



THE NATURAL PLACE FOR BUSINESS

a Natural Capital investment strategy for Dorset



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CONTENTS

1	Summary	3
2	Aims	4
3	Context	5 - 7
	3.1 Economic outlook	5
	3.2 LEP growth aims	5 - 6
	3.3 LNP development aims	6
	3.4 Appropriate development	7
	3.5 Environmental needs	7
4	Natural Capital	8 - 9
	4.1 Definition	8
	4.2 The value of Dorset's natural environment	9
	4.3 Planning for success	9
5	Management and delivery	10 - 11
	5.1 Infrastructure type developments	10
	5.2 Development planning proposals	11
	5.3 Business investments	11
6	Integration: Integrating the Natural Capital Investment Strategy into the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan	12
7	Recommendations	13
8	Conclusions	14
9	References and further reading	15
10	Glossary	15

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1

SUMMARY

- The Dorset LEP and Local Authorities have ambitious growth and development aims for the county as tasked by government.
- The geographical location of the county means that new business is not usually persuaded to come to Dorset because of, for example, its transport links, but rather by its low costs compared with London and its environment with associated quality of life.
- There is a perception amongst some developers that environment is a constraint to development, but this is rarely the case and almost always the opposite is true if development is handled appropriately as described below. Often, development can enhance environment and vice versa.
- An approach to development planning in Dorset needs to integrate economic, environmental and social elements in order to achieve longer-term goals and maintain the character and health of Dorset that is so important to future business development, to people and to nature.
- This LNP Investment Strategy seeks to lay out a process that can be incorporated into both existing development programmes where flexibility is limited, as well as defining opportunities for more innovative, self and match-funded Dorset-relevant programmes based on the enhancement of Natural Capital.
- Natural Capital is a concept of particular relevance to Dorset's natural brand and niche in that it can be used to ensure that the resource base on which development is built is not eroded but rather is built-up to increase the resilience to change, the probability of success, and future prosperity without environmental and social damage.
- The 'environmental economy' in Dorset has been estimated recently to be £0.9 - £2.5 billion pa and 17,000 – 61,000 jobs¹. The value of the wider Natural Capital that includes such intangible benefits as an attractive working environment is far greater, and underpins most of the businesses and jobs in Dorset.
- Dorset tourism for example is primarily based around the environment, coast and countryside. Most other sectors are to a greater or lesser extent dependent on the natural environment.
- Skills are attracted not only by business opportunities, but also the lifestyle and environment which employers, employees and their families can enjoy in Dorset.
- Improvements in skills and, therefore, wages and salaries will mainly come from "selling" Dorset's environment, as well as the economic benefits – "the natural place to do business".

¹ Ash Futures Ltd (2015). *Dorset's environmental economy*. Dorset County Council, Dorchester



Weymouth Relief Road © Phil Sterling

2

AIMS

The environment of Dorset is one of the county's main assets, essential for economic prosperity and development. This strategy is written from the perspective of facilitating development in such a way that business ventures become more reliable, more likely to succeed, and to allow further sustained development within sensible limits. It is a strategy for business and investors.

Dorset's Natural Capital is our stock of natural assets, which provide a range of goods and services from food, water quality and pollination to recreation, culture and mental wellbeing.

This strategy outlines how the aspirations for Dorset laid out by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (Gibbons & MacRury, 2014) and in Local Authority plans can be achieved not just without damaging the natural resources on which our prosperity is built, but by enhancing them so that they become even more valuable to us in the future. It also aims to show how development, in addition to that described in the LEP Plan, can be achieved by taking a 'Natural Capital' approach that is suitable for Dorset to increase the quality of Dorset's assets and make them more resilient.

