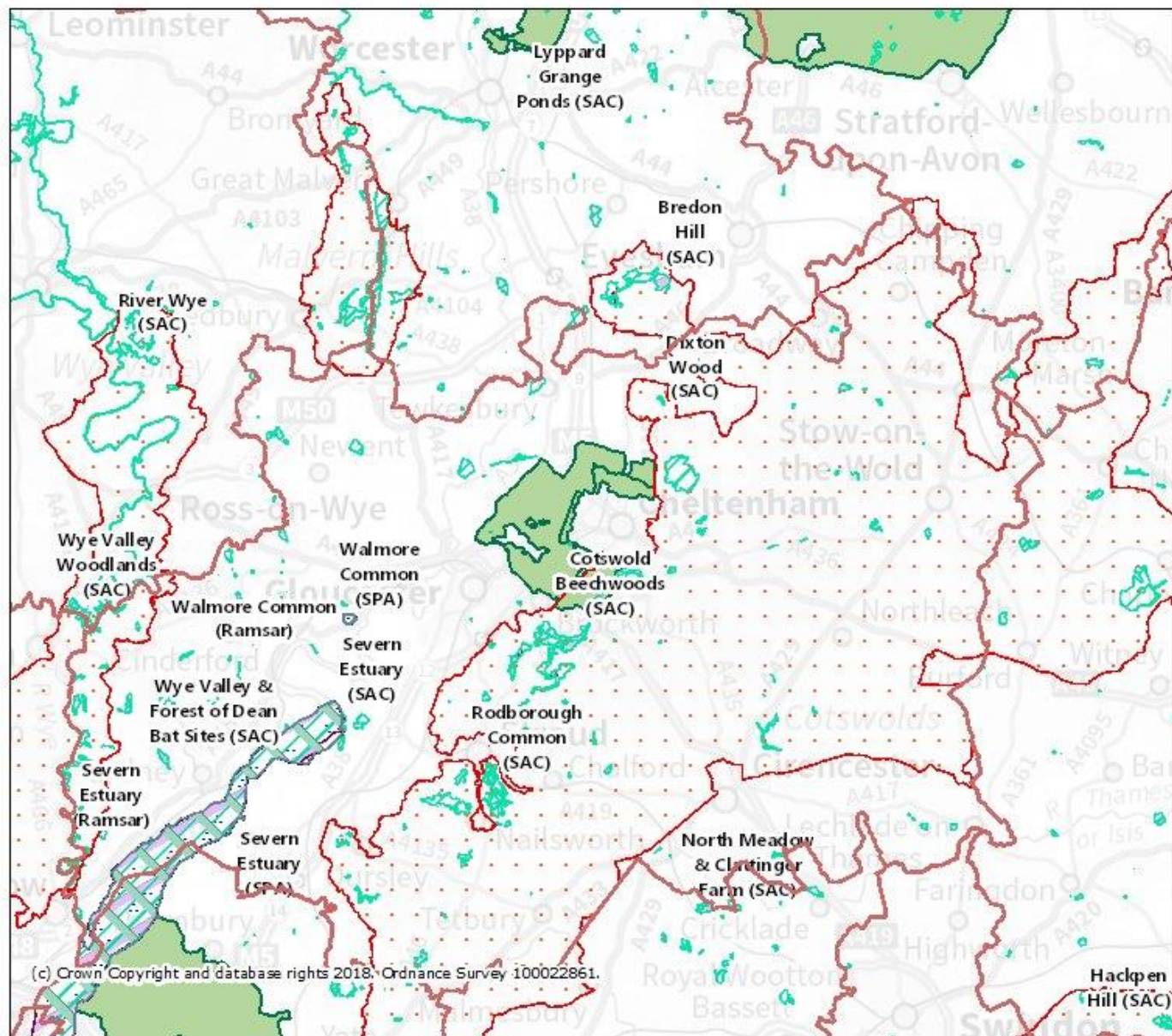
xmax = 458400

ymax = 144500



Map produced by MAGiC on 22 July, 2018.

Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGiC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.



(c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

Legend

- Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)
- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)
- Green Belt (England)

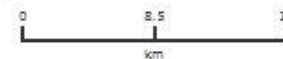
Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 314200

