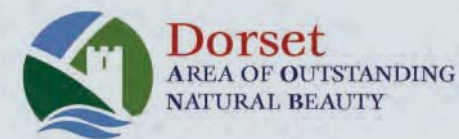




DORSET

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE
AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009 - 2014



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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Dorset's coast and countryside is truly outstanding, and we are lucky to live and work in such a special place. We must never become complacent about the challenges this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty faces, which are likely to be considerable in the coming years as we tackle the needs of a growing population, deal with the impacts of climate change and try to halt the decline of some of our best-loved wildlife. This management plan considers how we can best meet these challenges at a local level.

As well as tackling the challenges, this plan looks at the positives too – embracing what the landscape can do for us, now and in the future. The benefits of fresh local food on our doorstep are widely appreciated, but what about the benefits to our health and wellbeing and the learning opportunities it can provide?

Balancing challenges with opportunities, this is an ambitious plan but I am confident that good progress can be made, building on the Partnership's successes over the past five years. With a small staff team working in partnership with a myriad of local groups and organisations, we have established some fantastic initiatives such as Woodlink, Pastures New and the South Dorset Ridgeway project that have made an appreciable mark on the Dorset landscape. These initiatives have thrived thanks to the support of our partners, particularly Natural England and the local authorities in Dorset which provide much of the funding to make things happen. We are also indebted to those that own and manage the AONB for their active support, and to the many local people who are helping to deliver the AONB programme.

The success of this new plan will depend on focussing the energies of lots of different organisations and groups so we can all make a real difference together. We must thank all those who have helped put the plan together, the many local people and partner organisations which played an active role in developing the policies and identifying priorities. Their input has been essential and we will work hard to maintain and increase real and lasting connections with people who live and work in the AONB. If you would like to join us in working together for the future of this outstanding landscape, then please do get in touch, we'll be pleased to hear from you!

Tim Frost

Chairman, Dorset AONB Partnership





1. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY?

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are nationally important protected landscapes. Dorset is one of 49 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; these, together with the 12 National Parks, make up our finest countryside and are protected in the national interest for future generations. AONBs are also recognised internationally by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as part of the global family of protected areas.

PURPOSES AND DUTIES

AONBs are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The purposes of the AONB designation were updated and confirmed by the Countryside Commission in 1991 as follows:

- The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 confirmed the significance of AONBs and created improved arrangements for their management. There are two key sections of the Act for AONBs:

- Section 85 places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting land in AONBs.
- Section 89 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to act jointly to produce a management plan for each AONB in their administrative area.

In June 2000 the Government confirmed that the importance and protection of AONBs are equivalent to those of National Parks.

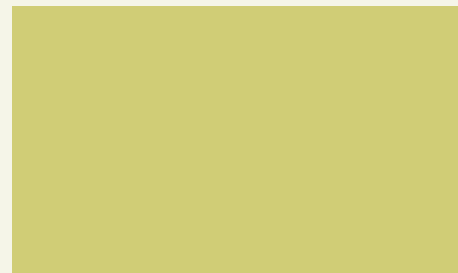
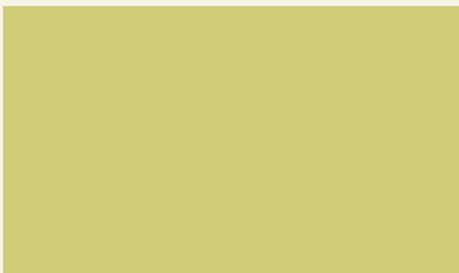


THE DORSET AONB

The Dorset AONB was designated in 1959 and is the fifth largest AONB in the country. It covers 1,129 square kilometres, approximately 42% of the county.

The AONB stretches from Lyme Regis in the west, along the coast to Poole Harbour in the east, and north to Hambledon Hill near Blandford Forum. It covers over half of Poole Harbour, including Brownsea and the smaller islands. Outside of the harbour, the designated area ends at mean low water. The AONB includes small areas in Somerset and Devon.

