



DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

LNP ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

I am privileged to write my first Foreword to Dorset LNPs annual report as Chair, following on from the excellent work of Simon Cripps. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the way in which he has brought people together and enabled the development of partnerships across the environmental spectrum.

The past year, like no other, has demonstrated clearly how nature and humans are inextricably linked. As Donne noted, 'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;'

We cannot exist without nature, we exist within it - if we are not ensuring that the sustaining connection is maintained and cherished, and the foundations upon which it is built are supported, we are in trouble.

Yet there is hope. We have already seen major shifts in policy regarding decarbonisation, agricultural land management and encouragement of biodiversity net gain. We are yet to see all the outflow of this so despite promise, it is too slow for some - the real outcomes to the Glover Landscape Review for example are still pending. COVID and Brexit may well be taking the lion's share of government energies, but the clock is ticking on the environmental side (to be fair the alarm is already going off...). We can't wait too long.

Here, we have pushed on with remote meeting and developing our agenda wherever we can. We have seen over the pandemic that it has encouraged more people to visit parks and gardens, to connect with their surroundings in a new way, and that appears to be sustaining. The LNP can and has supported this and enhanced public engagement through its work, across a range of areas.

In the last 12 months this partnership has broadened with the LNP supporting the work of Low Carbon Dorset as a scrutinising panel, enabling the flow of funds towards decarbonisation projects across the county, both large and small. Similarly we have been working with wider health projects, developing and supporting either the Dorset LEP 'One Health' agenda, or wider therapeutic health benefits of nature in the County. It all helps.

We do all this with no direct funding from government but because of the support from member organisations who see the value of a collaboration for the environment we continue our work. To those funders we are extremely grateful as our work could not continue without their understanding and foresight. We will continue to work with NGOs or individuals, so that we work together to make Dorset not only naturally healthier and more productive, both on land and at sea, but also more resilient to change and minimising our impacts such as on climate. We will be looking for new Board Members from the Autumn and if you feel able to help, we would welcome an approach.

Herewith then, our annual report - I commend it to you.

Luke Rake FLS
LNP Chair



Luke Rake © Kingston Maurward College

Foreword P2

Natural Capital P3

Nature Recovery Network

Natural Value P3

Dorset Living Better: Investment Prospectus

Natural Health P4

Health and Nature Dorset (HAND)

Natural Resilience P4

Low Carbon Dorset Panel

Natural Understanding P5

Improving Communication

Natural Influence P5

Submissions to Consultations

Governance, Communication and Resources P5

NATURAL CAPITAL

Strategic objective i:
Invest in Dorset's natural assets

Nature Recovery Network

Dorset LNP successfully bid for seedcorn funding from Natural England to support work on Nature Recovery Networks in autumn 2020, in preparation for developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The funding included supporting:

- Finalising a Terrestrial Biodiversity Audit (led by Dorset Environmental Record Centre (DERC)) and a Marine Biodiversity Audit (led by Dorset Wildlife Trust).
- Hosting of two workshops to support the development of the forthcoming Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.
- Developing a draft community engagement strategy (with Dorset AONB).

- Developing a framework for nature recovery plans based on the Dorset AONB Test and Trial.
- Hosting the LNP Annual Forum in March.
- Refreshing the Ecological Network Maps in autumn 2020 and holding two webinars for planners from BCP and Dorset councils in January 2021 to promote the use of the maps.
- Targeted work in the Weymouth and Portland area has updated the Corridors and Stepping Stones report (DERC).

For more information:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2021



Above left and right: Dorset LNP Annual Forum

NATURAL VALUE

Strategic objective ii:
Adding natural value to the local economy

Dorset Living Better: Investment Prospectus

Dorset LNP continued to support Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Dorset LEP published its Investment Prospectus in April 2021 to guide the delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy). The prospectus includes four investment portfolios, including 'Natural' (alongside Smart, Wellbeing and Living).