This strategy does not seek to identify the business interventions that would be needed to achieve a required level of economic benefit, as that is the role of the LEP, but it does seek to increase the resilience of proposed developments, identify means to assess proposals most likely to succeed and ensure projects are resilient to external forces. As such, by applying principles that protect and enhance the natural environment, minimise carbon footprint, for example by efficiency savings, as well as support and sustain community development, projects will attract investment and have a greater probability of success, including community support.

There are numerous examples (see boxes 1 – 4 on pages 10 - 11) of successful projects that have demonstrated how the potential for environmental damage has been converted into positive impacts that support the environmental and social resource base thereby benefiting the core project.

The proposals set out here play to the strengths of and enhance Dorset's brand as a premier natural location that is so valuable for most sectors. They also seek to assist in ensuring different sectors can better prosper in the same geographic location without harming each other.

In some cases there are environmental assets that are irreplaceable, such as ancient woodland or SSSIs, that form part of the ecological network essential to maintain Natural Capital. Whilst this may restrict development at certain locations, maintaining such assets will benefit the whole county and as such benefit overall development, economic health and prosperity.



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3

CONTEXT

3.1 Economic outlook

Jump (2014) predicted that the UK economy would continue to recover through 2015, but that living standards would be precarious and the economy would struggle to maintain momentum. This was mirrored in Dorset where the economy is valued at around £16 billion per year. Productivity and market engagement are key according to Jump (2014). There is a mixed view of Dorset's performance indicators, though the LEP Growth Plan suggests Dorset has one of the highest growth trajectories in the South.

3.2 LEP growth aims

In 2010 government set out the aims of a new approach to local growth that the LEPs were to deliver (HM Government, 2010). Government would:

- Shift power to local communities and business, enabling places to tailor their approach to local circumstances;
- Promote efficient and dynamic markets, in particular in the supply of land, and provide real and significant incentives for places that go for growth; and
- Support investment in places and people to tackle the barriers to growth.

The LEPs across the country were therefore in some respects set-up to build a foundation within which entrepreneurialism could prosper rather than the more regeneration aims of the Regional Development Agencies which they replaced.

The vision of the Dorset LEP is to deliver growth through business enterprise whilst safeguarding the environment (LEP, 2015). Their main intention is to improve the performance of existing businesses in Dorset, whilst also encouraging the creation and growth of new ones. By doing this, they will support a strongly performing, productive and sustainable economy characterised by boosting higher paid and better skilled jobs through:

- 1 Enhancing the skills of Dorset's current and future workforce;
- 2 Improving digital and physical connectivity;
- 3 Creating the right conditions for enterprise, driving forward integrated spatial and infrastructure planning across the county, providing more affordable housing, and emphasising the need to be 'Open for Business' - especially in more rural areas.

To-date funding channelled through LEPs has been heavily focussed on the delivery of central government objectives such as infrastructure improvement, which of course may, if appropriately and well planned, form a platform for later growth. Little funding to LEPs has come without strings attached in terms of preconceived intentions from the funder as to how the funds are to be used, albeit customised to a local context. This has meant that to-date the LEP and associated local bodies appear not to have had the opportunity to think as creatively as they might wish, support projects that are truly innovative, or that play to Dorset's particular strengths.

Local Authorities are responsible for the allocation of land for development whether this is for business or housing. It is a critical function to ensure sufficient land is allocated in the right places and that land of the greatest environmental value is protected. Any potential Combined Authority, which should have an integrated

approach to economic development and regeneration, would still need to work closely with LEPs and is likely to provide a strategic approach to local plans.

This strategy suggests a parallel approach whereby the current set of funding programmes (e.g. ESIF and Growth Deal) can be planned in a more integrated way that will increase their probability of success, as well as fostering more innovative projects supported, for example, by the Resilient Dorset collaboration between the LEP and LNP.

3.3 LNP development aims

The LNP has the following vision for Dorset which is largely complementary to the LEP's growth aims.

