



DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



LNP ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

This year has been a time of great upheaval: nationally with Brexit and locally with local government changes. Whilst the risk to the natural environment of changing legislation and funding with the former, and the risk of local government priorities moving away from environment with the latter, there have been many positive steps. The publication of the Government's 25 Year Plan for the Natural Environment supported by both our Secretary of State for Environment and Prime Minister was a major step forward. Defra appear to be waking up to the fact that some LNPs such as Dorset are making great strides and have the potential to help the 25 Year Plan to be delivered.

It has been very successful year for the Dorset LNP as the following summary indicates. Not only have many projects that support the environment been undertaken with our partners and supporters, from helping bees to helping people stay fit, but the LNP remains a staunch supporter of environmentally sensitive economic development and the Dorset LEP, as well as maintaining our role as an ambassador for nature. As a forum for the main groups of the county to come together and a one-stop-shop for those seeking advice or support, the LNP is invaluable.

Many challenges remain next year with changes in legislation, standards, farming, fishing, continued climate change, as well as engaging the business sector; supporting better health and social care with the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and ensuring local and national political support for the natural environment. I am sure the Dorset LNP will be there in the background, supporting, demonstrating, guiding, protecting, advocating and challenging for the fabulous environment and wildlife we have in Dorset and for Dorset's business and communities.



Simon Cripps © Debbie Dye

Dr Simon Cripps – LNP Chair

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Governance, Communication and Resources

LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2017-18 on 7 June 2017, 6 September 2017, 13 December 2017 and 7 March 2018. For more information: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset_LNP_Board (or contact the LNP Manager)

LNP Annual Forum (LNP Annual Forum)

Over 60 people attending the LNP Annual Forum held on 21 February 2018. The theme for the event was the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and what it means for Dorset. Presentations were given on work already being undertaken in the area which is supporting the delivery of the Plan and a panel discussion was held to discuss future work. The presentations are available at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2018

Funding

During 2017-18 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

- Borough of Poole
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Defra (Local Pollinators Project and LNP Development Grant)
- Dorset AONB (Sustainable Development Grant)
- Dorset County Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- RSPB
- South West Environment Network

Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in November 2015: @dorset_lnp. At the end of March 2018, the account had 371 followers (an increase of 135 during the year). E-news bulletins were published in July, September, December. At end March 2018 there were 261 Forum Members (an increase of 25 members).

NATURAL

CAPITAL

Strategic objective i:
Investing in Dorset's natural assets

Local Pollinators

In March 2017 Dorset LNP was awarded £4,000 from Defra's Local Pollinators funding to facilitate a project between Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust and Bournemouth University. The project focused on three elements:

- Work with local communities to provide large-scale areas of flowers for pollinators
- Directly engage with large-scale land managers at National Trust sites in West Dorset to promote creation for pollinators in farmland
- Enhance awareness and facilitate a knowledge exchange through monitoring and evaluation

More information on the project is available at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/local_pollinators



Above: Burton Bradstock Meadow - National Trust © Gemma Baron

Natural Capital Investment Strategy

The Dorset LNP's Natural Capital Investment Strategy was mentioned in the SW Rural Productivity Commission's final report published in October 2017. DLNP submitted evidence as part of the SW Rural Productivity Commission in April and attended a panel hearing in July. The inquiry was commissioned by four South West LEPs: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Dorset, Heart of the South West and Swindon & Wiltshire.

The Commission Report highlighted the value of the region's natural assets and made a series of recommendations including 'In partnership with Local Nature Partnerships, South West LEPs should invest in improving the area's natural and cultural assets as key drivers of economic growth in rural areas.'

Discussions are ongoing with Dorset LEP to raise the profile of the natural environment into economic decision making.

The SW Rural Productivity Commission Report is available at:
<https://bit.ly/2QidaY4>



Above: SW Rural Productivity Commission Report

NATURAL

VALUE

Strategic objective ii:
Adding natural value to the local economy

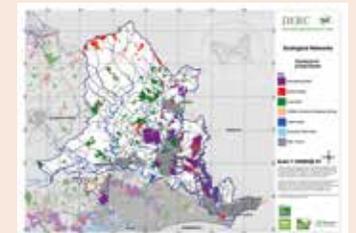
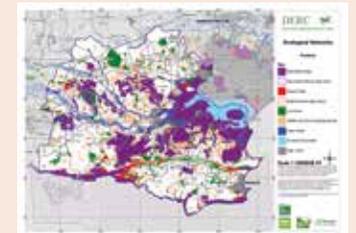
Ecological Network Maps

DLNP commissioned Dorset Environmental Record Office to map the existing and potential ecological networks in the area. The maps were published towards the end of 2018 and the GIS layers made available to all the local authorities and their planning departments.

The maps include all known sites of wildlife importance, together with habitats that may be widespread but are nevertheless valuable for wildlife as part of the ecological function of the landscape, for dispersal (termed corridors and stepping stones) or to cushion wildlife sites from harm (termed buffers).

A guidance document on how to use the maps (particularly related to planning) was also published. Discussions have been held with some of the local planning authorities (with more planned) to feed these into the Local Plan Reviews and the development of Green Infrastructure Strategies.

The maps and guidance document are available at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/ecological_networks



Above: Ecological Network Maps: Purbeck and Christchurch and East Dorset

NATURAL

HEALTH

Strategic objective iii:

Developing Dorset's natural health service

Natural Choices

Natural Choices continues to grow and at the end March 2018 there were 24 providers offering 61 accredited activities. Public Health Dorset supported the project with a temporary member of staff who undertook an audit of nature-based focused health activities in late summer 2017 and invited providers to join the programme.

Through this process Natural Choices activities were split into Accredited and Non-accredited activities:

- Accredited activities are regular (weekly/fortnightly) and activity providers have public liability insurance and health and safety policies.
- Non-accredited activities are less frequent (e.g. monthly) and/or providers are community groups without insurances or policies but activities are equally beneficial to health and wellbeing.

The aim of this separation was help people to choose which activity to try and to give assurances to those referring or signposting to the programme, while still listing all the great opportunities for people to support their health and wellbeing through nature.



More information is available at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural_Choices



Above: Park Yoga, Weymouth © Sharon George

Health and Nature Charter

Dorset LNP has worked with Gloucestershire LNP to lead a project on behalf of all the LNPs in the South West to raise the profile of nature-based health solutions. One element of this project was to develop a SW Health and Nature Charter with the aim of having this endorsed by the LNP and Health and Wellbeing Board(s) to agree to work together. The Charter was finalised in January 2018 and is in the process of being endorsed across the SW. Dorset LNP endorsed the Charter in March 2018 and Dorset Health and Wellbeing informally supported it in April. The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board is due to formally endorse it in July.

Individual organisations can also endorse the Charter – contact the LNP Manager for further information.

This work was supported by the Dorset AONB, Defra and South West Environment Network.

The Health and Nature Charter is available at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Health_and_Nature_Charter

NATURAL

RESILIENCE

Strategic objective iv:

Improving Dorset's resilience

Climate Change Position Papers

Dorset LNP adopted position papers on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in June 2017. The two papers highlighted out some of the evidence and made a series of recommendations for future work on climate change in Dorset.

Plans are in progress to host a conference / workshop on developing a common climate change adaption framework before the end of 2018 to link in with the publication of the new UK Climate Projections due to be published in late 2018 to update the 2009 (UKCP09) editions.

The position papers are available at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset_LNP_Position_Papers



Above: Bournemouth Town Hall © Bournemouth Borough Council

NATURAL

UNDERSTANDING

Strategic objective v: Natural understanding - understanding natural value

Best Practise Case Studies

During 2017-18 seven case studies were published as best practice examples and shared with the Forum members. The following case studies were published:

Natural Influence at its best

- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area (NIA): a step change for a special landscape
- St Leonards Hospital Site Development: best practice in development at a sensitive site
- A338 (Bournemouth Spur Road) Major Road Maintenance Scheme: innovative thinking brings real win-win outcomes

Natural Health at its best

- Supporting people through Ecotherapy: Flourish at Livability Holton Lee
- Using Dorset's natural landscape to deliver dementia friendly activities: Stepping into Nature
- Farming and horticulture therapy at Future Roots Care Farm
- Delivering a Green Prescription Service: Natural Choices

The case studies are available at:

www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/case_studies



NATURAL

INFLUENCE

Strategic objective vi: Integrating natural value in policy and decision-making

Defra LNP Development Grant

Dorset LNP was successful in a bid Defra to support the LNP in the future. The focus of the bid was about engaging with the Local Government Reorganisation to ensure that the natural environment was embedded into the new local government structure. Due to the delay in the Government decisions on the reorganisations the focus of the project (agreed by Defra) moved to support the natural health work.

As set out in the Natural Health section of this report, closer work with the health systems in Dorset has been undertaken. The work on Natural Choices and the SW LNP Health and Nature Project has led to Dorset LNP and Public Health Dorset signing a two-year Memorandum of Understanding funding agreement to continue the nature-based health work under the Healthy Places section of the Prevention at Scale programme.



Above: Kingcombe health walk © Emma Kane



Submissions to consultations/inquiries:

Local influence:

- West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation (April 2017)
- SW LEP Rural Productivity Commission (April 2017)
- Dorset Waste Strategy Additional Sites (April 2017)
- Purbeck Community Infrastructure Levy (June 2017)
- Poole Local Plan Pre-Submission consultation (Sept 2017)
- Bournemouth Local Plan Initial Stakeholder Consultation (November 2017)
- North Dorset Local Plan Issues and Options (Jan 2018)

National influence:

- Building our Industrial Strategy Consultation (April 2017)
- Housing White Paper (April 2017)
- House of Lords Select Committee on the NERC Act (Sept 2017)
- Clean Growth Strategy (Dec 2017)

Above: Consultations documents



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During 2017-18 the Dorset LNP was supported by:



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