



# CREATING THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS MAP

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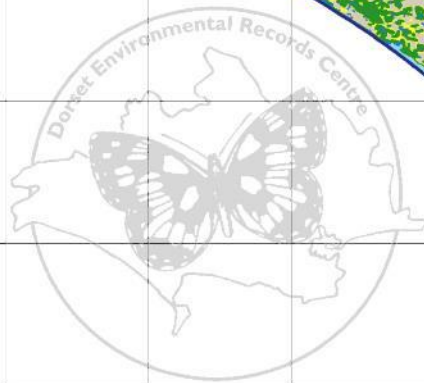
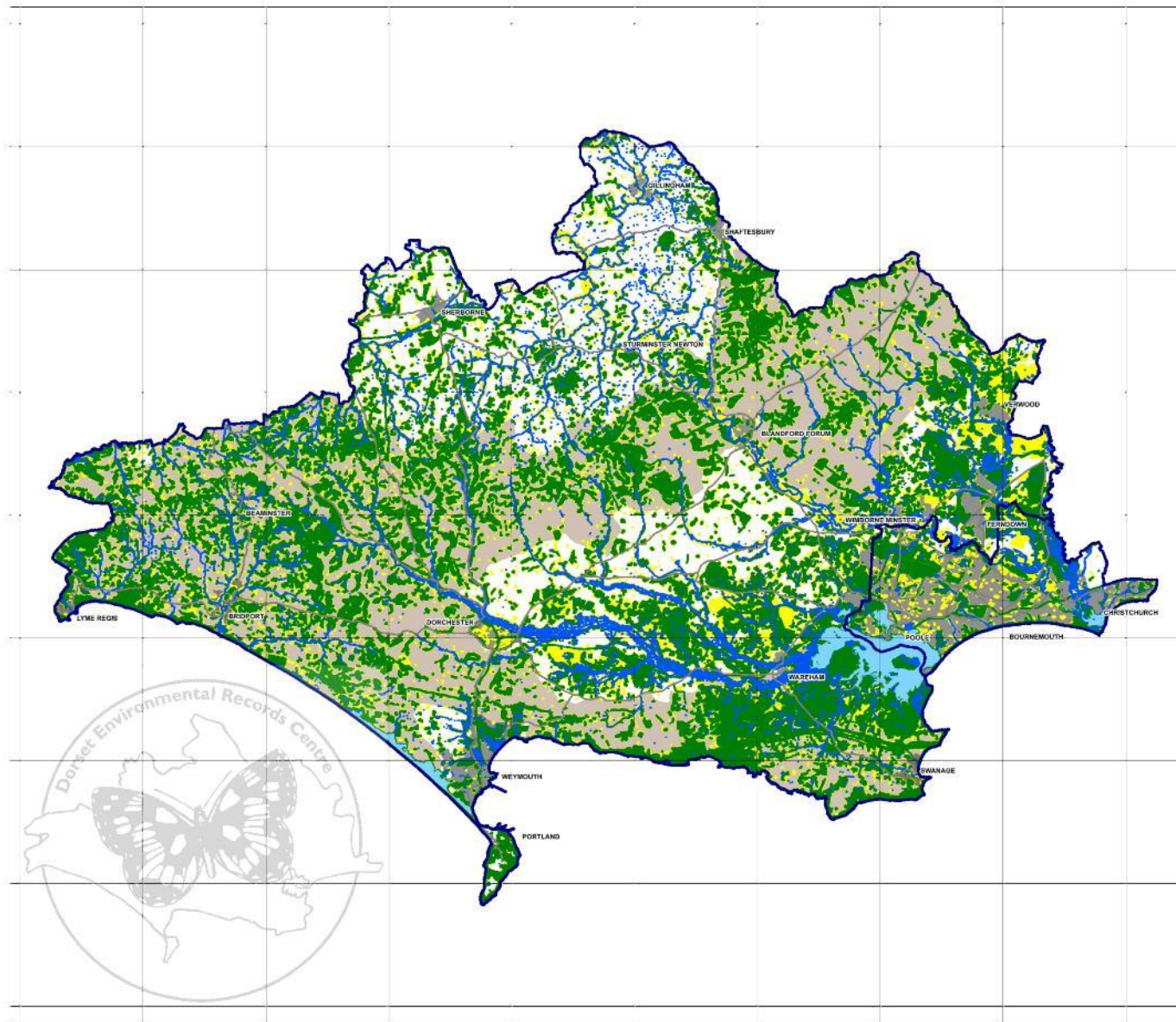


## Ecological Networks - what are they for?

- Climate and ecological emergency
- The Lawton Review in 2010 concluded that our wildlife sites are generally too small and too isolated; we do not have a resilient ecological network that could respond to the challenges of climate change and other pressures
- What we need are **more** sites, **bigger** sites, **better** sites and more **joined up**

Dorset Ecological Networks mapping is a way to represent our current resource and help find a way forward.





