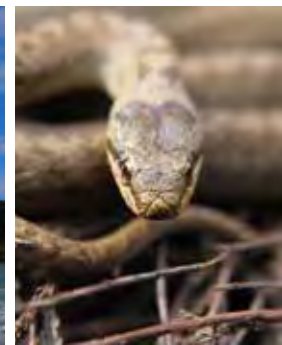




Vision & Strategy

2023



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The Challenge

THE WORLD IS FACING A TRIPLE CRISIS

all of which are caused by humans and the way in which we have lived upon the planet, accelerated dramatically since the industrial and agricultural revolutions. They are both specific and intrinsically connected:

The Climate Emergency

This is real, immediate, and will be dramatic. The impacts will be felt globally, and that includes Dorset. This will directly through changes to weather patterns, or indirectly through water availability or migration. We will see changes to species and ecological adaptations, and there will be associated changes to disease patterns, agricultural production systems and health.

The Ecological Emergency

It is clear that natural environments in Dorset and beyond continue to degrade, despite legislation and action groups' best efforts. Soil continues to denude through intensive farming, and habitats are lost through this and housing and industrial development such as roads and rail. Losses in biodiversity lead to weaker natural populations and ecosystems, as well as reducing potential futures. Genetic conservation is vital for future resilience against novel diseases, both of humans and the rest of nature.

The Health and Wellbeing Emergency

Human lifespans are finite, and life expectancy has probably peaked. The benefits of medicines and healthcare have reduced mortality to approaching its natural limit, and we are now seeing this benefit eroded by increases in obesity, diet-related diseases such as diabetes and a surge of mental health concerns post-pandemic. Exercise rates are low, engagement with nature is poor and health inequalities need to be addressed. Access to and appreciation of our connection with nature is decreasing.

None of the three is good news. Together they are an immediate call to action. Humans do not sit discretely from nature but have created a world where this is being forgotten. This is both folly and a recipe our children will not thank us for. We need to work, play, and co-exist far more harmoniously with the natural world around us.

The Mission

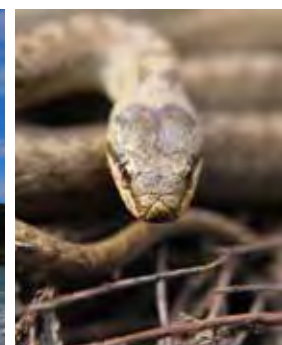
Dorset LNP exists to support, facilitate, and enable the working of a range of bodies across the public, private and third sector to improve nature, and address the challenges above. In doing so we act as a conduit for a range of parties including Local Authorities, Healthcare Services, Land Management, and others to find the best way forward as co-collaborators in nature-based solutions.

It our aim to act on all three challenges thinking globally but acting locally. Our focus is to ensure Dorset is a place where nature thrives, and so do we.

Our Vision

The Dorset LNP seeks a future where:

- Dorset's outstanding natural value is further celebrated, enhanced, and invested in. Dorset's world-class terrestrial, coastal and marine environment is what makes Dorset a great place to live, work and visit but could, should, and will be even better than it is now.
- Dorset's natural environment is richer in quality, diversity, and resilience. Dorset's wildlife sites become bigger, better, and joined up. Soils and watercourse become healthier, providing a measurable reversal to species decline as well as greater hope in the face of future change and challenge.
- Dorset's communities have increased understanding of and better access to Dorset's environment, both for its own sake and for the benefits it offers them, such as more locally produced food, community projects and sensitively managed land.
- 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 a matter of course.
- Local planning and policy systems routinely recognise the benefit of a biodiverse environment and habitat improvements which benefit both human communities and nature, allowing Dorset to be a beacon of excellence others wish to emulate.
- Nature-based solutions are a go-to option for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity recovery, and health and wellbeing, meaning that not only locally are individuals and communities enriched, but also that Dorset's impacts on the global environment are reduced.



The Six Pillars

In line with our vision, we have six strategic areas of nature-based focus.

- **NATURAL CAPITAL - increasing investment**
Dorset has some exceptional natural assets which already underpin the economic and social wellbeing of the county, yet it is still declining in quality and quantity and needs greater investment. We will facilitate funding and lobby for more.
- **NATURAL ECONOMY - adding value**
A healthy environment is a pre-requisite for a healthy economy globally and locally, it offers opportunities for sustainable economic resilience which does not erode our natural capital. We will support the development of nature-based economic schemes and maximise green finance opportunities.
- **NATURALLY HEALTHY - developing Dorset's 'natural health service'**
Working with the healthcare system, providers, and land managers, we will aid collaboration to improve access to and connection with nature, build green infrastructure and support better information on how to use the natural world to live better and reduce inequalities.
- **NATURAL RESILIENCE - improving environmental and community resilience**
In the light of a challenging future, and the impact on health, we will work collaboratively to improve both resilience against and adaption to climate change to enable a sustainable future. We will support local schemes to improve diets and reduce food waste, sensitive farming practices and facilitate greater engagement with the soil that sustains us all.
- **NATURAL UNDERSTANDING - improving engagement in Dorset's environment**
Dorset residents and visitors already value their environment. We will support and develop greater understanding of the impacts we have on the terrestrial and marine environment to ensure good stewardship now and in the future.
- **NATURALLY INFLUENCE - embedding natural value in policy and decision-making**
A founding principle of all LNPs is that we will promote the value of the natural environment in decisions and inform local and national policy making.