



DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



LNP ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

It is again a pleasure to provide the introduction to our annual report, providing a snapshot to our work in enabling nature recovery in Dorset, and acting a conduit for partners to come together for the betterment of our beautiful county.

The role of the LNP is not as a deliverer of projects, it is a vehicle for communication and enabling action with a significant range of partners, from voluntary groups, charities, businesses, statutory bodies such as Natural England and the NHS as well as the Local Authorities, Dorset and BCP Councils.

We are, therefore, the 'glue' which helps provide coherence to work across the county, add value where we can, and provide encouragement, support, and guidance where appropriate.

As ever, there has been a great deal of work to enable projects and action to improve our, and Nature's, lot. For example, we have helped support the development of Dorset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as well as facilitating work with the NHS in enabling people and nature to come together, improving human health as well as enhancing a better understanding of the ecological world in which we sit.

As ever, the highlight of the year has been our Annual Forum, and this year was definitely the best ever, with over a hundred delegates from all over the county and beyond, looking to meet, exchange ideas and learn from the exciting work going on in the county we call home.

Our active volunteer board members facilitate all of this, as does our extremely busy manager; to all much thanks is owed.

As ever, this work cannot go on without funding, and we can now see the purse strings tightening significantly in local authorities and elsewhere. We are therefore seeking further corporate or private sponsorship to enable this work to continue. If you are able to help, please let us know.

Tread gently.

Luke Rake
LNP Chair



Luke Rake © Kingston Maurward College

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NATURAL

CAPITAL

INVEST IN DORSET'S NATURAL ASSETS

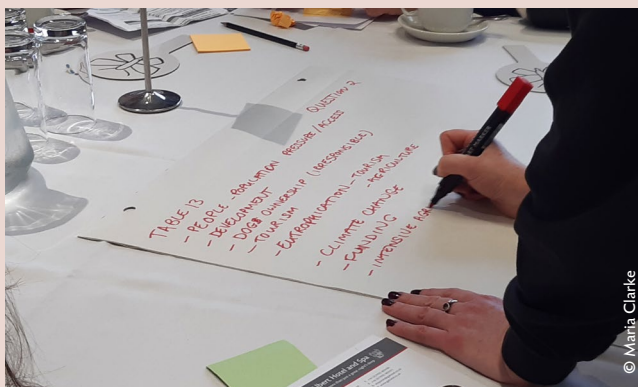
Supporting the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Annual Forum

Dorset LNP began supporting Dorset Council (the Responsible Authority), Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (the Supporting Authority) and Natural England in the development of the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in summer 2023. Dorset LNP was invited to chair and facilitate a Nature, Farming, Forestry and Land Use Expert Group and began hosting monthly meetings in October 2023.

The 2024 Annual Forum was an all-day event focusing on the development of the LNRS. Over 120 people attended from a wide range of stakeholders including environmental charities and organisations,

non-governmental organisations, the two local authorities, farmers and landowners, parish councils and community groups. The event heard inspiring presentations from a range of nature recovery projects including as those funded by the Landscape Recovery Scheme (part of the government's environmental land management schemes). A series of workshop sessions engaged attendees to inform the development of the LNRS.

More information about the Annual Forum can be found at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2024



Above left and right: Dorset LNP Annual Forum

NATURAL

ECONOMY

ADDING NATURAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Nature South West

Dorset LNP represented the county at discussions investigating the potential development of a regional partnership to support large scale investment through green finance from private and public sector funds under the banner of Nature South West. The proposal led by Natural England and National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), looks to follow a model created as Nature North. The Dorset LNP Manager joined a Steering Group and joined a stakeholder workshop in the autumn to discuss the scope and feasibility of developing the partnership (or organisation) and investable propositions across the region.

Information on Nature North can be found here: www.naturenorth.org.uk



Investable Proposition workshops- summary

Role of Nature South West

As the regional "missing middle" between local delivery partners and larger-scale funders, Nature South West (NSW) will aggregate expertise and project opportunities from different organisations to establish shared priorities for nature restoration. These priorities will form **Investable Propositions (IPs)** open to receiving more funding and working across wider areas than ever before.

Priority area	Rivers & Wetlands	Coastal & Marine
Economic Drivers:	Carbon stored in wetlands and critical infrastructure resilience.	Tourism, fishing, farming. Coastal squeeze - erosion and flooding.
Environmental Benefits:	Landscape and species dependant on wetlands.	Multiple habitats, species and marine protected areas.
Social Benefits:	Communities at risk of flooding. Clean water including drinking.	Livelihoods, wellbeing and recreation.

NATURALLY

HEALTHY

DEVELOPING DORSET'S NATURAL HEALTH SERVICE

Health and Nature Dorset (HAND)

Following focus groups and arts-based workshops held between February and June 2023 HAND published its Barriers into Nature Connection report in November 2023. The report focused on the barriers people with long term health conditions which stop them connecting with nature.