- Dorset's natural environment is richer in quality and diversity, and more resilient to change in urban and rural areas and in the marine environment.
- Dorset's natural systems are providing a wider and more valuable range of services, more reliably, to people, businesses and wildlife.
- Dorset's communities have increased understanding of, better access to, and are more engaged in and supportive of the care and management of Dorset's environment, for its own sake, and for the benefits it offers them.
- Dorset's outstanding natural value is recognised, protected, enhanced, celebrated and invested in.
- Dorset's environment contributes to and benefits from development of a low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy in which greener business practices are widely adopted.
- Dorset's wildlife sites are bigger, better, more numerous and more joined up, giving them greater resilience in the face of future change and challenges.
- Dorset's world class terrestrial, coastal and marine environment is recognised as what makes Dorset a great place to live, work and visit.
- It is recognised that a healthy natural environment and a strong and sustainable local economy are mutually dependent.
- Maintenance of a healthy environment is recognised as a critical success factor in the wellbeing of current and future generations.
- Development and growth in Dorset is planned so that the natural resource on which the development is based is enhanced and not eroded, which would restrict future development.
- The natural environment is not thought of as a constraint to be overcome, rather it is the basis upon which development can be sustained and therefore consistently requires both protection and enhancement to deliver such benefits.
- Dorset's impacts on the global environment are reduced.



Sustainably caught seafood © Emma Rance

It can be seen that the LNP's vision overlaps closely with the LEP's third growth aim of, 'creating the right conditions for enterprise, driving forward integrated spatial and infrastructure planning across the county . . .'. The aims of increasing resilience to change, providing more services and a low carbon economy are all elements that are directly needed in any LEP growth plan. A healthy, world-class, outstanding natural and heritage environment are elements supporting development because they enhance Dorset's strength, brand and attractiveness. These integrated planning aims need to be applied directly into the LEP's planning and funding processes to improve the success of the LEP's new and existing development programmes.

The LNP's aims are environmental in nature, but when applied to assist the LEP's Growth Plan take on a very business-orientated approach. LEPs across the country have been set up to facilitate growth and regeneration, but have been forced by the nature and speed of funding into focussing almost entirely on the former. Integration of environmental and social thinking into economic priorities will also assist in improving the regeneration element of the LEP's growth package.

3.4 Appropriate development

Dorset's geographic location is one factor that determines what will constitute appropriate development. Appropriate here is not defined as a subjective opinion based on taste, but rather what is likely to succeed within the Dorset context. Dorset is not Birmingham or Swindon and as such is not as easily connected to the rest of the country even if within-county infrastructure was improved. Recognition of this will help indicate the best options for development funding.

Dorset's work-force is attracted to and retained in a large part by a lifestyle in a high quality environment close to a rural or coastal setting. Few wish to repeat the mistakes of the 1960s and 70s when unfettered development damaged local communities.



This strategy comes at a time of changing perceptions about the impact of green space on personal health and wellbeing; that a high quality environment is not just the icing on the cake, but a cornerstone for a healthy and productive life. Government and business are waking up to the fact that people who live in attractive surroundings live longer, have healthier lives and are more productive. Putting the environment at the heart of development planning therefore assists economic development as well as bringing health and social benefits.

The processes proposed in this LNP Investment Strategy are not purely aimed to protect the environment or to prioritise 'green' projects. This strategy is aimed at ensuring a more long-term, financially sustainable set of programmes and projects has, from a commercial perspective, a better chance of success and reduced chance of curtailing future development. They would include all the elements that will influence both the success of the project and the contribution it makes to the wider community - not just traditional economic criteria.

3.5 Environmental needs

One of the first step-changes in perception needed to take a development approach that is likely to achieve more sustained success is to view Dorset's environment (and also community wishes) as an opportunity and a resource rather than an impediment. Dorset has one of the highest, if not the highest quality natural environments in the UK in terms of for example, beauty, landscape and biodiversity - recognised through international, national and local designations, on land and at sea. The natural assets need appropriate use and management that conserves and enhances them. It does not matter if the motivations for that are anything from butterfly conservation to commercial land prices. It makes huge economic sense to base your business, whether that be a start-up company or a unitary authority, on your particular skills, assets and resources available.

