

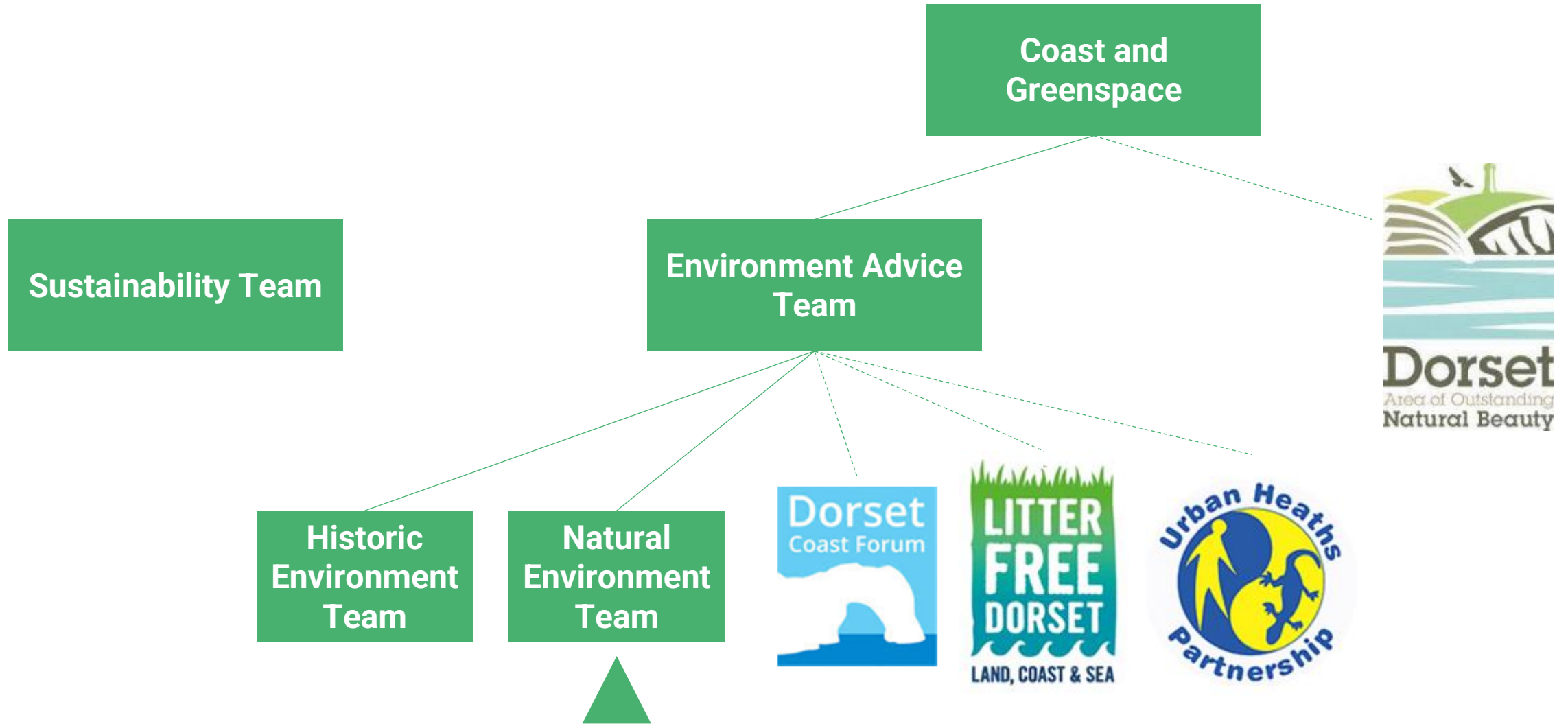


A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset

Dorset LNP Annual Forum, 17 March 2023



Who we are



The Environment Act



The Environment Act 2021 introduced new statutory measures to support delivery of Government's 25 Year vision and Environmental Improvement Plan – particularly to support creation of a **Nature Recovery Network** of 500,000Ha of new habitat in England.

