

June 2014

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

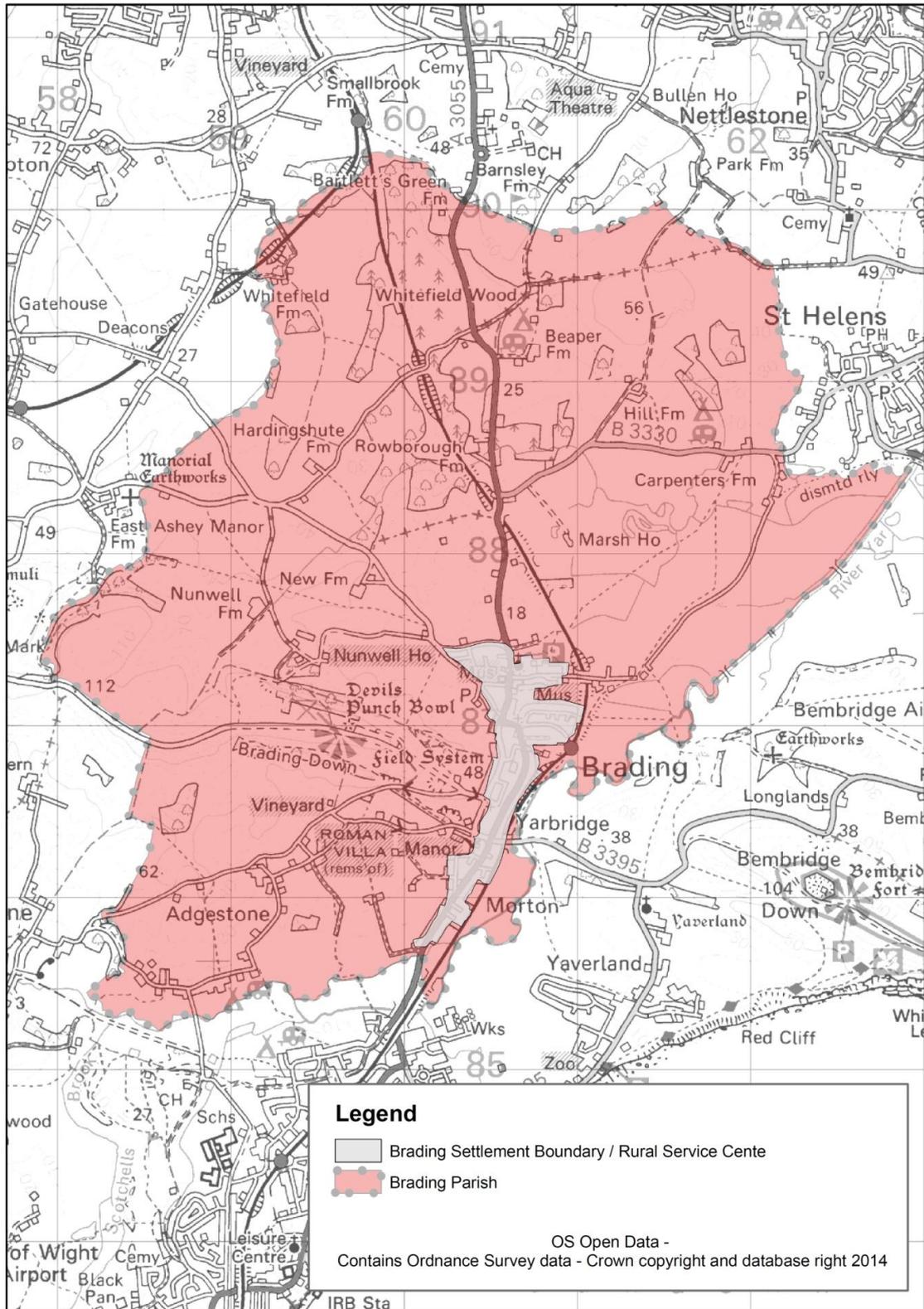
BRADING **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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Introduction

The Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the area of Brading Parish and is shown on the map below.



Brading Town Council is developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan on behalf of its community. As part of the delivery of this is an assessment of the potential impact of the objectives, policies and implementation of these on the internationally designated nature conservation sites either in the parish or within a 10 km buffer zone. This is known as Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening.

Legislation

The Conservation and Habitat and Species Regulations 2010 became effective on the 1st April 2010 when the European Habitat Directive 1992 and Wild Bird Directive 2009 became part of English Law. Article 6(3) of the European Habitat Directive state the following: - 'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications of the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public¹.'

A Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of each European and Ramsar site.