Taking a business sustainability approach to growth and development requires an integrated approach to economic, environmental and social factors. It has been shown time and again that projects that take a siloed approach to considering just one of the three elements are unlikely to be as successful in the long-term as those that integrate all three. That is not just environmentalism, it is business common sense.

There are numerous examples of where a lack of a cohesive triple bottom line approach has failed or resulted in extra costs:

£ The supermarket that develops on an informal community-used greenspace without thinking about improving the green-space so there is a net gain for nature and the community. Public objections need to be overcome when there could have been support and dialogue from the outset.

£ Housing developments that have false economies by not including green infrastructure and easy access to countryside may experience lower house prices and be poorly looked after by residents.

£ Conversion of farmland to maize production that gives a short-term economic benefit but may cause greater nutrient run-off and increase the potential for flooding lower in the catchment.

£ Major road development that does not take the opportunity to factor in cycle-ways, or green infrastructure, will not fit into either the landscape or the community as well.

4

NATURAL CAPITAL

4.1 Definition

Natural Capital is the stock of natural resources which supplies goods or services (see European Environment Agency 2015 and British Ecological Society 2015 for more detail). It is a parallel to the economic concept of capital, i.e. resources which enable the production of more resources. In effect it is the value of the natural assets and the services derived. Whilst Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services are different things, in practice the value of the asset is largely derived from the services it provides, so valuation of the services gives a good estimate of the value of the asset. Also, in practice, replacement of the asset may not need to be in purely monetary terms, but may be quantified for example in area of land, numbers of a species, or the size of a fish stock or woodland.

There are numerous examples of Natural Capital including rivers supplying fish, irrigation and drinking water; woodlands reducing floods and retaining soils; even landscapes providing health and wellbeing benefits as well as attracting a workforce and reducing staff turnover. The collective benefits provided by the resources and processes supplied by natural capital are known as ecosystem services. These services are imperative for survival and well-being. They are also the basis for all economic activity.

Natural Capital is a simple enough concept to understand. It is the conceptual change in thinking required to look at things a different way that is the challenge. For Dorset with its natural assets it is a very relevant concept to drive development thinking and planning.