Locally developed **Local Nature Recovery Strategies** for each area in England – plans for mapping and prioritising the approach to nature recovery in a local area.

A **strengthened biodiversity duty** on public bodies (strengthening the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 duty), to *conserve and enhance* biodiversity and have regard for LNRs.

A mandatory and measurable 10% **Biodiversity Net Gain** in for developments, requiring submission of a 'biodiversity gain plan' by applicants and maintenance for 30 years.

What is an LNRS?



Our LNRS will be a blueprint for a Dorset Nature Recovery Network, defining how and where we can best protect and enhance nature locally. It will:

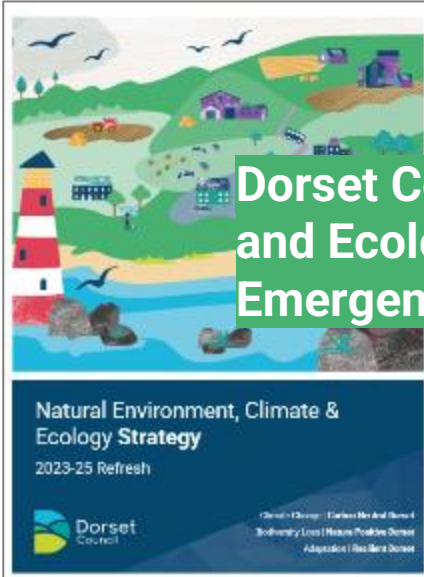
Include maps of our most valuable areas and the best opportunities areas to enhance it further.

Define our **local priorities**.

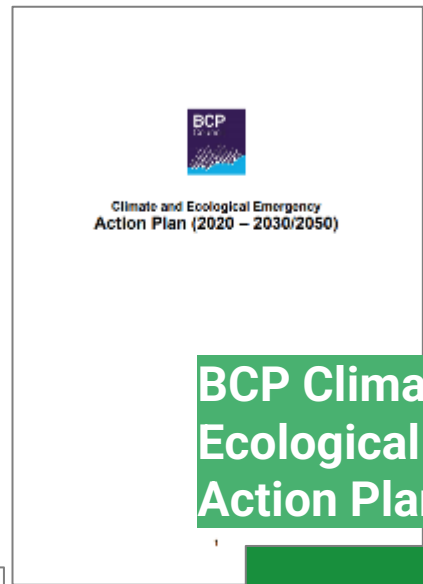
Support **biodiversity and wider co-benefits** through nature-based solutions (e.g. climate mitigation and adaptation)

Interface with key delivery mechanisms like Planning and BNG, agri-environment funding, and other public and private investment.

Existing Strategy and Policy



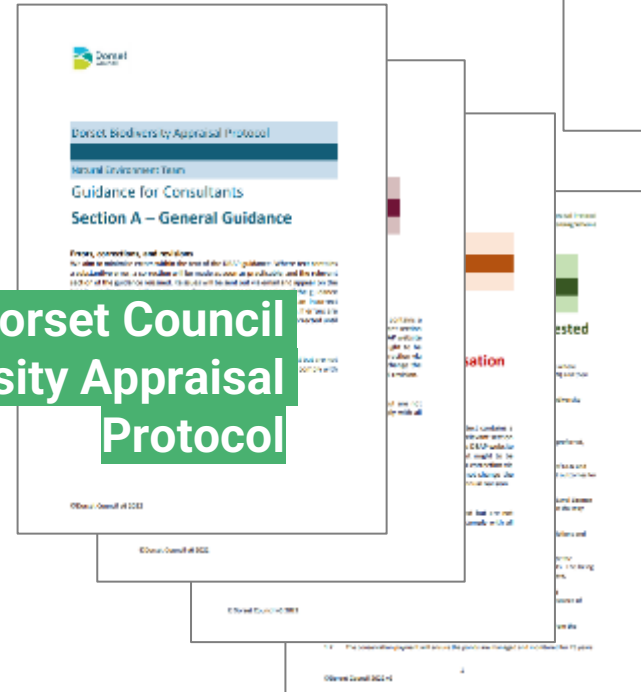
Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy



BCP Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Dorset LNP Vision and Strategy

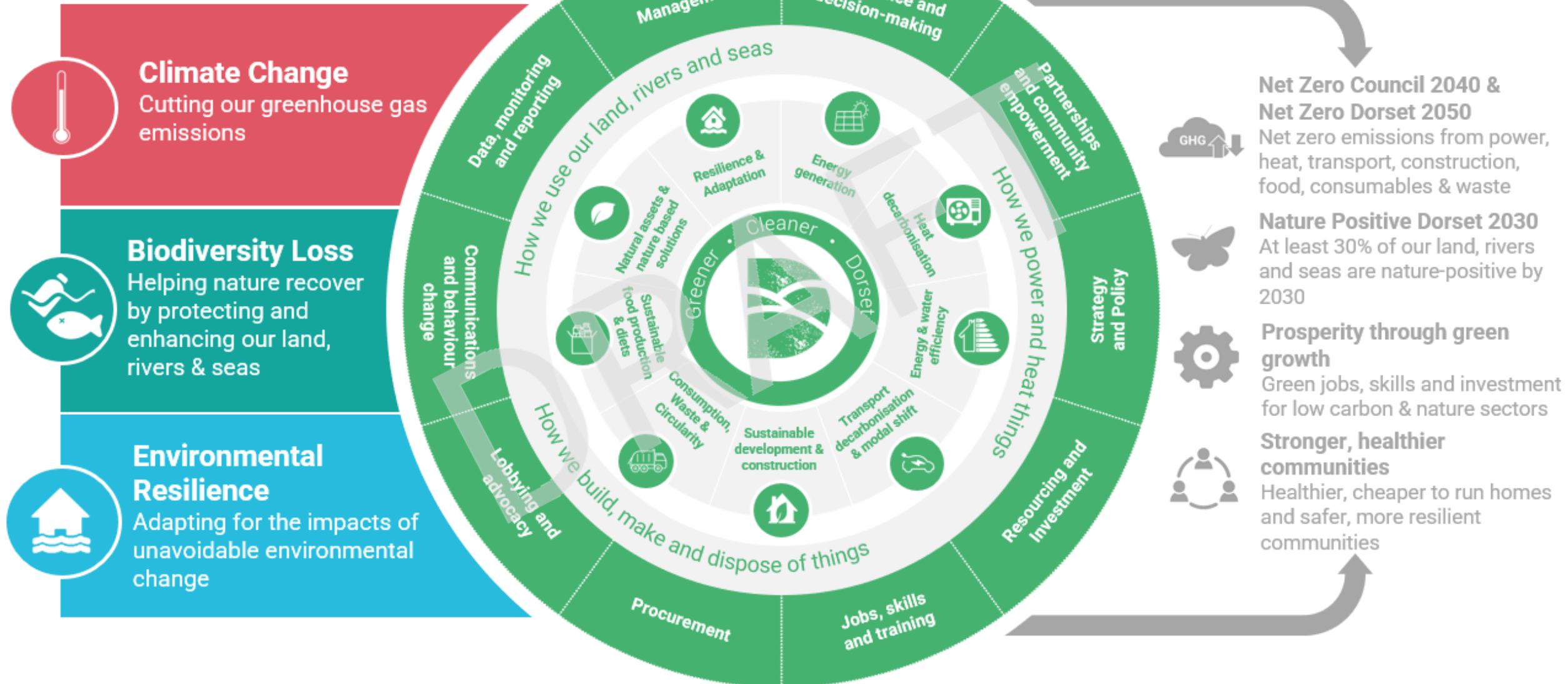