## Ecological Networks

### Dorset

**Key:**

- Existing Network
- Higher Potential Network
- Existing Network - Inland Water
- Existing network - Enclosed Tidal Water
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Main Towns



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International Sites	National Sites
Designated as of international importance.	Designated as of national importance.
<sup>2</sup> Ramsar Sites <sup>1,2</sup>	Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) <sup>1</sup>	National Nature Reserve (NNR)
Special Protection Area (SPA) <sup>1,2</sup>	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) <sup>3, 4</sup>





Local Sites
<b>Recognised in Dorset as of county nature conservation value.</b>
Churchyards in the Living Churchyard project
Local Community Nature Reserves (LCNR) (including existing SANGs and HIPs)
Local Geological Site (LGS)
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Nature Parks designated in Local Plans
Nature Reserves (including DWT, RSPB, BC, ARC)
Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
The Great Heath (TGH) Project sites
Veteran tree sites





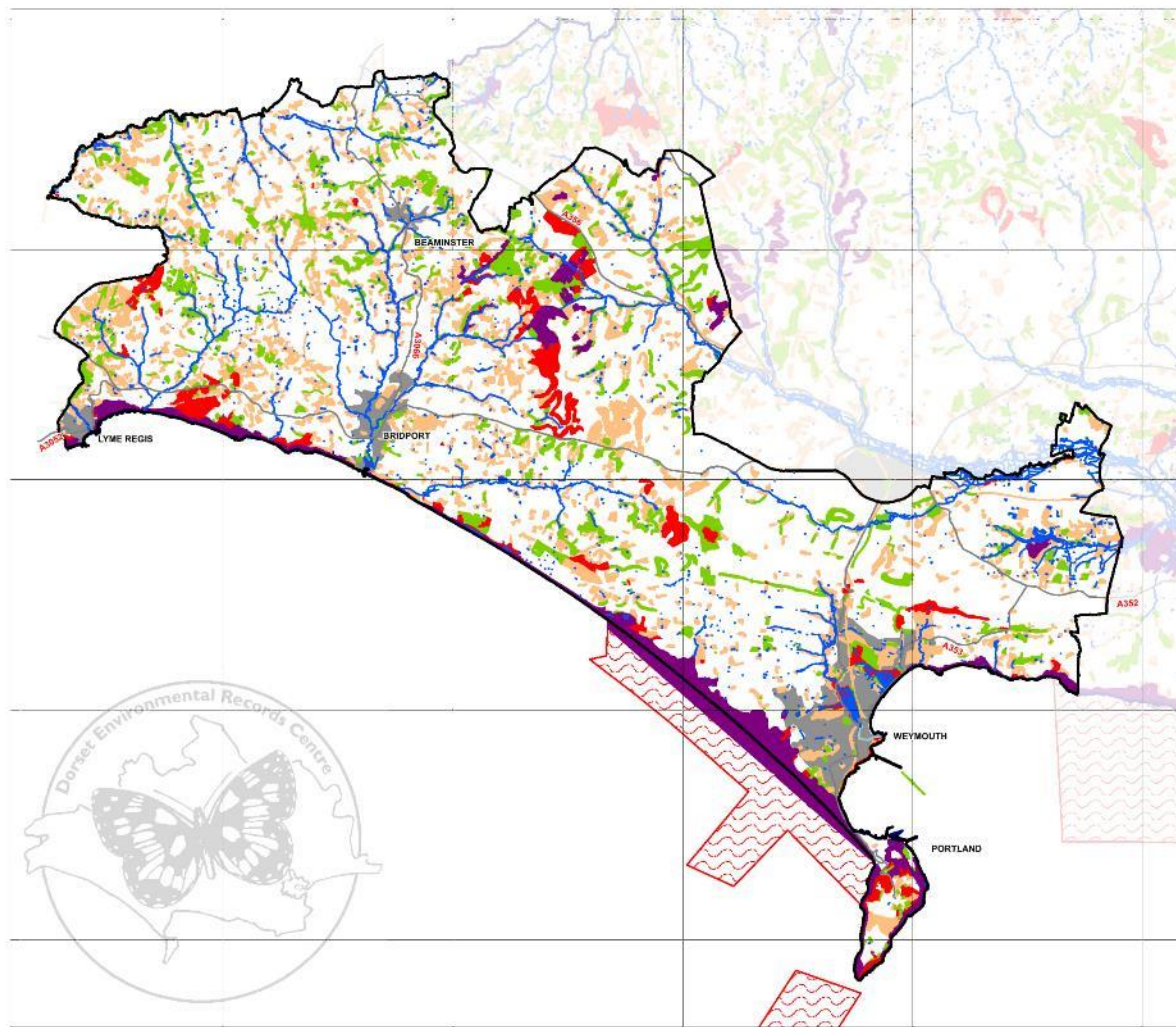
	Higher Potential Ecological Network
<b>Wildlife Corridors &amp; Stepping Stones</b>	
<b>Forming links between sites or through urban areas; small sites of wildlife value; areas of habitat restoration or creation.</b>	<b>Improvements to these areas would benefit or extend the existing network including areas with high potential for restoration.</b>
Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Bournemouth Wildlife Sites survey (scoring 1-2)
Bournemouth Wildlife Sites survey (scoring 3-5)	Dorchester ecological network sites (scoring 1-2)
Dorchester ecological network sites (scoring 3)	Dorset Landscape Monitoring (2019) core area buffers (c40m) and stepping-stones
Dorset Landscape Monitoring (2019) core areas	Indicative fluvial floodplain
Habitat Restoration Sites (ponds with a 5m buffer)	Minerals sites before restoration begins
Nature Parks established by local partnerships	Other open green spaces (e.g. playing fields)
Trailways, railways and roads with good semi-natural habitat adjacent	Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites
W&PBC – Wildlife Corridor & Stepping Stones survey	Portland Quarry Nature Park (aspirational areas)
	Proposed SANGs and HIPs
	RSPB heathland potential areas (East Dorset)
	Trailways and roads with poor/no adjacent habitat