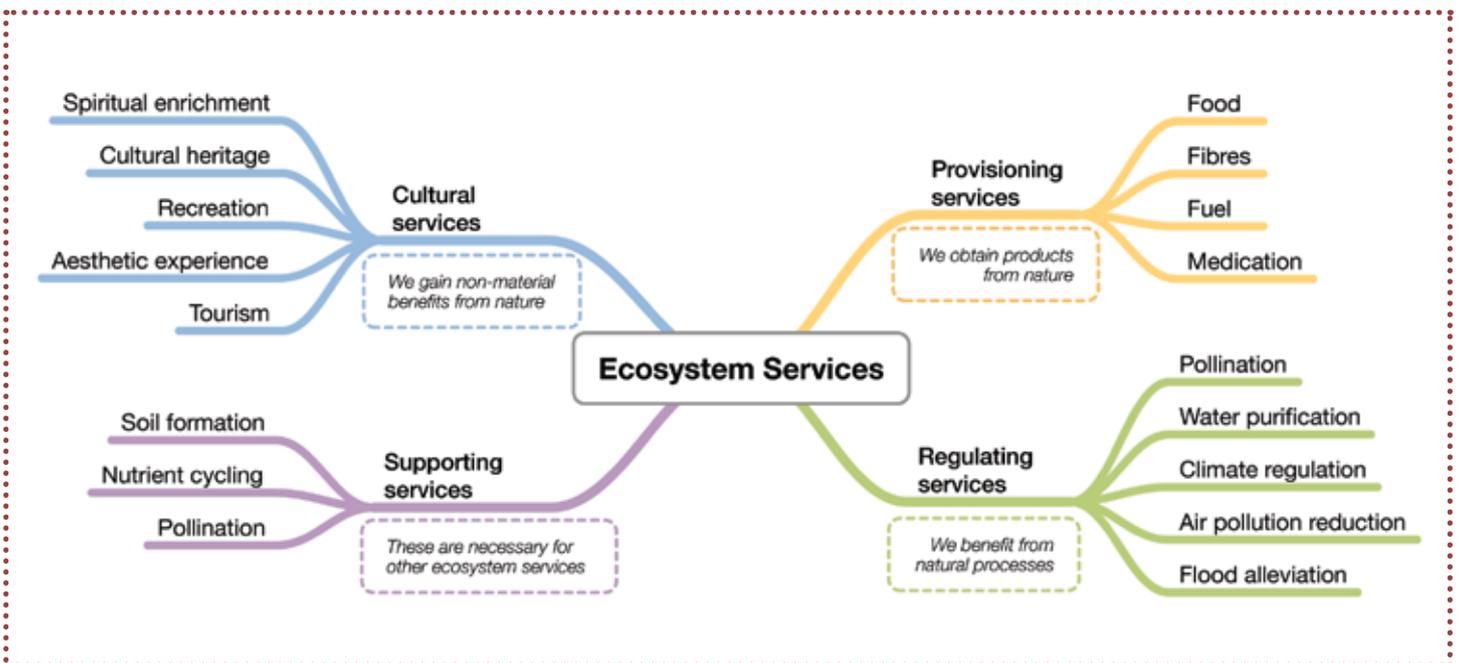


Fig. 1: Summary of ecosystem services derived from natural capital assets (Ash Futures Ltd, 2015)

4.2 The value of Dorset's natural environment

A recent report by Dorset County Council, Dorset's Environmental Economy (*Ash Futures Ltd, 2015*) has amongst other things sought to quantify and qualify the value of the natural environment to business sectors across the county of Dorset, including Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole local authority areas. The authors used four main approaches to estimate the size of Dorset's 'environmental economy'. They looked at: environmental goods and services; sector flows; the green economy; and the capital asset base. In doing so this is probably the first detailed estimate of Dorset's Natural Capital and one of the first for the UK. The report is based on sound economic tools and as such provides timely proof of the real value of the environment to business and development.

The report indicates that the tangible value of the environment to Dorset is £0.9 – £2.5 billion pa. It supports 17,000 – 61,000 jobs. They also conclude that:

- Environmental assets are likely to become more valuable over time, in absolute and relative terms, in response to rising relative scarcity and increased amenity and use values;
- The environmental economy may tend to grow faster than the overall average in future;
- As pressures on Dorset's environmental assets increase, so the value per unit of those assets may increase;
- As technologies, demographics and processes change, the potential contribution of the environment to Dorset's economy will tend to grow, as the threats to its preservation rise.

Though a large value, £2.5 billion is still a conservative figure in terms of the true value of the environment to Dorset, because the DCC report seeks to quantify only the tangible assets and flows. As such it is more an estimate of the value of ecosystem services than the Natural Capital of Dorset. This LNP report seeks to identify and qualify the broader value of the natural environment to the economy of which a financial assessment is one major part. Intangible but important aspects that have not been valued in the DCC report include benefits such as: the value to a business of attracting and retaining good staff; the support that can be derived from communities for a development project if it improves the environment; and the number of companies that stay in the county because they like the natural brand of the county. There are many other such examples that are not environmental projects, but are wider benefits of a high quality natural Dorset.

4.3 Planning for success

It is possible to cost-up projects in terms of economics and resources needed without taking into account Natural Capital, but to do so is both to take a more risky short-term approach to development as well as misleading by not including all the parameters that will affect the viability and performance of an investment. If a company did not disclose an issue in its annual statement that was materially relevant to the value of its shares then it would be considered fraudulent. To ignore the natural resource base on which a company is built, be that physical

location, effect on nature, logistics or resource flows, is either to risk the company's own efficiency, or it is hiding parameters that are materially relevant to the running of the company.