The report will shape HAND's future work and has been used to support funding bid by partners.

In January 2024 HAND hosted its first members workshop on the theme of communication.

The aim of the workshop was to bring HAND members together to share experiences and discuss potential opportunities for joint working. The communications sessions discussed the messages organisations were using to share the benefits of nature-based wellbeing and sought to look for common approaches that could be shared.

More information about HAND can be found at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/HAND



HEALTH
AND
NATURE
DORSET

NATURAL

RESILIENCE

IMPROVING DORSET'S RESILIENCE

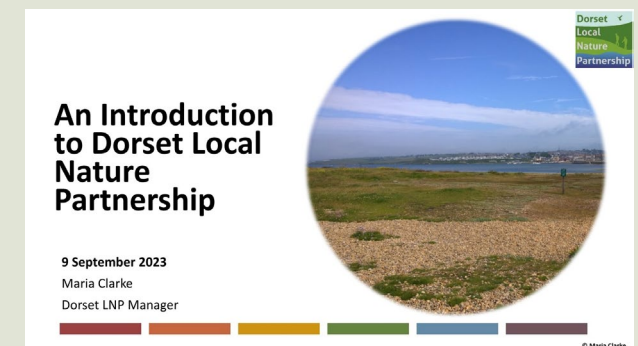
Partner Engagement

Dorset LNP had limited specific focus on the natural resilience theme this year, although the LNP's work often supports multiple priorities.

The Dorset LNP Manager was involved in the Dorset Strategy Group meetings of the Dorset Catchment Partnership. The LNP Manager also presented at the Dorset Conference of Parties (COP) in September 2023, jointly hosted by Dorset CAN (Climate Action Network), Sustainable Dorset and Zero Carbon Dorset and the LNP Board endorsed the Dorchester Declaration developed at the event.

More information about the Dorset Catchment Partnership can be found here: www.dorsetcatchments.co.uk

More information about Dorset COP can be found here: www.dorsetcop.info



NATURAL

UNDERSTANDING

UNDERSTANDING NATURAL VALUE

Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP X (formerly twitter account) was set up in November 2015 @dorset_lnp. In March 2024, the account had 713 followers (up 31 over the year).

E-news bulletins were published in December and February. In March 2024 there were 448 Forum Members (up 78 over the year).

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

Dorset LNP raised its profile through presentations on its work to: Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership's One Health conference (July 2023); and Kent Green Social Prescriber Group (July 2023).

The LNP's communication tools help promote the work of the LNP and its partners and helps engage with new audiences.

SeaHives: Innovative structures that help create and restore marine ecosystems

19th July 2023

Lee Hardy OBE JP, LNP Board Member, Dorset Catchment Partnerships, Dorset Coast Forum & Poole Harbour Commissioners

SeaHives are shelters designed to provide refuge for marine animals, somewhere to live, grow, breed and thrive, thereby increasing the total diversity and density of marine life in a local area.



The concept was born from the experience of SeaHives designer and keen diver Davis Francis. Diving around the UK and overseas he saw first-hand the damage caused to the marine environment by scallop dredging, explosive fishing and mangrove deforestation. But he also noted, in locations such as Libya, Scotland and Papua New Guinea how hard surfaces, when orientated to a flow of plankton laden water, quickly become colonised by filter feeding animals, thereby initiating the creation of a new ecosystem.

Above: LNP blog post

NATURAL

INFLUENCE

INTEGRATING NATURAL VALUE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

Submissions to Consultations

Local influence:

- Dorset Coast Forum Strategy (workshop attended (July 2023)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council – Urban Forest Strategy (December 2023)

Responding to local and national consultations promotes the LNP's views and aims to shape policies and decision making.

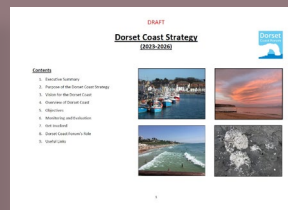


2050 Urban Forest Strategy

Our vision for all our trees and woodlands



Consultation Draft 2023
bpcouncil.gov.uk



Above: Consultants documents

Governance, Communication and Resources

LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2023-24 on 14 June, 13 Sept, 14 Dec 2023 and 13 March 2024, these continued to be mostly held via Zoom with an in-person meeting in June 2023. The LNP Forum was held on 8 February 2024.

For more information:

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

Staffing

Dorset LNP was staffed by the LNP Manager (1 FTE) and the LNP Assistant (0.6 FTE).

Funding

During 2023-24 the Dorset LNP was supported with core funding from:

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



Above: Sandwich tern on Brownsea lagoon © Daphne Wuenn



Maria Clarke
Dorset LNP Manager

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During 2023–24 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