ymin = 186000

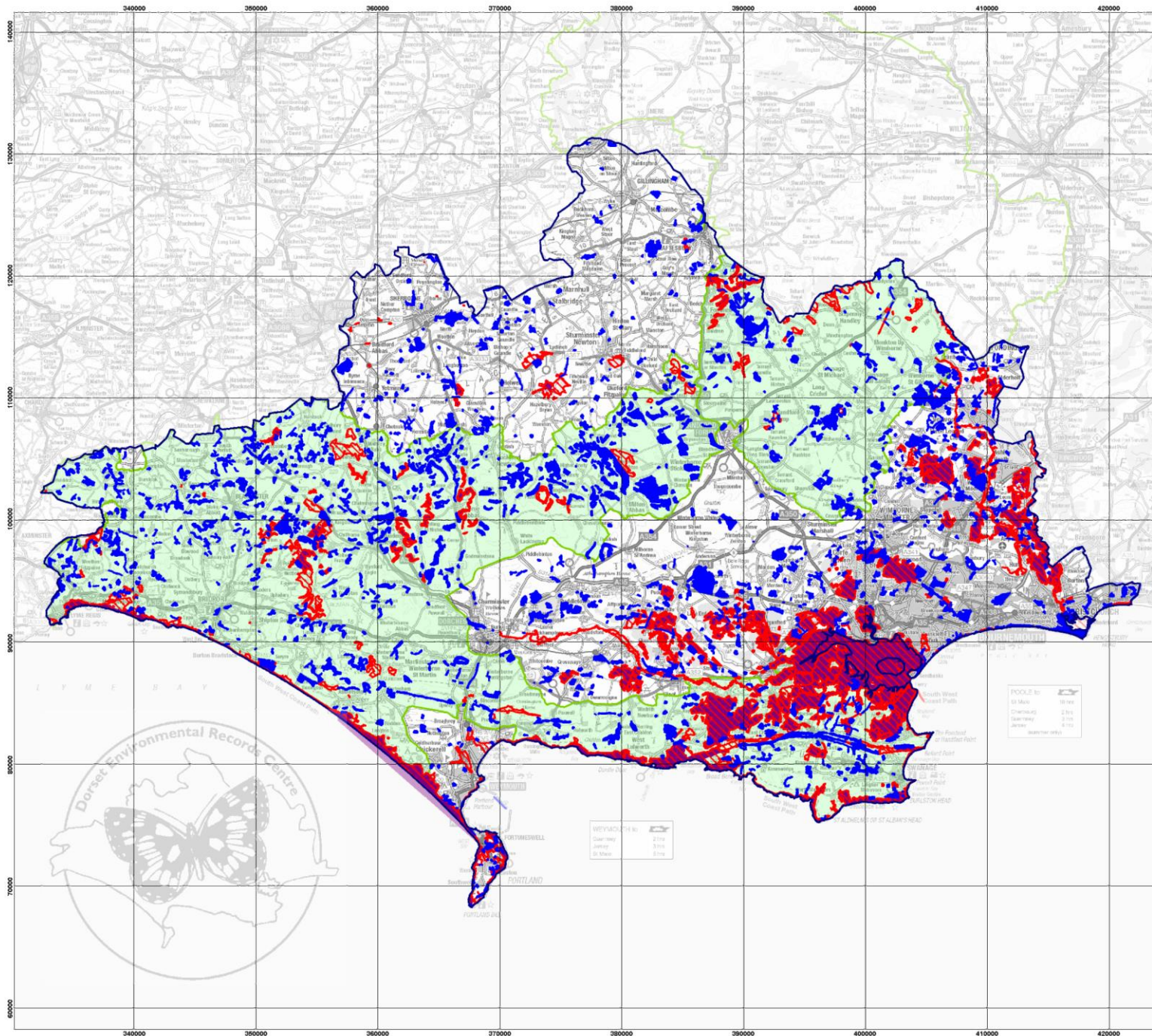
xmax = 471500

ymax = 258500



Map produced by MAGiC on 22 July, 2018.

Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGiC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.



Dorset
Sites

- Key:**
-  European Sites
 -  Nationally Designated Sites
 -  Local Sites
 -  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - Dorset & Cranborne Chase

Scale 1:300000 @ A3 

Liability: owing to the dynamic nature of information relating to wildlife and the environment DERC disclaims, to the extent permitted by law, any responsibility for the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data provided, and accepts no liability for any indirect, consequential, or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data.

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2018. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. © Dorset County Council. LA 100019790. 2018.

© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2017].

Natural Value

- ▶ The Environmental Economy contributes about £1.5bn of gross value added per annum and supports about 30,000 jobs in Dorset - or 8-10% of total annual economic output and employment. (Dorset's Environmental Economy, 2016)
- ▶ Total visitor spend in 2011 was £1.44 billion. (State of Dorset's Environment, 2014)
- ▶ 12% of all employment is tourism related. (State of Dorset's Environment, 2014)
- ▶ 90% of all residents said the environment was an important factor in their decision to live in Dorset. (State of Dorset, 2018)
- ▶ Public health spending on the natural environment/landscape is 27 times more effective than clinical interventions (State of Dorset, 2018)

Mechanisms which enable development

- ▶ Supplementary Planning Documents
 - ▶ Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015-2020
 - ▶ Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour, adopted 2017
- ▶ Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol
- ▶ Dorset Compensation Framework

Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol

- ▶ Non-statutory
- ▶ The only method of assessing ecology which is cost neutral to the LPA
- ▶ Best practice - reviewed and recommended by DEFRA and Natural England
- ▶ Preferred approach in Local Plans
- ▶ Ensures LPAs meet their NERC Biodiversity Duty
- ▶ Ensures LPAs have competently assessed the ecological impact of applications - particularly in regard to protected species and habitats
- ▶ Results in mitigation and enhancements being conditioned, meeting requirement of NPPF to ensure no net loss.
- ▶ Developed and administered by NET but paid for by the developer

Biodiversity Protocol outcomes

- ▶ 771 Biodiversity Mitigation Plans processed in 5 years
- ▶ 100 bat roosts retained and enhanced
- ▶ 100 bat roosts replaced
- ▶ 500 bat boxes installed
- ▶ 450 bird boxes
- ▶ Native woodland (30 sites)
- ▶ Fruit trees/orchards (70 sites)
- ▶ Otter holts, dormouse boxes, reptile hibernacula, grassland creation.....
 - ▶ What if there is still residual loss?

Dorset Compensation Framework

- ▶ Non-statutory
- ▶ Complies with national guidance on compensating for loss of biodiversity
- ▶ Developed and administered by NET
- ▶ Calculates the value of habitat being lost
- ▶ Calculates how much it would cost to re-create this habitat over time.

- ▶ Has brought in **£3.75million over the last 10 years**

- ▶ This money is spent on Dorset's natural environment



▶ Please contact NET for further information:

▶ Annabel.king@dorsetcc.gov.uk