It is also important to maintain the environmental resource base and live off what it produces, not erode the base itself restricting future opportunities. This is equivalent to the need to operate by using only revenue or interest derived from used or invested financial capital, rather than eroding the investment itself. Juniper (2013) has likened the approach of ignoring Natural Capital and our current unsustainable lifestyle that required 2.5 planets of resources, to a huge Ponzi Scheme where we are living off the assets not the interest produced.

No other location in the UK is better placed than Dorset to apply the concept of Natural Capital both to traditionally economically planned projects as can be seen in the LEP Strategic Economic Plan, as well as to other development projects that integrate Natural Capital and ecosystem services. This fits with Dorset's natural and healthy brand as well as being appropriate from a geographic and community expectations perspective.

Numerous ways have been developed to calculate the Natural Capital of a system or project. They require a quantification and economic valuation of the assets and the services derived. These tend to be complex and in some cases controversial as they may set relatively arbitrary values on the natural environment. The cost-saving agricultural crops that protect against soil erosion, or the savings in medical costs caused by greater exercise in easily accessible green space, can both be estimated, but the calculation is complicated.

A more pragmatic approach that the LEP, Dorset Growth Board, Local Authorities, banks and funders can apply would be useful. It doesn't need to be difficult. The approach simply acknowledges the concept of Natural Capital and seeks for every single development to ensure there is a net gain for the environment, or put another way, an increase in the Natural Capital not an extractive erosion. In this way a development that has considered Natural Capital will not reduce the available capital, or assets, so that future development is restricted. An increase in the asset base facilitates more sustained and sensitive development that also considers Natural Capital. So an upward sustainable cycle continues rather than the usual downward spiral of erosion in assets and decline in opportunities for growth.

A caveat is that whilst using the Natural Capital approach can facilitate most sensitive, appropriate developments, particularly land development, the loss of habitats or landscapes of national or international importance would need to be avoided. Early discussion between planners and developers will nevertheless give increased levels of certainty that is important for business, avoid unnecessary expense and potential failures of schemes. Early engagement and the Natural Capital concept can avoid lengthy and potentially costly planning disputes.

5

MANAGEMENT & DELIVERY

There are three example strands to ensuring this net gain in Natural Capital, as illustrated by typical types of development:

5.1 Infrastructure type developments

Infrastructure projects should ensure that they not only follow the usual protocol of avoid, mitigate, compensate, in that order of preference, but that they ensure there is a net gain in Natural Capital based on the quality of the affected environment and the ecosystem services that would have been lost or displaced.

This concept of planning gain is of course not new and is the required process under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), but where this Investment Strategy differs is that any loss in the value of the natural asset or ecosystem service must be compensated for by initiatives that explicitly increase Dorset's Natural Capital. Development is often subject to Local Authority Community Infrastructure Levies, but these do not always include natural environmental measures. Environmental mitigation and/or compensation, as set out in the NPPF, is sometimes required by law or local policy, but in many cases it is not or there remains a residual loss of Natural Capital. Current procedures commonly calculate a level of compensation commensurate with the size of the development. The system described here seeks to specifically ensure that there is a net gain in the Natural Capital of the county through compensation funding and / or compensatory actions by the developer or the developer's contractors.

This would mean that several small developments could, through the planning system, contribute to one larger, relevant and more long-term project which had the 'critical mass' to achieve much more for the Natural Capital of the local area than the sum of several small, one-off pieces of work.

EXAMPLE 1: Weymouth Relief Road



Green bridge over Weymouth Relief Road © Phil Sterling

An excellent example of this was the Weymouth Relief Road. Whilst the final agreed route did destroy a small area of ancient woodland that was irreplaceable, and cut through the Dorset AONB, overall seven times as much high value conservation land was produced as a result of the road, than was lost.