Specific projects in the prospectus include the development of a Natural Capital Trust and, Health and Nature Dorset (see Natural Health) – two of three projects submitted by the LNP to the LEP's call for 'Big Ideas', following a workshop with the Board held in September 2020.

The prospectus also includes supporting a green and blue skills workforce, including ecology and wildlife conservation.

More information at:
www.investindorset.com



Above: LEP Investment Prospectus

NATURAL

HEALTH

Strategic objective iii:
Developing Dorset's Natural Health Service

Health and Nature Dorset (HAND)

Work has continued to support the development of the Health and Nature Dorset (HAND) strengthening collaborative working across the health and environment sectors on nature-based wellbeing opportunities.

Working with Dorset AONB, Active Dorset, Public Health Dorset and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, a Stage Two bid to the *Shaping Places for Healthier Lives* fund in September and an Expression of Interest to the Green Prescribing for Mental Health pilots, were both submitted. Both were unsuccessful but developed stronger connections.

The collaboration was developed further over the year and HAND was launched in May 2021.

More information:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/hand



Above: Walk at Melbury Osmond

NATURAL

RESILIENCE

Strategic objective iv:
Improving Dorset's resilience

Low Carbon Dorset Panel

Dorset LNP has continued to be the assessment panel for larger-scale bids to the Local Carbon Dorset programme as well as those submitted by Dorset Council to ensure transparency. Four panel meetings were held during 2020-21 (April, July, January and March) assessing seven projects. Funding was granted to all seven projects to a total of £1,024,640.12 (total project costs amounted to £2,508,738.82). The projects together expected to deliver the following outcomes:

Objective	Measurable output
Increasing the amount of renewable energy capacity in Dorset	1.14 Mega Watts (MW) – installed capacity
Reducing energy used in public buildings	214,047 Est. Kilowatt hours per year (kWhr/yr) reduction
Improving the energy efficiency of housing	53 households (this included a change to a project previously allocated funding in 2019-20)
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	655.9 Est. annual tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e/yr)
Developing new low carbon products or processes	1

More information available at:
www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk



Above left and right: William Hughes Solar Photovoltaic System

NATURAL

UNDERSTANDING

Strategic objective v:
Understanding natural value

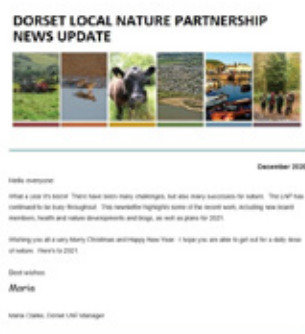
Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in November 2015 @dorset_lnp. At the end of March 2021, the account had 559 followers (up 68 over the year).

E-news bulletins were published in April, June, September and December.

In March 2021 there were 261 Forum Members (up 38 over the year).

Eight LNP Blogs were published:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/category/blog



Above: LNP Newsletter

NATURAL

INFLUENCE

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

Submissions to Consultations

Local influence:

- Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation (Jan 2021)
- BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation (Feb 2021)
- Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation (March 2021)

National influence:

- Environmental Land Management Consultation (July 2020)
- England Tree Strategy Consultation (Sept 2020)
- Environment Agency River Basin Management Plans Consultation (Sept 2020)
- Planning for the Future White Paper Consultation (Oct 2020)



Above: Consultations documents

Governance, Communication and Resources

LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2020-21 on 10 June 2020, 9 Sept, 9 Dec and 10 March 2021, these moved to Zoom due to the pandemic. The LNP Forum was held on 4 March 2021, also on Zoom.

For more information:

www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/dorset-lnp-board
(or contact the LNP Manager)

The Board approved updated Terms of Reference in June 2020.

Four new independent Board members were appointed following a recruitment process in October/November 2020.

Funding

During 2020-21 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

Core Funding

- BCP Council
- Dorset Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Public Health Dorset
- Wessex Water

Grant Funding

- Dorset AONB
- Natural England



Above: Puddletown Forest



Maria Clarke
Dorset LNP Manager

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During 2020-21 the Dorset LNP was supported by:



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