Dorset Council Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol

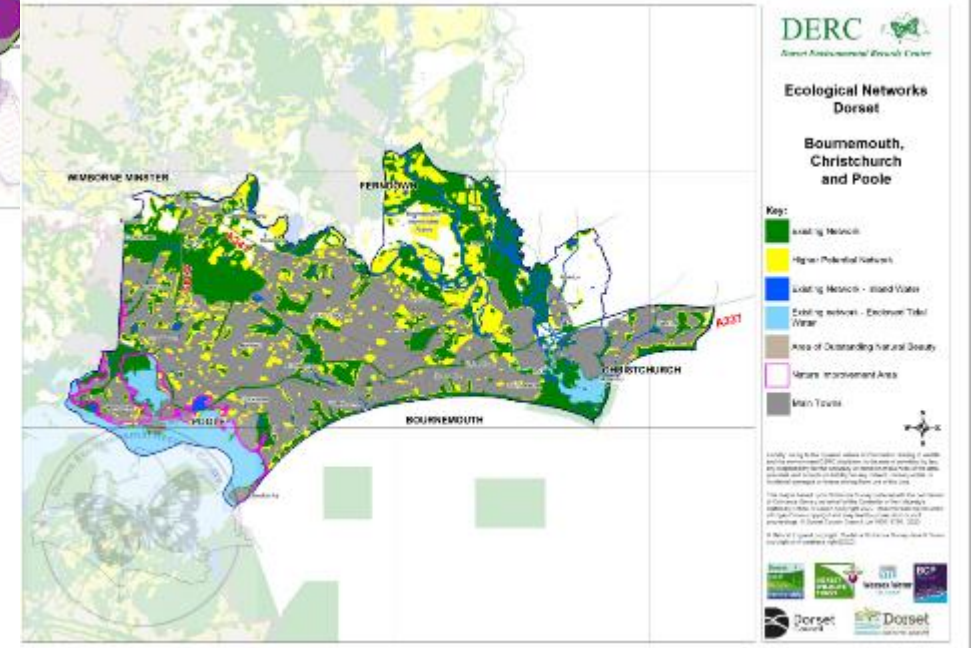