This facilitated the Lorton Valley Nature Park that is a landscape-scale mosaic of interconnected habitats and owning organisations. The Nature Park has made Weymouth a far better place to live and do business in, in addition to any direct tourism benefits.

Landscape mitigation funding helped secure grants of more than ten times their value, for the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership initiative.

5.2 Development planning proposals

A Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Process has been developed that seeks to focus attention on ensuring mitigation and compensation is targeted on the work that will result in no net loss and in most cases a net gain for the environment, rather than purely following a formulaic approach that merely demonstrates compliance with the process, e.g. funding conservation and enhancement of habitat to benefit the local population of newts rather than surveying and moving newts to places where they might be equally vulnerable.

The Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Process encourages early engagement with the conservation agencies and local authority to find an acceptable way to achieve the development rather than an expectation to stop it. Again the focus is explicitly on increasing Natural Capital either directly or indirectly, not merely compensation paid. It is aimed at achieving the goals of the NPPF for priority habitats and species and ecological networks.

EXAMPLE 2: Bournemouth Spur Road

The refurbishment of the Bournemouth Spur Road provided an interesting challenge as both verges are routinely occupied by sand lizard and smooth snake.

A 'standard' approach to this problem would have been to install reptile fences along both sides of the road in the hope of catching and moving any animals away from the work area. As an alternative, the developer negotiated to permanently extend and enhance the habitat just beyond the road (so that reptiles had somewhere attractive to go) then destroyed the road side habitat while the reptiles were hibernating, so that when they woke up they went to the newly created areas; from which they will doubtless recolonise the road verge once the works are complete.

While the method used required a little more planning and forethought, it probably saved about 90% of the budget that would have been spent on reptile fences and provided long-term gains in respect of the new and improved habitat.



EXAMPLE 3: St Leonards Hospital

Another example of this type of proposal is the St Leonards Hospital development in the Bournemouth greenbelt. The site contained 5 species of reptiles, important grassland, rare plants, a protected bird and two bat roosts.



Far from stopping development, the developer, Natural England and Dorset Wildlife Trust entered into discussions at the planning stage to look for a net gain for the environment whilst developing the housing required on part of the site. The developer established a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and a nature reserve with improved habitats for the key species, with long-term management plans, so that the housing development achieved the desired net gain for the environment at a cost that was not restrictive.

5.3 Business investments

Even if a business (such as solicitors or IT) has no direct impact on the environment, development finance should be aimed, in addition to improving the competitiveness of the company, to reduce the company's environmental (carbon and natural) footprint. Carbon offsetting, carbon reduction techniques and technology, support for local community environment projects are all ways that the erosion of Natural Capital can be reduced or replaced. It makes business sense because such a strategy gains community support, improves efficiency and reduces investment risk.

EXAMPLE 4: Funding

Even if European Structural and Investment Funds funding criteria do not explicitly include the environment, funding criteria should include the maintenance of Natural Capital to ensure that the potential for further development in Dorset is not eroded.



6

INTEGRATION

Integrating the Natural Capital Investment Strategy into the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan

Incorporating Natural Capital into development planning need not be difficult as the concept is simple enough. There are 3 main ways to achieve this.

