

VOICES FOR DORSET

DORSET'S RESPONSE TO THE 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN



March 2020

BY

**The Board, officers and partners of
the Dorset Local Nature Partnership**



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It is the stated intention of this Government to leave our environment in a better state than when we found it. To do that we must value and protect life on Earth, landscapes, our seas and the special natural places that we hold dear, from national parks to city parks. We need to respect nature's intrinsic value as well as the services that ecosystems provide to support our society, wellbeing and our very survival. We must also learn better how to reduce waste, greatly reduce pollution and play our part in reducing climate change.

The 25 Year Environment Plan, published by Defra in 2018 outlines the steps needed to protect and restore the natural environment. It is a national plan of action and an example for others to follow. The Plan covers all areas of the natural environment including land, sea and water management, soil health, woodland benefits, fisheries, as well as guidance for health and wellbeing opportunities. It is a plan which should cross politics, government departments, industry sectors and society. It is as relevant to NGOs and local authorities as it is to industry and health providers.

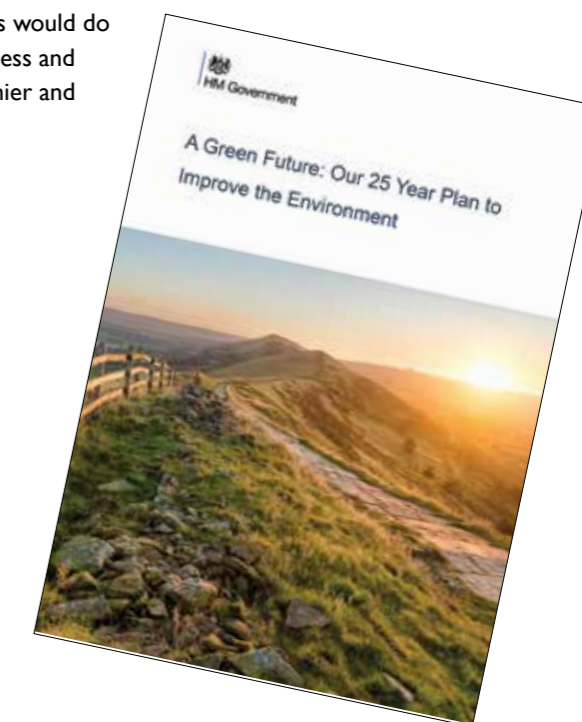
It will though need to be delivered at a local level, hence this document which lays out a vision and series of responses to government on what actions will need to be taken locally, and how Dorset will look if it follows the Plan for the next 25 years. It is a big step forward in making the 25 Year Plan a reality and a success for nature and us all.

In the following pages, which mirror closely the areas of work of the 25 Year Plan, local experts in their fields give their view of what needs to be done. Those views are not only practical and relevant, but also an inspiration for many local organisations and communities to pick up the baton from Government to make our towns, countryside and seas better and more sustainable for communities and wildlife.

Other plans such as Local Plans and Local Industrial Strategies would do well to follow the advice in the following pages to make business and industry more sustainable and productive, communities healthier and happier, and the environment better restored and protected.

As more of us partner with government this will become a 25 year movement to leave our local places in a better state than we found them.

The Dorset Local Nature Partnership – March 2020



The following list of authors and their relevant affiliations, all well known in their fields, have contributed to this document. The views expressed are those personally held by the authors and may not be either the stated policy of their organisation or the Dorset LNP. The strength of this document, and indeed the Dorset LNP, comes from the wealth of experience and views freely expressed.

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The Dorset LNP works to maximise the benefits of Dorset's natural environment for people, wildlife and business. Established in 2013, it is part of a network of partnerships across England formed out of the Government's 2011 white paper *The natural choice: securing the value of nature*, which proposed the development of LNPs to give local areas stronger leadership on how the natural environment should be protected and enhanced locally. Dorset's LNP is working alongside the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the county's Health and Wellbeing Boards and other partners and stakeholders to ensure the natural environment is considered in decision-making, with the aim of enhancing our natural capital, while also supporting our economy and our society's health and wellbeing.

Dorset LNP's Board, officers and partners work strategically on six key priorities:

- Natural capital – investing in Dorset's natural assets
- Natural value – adding value to the local economy
- Natural health – developing Dorset's 'natural health service'
- Natural resilience – improving environmental and community resilience
- Natural understanding – improving understanding of, and engagement in, Dorset's environment
- Natural influence – integrating natural value in policy and decision-making, locally and beyond

Win Green Cranbourne Chase AONB



© Charlie Waite

Simon Cripps, Chair - Dorset Local Nature Partnership

The authors of each section corresponding to the sections in the 25 Year Plan have been chosen as experts in the relevant field as well as having a deep knowledge of Dorset as it relates to their subject. Not all the views expressed will necessarily be consistent with each other (though it is perhaps surprising how consistent they are), and may not be the agreed policy of the author's employer nor the LNP. They are presented as knowledgeable, personal views.

This document is somewhere between a vision and a manifesto for Dorset for the next 25 years. It seeks to endorse and support Government's vision, but by adding a practical, implementation angle based on local knowledge. The document does not contain hard, quantified numbers such as would be expected in an economic development plan, nor does it go into great technical detail, for example about natural capital theory. It is designed to be an illustrative narrative that explains the value of the natural environment and how in practice it works for people, business and nature. Once we all have a clear understanding of the concept of natural environment, however we prefer to think of it, for example as natural capital, sustainability, ecosystem services, value for economic development, or human benefit, we can apply the concepts consistently and in a way that integrates the needs of people, the economy and nature.

Chesil Beach from Portland



© Alastair Cook

Simon Cripps, Chair - Dorset Local Nature Partnership

The publication in 2018 of the Government's landmark document commonly known as the '25 Year Environment Plan' potentially marked a turning point for nature, the environment and sustainability in the UK. Potentially, because whilst full of fine words, it was more of a vision than a costed, fully thought-through plan. It will require implementation at various levels: from legislation, including in Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Acts, national policy development and local, practical delivery.

At a time when legislation is changing around Brexit, economic development becomes critical, and nature continues to decline at an alarming rate despite our best efforts, a step change in our approach is needed. No longer can the country or our county manage and plan economic, social and environmental parameters separately. We must take an integrated approach as all three are fundamentally interconnected. Dorset's high quality natural environment on land, in freshwater, at sea and indeed below ground does not purely need protection for its intrinsic value for wildlife, but because our very future and prosperity depends on it.

Without heavy industry or major infrastructure, one of Dorset's main USPs (unique selling propositions) is its natural environment: that draws companies and staff to live here; which funds thriving tourism and health-care industries to name just two; and provides ecosystem services to agriculture related businesses. From an estate agent to a cafe we are all dependant on Dorset's natural environment. As with financial capital, if we erode the natural capital we will erode the interest it pays in the form of a range of ecosystem services including flood protection, clean water, clean air, attractive bathing beaches, productive soils, pollinating insects, beautiful landscapes, interesting species, and healthcare opportunities to name just a few.

Develop in Dorset without producing a net gain for the natural capital of the county and you do so at our peril. Future development will be limited and our lives will be the worse in so many ways.

In this document you can hear the voices for Dorset's environment. People who have spent their lives and their careers working in the natural environment, mostly in Dorset. We don't have all the answers, we don't have all the power, but we do want to be heard at this critical time for Dorset, the UK and our world.

In the following chapters you will see in different ways that we want a clean, healthy, beautiful, productive county – for nature and people. We want to pass on to our children a sustainable county that is in a better state than we found it. We don't want the footprint of our county to damage other parts of the world. We want to do our bit to reduce climate change and pollution. We want authorities, development agencies and government to work with the people of Dorset to do this. We are prepared to stand up and be counted. We are prepared to implement the Government's 25 Year Plan and we are prepared to take a sensible, balanced approach to sustained economic development.

6.1. USING AND MANAGING LAND SUSTAINABLY

6.1.1 EMBEDDING AN 'ENVIRONMENTAL NET GAIN' PRINCIPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

“Our vision for Dorset is to see net gain for wildlife and the environment as part of all relevant, development in Dorset, and for it to be the norm to go beyond the minimum requirements.”

Heathland improvements along A338

© Annabel King



Imogen Davenport, Director of Conservation Policy & Advocacy - Dorset Wildlife Trust

Simon Williams, Independent Planning Consultant

Annabel King, Natural Environment Team Leader - Dorset Council

Government's ambition is for this to be the first generation to leave our natural environment in a better state than we found it. Government also committed to securing a million new homes by the end of 2020, with half a million more by the end of 2022. It set out an Industrial Strategy to boost productivity and earning power for people throughout the United Kingdom. These ambitions are not necessarily contradictory, but our past performance tells us that it is easy to get it wrong and harm the natural environment through development, and thereby undermine future quality of life and economic prosperity in doing so.

'Net gain', for environment or biodiversity, is about ensuring that decisions about development not only do no harm, but that they actively benefit the environment.

Whilst seeking environmental net gain, we must ensure that one aspect (such as wildlife), is not traded off for a gain elsewhere (such as energy generation), but instead we look for win-win solutions. This necessarily means looking for developments to achieve multiple environmental objectives. For example, if woodland is planted on a site which previously had low wildlife value, it can create habitats for nature, act as a sponge for rainwater to ameliorate flooding, sequester carbon, improve air quality and soil health, and also provide access for people to enjoy nature, benefitting physical and mental wellbeing.

In Dorset we have been pioneering 'no net loss' systems for well over a decade, through the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol and through these, have shown that it is possible to secure net gain as well. Net gain is underpinned by following the mitigation hierarchy so that an 'avoid' first approach is clear and transparent. By locating developments in the right place and ensuring good design from an early stage, much biodiversity loss through development can be avoided or mitigated.