The Dorset AONB is one of the most heavily populated AONBs, with over 70,000 people living within it and approximately 1.35 million people living within 20 miles of the boundary. A number of market and coastal towns lie within the AONB, including Lyme Regis, Bridport, Beaminster and Swanage.





CONTEXT OF THE DORSET AONB

It is important to understand the wider context of the AONB in order to manage it most effectively. The Dorset AONB lies within an area known for its outstanding environmental quality. To the east are the internationally important urban heaths around Poole and Bournemouth, the New Forest National Park and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB which directly meets the Dorset AONB at Blandford. To the west lie the Blackdown Hills AONB and the East Devon AONB which meets the Dorset AONB at Lyme Regis and includes the eastern section of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The surrounding countryside in Dorset, while not being covered by landscape designations, is still of extremely high quality.

To the north lies the Blackmore Vale, to the east the Frome and Piddle Valleys and to the south the Isle of Portland. Significant and growing urban populations adjacent to the AONB at Dorchester, Weymouth, Yeovil, Taunton and the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation look to the AONB as an area for leisure and recreation.



As a coastal protected landscape, management of the Dorset AONB must also take into account the special issues relating to its links to the marine environment. As harbour, estuarine and intertidal areas lie within the boundary, activities out at sea can have significant implications for the character and qualities of the area.

MANAGING THE DORSET AONB

Delivery of the Dorset AONB Management Plan is co-ordinated by the Dorset AONB Partnership, which brings together local authorities, statutory agencies and landowner representatives (partners are listed on the back cover of the plan). The Partnership has a team of dedicated staff which delivers a wide range of projects and advises on activities and



initiatives in the AONB. This Team is funded by Natural England, Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, North Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.

The Partnership is closely allied to three heritage committees in Purbeck, West Dorset & Weymouth and North Dorset. These co-ordinate and oversee local delivery of AONB objectives, making the links with local stakeholders and communities.

The Partnership also works closely with a wide range of organisations, communities and landowners across the area, notably Dorset Biodiversity Partnership, Dorset Coast Forum, World Heritage Team, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Chalk & Cheese, Dorset Countryside plus many others. The success of the Partnership is dependent on its close working relations with these organisations and those who farm, live and work here.

The Dorset AONB Partnership is a member of both the South West Protected Landscapes Forum, the National Association for AONBs and Europarc, which bring together the family of protected landscapes at the regional, national and European levels. Through membership of these bodies, the Dorset AONB Partnership develops joint initiatives, shares experience, influences national and European policy and lobbies for greater recognition and protection for AONBs.

Many of the principles of this management plan could ideally be applied to landscapes outside the AONB boundary. Where appropriate, the Dorset AONB Partnership works with partners to deliver projects across the county of Dorset rather than just within the AONB, ensuring that the context of the AONB is recognised. Many projects also operate collaboratively with adjacent protected landscapes to make best use of available resources.

THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR?

This management plan sets out a framework for the conservation and enhancement of the Dorset AONB. It is a revised and updated version to replace the previous Dorset AONB Management Plan 2004-9. It describes why the AONB is important, the vision for its future, the changes and challenges affecting the area and how these will be tackled to achieve the vision. The vision period for the plan looks 20 years ahead, while the objectives, policies and actions are for the next five years, from 2009 to 2014, at which point the plan will be reviewed. The plan places a focus on how the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will be delivered; social and economic issues are covered in terms of their relationship to that primary purpose.

WHO IS THE PLAN FOR?

The AONB Management Plan is just that – a plan for the AONB. It provides a framework that can help guide all activities that might affect the AONB. Its audiences include:

- AONB Partnership organisations – these organisations will have a key role in delivering and championing the management plan;
- Relevant authorities – all public bodies and statutory undertakers have a duty to have regard to the primary purpose of the AONB; this management plan will guide them in fulfilling their statutory duties;
- Landowners and managers – those who own and manage land in the AONB have a vital role to play; the plan aims to help and support their management of the AONB;
- Local communities – all of us that live and work in the AONB can play an active role in caring for the Dorset AONB; the plan identifies some of the priorities for action and ways to get involved.



