

Ref: 2804221513CW



**Studland & Godlingston Heaths Site of Special Scientific
Interest, Dorset
("the SSSI")**

CONSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND

**Section 28E(3)(a) of the Wildlife
and Countryside Act 1981
(as amended)**

To: David Brown (National Trust)

Of: National Trust, Purbeck Estate, Currendon Hill, Swanage BH19 3AA

You have Natural England's consent to carry out, cause or permit to be carried out the operations specified in your notice dated 27/04/2022 as attached at Annex 1 (the "Notice").

Summary:

To conduct occasional orienteering courses across Studland dunes outside the breeding bird season, avoiding all dune slack fens and mires and other sensitive areas as identified by the reserve warden and ecologist. This proposal has been developed in partnership between Wessex Orienteering, the National Trust and the Dynamic Dunescapes project and is aimed to increase public engagement with Studland dunes, through provision of orienteering events, both as part of British Orienteering organised sport, as well as local events with National Trust to enhance public and junior engagement with the landscape.

For the avoidance of doubt, this consent covers the period 01st October to the end of February each year until 2027, as requested in your Notice

Signed for Natural England: Alex Scott

Date: 04/05/2022

Important information about this consent

If you wish to change the proposed operations or their location or to carry out additional operations for which consent has not yet been given, or if a time period set out above has expired, you must give further written notice to Natural England. Before doing so, you can seek advice from Natural England.

You may face enforcement action if you carry out or permit unauthorised operations which destroy, damage or disturb the notified features of special scientific interest.

Before undertaking or permitting the operations specified in this consent, you may also need to get additional permissions from other authorities. For example, the consented operations might also require planning permission from the Local Planning Authority, a permit from the Environment Agency or a licence from the Forestry Commission. It is your responsibility, as the grantee of this consent, to ensure that no other permissions or consents, whether of a public or a private nature, are needed and, if any are needed, to acquire them before you exercise this consent.



If you have any queries or concerns over this consent, please contact our Farm and Conservation Advice Service at ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk

Reference number of operations from SSSI notification documents, for Natural England's use only:
26; 27;

**Studland & Godlingston Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest, Dorset
("the SSSI")**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO CAUSE, CARRY OUT OR PERMIT
AN OPERATION REQUIRING NATURAL ENGLAND'S
CONSENT**

Section 28E(1)(a) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Name of SSSI:

Studland & Godlingston Heaths

Name and address of the owner(s) or occupier(s) of the SSSI land:

National Trust Purbeck Estate
Currendon Farm
Swanage
BH19 3AA

We give notice under Section 28(E)(1)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) of our proposal to carry out, cause or permit to be carried out the operations specified below on the land specified below:-

Specified operations:

To conduct occasional orienteering courses across Studland dunes outside the breeding bird season, avoiding all dune slack fens and mires and other sensitive areas as identified by the reserve warden and ecologist. This proposal has been developed in partnership between Wessex Orienteering, the National Trust and the Dynamic Dunescapes project and is aimed to increase public engagement with Studland dunes, through provision of orienteering events, both as part of British Orienteering organised sport, as well as local events with National Trust to enhance public and junior engagement with the landscape.

Details of proposed operations:

1. Prior to an orienteering event, a professional mapper will visit to check the new map to update any vegetation following recent groundworks by NT and other partners, so that an accurate map is prepared for technical navigation. This is usually a walkover of the site for one week
2. Once approval for an orienteering race/event to take place, a planner will design routes for the orienteers to navigate by. These will include routes for juniors on existing paths, and for adults, more technical junior to navigate from point to point along routes that they choose. The planner will place orange and white kites on a stake that are removed after the race, leaving no trace.

3. During the actual event/race, competitors take part in a time-trial, starting at no more than 1 minute intervals on the same course. There are usually 8 different courses, and can be up to 300 competitors, taking part over 2-4 hours. Nothing remains after the event, and permission to orienteer is only fixed with the event. There is the opportunity to establish a virtual course for people to explore the dunes at their leisure and pace, although there is nothing to specifically find, except a notification through their GPS on their phone that they are in the correct place. This can be a great way to explore new places with purpose.

Methods of working

British orienteering have organised orienteering events for over 50 years and have fixed guidelines for ensuring that carparking and toilets are self contained and do not add additional pressure to landowners. Use of the NT car park will bring additional funds to NT. Events usually last just one day, and the frequency varies between sites.

All participants will be briefed before the event about the ecological sensitivity of the site and given clear guidelines on responsible orienteering including the need to avoid out-of-bounds areas.

Timing of proposed operations [including end date]:

A maximum of two events between October and February each year, for 5 years (Oct 2022- February 2027 inclusive)

Land on which operations are to be carried out:

The entire area of Studland heath, EXCEPT Little Sea, all areas of fen and mire, wet woodland, reedbed and other sensitive habitats identified by the ecologist, as shown on the attached map. The primary habitat for orienteering is the dunes and dune heath. The areas of dense gorse are not desirable.

Signed for owner(s) or occupier(s):



David Brown
National Trust Purbeck Estate
David.brown4@nationaltrust.org.uk
07768 864954

Date

27th April 2022

Using and sharing your information

The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information please see our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Privacy Notice at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notices](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-<u>notices</u>)



National Trust

Property: Purbeck
Title: Studland priority habitat
out of bounds to orienteering

Date: 26/05/2021
Scale: 1:15,660
Grid ref: -2 51



National Trust Purbeck Estate
Currendon Farm, Currendon Hill,
Swanage, Dorset, BH19 3AA