- 1 Firstly through the existing planning policy. Application of the NPPF should ensure that environmental impacts are avoided or mitigated and that irreplaceable features are protected. In addition to this, the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Process, adopted by most Dorset Local Authorities and supported by the DEFRA agencies, can be applied to development projects so that from an early stage the natural assets are identified and funds are targeted efficiently and effectively on actions that will lead to a net gain in Natural Capital.
- 2 The Local Environment and Economic Development (LEED) Toolkit has been produced by the Defra network (EA, NE and FC). It is designed to help Local Enterprise Partnerships and local authorities meet their economic growth targets through explicitly considering the economy's relationship with the environment: to both maximise benefit and minimise risks (Ecosystems Knowledge Network, 2016). It aims to gain growth benefits for the natural environment and help avoid future costs to growth that could arise from the natural environment. The toolkit has been used by 15 of the 39 LEPs.
- 3 Development organisations need to consider the impact and implementation of development at the programme level. The Local Nature Partnership can assist with this. Some projects within any given programme will not have direct tangible impacts on the local environment. However, thought needs to be given to ensure that a healthy and productive environment is maintained so that the economy can flourish and communities support developments. This can be achieved both at the programme or project level. At the programme level, this would be by ensuring

some funding within each programme is allocated to projects which enhance the environment alongside their other objectives, irrespective of whether the programme itself has a direct environment component. The LEED Toolkit (previous point) can help to identify needs. Alternatively at the project level most projects must ensure they have an environmental element or contribute to the building of Natural Capital in some way. Additionally, both at the programme and project levels environmental impacts would be scoped early and appropriate avoidance, mitigation and compensation planned in at an early stage.

Again it must be stressed that the consideration of Natural Capital should not be seen as a burden on development. It is a means to ensure the environment stays healthy and productive and supports communities. This in turn facilitates further, appropriate development and increases the probability of projects and programmes being delivered successfully.

7

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That all projects in Dorset seeking LEP and Dorset Growth Board funding, or planning permission from local authorities to develop, should quantify either their impacts on the natural environment or their use of environmental services.
- 2 That all development projects increase Dorset's Natural Capital by ensuring a net gain for the natural environment and/or increase in the natural resource asset base. There are several established methods to achieve this (see section 6).
- 3 That development projects in Dorset are planned in a way that integrates economic, environmental and social goals (as being championed by the Resilient Dorset collaboration).
- 4 Projects with a purely financial justification should not be seen as a priority for public funding as their success will be more at risk and because they erode the resource or community goodwill base, thus restricting future development. These projects should not receive public funding.



Studland © Mark Heighes

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CONCLUSIONS

The concept of Natural Capital and payment for ecosystem services is not a means to install further financial burdens on business. It is a way of insuring that development is more likely to be sustained and successful as well as improving the underpinning environment so that opportunities for future development are not eroded. Dorset with its natural brand and varied opportunities for enhancement is suited to the application of this concept. In addition to the business advantages that amount to £0.9 – £2.5 billion and up to 61,000 jobs, this strategy to enhance growth will also improve the quality of Dorset's environment by achieving the Natural Environment's White Paper aims of 'more, bigger, better and joined'. Indirect benefits of this, not included in the above figures will be an attractive working environment that attracts quality staff, preferentially draws in new businesses to the area and promotes tourism, one of the county's biggest earners. Almost all of Dorset's economy is therefore directly or indirectly dependant on the natural environment and will suffer if the Natural Capital is eroded or damaged.

Development without incorporating natural as well as financial capital will result, at best, in growth that is short-term and unsustainable. This LNP investment strategy needs to be applied to the LEP's aims and investment choices and to the Dorset Growth Board so that an integrated approach to planning and implementing growth can be achieved. It offers the opportunity to both improve current traditional programmes of work as well as to establish new, innovative programmes explicitly attuned to Dorset's strength and values.



Marsh Fritillary © Erinn Skingsley

Durlston Country Park © Mark Heighes

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10 GLOSSARY

DCC	Dorset County Council
EA	Environment Agency
EEA	European Environment Agency
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
FC	Forestry Commission
IT	Information Technology
LA	Local Authority
LEED	Local Environment and Economic Development - Toolkit
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LNP	Local Nature Partnership
NC	Natural Capital
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
SEP	Strategic Economic Plan (of the LEP)
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest – county wildlife sites
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest (protected area)



The Dorset LNP is supported by the following organisations:

