



DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025



LNP ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

In 2024-25 we have seen a change in UK government and, as would be expected, consequent changes in national direction. The biggest potential impacts are changes to land management, the planning system and local government in England, with large increases in housing targets in the Dorset LNP area and new Local Plans being produced, whilst devolution to form a Wessex Region is also being considered. The Planning and Infrastructure Bill looks to change how nature and the environment is considered strategically in planning, and there are potential changes to the system for Biodiversity Net Gain as well. Meanwhile the government has promised an updated version of the Environment Improvement Plan, and we have seen a consultation on a Land Use Framework as well.

Much-publicised pauses to national grants for land management have led to uncertainty amongst land managers, whilst we have seen more positive local discussions through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and several Landscape Recovery groups. So, it was very timely to hold the annual Dorset Local Nature Partnership Forum on the topic of food production and nature in harmony in Sturminster Newton in March. We had some excellent speakers, to whom many thanks, stimulating a lively debate. The Forum report is available on our website.

This year has seen us bid farewell to LNP Chair Luke Rake. Luke has moved on to pastures new after undertaking the role of chair for a shade over 4 years. He was a strong advocate for the LNP and very

generous with the time he spent on the associated business. He will be missed, and we wish him well in his new ventures. We have been conducting a recruitment process to appoint a new chair. In the meantime, our two vice chairs will keep a steady hand on the LNP tiller.

At the top of the new chair's in-tray, ready for endorsement, will be our refreshed vision statement. The partnership has been working on it across this reporting year. The general thrust is unaltered, but the refresh process has brought things up to date, knocked-off some of the rough edges in the wording and condensed things into a manageable format. We will deliver our vision via six priority areas, and they are very much in tune with our core objective of maximising the benefits to be gained from protecting and enhancing the unique natural assets of Dorset for people, wildlife and businesses.

Imogen Davenport and Lee Hardy
Dorset LNP Vice-Chairs



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NATURAL

CAPITAL

INVEST IN DORSET'S NATURAL ASSETS

Supporting the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Dorset LNP continued to support the development of the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The results of the workshop sessions at our annual forum held in February 2024 were analysed and formed part of the evidence base for the draft strategy. Dorset LNP chaired and facilitated the Nature, Farming, Forestry and Land Use Group which led on the development of a report setting out the pressures and opportunities for nature recovery.

More information at:

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery



Dorset LNRS Strategy, Dorset Council

NATURAL

ECONOMY

ADDING NATURAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Food Conversations

Dorset LNP co-hosted two Food Conversations to hear views about the local food system in February and March. Food Conversations were set up the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission as a way to hold a national conversation about food, asking people what they expect from government and business and how the food system can deliver more for health, nature and climate. We also contacted a wide range of youth organisations to ask for young people's views.

The views from these sessions fed into the LNP's Annual Forum held on 26 March on the theme of food production and nature in harmony. The forum included a workshop session to look at further actions to support the food system in Dorset, to support farmers, food producers, health nature and climate.

For more information:

www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2025



Annual Forum © Maria Clarke



NATURALLY

HEALTHY

DEVELOPING DORSET'S NATURAL HEALTH SERVICE

Health and Nature Dorset (HAND)

Two workshops were hosted for HAND members during the year. In June the session focused on evaluation and included a presentation from Dr Becca Lovell from the European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter and their work on a Common Outcomes Framework being developed with Natural England.

In September the workshop looked at how to tell stories as a way to promote the benefits of nature on wellbeing. The session looked at the importance of accessibility and inclusivity information with a presentation from Katie Davies from Active Dorset.

More information about HAND and the workshop reports can be found at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/HAND

HEALTH
AND
NATURE
DORSET



Report covers (HAND)



NATURAL

RESILIENCE

IMPROVING DORSET'S RESILIENCE

Supporting Dorset COP

The Dorset LNP Chair and Manager supported Help & Kindness to help facilitate a workshop session on food at the Dorset COP in November 2024. Dorset COP (co-hosted by Dorset CAN, Sustainable Dorset and Zero Carbon Dorset) brought together over 300 people to attend a range of workshops, talks and an exhibition focused on the climate and ecological emergencies. The Power of Good Food Partnerships workshop celebrated Dorset's membership of the Sustainable Food Places network and discussed opportunities for local action.

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



Dorset COP Promotion (Help & Kindness)

NATURAL

UNDERSTANDING

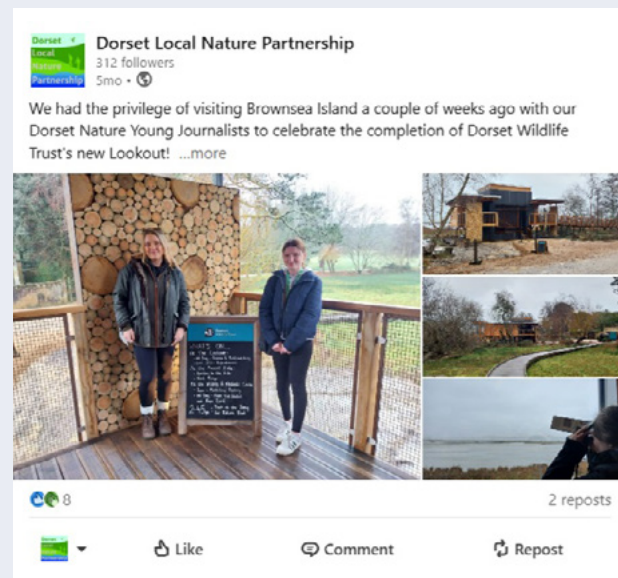
UNDERSTANDING NATURAL VALUE

Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP X social media account was replaced with a LinkedIn page in June 2024. In March 2025, the LinkedIn page had 244 followers.

Seven e-newsletters were published. In March 2025 there were 461 Forum Members (up 13 over the year).

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



LNP LinkedIn post

NATURAL

INFLUENCE

INTEGRATING NATURAL VALUE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

Submissions to consultations and engagement in strategy development

Local influence:

- Jurassic Coast Protected Site Strategy[^] (April 2024)
- BCP Council Local Plan* (May 2024)
- Dorset Local Enterprise Framework for Growth* (November 2024)
- Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan* (February 2025)
- Dorset National Landscape Management Plan[^] (February 2025)

National influence:

- National Planning Policy Framework* (September 2024)
- Invest 2035: the UK's modern industrial strategy* (November 2024)
- NHS Change* (November 2025)

* Public consultation

[^] Stakeholder engagement



Cranborne Chase Management Plan promotion (Cranborne Chase National Landscape)

Governance, Communication and Resources

LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met three times during 2024-25 on 12 June, 11 Dec 2024 and 12 March 2025 (the September meeting was cancelled due to the limited availability of board members). These meetings were held via Teams with an in-person meeting in June 2024. The Annual Forum was held on 26 March 2025.

Staffing

Dorset LNP was staffed by the Dorset LNP Manager (1 FTE) and the LNP Assistant (0.6 FTE) – Charlotte Loving took maternity leave in February 2024 to February 2025, and role was covered by Lily Livingston and Sophie Burry. We thank them for their support over the year.

Board members

During the year two new independent board members were recruited, one co-opted board member was made an independent board member, and a new board member was co-opted. Our chair, Luke Rake, sadly stood down in February due to work commitments. We thank him for his time and his support over his chairship.

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

Funding

During 2024-25 the Dorset LNP was supported with core funding from:

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



Maria Clarke
Dorset LNP Manager

Dorset Local Nature Partnership:
Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorset, DT2 7AA
info@dorsetlnp.org.uk
01305 264620
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk

During 2024–25 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