Methodology

3. Methodology

The methodology undertaken for this screening report is as follows:-

1. Identify the European and Ramsar sites in or within 10km of Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan Area
2. Review the Isle of Wight Core Strategy Habitats Regulation Assessment to filter those sites with no effect
3. Have regard to the Conservation Objectives of each relevant site
4. Consider the effect of the Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan policies and how they may impact the conservation objectives for each site in combination with other policies, plans and projects
5. Consider further any effects and propose forms of mitigation where appropriate or undertake an appropriate assessment the relevant European sites

Identified European and Ramsar sites of interest of which there are seven on the Isle of Wight are as follows:- (Note: Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Area (SPA) and Sites of Specific Scientific interest (SSSI))

1. Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
2. Briddlesford Copses SAC
3. South Wight Maritime SAC
4. Isle of Wight Downs SAC
5. Solent Maritime SAC
6. Solent & Southampton Water SPA
7. Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Site

¹ European Habitat Directive 1992 Article 6(3)

There are a further seven that are within 10km of the Isle of Wight as follows:-

1. New Forest SAC
2. New Forest SPA
3. New Forest Ramsar
4. Portsmouth Harbour SPA
5. Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar
6. Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA
7. Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar

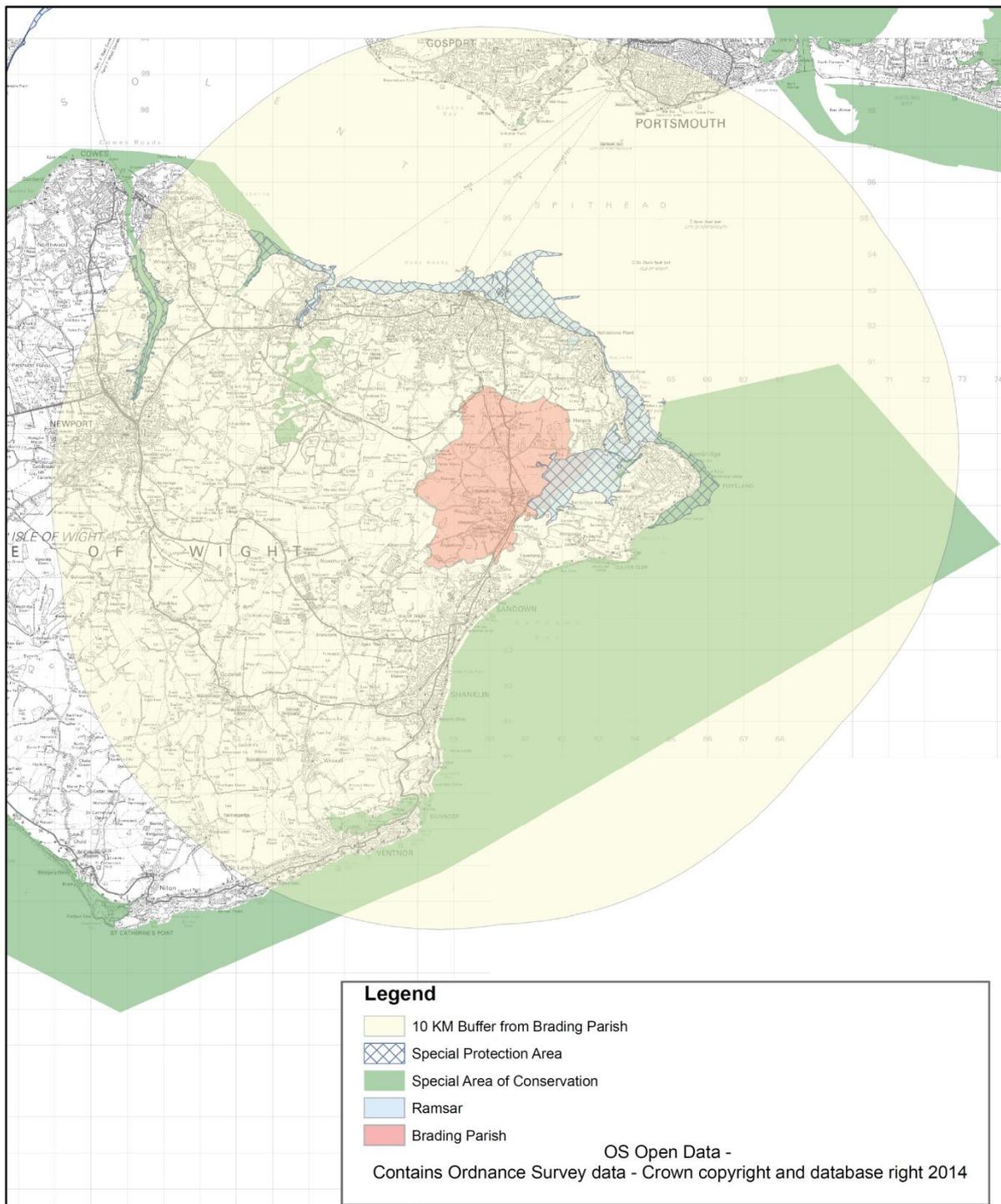
Natural England's guidance on Habitat Regulation Assessment states that European and Ramsar sites that could be affected by Land use Planning (LUP) will be those within the area of the plan and normally those within 10km of the region/sub-regional boundary. 10km is used and taken from the Isle of Wight Core Strategy HRA and is replicated for consistency.