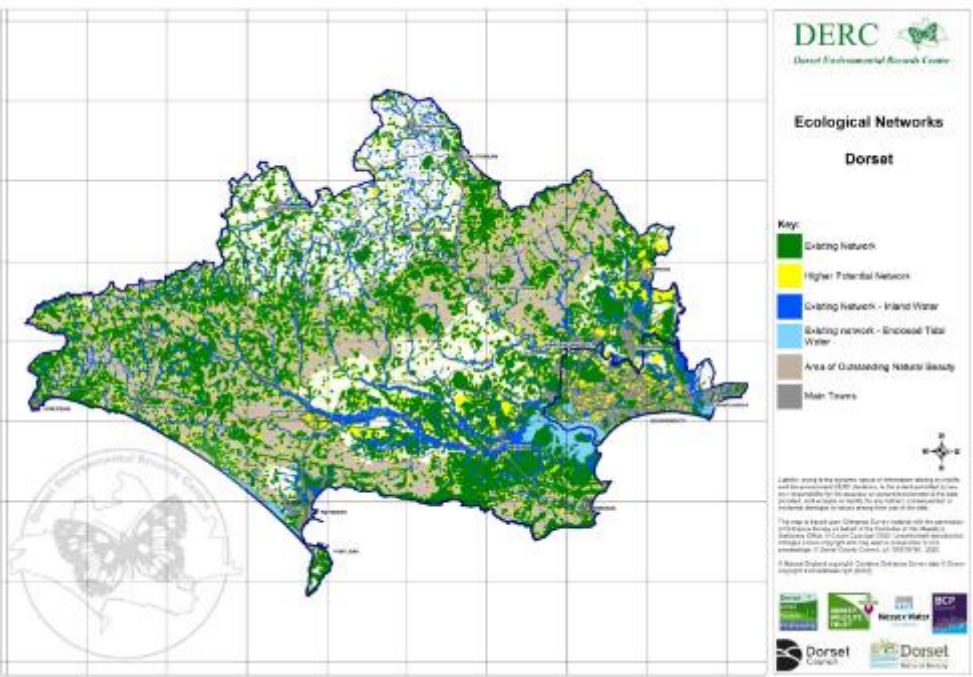
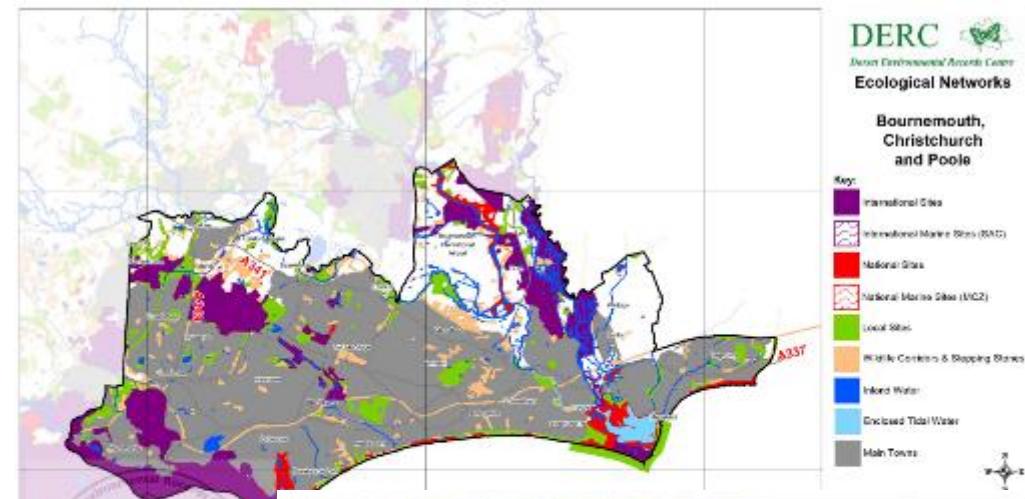
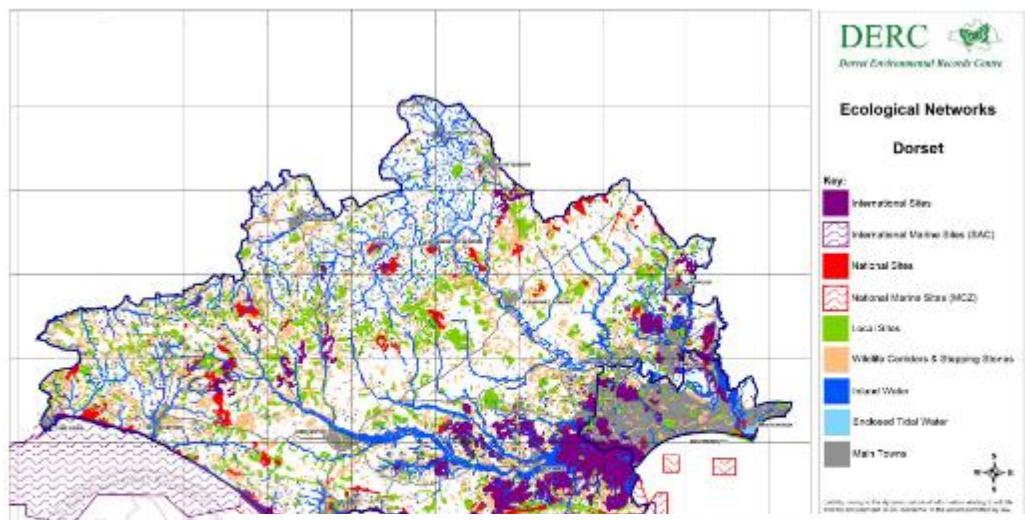


BCP Green Infrastructure Strategy

Existing Strategy and Policy



Current Ecological Network Maps



Lots of activity already underway



**Dorset Peat
Partnership
discovery on 16 sites**

**Dorset Wild Rivers
Project**

**Natural Choices and
Stepping into Nature**

**Creation of National
Nature Reserve at
Purbeck Heath**

**River Asker
Project**

**Verge and amenity
space management
like cut and collect**

**Farming in Protected
Landscapes**

**Land acquired for
new reserve near
Blandford**

**Beaver
Reintroductions**

**Studland eco-
moorings project**

**Purbeck Heaths
Wilder Grazing Unit**

Next steps



**Dorset Council is the lead
'Responsible Authority', working
closely with BCP**

**Regulations and statutory guidance
due for release imminently**

Receipt of grant funding

**Recruitment of Local Nature
Recovery Officer**

**Shared learning networks, webinars,
training and data offer**

**Establishing governance and
planning engagement**

What we did in Cornwall: Process



	INFORMING	LONGLISTING OPPORTUNITIES	SHORTLISTING PRIORITIES	TESTING	POST-PILOT REFINEMENT & DELIVERY
OBJECTIVES	To inform on the scale of the ecological emergency, its implications & drivers, the strategic & operational response.	To identify public and expert attitudes on values and broad objectives to inform visioning & principles; potential outcomes & measures; and potential locations for intervention.	To gather expert views on appropriate criteria (pragmatic, strategic or biological), and rankings of the longlisted options against those criteria to derive priorities.	To test and refine initial drafts of outcomes, measures, interventions and enablers.	To consult broader public comment on the pilot draft; further secure wider buy-in; inspire & encourage action; further develop implementation tools; and identify projects for an investment plan.
AUDIENCE	General public Businesses	General public Farmers & landholders Environment professionals Governance groups Councillors and local authority staff	Environment professionals	Local Nature Partnership Steering Group Working Group Expert task & finish group	All

What we did in Cornwall: Aims



2. AIM, OBJECTIVES, AUDIENCE, FOCUS

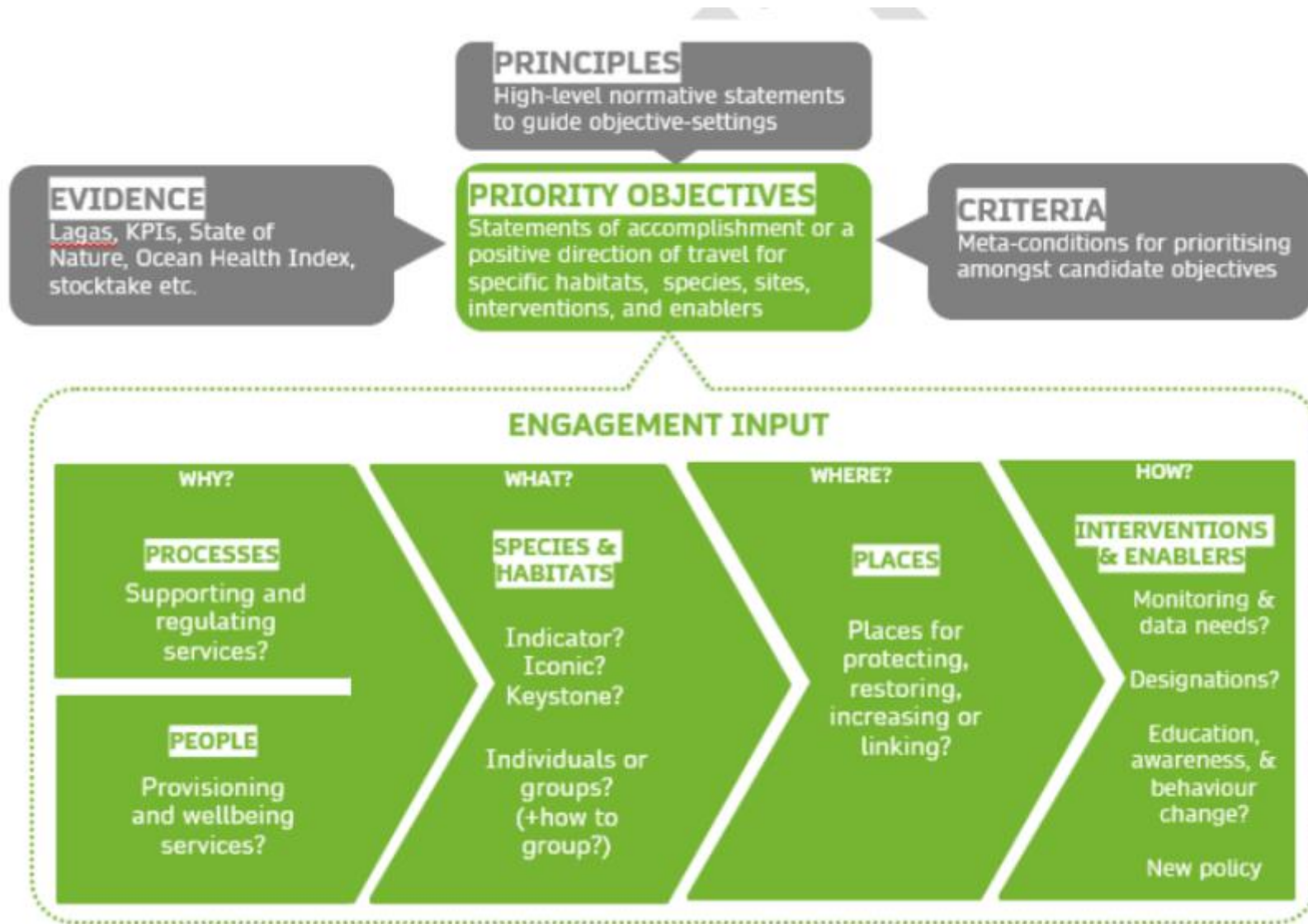
AIM: To solicit stakeholder input on shaping the Nature Recovery Plan and enable its delivery					
	Informing	Public valuation	Expert opinion	Criteria-setting	Delivery
OBJECTIVES	<p>(1) To inform the public on the scale of the ecological emergency, its implications and drivers, and our strategic and operational response.</p>	<p>(2) To identify public attitudes on any intrinsically valued species, habitats, or places.</p> <p>(3) To identify public views on the instrumental values of nature, and their relative weighting.</p> <p>(4) To identify public preferences on the sought scale of nature recovery.</p>	<p>(5) To gather expert insight on the appropriate interpretation of the best-available evidence to appraise the relative vulnerability and the relative instrumental value (biological, economic and social) of specific candidate habitats, species, and places.</p> <p>(6) To gather expert and practitioner insight on appropriate interventions or enablers</p>	<p>(7) To shape appropriate criteria (pragmatic, strategic, and biological) and weightings for ranking candidate longlist priorities into a shortlist.</p>	<p>(8) To inspire and encourage engagement in nature recovery activity.</p> <p>(9) To secure sufficient buy-in to the plan to secure its legitimacy and delivery.</p> <p>(10) To set a path to identifying specific projects for an investment plan.</p>
AUDIENCE	<p>Communities Businesses</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Governance groups (LNP only) Environment professionals Farmers & landowners</p>	<p>Environment professionals Governance groups</p>	<p>Governance groups Public bodies Environment professionals Farmers & landowners Communities Businesses</p>
FOCUS	<p><i>Risk perception:</i> Emotive and resonant descriptions of evidence on the challenge and of the possibility of improvement</p>	<p><i>Value priorities:</i> Normative judgements about the underlying rationale for nature recovery (rather than specific priorities & interventions)</p>	<p><i>Evidenced priorities:</i> Descriptive judgements on the role and importance of specific candidates for delivering biodiversity or ecosystem service outcomes, and the likelihood of improvements.</p>	<p><i>Sorting methodology:</i> Methodology for choosing priorities from candidates through multi-criteria analysis, including risk appetite</p>	<p><i>Motivation & efficacy:</i> commitment and practical opportunity for action; Animating case studies and practical suggestions responsive to registered interests, values and aspirations</p>

What we did in Cornwall: Key Stakeholders



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT		
GROUP	STAKEHOLDER	DESIGN LEAD
 GOVERNANCE GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP • Steering Groups • CC governance • LEP & HWBB 	
 PUBLIC BODIES & MAJOR INDUSTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways England • Harbour Authority • Network Rail • NHS • Imerys • South West Water etc. 	
 ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Partnership • Biodiversity Initiative • Marine Liaison Group • AONBs • Strategic Resilience Board • Heritage Kewow 	
 FARMERS & LANDOWNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden estates • FWAG • NFU • County Farm tenants • etc. 	
 COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town & Parish Councils • Citizen science groups • Climate resilience groups • Eden engagement groups • Young people 	
 BUSINESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce • FSB • LEP • CDC • etc. 	