Our vision for Dorset is to see net gain for wildlife and the environment as an integral part of all relevant development in Dorset, and for it to be the norm to go beyond the minimum requirements, because creating and restoring natural environment habitats makes attractive places that people want to live and work in, as well as making developments more economically viable. Access to high quality, on and off-site, green space for new residents in housing developments should be seen as vital to this.

The identification and mapping of Nature Recovery Networks (NRN) will be a valuable tool for maximising biodiversity gain (ensuring habitats are created in places where they can best help nature recover) and ensuring effective connectivity and scale. There will need to be a careful management of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to ensure developer contributions are spent strategically, where they can have the maximum benefit for the natural environment. Also, Local Neighbourhood Plans will need to ensure environmental priorities are sufficiently balanced with infrastructure and housing requirements, if the aims of the 25 Year Plan are to be achieved.

In order to achieve these objectives it is essential that consideration is given to these issues at the very outset of the planning and development process. This is particularly important at this present time, following the recent creation of the two new Unitary Authorities for the Dorset and conurbation areas, if two new comprehensive Local Plans are to be prepared. There will be the opportunity for environmental net gain to be addressed from the start, when 'Issues and Options' are being considered and additional land allocated for development within the Local Plans themselves. It is essential that the need for environmental net gain is established in firm plan policies, so that landowners and developers are aware of the requirement up front. This should then be followed through at both pre-application and planning application stages, so that on and/or off-site environmental enhancements become embedded early on in the individual development schemes and their respective CIL or s106 contribution agreements, and that developers will not be able to claim that such requirements have been added in at the last minute and are threatening the viability of schemes.

6.1.2 IMPROVING HOW WE MANAGE AND INCENTIVISE LAND MANAGEMENT

- Designing and delivering a new environmental land management system
- Introducing new farming rules for water
- Working with farmers to use fertilisers efficiently
- Protecting crops while reducing the environmental impact of pesticides

“Land managers in Dorset need to continue to be engaged with the design of the new national schemes to make sure our farmers and natural environment can maximise the opportunities.”

Coombe Heath Arne

© Mike Brown



Will Bond, CLA Chair & Dorset landowner

Jenny Myers, Independent smallholder

There are bound to be some conflicts between freer markets and more environmental protection, but most players recognise the benefits of diverting production subsidies into paying for public environmental goods and services. Even the agro-chemical companies are increasing their research and sales of products such as mycorrhizal inoculant and biodegradable plastics.

These national schemes under discussion envisage farmers and landowners being paid to manage existing sites of wildlife or societal value, and to create new ones. There are concerns that we will see a sharper divide between land managed to maximise production, and land managed for environmental purposes. The principles established in the Lawton report, that we need conservation sites to be bigger, better, more joined up, could be either jeopardised or supported by more binary management.

So for Dorset, with our diverse geology, and often agriculturally poor soils, the new environmental land management payments (ELMS) are highly likely to deliver exactly what Lawton called for. Land managers in Dorset need to continue to be engaged with the design of the new national schemes to make sure our farmers and natural environment can maximise the opportunities.

Such opportunities will produce a cultural shift too. Farmers being paid to deliver environmental and public gains will need to learn more about the environmental needs, while NGOs will have to support the farmers if we are going to deliver the maximum gains over the maximum area. If we can learn to work more together Dorset could be a real winner.

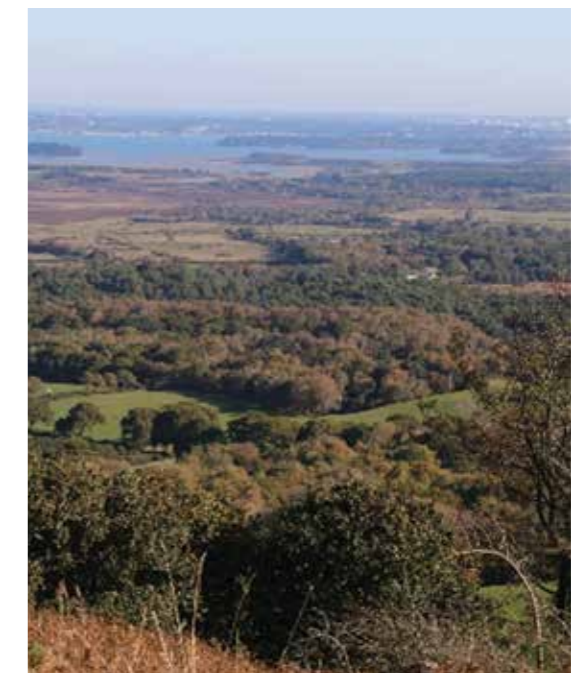
Alongside the switch to environmental payments, but driven by other factors, all agriculture is having to adapt to the growing pressures to limit its impacts beyond the farm gate. Poole Harbour, into which much of Dorset drains, has problems with excess nitrates and phosphorous. Agriculture and sewage are the main contributors, in a picture which is confused by the historic loadings in groundwater held in the chalk from decades ago. New national farming rules for water, introduced in 2018, will raise basic standards, but most farmers in Dorset will have to go much further to get Poole Harbour and our other water bodies into favourable condition. Again the NFU and CLA are engaged, and although there are differences of opinion about rates of

change and processes, there is agreement on the direction of travel.

Fertilisers, both natural and artificial, and pesticides can all accumulate in the wrong places. It is no longer good enough to treat something as safe if it is legal. Farmers are having to take a much broader view of the risks of any course of action. Society should do too. We are all custodians of the land, and history suggests we will go on making mistakes especially if we don't learn to take a longer-term view of the impacts of our actions.

Over the long-term the biggest challenge for farmers, wildlife and people is going to be climate change, and we, as a society, need to think about land management that not only reduces our fossil fuel consumption, but that increases our energy harvest in Dorset, because since the industrial revolution we have enjoyed the luxury of letting other parts of the country provide most of the energy we consume here.

Dorset countryside around Poole Harbour



© Will Bond

6.1.3 IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH AND RESTORING AND PROTECTING OUR PEATLANDS

- Developing better information on soil health
- Restoring vulnerable peatlands and ending peat use in horticultural products by 2030

“Rational and better land allocation and management based on sound data is needed to conserve the productivity of rural soils and to reduce high external costs of soil degradation being borne by the wider community.”

Farming Dorset's soils

© Mark Kibblewhite



Mark Kibblewhite, Emeritus Professor of Soil Science at Cranfield University

Dorset's rich and varied soil resources support agriculture and forestry and are critical for maintaining water resources, flood risk mitigation and biodiversity. Economic performance as well as environmental quality require that soil is healthy and managed sustainably. Rational and better land allocation and management based on sound data is needed to conserve the productivity of rural soils and to reduce high external costs of soil degradation being borne by the wider community - from carbon, nutrient and sediment releases and increased surface water run-off. Urban soil resources are important natural capital and these require more attention.

The first step is to note the variety of soil types with different land use potentials that need different management. The second step is to avoid soil degradation by matching land use and management to the capacities of particular soils. This requires a county-wide soil management guide identifying optimal land use and management options to inform land managers and policy.

A swathe of shallow lime-rich agricultural soils extends from the South Dorset Downs to the Wiltshire border. Once run with sheep, much of this is now in intensive arable production. Erosion and declining soil organic matter have degraded the quality and health of these soils. Their current productivity depends on high synthetic chemical inputs substituting for reduced fertility. Substantial nutrient and sediment releases threaten water quality whilst soil compaction increases surface water run-off and flood risk. There are however new opportunities, which need to be incentivised, for improving soil health, raising productivity and reducing external costs with second generation precision agriculture, reduced tillage and innovative cover crops.

The soils in north and west Dorset are generally wetter and some are prone to erosion. Increasingly, they are used for intensive grass and maize production feeding large dairy units. Erosion from inappropriate tillage is widespread. Nutrient losses are high and serious soil compaction from slurry spreading on wet soils is common. Continuing this intensive land use is not sustainable.

Acid, sandy soils in the south-east support semi-natural heathland, where this has not been taken for forestry or urban development. Effective development control is essential to conserve soil support for biodiversity and water management.

There are areas of upland soils with peaty surfaces on higher ground in the north and west of Dorset and lowland peaty soils in the valleys draining to Poole and Christchurch harbours. These soils need to be kept wet to avoid rapid release of carbon to the atmosphere and to retain their biodiversity. Where they have been drained, re-wetting is needed. The upland peat soils should be managed as semi-natural habitats. The lowland peaty soils can support productive agriculture, but tillage and drainage lead to rapid degradation and their short-term exploitation by agriculture should be constrained, while their allocation to the built environment needs to be avoided.

Urban soils in public spaces, gardens and buried by buildings, provide natural capital. Some of these soils have been seriously contaminated by historical uses. Many have lower level contamination from urban pollution. Existing and new data need to be collated on the areas of urban soils and their condition to inform their protection and remedial actions to protect public health. There is also the potential for positive impacts from the education of land managers, particularly in the public sector, in how best to manage, protect and restore soil, if the aims of the 25 Year Plan are to be achieved in Dorset.

6.1.4 FOCUSING ON WOODLAND TO MAXIMISE ITS MANY BENEFITS

- Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest
- Supporting larger scale woodland creation
- Appointing a national Tree Champion

“The multiple benefits and natural capital value that woodlands provide are outstanding.”

