



# DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019 - 2020



# LNP ANNUAL REPORT

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In the foreword to the Dorset Local Nature Partnership Annual Report for several previous years I have referred to the unprecedented level of political, policy and economic change. That continued during 2019-20 and so has become the new normal. One of our jobs in the LNP is to work together to support each other not just to survive through these changes, but to stay ahead of them so that our natural environment prospers and becomes ever healthier and more resilient. As a team we are far more able to navigate through the ever-changing political and economic waters.

To that end a characteristic of the work this year has been the focus on, and success with, partnerships and collaborations. Particularly fruitful has been the work across traditionally widely separate topics such as environment and health or social care, and between environment and economics or business development. In the former, our work with a wide range of organisations and initiatives has led to tangible improvements in human health and wellbeing through access to high quality nature. In the latter, our work with the Local Enterprise Partnership has helped position environment near the centre of their strategy for economic development in Dorset and should have positive implications for the environment for years to come.

We continue to support conservation and sustainability initiatives by our many partners, be those local authorities, NGOs or individuals, so that we work together to make Dorset not only naturally healthier and more productive, both on land and at sea, but also more resilient to change and minimising our impacts such as on climate.

We do all this with no direct funding from government thanks to the support, both financial and otherwise, from generous member organisations who see the value of a collaboration for the environment. To those funders we are extremely grateful as our work could not continue without their understanding and foresight.

**Dr Simon Cripps**  
LNP Chair



Simon Cripps © Zoe Cripps

## Governance, Communication and Resources

### LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2019-20 on 19 June, 11 September, 11 December 2019 and 11 March 2020.

### For more information:

[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset-LNP-Board](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset-LNP-Board) (or contact the LNP Manager)

### Funding

During 2019-20 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

- BCP Council
- Chapman Lily Planning Ltd.
- Dorset AONB
- Dorset Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Public Health Dorset

### Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in November 2015 @dorset\_Inp. At the of end March 2020, the account had 491 followers.

E-news bulletins were published in May, July and December. At end March 2020 there were 223 Forum Members.

### A new monthly Blog was developed in January 2020:

[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/category/blog](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/category/blog)

# NATURAL

## CAPITAL

**Strategic objective i:**  
Invest in Dorset's natural assets

### Planning for Nature's Recovery in Dorset

The Annual Forum in 2020 focused on planning for nature recovery in Dorset. The event discussed different initiatives including Nature Recovery Network (as set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan), Local Nature Recovery Strategies (included in the Environment Bill) and Nature Recovery Plans to be developed by Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as agreed through their Colchester Declaration.

The event included a workshop session discussing what should be included within a Nature Recovery Plan. There was a consensus that stakeholders supported developing one plan across the whole of the Dorset LNP area (BCP Council and Dorset Council areas) where possible.

**The presentations and an event report are available at:** [www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2020](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2020)



Above: Annual forum © Maria Clarke

### B-Lines for Dorset

Buglife hosted a joint workshop in October 2019, in Yeovil, to develop B-Lines for Dorset and Somerset. The session was attended by a number of LNP partners. The aim of the B-Lines are to create and restore at least 150,000 hectares of flower-rich habitat across the UK, through a series of 'insect pathways' running through our towns and countryside.

The workshop session looked at possible routes for the B-lines to link existing areas of biodiversity with areas of potential habitat restoration to connect across the county and beyond.

**More information is available at:** [www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/b-lines-south-of-england](http://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/b-lines-south-of-england)



The South West is of national importance for bees and other pollinating insects due to the unique conditions resulting from a combination of favourable climate and great diversity of high quality habitats like coastal cliffs, sand dunes, willowher grasslands, heathland and woodland.



Above: B-Lines website

# NATURAL

## VALUE

**Strategic objective ii:**  
Adding natural value to the local economy

### Dorset Local Industrial Strategy

Dorset LNP has worked with Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to embed natural capital and environmental considerations into their Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). Working with the consultant appointed by Dorset LEP, a workshop was held with LNP Board and officers in October 2019 to review the initial draft of the LIS summary and draft text submitted to the LEP for consideration.

The draft LIS, which was submitted to Government in December 2019, included environmental issues and solutions throughout the draft. Government had yet to approve the LIS before end March, due to the December elections and the Covid-19 crisis, but if approved in its draft form it will support Dorset's environment in the future.

**The draft LIS is available at:**  
[www.dorsetlep.co.uk/local-industrial-strategy](http://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/local-industrial-strategy)



Above: LEP draft Local Industrial Strategy and LEP post it notes © Maria Clarke

# NATURAL

## HEALTH

**Strategic objective iii:**  
Developing Dorset's Natural Health Service

### Health and Nature Dorset Collaboration

A workshop was held in November 2019 to discuss the potential for forming a more formal collaboration on nature-based wellbeing in the county. The event was attended by around 50 stakeholders from the environment and health sector including the Assistant Director of Public Health, Lead for the Dorset Integrated Care System, Director of the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Medical Director from NHS England and NHS Improvement, a GP, and strategic and operational leads from the conservation sector (public and voluntary sector).

To take this work forward an expression of interest was submitted to the *Shaping Places for Healthier Lives* fund from The Local Government Association and The Health Foundation. Led by Dorset Council and Dorset AONB (with Active Dorset, Public Health Dorset, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, BCP Council, and Dorset LNP) the group was invited to submit a stage 2 bid with the aim of progressing a systems change to improve wellbeing through connection to nature. The bid was due to be submitted by end March but has been postponed due to Covid-19. Some funding has also been secured through the National Lottery Community Fund to support the development of the collaboration which will progress during 2020-21.



### Picnics in the Park: Living Well Loving Nature

Following the success of the first Picnic in the Park event, in Dorchester, in September 2018 a further six Picnic in the Park events were held between May and September 2019. The aim of the events was to bring the benefits of nature-based wellbeing to a new audience by having a community fair which included wellbeing information stalls, taster sessions, live music and encouraged people to stay for a picnic. Taster sessions varied across the events but included Forest School activities, mindfulness in nature, Park Yoga, orienteering and Zumba.

The events were formed through a partnership between Dorchester Town Council, Active Dorset's Active Ageing programme, Dorset AONB's Stepping into Nature, Dorset LNP's Natural Choices and Public Health Dorset. The events were held in Blandford, Bournemouth, Swanage, Wimborne, Weymouth and a second event in Dorchester.

More Picnics were planned for 2020 but have been postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19.

**More information is available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/picnic-in-the-park](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/picnic-in-the-park)

Above: Picnic in the Park © Maria Clarke  
Left: Bike at Dancing Ledge © Maria Clarke, Right: Climate change workshop © Maria Clarke

# NATURAL

## RESILIENCE

**Strategic objective iv:**  
Improving Dorset's resilience

### Climate Change Adaptation

A workshop event was held in June 2019 hosted jointly by Dorset LNP and Dorset LEP on climate change adaptation. The event was funded or supported by Dorset AONB, Kingston Maurward College and Chapman Lily Planning Ltd.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders from a range of sectors to discuss climate change risks for Dorset, understand the UKCPI8 projections and investigate the interest for collaborative working. The specific aims of the workshop were:

- To raise the profile of the need for collaborative climate change adaptation working in Dorset
- To engage stakeholders in developing collaborative working on climate change adaptation

Work is progressing to support the council's climate and ecological emergencies and develop collaboration across the area on adaptation.

**Presentation and event report available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/cc-adaptation-workshop-june-2019](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/cc-adaptation-workshop-june-2019)



# NATURAL

## UNDERSTANDING

**Strategic objective iv:**  
Improving Dorset's resilience

### Low Carbon Dorset Panel

Dorset LNP has continued to be the assessment panel for larger-scale bids to the Local Carbon Dorset programme as well as those submitted by Dorset Council to ensure transparency.

Two panel meetings were held during 2019-20 (May and July) assessing six projects. All six projects were granted funding to a total of £1,073,792 (total project costs amounted to £2,720,441). The projects together are expected to deliver the following outcomes:

Increasing the amount of renewable energy capacity in Dorset	2.132 Mega Watts (MW) - installed capacity
Reducing energy used in public buildings	236,013 Est. Kilowatt hours per year (kWhr/yr) reduction
Improving the energy efficiency of housing	53
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	1338.4 Est. annual tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e/yr)
Developing new low carbon products or processes	1 new products or processes

**More information available at:**  
[www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk)



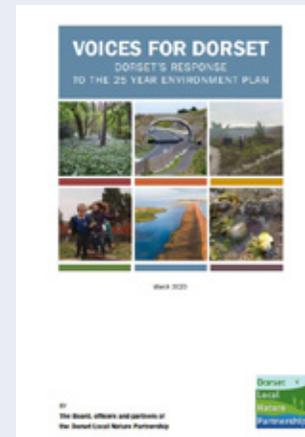
**Strategic objective v:**  
Understanding natural value

### Voices for Dorset: Dorset's response to the 25 Year Environment Plan

In March 2020, the LNP published *Voices for Dorset: Dorset's response to the 25 Year Environment Plan*.

*Voices for Dorset* seeks to endorse and support Government's 25 Year Environment Plan adding a practical, implementation angle based on local knowledge. 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. It is part vision and part manifesto for Dorset for the next 25 years.

The authors of each section, corresponding to the sections in the 25 Year Plan, were chosen as experts in the relevant field as well as having a deep knowledge of Dorset as it relates to their subject.



**More information is available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/publications/voices-for-dorset](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/publications/voices-for-dorset)

Above: Voices for Dorset front cover © Mark Kibblewhite

# NATURAL

## INFLUENCE

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

### Submissions to consultations and inquiries

#### Local influence:

- DC Climate Change Call for Actions (Feb 2020)
- BCP LP issues consultation (Nov 2019)
- DC/BCP Heathland Planning Framework (Jan 2020)
- DC and BCP SCI consultations (July 2019 / Nov 2019)
- Jurassic Coast Plan (Oct 2019)
- BCP Corporate Plan (Sept 2019)
- DC Council Plan (Dec 2019)
- DC Economic Growth Plan (Dec 2019)
- Dorset LIS (Oct 2019)

#### National influence:

- Defra Food Strategy call for evidence (Oct 2019)
- Dept for Health and Social Care Health Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s (Oct 2019)



Above: Heathland Planning Framework, Food Strategy, Prevention 2020s



Maria Clarke  
Dorset LNP Manager

Dorset Local Nature Partnership:  
Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorset, DT2 7AA  
info@dorsetlnp.org.uk  
01305 264620  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk)

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