



DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

LNP ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

It's with pleasure that I present Dorset LNPs annual report as Chair, after a year of activity and action. We act as a key conduit for partners within the county ranging from voluntary organisations, charities, government and arm's length bodies, as well as business and local authorities. I would like to thank all the partners for their hard work over the last year, all of whom come together with the singular aim of making Dorset a better place for nature.

As ever, the turbulent world of humans continues to challenge our ecosystems, but we can also see some real progress in government thinking around biodiversity net gain and commitments to improve the lot of our world. As ever, the politics are nuanced and liable to change and the next year will undoubtedly bring more changes to policy. Whether politics is truly Darwinian as the departing Prime Minister said in early July may be debatable, but it can seem from afar that it's at least 'red in tooth and claw' on occasion, and rather like nature, this always leads to adaptation and evolution.

The world of Westminster contrasts with the far less febrile and more collaborative work within Dorset's LNP. During the last year we have welcomed a number of new board members, adding strength and depth to the range of skills around the table, as well as a reformulation of our strategic plan and focus going forward.

We have continued our work with Low Carbon Dorset to help mitigate the impacts of climate

change, and further developed our work within the Health and Nature Dorset partnership, to enable a greater ability for people within the county to both access, and benefit from, exposure to nature in a therapeutic context. We have also produced a major update to our Natural Capital Report from 2014, with full revisions of data and the 'state of play' within the county and is a major asset for the county's leaders and decision-makers.

As ever, none of this would be possible without the tireless work of the LNP Manager Maria Clarke, and the board owes her significant gratitude for her endeavours.

Best wishes

Luke Rake FLS
LNP Chair



Luke Rake © Kingston Maurward College

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NATURAL CAPITAL

Strategic objective ii:
Adding natural value to the local economy

Land Management Supporting the Nature and Climate Emergencies

Dorset LNP held its Annual Forum on 14 March 2022. The forum brought together forum members online and shone a light on the how agriculture and land management in Dorset could, and already was, addressing the ecological and climate emergencies, through nature-based solutions.

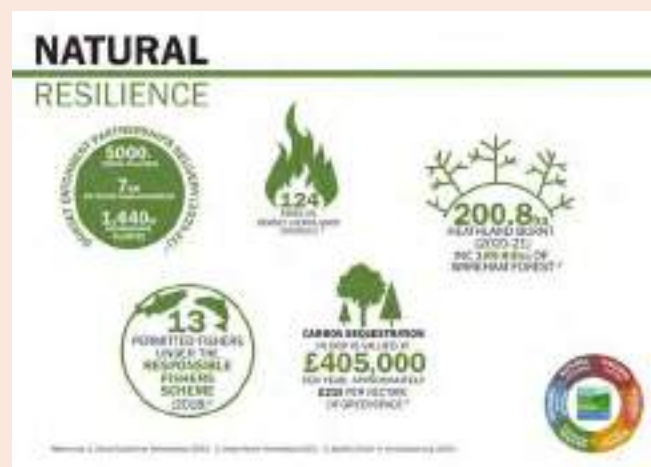
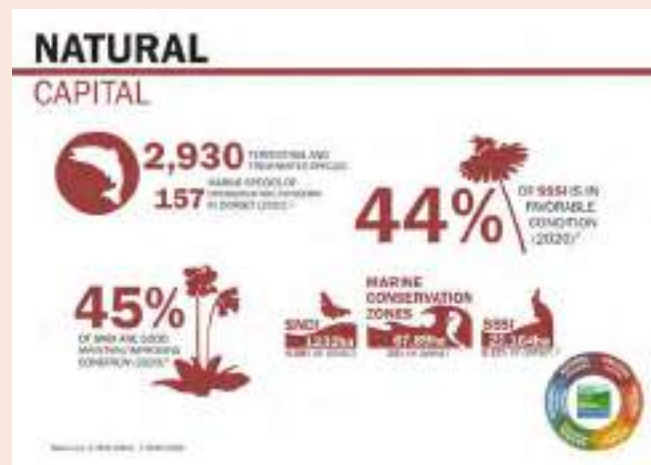
The Forum was held online and was attended by 69 people. Presentations included inspirational farmers and land managers highlighting regenerative agriculture, community rewilding, and innovative estate management. The event also set out challenges for farming in 2022 and two students from Kingston Mauward set out their perceptions on Dorset's agriculture, conservation, education and wildlife.

For more information:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2022



NATURAL VALUE

Strategic objective i: Invest in Dorset's natural assets



More information at:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/natural-value-report

Natural Value Report 2022

Dorset LNP published its revised Natural Value Report at the Annual Forum as an update to its 2014 publication.

The Report presents locally specific information to demonstrate both the environmental value of the area and the value of the area's environment. It starts to identify the financial value of some aspects of our environment and can help ensure that it is valued in practical terms, and not treated as a free and unlimited resource. This provides evidence for created business cases and funding bids for partners to use as necessary.

The review began in 2017 but was delayed due to capacity and the pandemic. Particular thanks go to Keziah Rookes and volunteers Dr Jonathan Krieger and Andrew Woodcock for their considerable work in collating and analysing the data, since the start of the review.

Above: LEP Investment Prospectus



NATURAL

HEALTH

Strategic objective iii:
Developing Dorset's Natural Health Service

Health and Nature Dorset (HAND)

Work has continued to support the development of the Health and Nature Dorset (HAND) strengthening collaborative working across the health and environment sectors on nature-based wellbeing opportunities. HAND launched in May 2021 as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.

Between June to December 2021 part of the working group worked with Sport England and the Design Council on the Ideas to Action programme following a successful bid from Active Dorset to join the programme. The programme focused future plans for HAND to enable the group to move it forward.

A workshop was held in February to begin the process of developing a steering group, with a Theory of Change session planned for June.

HAND aims to develop stronger links between the health and environment sectors to work together on nature-based wellbeing opportunities and develop a deeper connection which should lead to pro-environmental behaviours as well support physical and mental wellbeing and prevent poor health.

More information:
www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/hand

NATURAL

RESILIENCE

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.

Three panel meetings were held during 2021-22 (April, June and October 2021) assessing four projects. Funding was granted to all four projects to a total of £1,647,249 (total project costs amounted to £6,835,002 The projects together expected to deliver the following outcomes:



Objective	Measurable output
Increasing the amount of renewable energy capacity in Dorset	6.084 Mega Watts (MW)
Reducing energy used in public buildings	584,641 kWhr/yr
Improving the energy efficiency of housing	6 households
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	3915.6 tonnes CO2e per annum
Developing new low carbon products or processes	0
Grant funding approved	£1,647,249
Total project costs of projects approved	£6,835,002

The Low Carbon Dorset programme support climate change mitigation aims.

More information available at:
www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk

NATURAL UNDERSTANDING

Strategic objective v:
Understanding natural value

Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in November 2015 @dorset_lnp. In March 2022, the account had 642 followers (up 83 over the year).

E-news bulletins were published in April, July, September, January and March. In March 2022 there were 332 Forum Members (up 71 over the year).

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

The LNP's communication tools help promote the work of the LNP and it's partners.



Above: LNP Blog

NATURAL INFLUENCE

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

Submissions to Consultations

Local influence:

- BCP Council Local Plans Issues and Options Consultation (March 2022)

National influence:

- Defra Draft environmental Principles Policy Statement Consultation (June 2021)
- Defra Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation (Nov 2021)
- JNCC 7th Quinquennial Review (QQR7) for adding species to Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Jan 2022)

Responding to local and national consultations promotes the LNP's views and aims to shape policies and decision making.



Above: Consultations documents

Governance, Communication and Resources

LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2021-22 on 9 June 2020, 8 Sept, 8 Dec 2021 and 9 March 2022, these continued to be held via Zoom due to the pandemic with an in-person meeting in March 2022. The LNP Forum was held on 14 March 2021 via Zoom.

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

Board Member Recruitment

Four new independent Board members were appointed, and one board member re-appointed following a recruitment process in December 2021/January 2022.

For more information on Board member: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/dorset-lnp-board/board-member-profiles

Staffing

Dorset LNP is staffed by the LNP Manager (1 FTE) and the LNP Assistant (0.6 FTE – since October 2021).

Funding

During 2020-21 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

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





Maria Clarke
Dorset LNP Manager

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During 2021-22 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