What we did in Cornwall: Input framework



What we did in Cornwall: Engagement plan



a. GOVERNANCE GROUPS

EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNP Board CC and LNP Steering Groups CC governance (Officer groups, Portfolio Holders, Overview and Scrutiny and All Member Briefings, Full Council) Local Enterprise Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Board, and CIO5 Leadership Board 			
RATIONALE	<p><i>Linked objectives:</i> Criteria-setting Delivery</p> <p>Engagement with governance groups will provide essential steer and endorsement to ensure wide strategic partner buy-in. They will play a crucial role in setting guiding nature recovery principles; shaping the criteria and weighting method to enable analysis of engagement input and evidence; and setting the path for delivery through realising opportunities for cross-organisational and cross-partnership cooperation on strategic projects towards an investment plan. Some of these groups, particularly LNP stakeholders, may also play a role in defining candidate priorities.</p>			
DESIGN LEAD	Cornwall Council (PH, CW)			
KEY QUESTIONS	<p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What nature recovery principles should guide priority-setting? Which multi-criteria decision methodology (comprising strategic, pragmatic and biological criteria and associated weightings) should be used to analyse evidence and engagement insight to distil our priorities? Is the engagement process adequate? 	<p>What?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are your nature recovery priorities for Cornwall? 	<p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where would you prioritise to protect, restore, increase or link nature? 	<p>How?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What have we achieved on nature recovery over the last 5 years, and where are there gaps where we could do better? Are there opportunities for cooperation on strategic projects to deliver the nature recovery plan?

METHODS & TOOLS

- Board engagements and steering group meetings**
 - Regular updates at the LNP board, identification of principles, and eventual endorsement
 - Endorsement of nature recovery principles and final plan from the LEP, HWB, CIO5LB, and CC officer groups (directorate and corporate), with a commitment to practical delivery
 - Steering group guidance on engagement approach, multi-criteria methodology, and candidate priority identification (workshopped where suitable)
- Briefings (pre-final draft)**
 - Briefings on process and emerging themes with CC Portfolio Holders, Councillors (AMB & NOSC), CC officer groups and strategic partnership board officers – to be incorporated alongside engagement on the refreshed Environmental Growth Strategy.
 - Strategic partnership board officer engagement to also include discussion on opportunities for cooperation on strategic projects
- LNP board structured interviews**
 - Early structured interviews with LNP members on nature recovery priorities
 - Repetition of this exercise incorporating early phase engagement findings
- Stocktake survey**
 - Stocktake on relevant nature recovery activity since 2015 to support prioritisation and gap analysis
- LNP partner organisation self-facilitation toolkit**
 - A slidepack for partners to self-facilitate discussion with their own teams, alongside a netigate template for self-completion to capture feedback. It may also be used alongside the community survey for wider staff input.

SUPPORTING ASSETS

- The following assets will be required, and may incorporate CC and CWT visual assets once available:
- Introduction and engagement overview slidepack
 - Multi-criteria methodology slidepack/tool
 - Prioritisation workshop slidepack and template
 - Structured interview questionnaire x2
 - Stocktake survey and spreadsheet template
 - Self-facilitation toolkit (Introductory slides and input-collection netigate template)
 - Final endorsement slidepack

ENGAGEMENT ROUTES & PARTNERS

- Scheduled meetings
- Targeted emails and LNP newsletter
- LNP partners

What we did in Cornwall: Result



- ~700 local stakeholders inputted, through:
 - A **general public workshop** at the 2020 LNP annual conference
 - **2 farmer workshops** on ELMS and nature recovery, hosted by the Cornwall AONB
 - **8 workshops** for strategic partnership groups
 - **Tools for self-facilitated workshops** by teams (e.g. NE area team and AONBs)
 - A **'longlisting' survey**
 - A **prioritisation survey**