Stonehill Down

© Tony Bates MBE



Kate Tobin, Local Partnership Adviser, South West England - Forestry Commission England

Dorset's woodland cover currently stands at 11%, higher than the England average of 10%, and stores 3 million tonnes of carbon. To help combat climate change and support biodiversity, employment and social needs, we need to find even more space for new woodlands in Dorset. This will be challenging in a county with high land prices, sensitive heathland and wetland ecosystems and a busy farming economy. However changes to agricultural support, carbon markets and rising demand for wood products may all help to drive demand. The Local Nature Partnership can bring partners together to develop a strategic view of where woodland can be created.

Ancient woodland covers 7,420ha of Dorset, which amounts to 23% of all the woodland in Dorset. Expanding and connecting these sensitive sites should be a priority.

Dorset contains strongholds for Bechstein's bat and for nightjar, both species that depend on very different woodland habitat types. All woodland habitats will benefit from some form of management, but this will vary in intensity depending on priority species. Woodland Management Plans are the first step to making sure all our Dorset woodland habitats are managed as well as they can be, balancing ecology, recreation and productivity. Connecting sensitive habitats by well-planned new woodland planting is vital to achieve the Lawton principle of "bigger, better, more joined-up". Sustainably managing the new habitats we create is just as important.

Woodland improves water quality and reduces flood risk. By planting woodland in the right places, we can make significant improvements to soil erosion, nitrates, phosphates and other pollutants. Balancing the species choice to benefit water, wildlife, carbon and to provide an income to the landowner makes it more likely the woodlands will be managed and retained in the future.

The benefits of woodlands to society are well known, as places of recreation, tourism destinations and increasingly for their contribution to our health and wellbeing. Woodlands absorb recreational pressure better than many other habitats, such as heathland, and are often easier to manage near urban areas than farmed land. There are great opportunities to create new woodlands near Dorset's high population areas. Given the natural capital and societal benefits, woodland creation needs to feature as strongly as heathland creation in our plans.

The success of many woodland species is a result of the combination of traditional management practices and commercial forestry providing suitable habitats. Although broadleaved woodlands can produce wonderful hardwood timber they fare much worse than non-native softwoods against the ravages of grey squirrel, deer and some tree diseases. This means we need to support planting and management of both conifers and broadleaves in the right places, whilst improving understanding of good habitat management in both. We should also support forestry skills and supply chains, especially in construction products that have the extra benefit of sequestering more carbon.

The multiple benefits and natural capital value that woodlands provide are outstanding. We will seek to protect, improve and expand Dorset's woodland resource, thus supporting the government's 25 Year Plan.

Puddletown Forest



© Maria Clarke

6.1.5 REDUCING RISKS FROM FLOODING AND COASTAL EROSION I

- Expanding the use of natural flood management solutions
- Putting in place more sustainable drainage systems
- Making 'at-risk' properties more resilient to flooding

“Plans and strategies for flood and coastal erosion risk management that take into account the effects (or predicated effects) of climate change need to be developed within Dorset.”

Sturminster Mill



© Environment Agency

Kath Burt, Planning Specialist, Sustainable Places - Environment Agency

Mike Holm, Planning Advisor, Sustainable Places - Environment Agency

Matt Akers, Team Leader, Flood and Coastal Risk Management - Environment Agency

The ambition for flood and coastal erosion risk management is set out in the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (NFCERMSE). At the time of being consulted on Voices for Dorset, the Environment Agency (EA) is in consultation on its new Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The strategy seeks to blend long-term ambitions with short-term steps to develop changes required by 2100. It also strengthens how flood risk can be managed to help protect the natural built and historic environments.

The EA's strategic overview role is to ensure that risks are managed in a co-ordinated way across catchments and along each stretch of coast. This includes the development of local flood risk management strategies by lead local flood authorities. Furthermore, the ambition set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan and new National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy details our commitment to work with natural processes and nature and adapting to a changing climate.

The current FCERM strategy encourages more effective risk management by enabling people, communities, business, infrastructure operators and the public sector to work together across Dorset to:

- Ensure a clear understanding of the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, nationally and locally, so that investment in risk management can be prioritised more effectively. Shoreline management plans provide the strategic direction for coastal erosion and management of flood risk for the diverse and protected Dorset coastline.
- Set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the remaining risk. Local flood risk management strategies developed by Lead Local Flood Authorities set out the strategic objectives for the management of local sources of flood risk (surface water, ground water and minor watercourses).
- Manage flood and coastal erosion risks in an appropriate way, taking account of the needs of communities and the environment; such as working with natural processes and natural flood management. A catchment-based approach and

working in partnership should be considered across Dorset to maximise opportunities to deliver wider environmental benefits as well as managing flood risk.

- Ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond effectively to flood forecasts, warnings and advice. The newly developed groundwater flood warning service for Dorset provides communities with up to five days' notice of the onset of flooding. Based on a network of more than 30 telemetered boreholes, the service is available to over 30 communities on the Chalk in the county. Many properties in these villages depend on pumps and flood barriers to protect them from flooding; the flood warning service can provide residents with the time they need to check that this equipment is working and properly installed.
- Help communities to recover more quickly and effectively after incidents.

It is, however, impossible to prevent all flooding in Dorset. The extreme events of recent years and predictions of more intense rain and storminess associated with climate change mean that in some locations flood risk will increase. Plans and strategies for flood and coastal erosion risk management that take into account the effects (or predicated effects) of climate change need to be developed within Dorset.

Further to the NFCERMSE, the 25 Year Environment Plan sets out what needs to be done to improve the environment, and how the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy from natural hazards including flooding, drought and coastal erosion will be reduced.

6.1.6 REDUCING RISKS FROM FLOODING AND COASTAL EROSION II

- Expanding the use of natural flood management solutions
- Putting in place more sustainable drainage systems
- Making 'at-risk' properties more resilient to flooding

“We can develop a shared understanding of Dorset’s unique water environment by 2025 and influence behaviour, policy and plans so as to jointly restore our rivers, estuaries and seas for the future.”

River Frome in flood at East Stoke

© Fiona Bowles

Fiona Bowles, Chair - Dorset Catchment Partnerships

Vice Chair - River Restoration Centre

Our need for water for drinking, to irrigate our crops and livestock and to provide our fisheries for food and recreation has meant that rivers have been managed since the bronze age. A recent review of the history of the Dorset Stour has shown how rivers were once a central feature in villages, and flood waters were harnessed for fertilising land in water meadows. However rivers were then gradually marginalised and channelised to make room for farming on their rich floodplains and housing development. This in turn led to more fear of flooding and storm channels were developed to deliver floods to sea quickly during the 1950s and 60s, carrying a heavy load of silt and nutrients washed off an increasingly arable landscape.

Thus much of the natural capital benefits of our water landscape; the salmon and oyster fisheries, carbon storage in marshes and wet heathland, pure drinking water from our chalk aquifers and the rich biodiversity of the iconic Dorset chalk rivers have been lost. It has affected the natural ability of rivers to self-clean whilst the wastewater load has grown from a growing population of residents and visitors. Our estuaries show the effects of these increasing nutrients and silt, with algal blooms and loss of saltmarsh habitats. As climate change brings more variable rainfall and higher temperatures, the need for resilient water habitats increases for both biodiversity and society. In 2012 DEFRA recognised that to resolve these multiple issues and ensure clean, plentiful, productive and biologically diverse waters and oceans required action by all; land use planners, land managers, water companies, businesses and charities.

In Dorset we will therefore continue to work together, building on 7 years of Catchment Partnership to restore our water habitats to their full biodiversity and in doing so, improve society's provision of clean water and healthy food. We will need to communicate how rivers and streams work and that these features, like the tip of an iceberg, are only a small part of the total water system, with its temporary floodplains and the aquifers being an integral part. We now have shared information and action plans so that the partners can direct the actions of their own organisations to this shared goal, for example; improving water and soil management in agriculture (6.1.2), balancing the best treatment for wastewater to reduce

pollution with minimising the carbon footprint by Wessex Water (6.4.2) and minimising abstraction and treatment for drinking water (6.2.4). However, whilst current activities can be addressed by the individual companies, or industries, responsible and controlled by statutory agencies, historic damage such as nitrogen accumulation in ground waters, modification of river channels and heathland drainage is much harder. These need to be resolved jointly, with their current landowners, and funded through innovative natural capital schemes.

Whilst the catchment partnerships formed initially to resolve the water quality and morphology problems, by considering flood risk and flow too, we will prioritise solutions that deliver the most benefits. Natural flood management techniques piloted by Dorset Council and FWAG SW to reduce highway flooding will be developed further for the local flood risk strategies (6.1.5) and used to reduce silt and nutrient run-off to estuaries, contributing to the restoration of Poole Harbour's nitrogen targets. By mapping the beneficiaries of healthy natural water systems and influencing the new land management and land planning proposals and the Local Industrial Strategy we can develop, or contribute to, a Dorset-wide funding model for natural capital which will support restoring the historic damage to our water habitats. Through sharing information with business, the public and authorities we can develop a shared understanding of Dorset's unique water environment by 2025 and influence behaviour, policy and plans so as to jointly restore our rivers, estuaries and seas for the future.

6.2. RECOVERING NATURE AND ENHANCING THE BEAUTY OF LANDSCAPES

6.2.1 PROTECTING AND RECOVERING NATURE

- Publishing a strategy for nature
- Developing a Nature Recovery Network
- Providing opportunities for the reintroduction of native species
- Exploring how to give individuals the chance to deliver lasting conservation
- Improving biosecurity to protect and conserve nature

“A common understanding of the value of nature, not just in its own right, but to underpin thriving healthy communities and economies, is imperative if we are to apply this learning across the county and secure a reversal to nature’s decline.”

Water Vole in Gilligham

© Stuart Canham



Ian Alexander, Team Leader, Dorset Heaths and Harbours - Natural England

Imogen Davenport, Director of Conservation Policy & Advocacy - Dorset Wildlife Trust

Paul Buckley, Conservation Consultant

Although Dorset has a wealth of biodiversity, and some of the richest wildlife hotspots in the country, we have seen that some species and habitats have declined as much in Dorset as throughout the rest of England. Strong conservation effort and partnership working in Dorset has resulted in several local exemplars of how to address and reverse some of the declines. A common understanding of the value of nature, not just in its own right, but to underpin thriving healthy communities and economies, is imperative if we are to apply this learning across the county and secure a reversal to nature’s decline.

Dorset’s strategy for the next 25 years will need to continue to focus on building effective partnerships to make the most of both the challenges and opportunities that will present themselves.

Specifically there will need to be:

- Work with those Dorset farmers and landowners whose post Agriculture Act future is focussed on more than just commodity food production, to craft joint visions for how the land they control can both sustain livelihoods while also providing better opportunities for biodiversity and restoring natural processes, including a reduction in the amount of nutrients and pesticides spreading from farmland into the wider environment.
- Continue to invest in The Isle of Purbeck to make what is already one of the UK’s premier wildlife sites even better. In particular to increase heathland connectivity through restoration of formerly afforested and farmed areas, to enhance the natural richness of the farmed vales and coastal areas, and to manage and enhance the experience of visitors to the area.
- Continue to champion and demonstrate the efficacy of nature areas and landscape-scale conservation by seeking to establish, through consensus, further nature recovery areas. This would focus on the lower valley of the River Stour, on the coast of Dorset including the marine environment, on the Dorset Downs and on the intimate landscapes of the Marshwood and Powerstock Vales.
- Embrace sustainable management of Dorset’s marine environment, with new approaches that support sustainable Dorset fisheries and adopt a net gain for wildlife approach to marine planning. This management needs to be underpinned by a network of Marine Protected Areas across Dorset’s sea.
- Seek partnerships with industry and those who regulate or support industry, such as the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and the Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry, to demonstrate practical opportunities for commercial activity to deliver net gain for the environment.
- Identify and pursue opportunities to boost the populations of native species which are locally extinct or rare and vulnerable, or of locally extinct species such as the beaver which have a critical role in the functioning of natural ecosystems.
- Both increasing the opportunities for volunteering and recreational access to the countryside and natural greenspaces, increase people’s connectedness with and appreciation of Dorset’s natural environment and enable nature to play a central part in health and wellbeing.
- An increased focus on the urban conurbation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to ensure optimal management of the protected areas, better management of urban open space and provision for specialist species of built developments such as swifts, house sparrows and bats.
- Implement an ambitious programme to enhance the climate resilience of Dorset’s habitats and ensure that the most vulnerable species are able to adapt to climate induced habitat change.

In so doing our vision in line with the 25 Year Plan is for a thriving natural Dorset where nature starts to recover, flourishing in larger, wilder and more resilient spaces. People can access and enjoy the wonderful wildlife spectacles, supported by sustainable land and sea management and a network of interconnected smaller wildlife sites that all combine to allow space for nature throughout the county alongside resilient communities and businesses.

6.2.2 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING NATURAL BEAUTY I

- Reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

“Dorset’s AONB Partnerships share a vision of beautiful landscapes rich in natural capital, from which multiple and plentiful ecosystem services flow for the benefit of all.”

Colmer’s Hill Sunset

© James Lovelidge



Tom Munro, Lead Officer - Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Jim White, Chair - Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Board

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Parks are this country’s finest landscapes, designated so that future generations may enjoy their natural beauty. In England there are 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks which share a statutory purpose enshrined in the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)*: to conserve and enhance natural beauty. National Parks have an additional purpose to promote the enjoyment and understanding of their special qualities. They are recognised as frameworks for nature conservation and as significant economic assets.

Dorset has the highest proportion of designated landscape in England, reflecting its inherent beauty and value. Dorset currently has two AONBs: the Cranborne Chase (www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk) and the Dorset AONB (www.dorsetaonb.org.uk). It has no National Parks although the Glover Review recommends Government explores the potential for combining the Dorset and East Devon AONBs into one.

Natural beauty is so much more than the view and shape of the land. It includes the elements which make a landscape beautiful; its wildlife, historical factors like hill forts or field boundaries and the cultural associations people have made with the place over the centuries. It includes ecosystem function; the ability for that area to provide the services which we rely on. Conserving and enhancing it requires work across a broad front, dealing with a wide range of interest groups.

Dorset’s AONB Partnerships share a vision of beautiful landscapes rich in natural capital, from which multiple and plentiful ecosystem services flow for the benefit of all. The designations should not be used to deny development, but rather as a reason to shape development appropriate to setting. They should be a beacon of sustainable development.

The AONB Partnerships and their small teams use their statutory management plans and their 5-yearly renewal as a tool to engage and convene individuals, communities, rural businesses and conservation/ sustainability organisations. This ‘power to convene’ leads to diverse delivery partnerships working on a wide range of issues from wildlife and heritage conservation or accessible greenspace, to the provision of renewable energy or sustainable transport.

Cranborne Chase AONB’s key priority is its 5-year Landscape Partnership programme in the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley, launched in January 2020. It comprises 20 different projects to enhance the area’s natural, historic and cultural heritage, with opportunities for volunteering, awareness-raising, understanding and enjoyment for all ages. Cranborne Chase is also a focus for the conservation of dark skies, reducing light pollution for the benefit of human health and nocturnal wildlife with financial and carbon savings, protecting the starry skies for education and tourism. It has even achieved International Dark-Sky Reserve status.

Dorset AONB will continue to convene the Wild Purbeck Partnership and support landscape enhancement in that area with the Wytch Farm Landscape Enhancement Fund. It will use its ecological mapping to play a key role in developing the Nature Recovery Network, and develop a landscape-scale wildlife and heritage conservation (and nature connection) programme for the Marshwood Vale and its surrounding communities. It will also continue the pioneering work enabling engagement in the landscape by older people, particularly those living with dementia, and their carers.

Following the Landscapes Review by Julian Glover, Dorset’s AONB Partnerships are increasing focus on nature recovery and inclusivity. Dorset’s AONB Partnerships hope for a positive national response from Government to enhance their resourcing and protection.

Dorset’s AONB Partnerships are important contributors to work across many elements of this 25 Year Plan.

6.2.3 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING NATURAL BEAUTY II

- Reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

“Geodiversity is Dorset’s greatest asset, giving rise to a magnificent and beautiful tapestry of landscape character, history and biodiversity.”

Cliffs near Kimmeridge Bay

© Steve Belasco - Jurassic Photographic



Sam Scriven, Programme Manager, Heritage & Conservation - Jurassic Coast Trust

Geodiversity is Dorset's greatest asset, giving rise to a magnificent and beautiful tapestry of landscape character, history and biodiversity. Through inscription of the Jurassic Coast onto the World Heritage list, the geology of Dorset has been identified as having a global natural capital value, exemplified by the international significance of the Earth science research conducted here, and in how the concept of Outstanding Universal Value provides a platform to engage a worldwide audience.

Dorset's geodiversity spans 200 million years and records a staggering wealth of information. Through spectacular coastal exposures and modest, hidden outcrops in cuttings and quarries, we gain insight into the recovery of life after mass extinctions, the mechanics and consequences of environmental change, the nature of natural hazards and the origins of the precious wildlife we are striving to protect today. The value of these lessons cannot be underestimated. Dorset, and the Jurassic Coast in particular, is a world-renowned training ground for the next generation of scientists who will help us to understand and prepare for the impacts of man-made climate change and what is possibly a current mass extinction event.

This is not simply an academic exercise however. For centuries the rocks, fossils and landforms of Dorset have been inspiring people from all walks of life. Our communities express Dorset's geodiversity tangibly and intangibly, through their creative output, cultural histories and use of local building stone, and although our relationship with geodiversity is often subtle, it is there, and it is intimate. Only through partnership working can we hope to sustain this relationship and protect the benefits it provides.

At the coast, predicted sea level rise presents both direct and indirect issues. Certain features of geological interest could be rendered far less accessible in the next 25 years or be lost altogether. These should be identified and recorded as a matter of priority. Increase in sea level will also mean more pressure to build coastal defences. This is the single biggest threat to the World Heritage Status of the Jurassic Coast, but the sensitivities of geodiversity, natural processes, biodiversity and natural beauty can be cross cutting. Working collaboratively to

promote sustainable adaptation to coastal change is vital. Visitor pressure is also becoming more significant in some places, driven in part by the quality and increasing public profile of the landscape. Developing an approach to responsible tourism will help to protect the natural environment on the Dorset coast as a whole.

Neglect and under-investment are the biggest issues for geodiversity inland. The principle of geodiversity gain should be integrated into landscape management. Small-scale quarries and stone extraction in particular is something that can be of huge value. Many protected geological sites across Dorset are in disused quarries or pits and there is an opportunity to develop new approaches for how they are incorporated into landscape-scale conservation projects. Geological conservation, research, public access and inspiration, biodiversity conservation and the conservation of landscape character can all connect in the workings of a small quarry. And finally, not all geodiversity is seen and conserved in-situ. Collections of Dorset fossils held by museums and private collectors are of international importance, but require ongoing investment to support proper curation and sustain public access.

Organisations such as the Jurassic Coast Trust, the Dorset Important Geological Sites Group, Dorset Geologists' Association Group, the Wessex Open University Geological Society and the Etches Collection are the driving forces for the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity in Dorset and will have much to contribute to the future of our natural environment over the next 25 years.

6.2.4 RESPECTING NATURE IN HOW WE USE WATER

- Reforming our approach to water abstraction
- Increasing water supply and incentivising greater water efficiency and less personal use

“We were one of the first water companies to pioneer the catchment management approach to protect our sources of water that will continue to be an important means to deliver the 25 Year Plan in Dorset.”

Wessex Water Catchment Delivery Team

© Wessex Water



Ruth Barden, Director of Environmental Strategy - Wessex Water Services Ltd

All of the water that Wessex Water supplies to customers comes from the local environment. Approximately 75% comes from boreholes and springs that tap into the chalk and limestone aquifers of Wiltshire and Dorset and 25% from reservoirs in Somerset. Ensuring abstraction licences are set at sustainable levels is critical to the overall viability of our wider business operations.

We were one of the first water companies to pioneer the catchment management approach to protect our sources of water from the leaching and run off of agro-chemicals and manures, which will continue to be an important means to deliver the 25 Year Plan in Dorset. We need to continue to collaborate with farmers and land managers to reduce the application of nitrate fertilisers and pesticides in the catchments surrounding some of our water sources. These schemes will better protect raw water quality without the need to install expensive treatment solutions. At several sources we are already seeing the benefits of this work resulting in fewer periods of outage due to raw water quality deterioration.

For Wessex Water, our continued catchment management efforts will focus on working with farmers to reduce levels of nutrient leaching and runoff into Poole Harbour and the River Stour. These collaborative actions are needed to reduce the decline in the sensitive environments of Poole and Christchurch Harbours. This reduces the need for expensive and carbon contributing treatment processes, whilst enabling interventions which deliver wider natural capital benefits, such as biodiversity and reduced soil erosion. We want to accelerate our work with customers on water efficiency and metering to reverse the recent rising trend in average use per person per day in our area and reduce it by 3 litres by 2025 (to 127 litres) and by a further 3 litres (to just over 124 litres) by 2045. These reductions mean we will abstract less and leave more water in the environment.

Our last water resources management plan set out proposals for our flagship Home Check water efficiency service. During a 45-minute home visit, Water Safe qualified plumbers fit water-saving

devices, such as eco-showerheads, repair easy to fix plumbing leaks and offer personalised behavioural advice at no charge to the customer. Each visit leads to savings of over 40 litres per household per day and has been very well received by customers. By 2020 we will have delivered the service to 20,000 homes in communities across our region. We plan to expand the service to reach more customers and particularly those for whom the affordability of their water bill is a key concern. In the 2020 to 2025 period we will deliver the service to a further 40,000 customers.

In combination, our water efficiency and metering programmes will ensure that by 2025 over 7 M L/d (milli litre per day) of water will stay in the environment and not be needed to meet customer demand, by 2045 this saving will have reached 16 M L/d.

We will reduce leakage by 15% by 2025. This will require a step change in our activities, as well as innovation and continued customer support and engagement. We expect to reduce leakage by a further 14% by 2045. We will continue to innovate and optimise our working practices.

As a founding member of the West Country Water Resources Group we seek to undertake regional water resource planning to identify optimum solutions for the region and, in particular, explore new trading opportunities. We have already embraced an opportunity to enhance our resilience through a cross-border transfer arrangement in the south of our region near Poole. The arrangement provides resilience benefits to Wessex Water and South West Water (Bournemouth area) by maximising the use of existing assets.

6.3. CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

6.3.1 HELPING PEOPLE IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING BY USING GREEN SPACES

- Considering how environmental therapies could be delivered through mental health services
- Promoting health and wellbeing through the natural environment

“There is increasingly compelling evidence that natural environments (including blue-spaces and urban greenspaces) support a range of health and wellbeing benefits.”

Park Yoga Weymouth

© Sharon George



Rachel Partridge, Assistant Director of Public Health - Public Health Dorset

Maria Clarke, Manager - Dorset Local Nature Partnership

The commitments in the 25 Year Plan were a welcome signal from Government. They support and fit closely with the range of work going on already in Dorset. There is increasingly compelling evidence that natural environments (including blue-spaces and urban greenspaces) support a range of health and wellbeing benefits. These include preventing heart conditions and mental health issues, through to enabling physical activity and providing space for relaxation and socialising.

Dorset has embedded *Healthy Places* as a workstream of the Prevention at Scale programme which supports the new Integrated Care System (ICS). A clear focus needs to be maintained on the importance of disease prevention and supporting wellbeing. It is recognised that the built and natural environments can be important assets for the residents and visitors to Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

Public Health Dorset is working with researchers from the University of Exeter on an innovative project called *Dorset Green Health*. Through this collaboration we have created a tool for mapping accessibility on foot to greenspace for the population of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

Healthy Places will use the mapping to target demonstration projects to improve local accessibility of greenspace. Demonstration projects will be evaluated to establish their effectiveness in increasing physical activity and contributing to better health outcomes, and their cost-effectiveness.

This programme of work builds on some of the existing collaborations between the members of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership. Some examples below highlight a diverse range of approaches which are being trialled and evaluated to encourage people to access greenspace.

The Borough of Poole (as it was), together with local environmental engagement organisation Dorset Rewilding, delivered a series of activities designed to engage families in their local greenspaces. These activities were focussed on spaces seen as ‘underused’ or presenting particular barriers to potential users and were designed to encourage people into those spaces and demonstrate fun, easily replicable activities for young families that could be done independently.

Natural Choices is a programme, led by the Dorset LNP which brings together nature-based wellbeing activities under one brand, making it easier for individuals to find out about activities and for health professionals to signpost or socially prescribe patients and clients to support wellbeing for both recovery and prevention.

Stepping into Nature is another example of Dorset’s innovative partnership approach to encouraging the use of the natural environment to support wellbeing. This is a National Lottery Community Fund supported project which looks to support older people and those people living with dementia and their carers to take part in a variety of activities in the Dorset AONB.

Picnic in the Park is a brand of health and wellbeing events that were being developed in partnership between *Natural Choices*, *Stepping into Nature* and *Active Ageing*. The events aim to promote health and wellbeing, both physical, mental and social, in the natural environment. Live Well Dorset is also a partner organisation at the events, providing Health MOTs and promoting the use of their ‘Activity Finder’ to support people accessing nature and being active.

The *Purbeck Pledge* was also held in May 2019 with a focus on encouraging people, and vulnerable people less likely to access greenspace, to get out into nature to help improve their health and wellbeing.

Dorset is a county blessed with many special green and blue spaces. There are many examples of innovative schemes and activities being run across the area to encourage greater and more varied use of the parks, ranging from *Park Yoga*, Nordic walking, conservation activities, *Walking for Health* walks, petanque and green exercise on GP referral schemes.

6.3.2 ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO BE CLOSE TO NATURE, IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

- Helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds
- Supporting more pupil contact with local natural spaces

“A joined-up, partnership approach that is provided with the necessary resource is essential in creating such a vision and is heavily reliant on buy-in and support from a range of organisations.”

Tuckers Field, Poole Opening

© BCP Council



Martin Whitchurch, Open Spaces Development Manager - BCP Council

Rachel Partridge, Assistant Director of Public Health - Public Health Dorset

Those lucky enough to grow up in Dorset know that nature should play a role in every child's life and upbringing, whether that be encouraging pollinators to a window box, tending a school's nature patch, accessing a small local park to climb a tree, exploring a country park on the edge of town or having the opportunity to be immersed in an AONB or nature reserve.

Dorset is well blessed with these spaces that are spread across urban and rural areas, but for those in deprived communities access to them can be limited, in some cases they are not well publicised or people are not encouraged to use them. It is therefore essential that the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan is used as a catalyst to change behaviour and to provide new resources that allows this to change.

Schools need to be encouraged to expand their own horizons to make more of what they have, and of what is on their doorsteps. This could be partnering with local nature-based providers to maximise the opportunities within their own grounds, getting specialist advice on the habitats, species present and then how this links to Key Stage outcomes. School trips can then link these habitats to larger-scale nature reserves and provide inspiration for children and parents to explore on their own.

School grounds are often closed off once school is closed. Allowing some form of access to playing fields, wildlife and food-growing areas, or play facilities can act as additional open space for the local community, drawing in children who are already familiar with the space and have a sense of ownership.

The networks of open spaces managed by Local Authorities around schools are crucial in being able to develop a programme of activities and support in the most deprived areas. Other landowners can play their part too, but Local Authorities are best placed to link Public Health boards and their objectives with schools and the spaces that can make the most difference. For example, having local access for children and adults to a pond-dipping platform, a woodland trail, a sandy patch of heathland or an area for food growing can provide the keys to stimulating activity, increase learning, and providing a sense of ownership.

A joined-up, partnership approach that is provided with the necessary resource is essential in creating such a vision and is heavily reliant on buy-in and support from a range of organisations including Public Health Dorset, Local Authorities, School Academies and other land owners including private sector organisations.

Recently, schools across Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole were invited to submit applications for funding bids to enhance or create space and opportunity for using physical activity for emotional health and wellbeing. This, *Whole School Approach* programme is an innovative approach and was developed in partnership with the Dorset Head Teachers Alliance for Physical Activity, Active Dorset and Public Health Dorset. The application process very clearly allowed schools to identify pieces of work or projects that they felt would meet the needs and be appropriate for their school community and setting, rather than imposing any restrictions on what could be applied for.

Interestingly around 50% of the 24 schools have identified using nature and the outdoor environment for this developmental space to promote emotional and physical health through physical activity outdoors and in the natural environment. Projects include forest school-based activities, multi-sensory areas using plants and textures, or using the local beach environment for Walk and Talk opportunities. This will give important insights from a range of school settings across the area to see how the natural environment and outdoor learning can impact on physical and emotional health of children and the wider school community.

6.3.3 GREENING OUR TOWNS AND CITIES

- Creating more green infrastructure
- Planting more trees in and around our towns and cities

“The provision of a high quality sustainable urban environment, with a range of open spaces, habitats and natural features, encourages biodiversity and significantly contributes towards creating places where people want to live, work and visit.”

Urban Tree Planting

© BCP Council



Mark Axford, Planning Policy Manager - BCP Council

Nick Perrins, Head of Planning - BCP Council

Rebecca Landman, Strategic Planning Officer - BCP Council

The provision of a high quality sustainable urban environment, with a range of open spaces, habitats and natural features, encourages biodiversity and significantly contributes towards creating places where people want to live, work and visit. In providing for such an urban environment it is essential to strengthen the relationship between the local population, the natural environment and the range of open and green spaces. In Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole existing and emerging planning policies recognise the need to plan for sustainable communities and encourage the provision of a range of green infrastructure and facilities as urban density increases.

The South East Dorset conurbation remains a popular and viable location for inward investment and as a result there is increasing pressure for development on urban sites. This inevitably results in pressure on green infrastructure, for example on internationally designated nature conservation sites and on established trees and locally important landscape features. Local plan policy and decision-making therefore has established a framework to balance these competing demands, attempting to ensure a biodiversity gain whilst accommodating increased demands for particularly residential development.

On the macro-scale these cumulative demands must be accompanied by strategic scale green infrastructure in the form of new accessible spaces to counter the recognised impacts on the internationally designated heathland and harbour sites. The newly formed BCP Council will, prior to drafting a new local plan for the whole area, continue to implement the 3 existing local plans to ensure the provision of such new open spaces, adding to existing accessible spaces to form a Stour Valley Park.

On the smaller scale, local green assets such as the extensive legacy tree planting that the conurbation

benefits from, are recognised as being essential for the health of the community and for the contribution made to biodiversity and combating the impacts of climate change. Good quality design will accommodate existing trees incorporating them into a proposal and in addition will seek to provide space for new planting. The Councils aim to ensure that better quality trees are successfully retained and where appropriate will make new Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect significant trees.

The suite of policy documents ranging from statutory development plans to locally adopted guidance and protocols will continue to set out the framework by which development proposals will be assessed. The need to accommodate development demands is however likely to increase in urban areas, this being coupled with the increasing recognition that green infrastructure plays an essential part in making the conurbation a special place for both people and wildlife and combating and mitigating against climate change. With the new BCP Council in place there is an ideal opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the current approach and align these across the conurbation to make the area truly sustainable.



Cycling on Newstead road bridge

© Dorset Council

6.4 INCREASING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING POLLUTION AND WASTE

6.4.1 MAXIMISING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AT END OF LIFE

- Achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042
- Reducing food supply chain emissions and waste
- Reducing litter and littering
- Improving management of residual waste
- Cracking down on fly-tippers and waste criminals
- Reducing the impact of wastewater

“There is an aspiration to prolong the lives of materials and goods that we use and move away from an inefficient linear economic model to a more circular one that keeps materials in the system for as long as possible.”

Verge Waste Clearance

© Dorset Waste Partnership



Lisa Mouny, Service Development Manager - Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Council

Louise Bryant, Service Development Officer - Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Council

The Government's ambition, as set out in both the 25 Year Environment Plan and the DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018 is welcomed by the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). The Government wants to lead the world in using resources efficiently and reduce the waste we create. There is an aspiration to prolong the lives of materials and goods that we use and move away from an inefficient linear economic model to a more circular one that keeps materials in the system for as long as possible.

It is an exciting time for the waste industry as the strategy is the first significant government statement since the 2011 Waste Review. Key issues are going to be addressed, in Dorset as elsewhere, such as: producer responsibility; eliminating biodegradable waste to landfill; working towards all plastic packaging being recyclable, reusable or compostable; consistency of recycling collections across the country; tackling fly-tipping/litter; and eliminating avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

It is encouraging to note that many of the commitments proposed in the national strategy support and fit closely with the work that is already going on in Dorset.

In Dorset, we operate a comprehensive residual waste and recycling collection service, 'Recycle for Dorset'. This service consists of a weekly collection of uncooked and cooked food waste, alternate fortnightly collections of recycling and rubbish and an optional, charged fortnightly garden waste collection. Our recycling and composting rates have increased year-on-year from 29% back in 2003/04 to 56.6% in 2018/19, putting us firmly in the top 3 comparable authorities in England. Overall curbside residual waste collected has decreased from 71% to 32%, while the amount of waste sent to landfill has also decreased from 71% to 16.8%.

The long-term ambition for the DWP is set out in our *Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 to 2033* (reviewed in 2017). It places an emphasis on the continued reduction of the amount of total waste that is produced, achieving even higher levels of recycling and composting, recovering more

value from residual waste that is not recycled or composted, and minimising the amount that is sent to be buried in the ground at landfill sites.

In the strategy, the strategic option to manage Dorset's waste is summarised by the DWP vision, 'A Dorset wide partnership to provide a quality, efficient and value for money waste service'. This vision is supported by the following five current critical objectives:

- Maintaining customer satisfaction
- Investigate further options for cashable savings
- Encourage application of the waste hierarchy
- Meet our statutory requirements
- Seek to work in partnership

In order to meet these critical objectives, consistent with the objectives in the 25 Year Plan, our strategy seeks to achieve the following: long-term aspirational aim towards zero net growth for residual waste; 65% recycling and composting by 2025; an increased focus on enhancement and development of a network of local waste facilities that enable the DWP to deliver, store, transport and treat waste efficiently; flexibility for residual waste treatment options; and provide a cost-effective countywide commercial waste and recycling service.

Waste management is recognised as a fast-changing area and our strategy will need to be under periodic review and refinement. Any future waste policy decisions will also need to take account of the 25 Year Environment Plan and the new DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018.

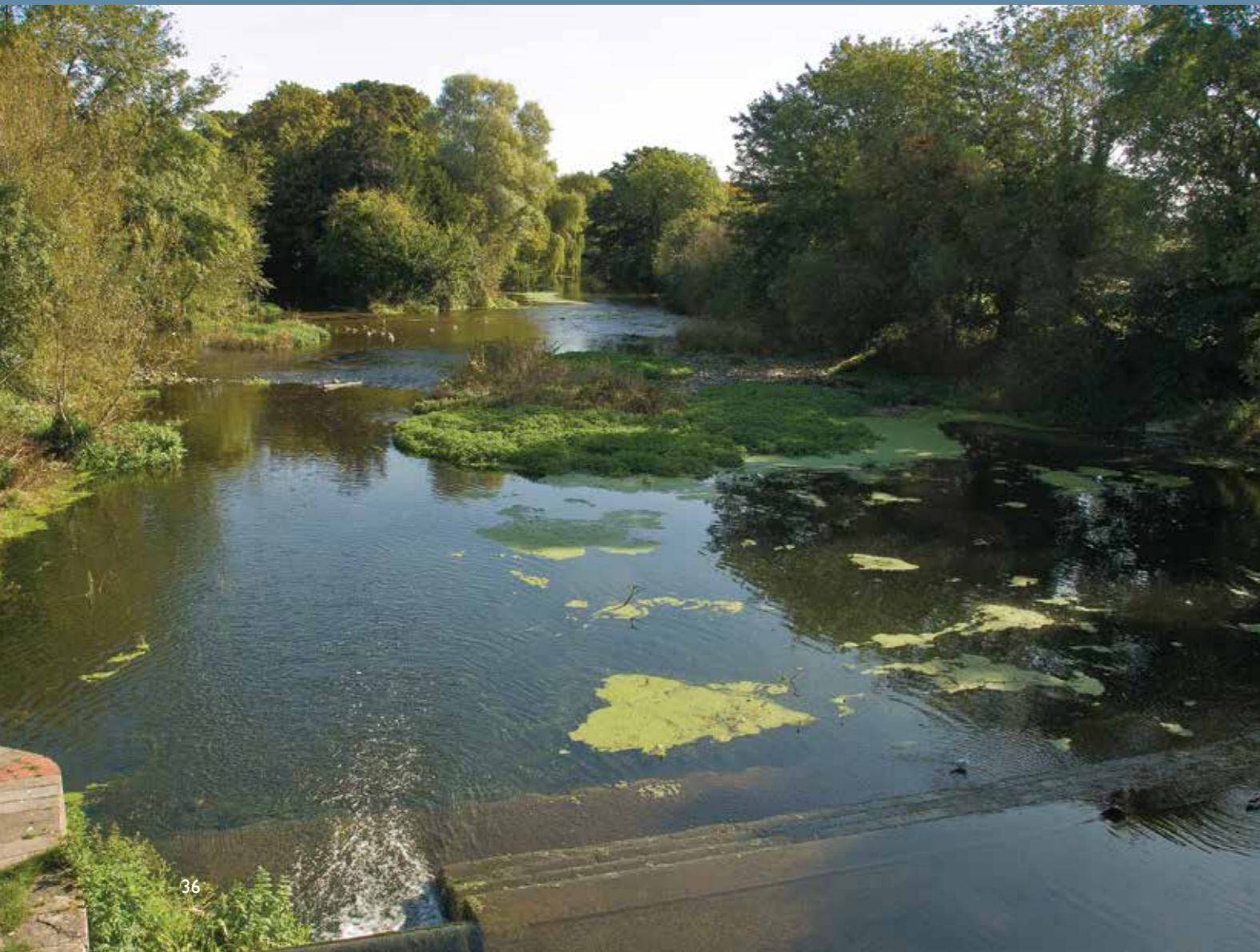
6.4.2 REDUCING POLLUTION

- Publishing a Clean Air Strategy
- Curbing emissions from combustion plants and generators
- Publishing a Chemicals Strategy
- Minimising the risk of chemical contamination in our water
- Ensuring we continue to maintain clean recreational waters and warning about temporary pollution

“Dorset must recognise the need to embed long-term climate adaptation and build resilience in the natural ecosystems that support our businesses.”

River Stour Blandford

© Stuart Canham



Ruth Barden, Director of Environmental Strategy - Wessex Water Services Ltd

Our region has a wonderful and precious landscape that we will help maintain and enhance, contributing to cleaner and healthier rivers and high-quality bathing waters for everyone to enjoy. We have committed to improving the health of more than 400 miles of rivers in our region by 2025. There will need to be further substantial cuts to the number of accidental pollutions and for Wessex Water to be a carbon neutral company.

There is growing awareness of our dependence on natural capital and the risks from climate change, development pressures and resource constraints. Dorset must recognise the need to embed long-term climate adaptation and build resilience in the natural ecosystems that support our businesses. This requires innovative ways of working with others to deliver the shared benefits for the water systems in our area.

Long-term resilience planning for drainage and wastewater is not as advanced as for water supply, partly because of the individual and diverse nature of the wastewater and drainage systems. Following the work by the 21st Century Drainage Programme, we will however publish long-term plans for sewerage investment. These plans will be called Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP).

In accordance with statutory obligations, the following key investments in Dorset are needed:

- Enhancements at sewage treatment works to improve river water quality, using catchment-based and market tools wherever possible with the removal of phosphorus and nitrogen entering Dorset's sensitive river ecosystems.
- Improvements at combined sewer overflows as well as additional flow and spill monitoring.
- Enhancements to keep bathing water quality at beaches in good or excellent condition.
- A multi-track programme of customer engagement, jetting of sewers, additional monitoring and analytics to reduce the number of pollution incidents, aiming for zero pollutions and to maintain an industry-leading performance.
- Measures on biosecurity, eel passage and invasive non-native species.
- To reduce air pollution far more vehicle charging points will be needed to encourage the shift to electric vehicles. Uptake will also be dependent on the provision of sufficient power capacity in the national grid which will be outside of Dorset's remit.

Swanage beach



© Maria Clarke

6.5 SECURING CLEAN, HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE SEAS AND OCEANS

6.5.1 INTRODUCING A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES POLICY AS WE LEAVE THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

“We must ensure that fish stocks are exploited sustainably, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the fishing sector and the protection of the species populations and habitats themselves.”

Clams and cockles

© Rob Clark



Rob Clark, Chief Officer - Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

The submarine landscapes of Dorset, its habitats and wildlife are spectacular and incredibly diverse. From major sheltered muddy estuaries to exposed open coast, the waters of Dorset contain superb examples of natural rocky reefs and mudflats. Notable biological communities are similarly diverse and include seagrass, maerl, mussel and brittlestar beds. The marine area, out to 12 nautical miles at the territorial limit covers a similar area to the land of Dorset, consequently a significant component of the biodiversity of Dorset is in the sea.

Fishing and angling is an important economic activity in the coastal towns of Dorset producing food, employment and revenues alongside a unique identity and fishing heritage. The commercial fishing and chartered recreational fleet in Weymouth alone provide £4 million in economic activity to the region and Poole Harbour is the largest oyster production area in England. Fishing is a good example of natural capital in action. This industry which is important to the wider economy of Dorset is dependent on a healthy marine environment. We must ensure that fish stocks are exploited sustainably, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the fishing sector and the protection of the species populations and habitats themselves. In support of the 25 Year Plan in Dorset we will:

- Dorset is a premier destination for sea angling in England. We will support the sustainable development of recreational angling and promote the social and economic benefits of recreational angling.
- We will seek to ensure that fishing practice is both sensitive and sustainable so that species which comprise the commercial stocks, the wider biodiversity of the oceans, and the fabric of the habitats, all of which comprise the marine natural environment, are protected and restored to be diverse, healthy and productive.

Spiny seahorse



© Julie Hatcher

- Work with and alongside the fishing industry to support and promote sustainable fisheries and promote an ecosystems-based approach to fisheries.
- The UK will establish a world-leading fisheries management system. For fish stocks which are wide ranging we will promote the importance of social and economic criteria in determining the allocation of fishing opportunities to the small-scale fishing fleets of Dorset.
- By 2025 for local fisheries we will seek to ensure that the majority of Dorset's fisheries meet agreed internationally agreed sustainability criteria.
- Dorset is already the largest production area for the aquaculture of oysters in England. We will promote the further sustainable development of aquaculture in Dorset, support the identification of suitable sites for aquaculture and engage widely to ensure suitable placement of aquaculture.

6.5.2 ACHIEVING GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS IN OUR SEAS WHILE ALLOWING MARINE INDUSTRIES TO THRIVE

“Just as individual sectors of the Blue Economy are increasingly interdependent, relying on common skills and shared infrastructure, the sustainable development of the marine area is predicated on effective marine planning and relies on collaboration and cooperation.”

Bottlenose dolphin

© Stuart Canham



Rob Clark, Chief Officer - Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Today over two-thirds of the population of Dorset live in the coastal area. Marine industries and coastal tourism are very significant to Dorset's coastal economy. For generations the sea has shaped Dorset's communities and has long played a vital role in transport, defence and fishing. There is a direct relationship between a healthy marine environment and the enjoyment and prosperity of the region.

The Government's ambition, as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, is to ensure we have clean, healthy, safe, productive and biodiverse oceans and seas. This marine strategy for Dorset pursues the Government's vision to pass onto the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future.

The Blue Economy is set to expand and / or diversify, across the range of traditional and emerging industries. Dorset is positioned at the forefront of this development. This expansion is being fuelled by advances in technologies and expertise as well as new markets and demand. Coastal tourism is a key component of the Dorset economy and this sector is expanding into the marine sector. The challenge and opportunity are to realise this potential whilst maintaining and enhancing our coasts and seas.

Our knowledge of the marine environment of Dorset, in terms of what has been surveyed and mapped has increased enormously within the last decade. Initiatives such as 'DORIS' and the volunteer programme 'Seasearch' have brought the beauty of the marine environment to the fore and a greater knowledge of the biodiversity. We know the more people understand the marine environment the more it is valued, so:

- We will work to promote, in the wider community, an increased understanding and appreciation of the marine environment and the diversity of the habitats and species in our waters.
- Natural Capital: we will collaborate to demonstrate the importance of our coasts and seas through ecosystem valuation and in so doing develop important aids to decisions-making.

Today 31% of the Dorset marine area is designated as some form of 'Marine Protected Area' (MPA). In Dorset:

- By 2021 all fisheries in Marine Protected Areas will be managed in accordance with the conservation objectives of the sites.
- We will support a move from a features-based approach to management of MPAs to a 'whole site approach'.
- We will promote the value and benefits of well-managed marine protected areas to the wider public by using innovative and engaging materials.
- We will support the use of natural capital valuation in demonstrating the benefits of well-managed MPAs.

The South Marine Plan provides for a strategic approach to marine development and the protection of the marine environment. In Dorset we will work collectively to promote a plan-led approach to marine development, and embed and operationalise the marine planning system in to marine decision-making.

Just as individual sectors of the Blue Economy are increasingly interdependent, relying on common skills and shared infrastructure, the sustainable development of the marine area is predicated on effective marine planning and relies on collaboration and cooperation. One of the key strengths of Dorset is the well-established networks of collaborators, working across boundaries (both physical and organisational) to deliver shared goals. This supports the 25 Year Plan by: working beyond organisational boundaries to deliver shared goals.

Applying the catchment-based approach to deliver benefits to our rivers and estuaries, we will promote the catchment approach and strengthen the partnerships to include the management of our coasts and estuaries.

6.6 PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

6.6.1 PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- Tackling climate change
- Protecting and improving international biodiversity

6.6.2 LEAVING A LIGHTER FOOTPRINT ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

- Enhancing sustainability
- Protecting and managing risks from hazards
- Supporting zero-deforestation supply chains

“The more we learn about the negative effects of climate change the more important it becomes to make positive changes locally and globally.”

Electric bus Dorchester

© Dorset Council



Angela Pooley, East Dorset Friends of the Earth

Antony Littlechild, Team Manager, Sustainability - Dorset Council

The more we learn about the negative effects of climate change the more important it becomes to make positive changes locally and globally. It is crucial that the government takes urgent and meaningful decisions at a policy level in line with statements in the 25 Year Plan, particularly on switching to sustainable energy and transport systems, supporting research and innovation into energy storage. Decisions we make in our everyday lives and that organisations make can also be part of the change we need.

In Dorset we need to bring positive ideas together to raise awareness of the real link between addressing climate change and protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Failure to do this will have a negative effect on nature, biodiversity and the health and wellbeing of us all.

The policies and actions we advocate should support and encourage action to tackle climate change, and to mitigate its effects where we cannot avoid them. In Dorset this means we will need to tackle the following issues in support of the 25 Year Plan:

- Clean air: reducing carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen oxide pollution through development planning and the application of technology will help to reduce their climatic impact.
- Soil erosion: resulting from agricultural practice and more frequent extreme weather events can be reduced in Dorset as described elsewhere in this document. Failure to do so will reduce the quality of water supplies and increase flood risks.
- Woodland creation: has the positive effect in this context of increasing CO₂ uptake, helping to reduce atmospheric warming.
- The risk of environmental hazards: which are particularly evident in the effects of climate change, increasing the risks of coastal erosion as a result sea-level rise and storm surges, both very real threats in Dorset. It should be noted that many waste products are implicated in the causes of human health issues, especially cancers, so waste reduction is also part of the solution to minimising exposure to harmful chemicals.
- Enhancing biodiversity: climate change is arguably the biggest global risk to biodiversity. As a coastal and agricultural county this is particularly relevant. Change needs to be monitored and

addressed, and occurs through the spread of invasive non-native species (through changing patterns of temperature and rainfall), through the introduction of new pests and diseases, through reductions in reproduction, growth and competition due to drought, temperatures or unseasonal frosts and increased intensity of storms, floods and coastal erosion.

- Amounts and intensity of precipitation: as a southern county Dorset will be particularly susceptible to increased frequency of droughts and associated fire hazards.
- Increased sustainability: requires active measures to conserve soil, increase productive habitats for pollinators and natural control species on pests, sustain nutrient and oxygen levels in productive water environments, retain groundwater levels in the face of increasingly erratic precipitation, and avoid the use of the most fertile farmland for other purposes such as housing, roads, employment and infrastructure.
- Minimising waste: is essential in Dorset as it is anywhere, to the reduce the unnecessary creation of atmospheric pollutants (e.g. methane from waste), chemical pollution of soil and water, and plastics.

Therefore we in Dorset need to work with the Local Councils and organisations to ensure that future policies and strategies include carbon reductions and that these are actively promoted. We will also encourage decision-takers in Dorset to adopt strategic, long-term policies to accelerate change in patterns of energy production and storage, transport, location of non-agricultural land, wildlife land-uses, water use, materials use, recycling and waste disposal. We will need to regularly monitor progress.

A LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY FOR DORSET

Luke Rake, Board Member - Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership & Principal - Kingston Maurward College

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is one of 38 across England. It is a public/private partnership and conduit for channelling inward investment from the Government and external sources to develop the £17 Billion economy of the county. Articulated within the wider Government *Industrial Strategy*, Dorset LEP's recent Horizon 2038 document shares an ambitious vision of what a modern, thriving county should be, with ambitious targets for growth in both the conurbation and rural areas, and will be the foundation of the 2020 *Local Industrial Strategy*. This strategy will ensure that Dorset's existing strong identity develops, built on the foundations of a healthy, prosperous, vibrant and inclusive place where people want to live, visit, learn and work. It should be a place of aspiration, where plans made become ambitions achieved. An economy that works for all local people.

Dorset has challenges in achieving the LEP's vision as currently productivity lags behind other areas, notably the South East and London. There are a number of reasons for this, but infrastructure in the broadest sense, including digital, and high house prices are almost certainly inhibiting growth by reducing work efficiency and the attractiveness of the area for working age employees. Simply building roads and houses is not however the answer. The LEP aims to ensure productivity can increase without necessarily having more vehicles on the road, and as environmental quality underpins the Dorset economy, degradation to this is not beneficial in either business or ecological terms. Increased tourism adds further pressure to sensitive sites and the developing challenge of climate change may further affect Dorset's economic future. Thus, climate change mitigation and adaptation work, including clean growth, alongside natural enhancement are essential.

Clean growth is a core component of the Dorset LEP strategy, and the LEP has a strong ask of central government to facilitate the 'greening' of the economy, including facilitating models to encourage renewable solutions and trading models that encourage sustainable growth. The sensitive Poole Harbour catchment provides a potential opportunity with partners to innovate and trial a nitrate-trading platform that would then act as an exemplar elsewhere for the benefit of both land users and the environment. This strategy sits alongside the

developing DEFRA vision where funding will shift from pure food production to more nuanced subsidy schemes.

The Natural Capital of Dorset provides opportunity. Potentially sensitive sites and a large rural Unitary Area provide not only assets to conserve, but also a test-bed for innovation to enhance, particularly within the fields of agri-tech, aquaculture and environmental services. This innovation can be beneficial for the Dorset area in ensuring that natural assets are not simply preserved, but enhanced. This will enable shared technology and understanding across the UK and the world. Research and knowledge exchange can drive the rural economy in particular, as we create more resilient, sustainable and inclusive growth hubs, such as the Agri-tech Centre at Kingston Maurward College, or support excellent research hubs such as the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in Weymouth. In both cases, these work to enable productivity increases alongside improvements in biodiversity and food security.

Dorset contains sparsely populated areas, a web of interconnected rural communities, and a large conurbation. For all residents, the environment is an ever-present component of the Dorset life they lead, and for many is the reason they came here in the first place. As such, the LEP is committed to ensuring the most sustainable growth for all.

“The LEP has a strong ask of central government to facilitate the ‘greening’ of the economy, including facilitating models to encourage renewable solutions and trading models that encourage sustainable growth.”

Green bridge over the Weymouth Relief Road



CONCLUSIONS AND THE MAIN STEPS FOR DORSET

Chair, Board & Officers of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership

The above chapters clearly and eloquently show that there are so many reasons why Dorset should not be underestimated. As a predominantly rural county it may surprise some that it has one of the country's largest conurbations. As an area where poor infrastructure links are often cited, it is bursting with innovation and opportunities suited to the county. As a county with one of the highest proportion of environmental protection designations it is these natural assets which make it a leader for investment. Part of Dorset's surface area is below sea level so there are also fabulous terrestrial and marine habitats and species.

Set on world famous geology and habitats ranging from woodlands, grassland, arable farming, heaths, marine reefs and so much more, the county is hugely diverse. Throughout these chapters we see that these are huge assets which we degrade at our peril. The natural capital they encompass provides a range of invaluable ecosystem and economic services from pollination through health and wellbeing, to attracting a high quality workforce.

We also see in this document various visions for how the county needs to protect its natural assets. There isn't, as many would perhaps have expected, a fear of development or a resistance to business. There is though a deep and sensible understanding of what needs to be done to protect our county for future generations: including building natural capital; developing sustainable and sensitive sectors; of the value of thoughtful planning; as well as a realisation of the true economics of communities that incorporate health costs, flooding and climate impacts. We see techniques which permit sensible development such as ensuring environmental net gain.

This is a powerful document as it describes a series of plans for the future of the county that does not exclude different agendas but is not shy at laying out informed views and preferred ways forward. Government can look at this to see how their 25 Year Plan permeates down to the local level and what it might look like across the country, though of course every county will be different. For its part government needs to ensure a joined up approach across departments to help all of us deliver this vision. It also shows that the 25 Year Plan can be a success. At the moment it is a vision rather a plan, but this report indicates that there is huge potential for success for people, economics and nature if it is bought into at all levels and implemented as we have indicated is possible.

Chesil Beach



© James Burland

The Dorset LNP therefore suggests the following next steps to roll out the 25 Year Plan and to ensure the future biodiversity of our countryside, prosperity of our economy and health of our communities. These are just a few examples to get us going in the right direction so the list should not be regarded as complete:

- A joined up approach between different government departments especially DEFRA, BEIS, Treasury and Transport (ch. 6).
- Investment in soils and habitats especially woodlands, rivers and wetlands to support climate change mitigation, health and economic development (ch. 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.2).
- An effective Nature Recovery Network for Dorset to ensure our special species have the opportunities to recover and survive in the face of future change (ch. 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.2).
- Support for farmers and landowners to provide public benefits in the form of ecosystem services from their land so that they can work with nature as so many wish to do (ch. 6.1.2, 6.1.5, 6.1.6.7).
- Application in all cases of the principle of environmental net gain to increase natural capital (ch. 6.1.1, 6.3.3, 6.5.2).
- Careful planning to ensure development does not harm sensitive and especially irreplaceable habitats (ch. 6.1.1, 6.5.2).
- Support for renewable energy, sustainable businesses, a circular economy and thus a reduction in pollutants including plastics (ch. 6.2.4, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.6, 7).
- A continuation in the move, through legislation and financial incentives, to more sustainable fishing and aquaculture which allows the restoration of the marine environment and increased productivity (ch. 6.1.6, 6.5.1, 6.5.2).
- Investment through the Dorset Local Industrial Strategy for environment which underpins all businesses and an understanding that Dorset's competitive niche is its natural environment (ch. 6, 7, 8).
- Investing in environment, landscapes and healthcare to improve the health and wellbeing of Dorset's communities and reduce social and health care costs (ch. 6.2.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3).

Sand lizard male



© Steve Davis

The Dorset LNP is working towards a future in which:

- 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 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 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, thus restricting future development.
- The natural environment is not thought of as a constraint to be overcome, rather it is the basis upon which growth and 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.



Allotments

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BCP	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CLA	Country Land & Business Association
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs
DLEP	Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership
DLNP	Dorset Local Nature Partnership
DWMP	Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans
DWP	Dorset Waste Partnership
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust
EA	Environment Agency
ELMS	Environmental Land Management Schemes
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
FWAGSW	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West
ICS	Integrated Care System
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
LIS	Local Industrial Strategy
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zones – a type of MPA
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NE	Natural England
NFCERMSE	National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NRN	Nature Recovery Network
REG	Rural Enterprise Group of the LEP
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
s106	Section 106 Agreements
SIFCA	Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
USP	Unique Selling Proposition
WW	Wessex Water



© Maria Clarke

Bradbury Rings

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- **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (25 Year Environment Plan) (2018):** www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan
- **Landscapes Review (Glover Review) (2019):** www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review
- **Making Space for Nature (Lawton Review) (2010):** <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>
- **National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England (2011)** www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england
- **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949):** www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97
- **Resources and Waste Strategy (2018):** www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england
- **The Natural Choice - securing the value of nature (2011):** <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402202737/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>
- **UK's Industrial Strategy (2017):** www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy

Hengistbury Head



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