## Appendix 1: Sites included in the Dorset Ecological Network

Existing Ecological Network				Higher Potential Ecological Network	Additional Datasets
International Sites	National Sites	Local Sites	Wildlife Corridors & Stepping Stones		
Designated as of international importance.	Designated as of national importance.	Recognised in Dorset as of county nature conservation value.	Forming links between sites or through urban areas; small sites of wildlife value; areas of habitat restoration or creation.	Improvements to these areas would benefit or extend the existing network including areas with high potential for restoration.	May be shown on maps to complement existing network.
<sup>2</sup> Ramsar Sites <sup>1,2</sup>	Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	Churchyards in the Living Churchyard project	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	Bournemouth Wildlife Sites survey (scoring 1-2)	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) <sup>1</sup>	National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Local Community Nature Reserves (LCNR) (including existing SANGs and HIPs)	Bournemouth Wildlife Sites survey (scoring 3-5)	Dorchester ecological network sites (scoring 1-2)	Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area (NIA)
Special Protection Area (SPA) <sup>1,2</sup>	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) <sup>3,4</sup>	Local Geological Site (LGS)	Dorchester ecological network sites (scoring 3)	Dorset Landscape Monitoring (2019) core area buffers (c40m) and stepping-stones	Water layer (rivers, ditches, ponds)
		Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Dorset Landscape Monitoring (2019) core areas	Indicative fluvial floodplain	Enclosed tidal water
		Nature Parks designated in Local Plans	Habitat Restoration Sites (ponds with a 5m buffer)	Minerals sites before restoration begins	
		Nature Reserves (including DWT, RSPB, BC, ARC)	Nature Parks established by local partnerships	Other open green spaces (e.g. playing fields)	
		Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)	Trailways, railways and roads with good semi-natural habitat adjacent	Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites	
		The Great Heath (TGH) Project sites	W&PBC – Wildlife Corridor & Stepping Stones survey	Portland Quarry Nature Park (aspirational areas)	
		Veteran tree sites		Proposed SANGs and HIPs	
				RSPB heathland potential areas (East Dorset)	
				Trailways and roads with poor/no adjacent habitat	





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## Ecological Networks Dorset

### Western and Southern Planning Area

#### Key:

- International Sites
- International Marine Sites (SAC)
- National Sites
- National Marine Sites (MCZ)
- Local Sites
- Wildlife Corridors & Stepping Stones
- Inland Water
- Enclosed Tidal Water
- Main Towns



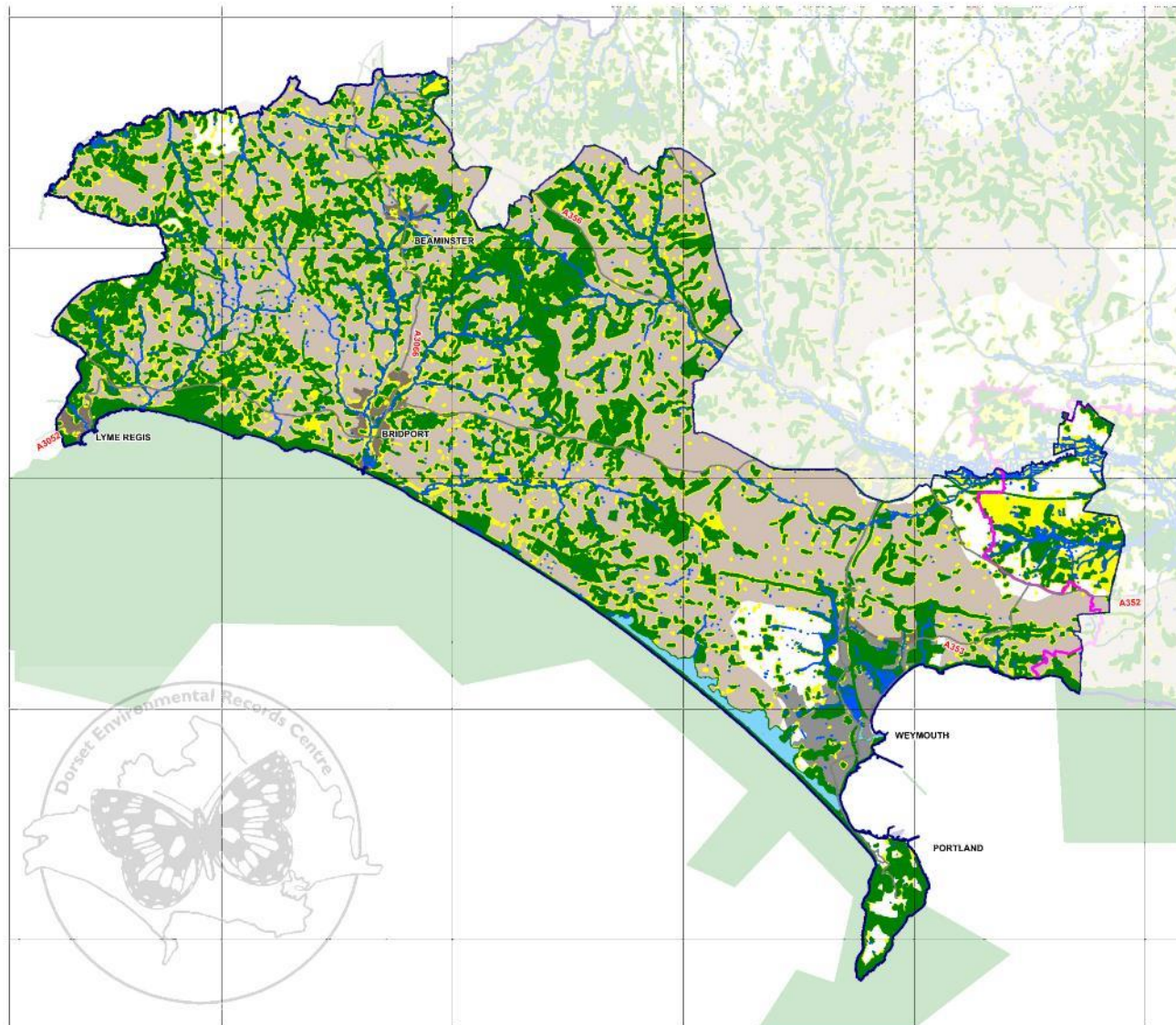
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## Ecological Networks Dorset

### Western and Southern Planning Area

#### Key:

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- Higher Potential Network
- Existing Network - Inland Water
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- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Nature Improvement Area
- Main Towns



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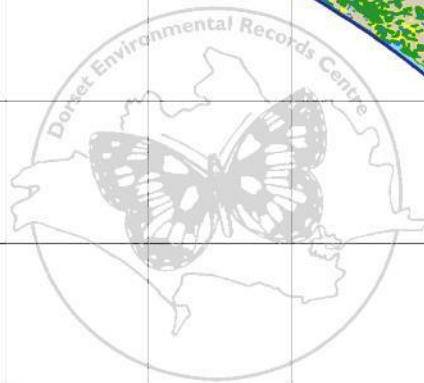
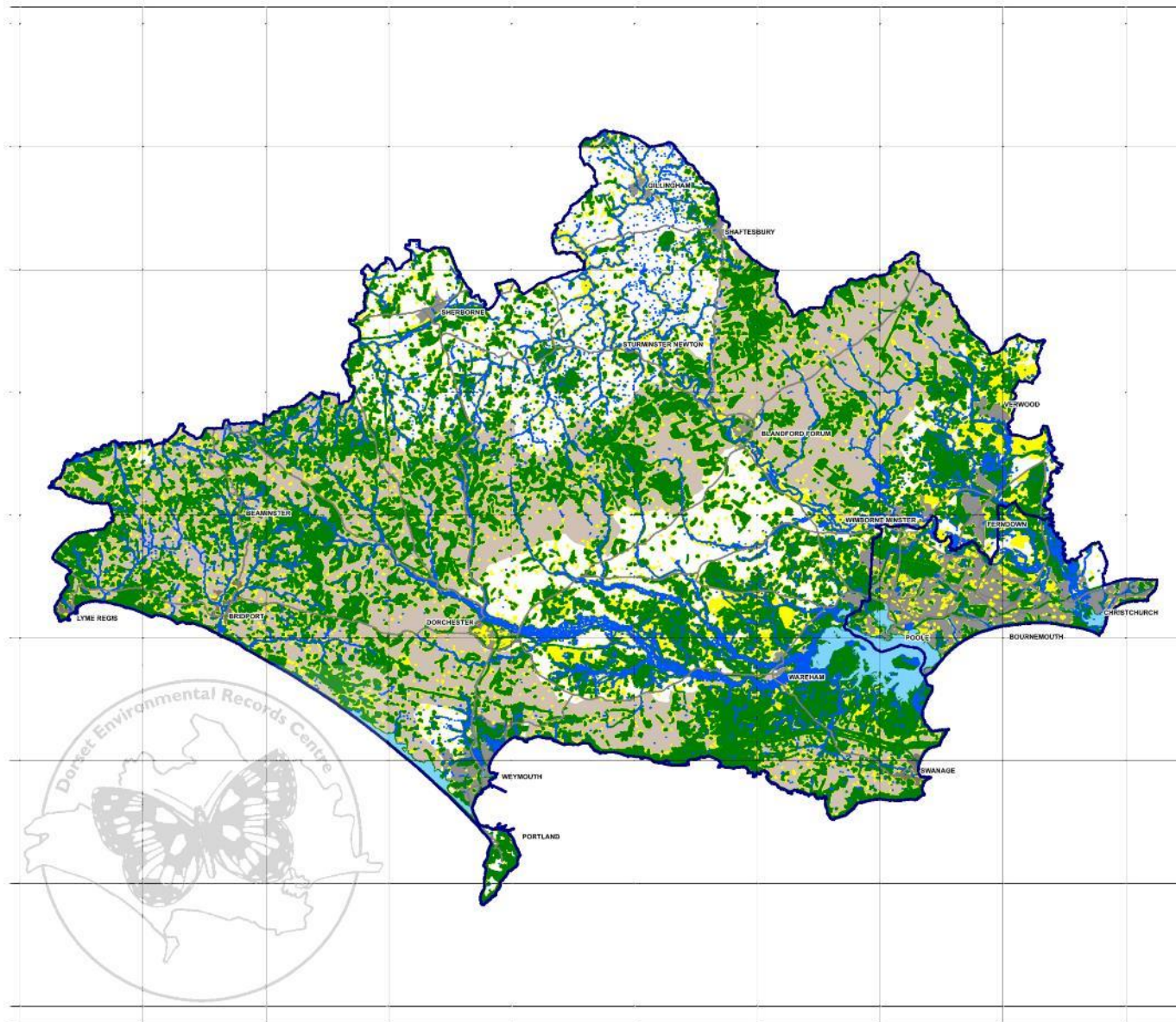
## Additional Datasets

**May be shown on  
maps to complement  
existing network.**

Areas of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty (AONB)  
Wild Purbeck Nature  
Improvement Area (NIA)

Water layer (rivers,  
ditches, ponds)

Enclosed tidal water



## Ecological Networks

### Dorset

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## Summary

- Mainly desktop exercise focused on sites and habitats
- There is a lot of data behind the final map
- There is a 'third layer' - some biodiversity potential in most places
- Ecological Networks are publicly available on Dorset Explorer
- Networks provided to local authorities and conservation organisations
- The maps will continue to be amended and updated

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