The Isle of Wight Council Habitats Regulation Assessment uses the appropriate assessment of the South East Plan October 2006 to outline those European and Ramsar sites that could be significantly affected by the Island Plans policies. Pages 12-15 IWC Habitats Regulation Assessment details each site and potential risk of effects. The Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan concluded that the potential adverse effects will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the European and Ramsar sites provided that mitigation measures are put in place.

The mitigation measures cover the following:-

- Water Resources
- Water Quality
- Recreation
- Air Quality
- Coastal Squeeze
- Protection areas outside European site boundaries
- Increased shipping

Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan supports the mitigation measures summarized in the IWC Habitat Regulations Assessment.



Map showing Brading Parish and its relationship with nature conservation designations which are subject to the need for Habitats Regulation Assessment – including the 10Km buffer of potential influence.

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening

In relation to development in Smaller Regeneration Areas, Rural Service Centres and the Wider Rural Area the Appropriate Assessment² for the Island Plan Core Strategy states:

'In light of the assessment undertaken in this report on the policies of the Core Strategy and the potential development sites within the Smaller Regeneration Areas, Rural Service Centres and the Wider Rural Area, it is considered that these areas can accommodate the level of housing, employment and retail land proposed without leading to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Waters SPA/Ramsar sites, provided that a series of mitigation measures are adopted.'

It goes on to say:

'Several of the potential development sites in-combination with other potential development sites would trigger a likely significant effect upon the European sites. At the Core Strategy level, assessment cannot reasonably predict the effects on the European site in a meaningful way. However, the Core Strategy contains a number of options, policies or proposals which are subject to caveats to address residual uncertainties at the strategic level.'

The following recommendation is made -

'Ensure that rural sites where in-combination effects have been flagged are included within assessments to monitor cumulative impacts of recreational activities within the Isle of Wight component of the Solent and Southampton Waters SPA/Ramsar.'

The Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan has not identified any sites for proposed development. Should any proposals come forward for development within the parish, they will of course need to be screened and if necessary then assessed for their potential impact on European Sites.

Outcomes of assessing the Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan policies against relevant sites

An analysis of the proposed vision, objectives and policies of the Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan were screened with regard to their compliance with the Island Plan and in relation to the specific conservation needs of the European and International sites in or within 10km of the Brading Parish boundary.

There are no identified issues of concern in relation to the conservation objectives of the protected areas.

Conclusion

The Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan (Policies HD1, HD2, HD3) identify the approach to providing the necessary housing to meet local need and in line with the Island Plan objectives. The Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan has decided not to identify specific sites but is compliant with the Island Plan in that development should be focused in or adjacent to the settlement boundary of the Rural Service Centre. The conclusion is therefore that the policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan will have no significant adverse impact on the conservation objectives of the International and European nature conservation sites.

² Habitats Regulation Assessment for the Isle of Wight Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Report April 2011

If a Management and Development - Development Plan Document is drafted by IWC to allocate sites for development this should be subject to a separate Habitats Regulation Assessment.

The Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan recognizes the importance of the natural environment as part of the landscape and character of the area. It also recognizes the importance of these sites for their inherent wildlife value but also the contribution they make to the quality of life of local residents and as part of the appeal of the area for the tourism economy. According to the Neighbourhood Development Plan has a number of policies which seek to protect, conserve and enhance the landscape, natural and historic environments of the parish.

The screening assessment indicates that there is not likely to be any significant effects upon the European and Ramsar sites in or within 10km of Brading Parish as a result of the Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan and therefore a full Habitat Regulations Assessment would not be required.

All proposals which may come forward for development on or adjacent to these sites or which may impact upon them irrespective of their location will be required to undertake their own Habitats Regulation Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment as determined by the relevant screening/scoping process.

Appendix 1 - The Conservation Objectives for these sites



European Site Conservation Objectives for Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0017073

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1150. Coastal lagoons*



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation
Site code: UK0030059**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons*

H1210. Annual vegetation of drift lines

H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves

H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1320. *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*); Cord-grass swards

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram

S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin's whorl snail

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
South Wight Maritime Special Area of Conservation
Site code: UK0030061**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1170. Reefs

H1230. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

H8330. Submerged or partially submerged sea caves



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area
Site Code: UK9011061**

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

A192 *Sterna dougallii*; Roseate tern (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
South Wight Maritime Special Area of Conservation
Site code: UK0030061**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1170. Reefs

H1230. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

H8330. Submerged or partially submerged sea caves



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Isle of Wight Downs Special Area of Conservation
Site code: UK0016254**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1230. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

H4030. European dry heaths

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

S1654. *Gentianella anglica*; Early gentian