HOW DOES IT RELATE TO OTHER PLANS AND STRATEGIES?

The AONB Management Plan is a statutory requirement, reflecting that AONBs and their management are in the national interest. As such, this plan should be used to guide and inform all other plans and activities developed by public bodies that may affect the AONB. For example, it provides part of the evidence base for Local Development Frameworks and should help inform community strategies and local transport plans.

LINKS TO THE PLANNING PROCESS

Planning decisions can have significant impacts on the AONB. Local planning authorities have a statutory duty to have regard for the primary purpose of the AONB when making planning decisions affecting the area. In making these decisions the planning authority should seek the advice of Natural England, the statutory agency responsible for AONBs. In addition, this management plan is a material consideration in the planning process and planning authorities seek advice from the AONB Team under the Dorset AONB planning protocol.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE DORSET AONB

This plan has been developed with the input and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. Through this process, local people and organisations have provided extensive input in identifying the local actions and priorities that will conserve and enhance this nationally important landscape.

Climate change is a key issue influencing the AONB, requiring the need both to adapt to the inevitable changes that will occur but also to contribute to efforts to mitigate further climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Global economic factors also influence the AONB, particularly in relation to agricultural management. Early consultation as part of the review identified local concerns about the challenges of housing development needs, roads and traffic and loss of wildlife. There is also a need to value our coast and marine assets and ensure that they are sustainably managed. These are just some of the major challenges addressed in this plan.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken, following guidance from Natural England, to ensure that all objectives and policies proposed in the Management Plan will benefit the environment. Further information about this process and a copy of the Environmental Report can be found on the AONB web site (www.dorsetaonb.org.uk).

KEY CONCEPTS WITHIN THIS PLAN

There are three key concepts that underpin our approach to managing the AONB. These are:

Sustainable development

This management plan is underpinned by the five UK principles of sustainable development, including:

- **Living within environmental limits**
Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.
- **Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society**
Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunities for all.
- **Achieving a sustainable economy**
Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays) and efficient resource use is incentivised.

● **Using sound science responsibly**

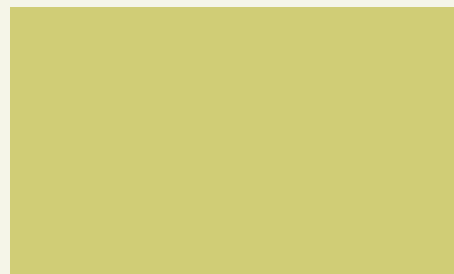
Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

● **Promoting good governance**

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society, engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

In addition to these five principles, the UK sustainable development strategy, 'Securing the Future', also highlights four priority areas for action:

- **Sustainable consumption and production**
Working towards achieving more with less.
- **Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement**
Protecting the natural resources on which we depend.
- **From local to global: building sustainable communities**
Creating places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.
- **Climate change and energy**
Confronting the greatest threat.



Ecosystem approach

The ecosystems approach helps us to deliver sustainable development, focusing particularly on the second action priority listed above, that of natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. Ecosystems can be defined as functioning interdependent groupings of living things existing in equilibrium with their physical environment. In ecosystems (such as those in deserts, forests, wetlands, mountains, lakes, rivers, and agricultural landscapes), living creatures, including humans, form a community, interacting with one another and with the air, water and soil around them. If one part is damaged or disappears, it can have an impact on everything else.

Ecosystems provide valuable services for people – ‘ecosystem services’. There is no single way of categorising ecosystem services, and they can be described in simple terms as providing:

- Resources for basic survival, such as clean air and water;
- A contribution to good physical and mental health, for example through access to green spaces, both urban and rural, and genetic resources for medicines;

- Natural processes that ensure the environment is kept in balance, such as climate regulation and crop pollination;
- Support for a strong and healthy economy, through raw materials for industry and agriculture, or through tourism and recreation; and
- Social, cultural and educational benefits, and wellbeing and inspiration from interaction with nature.

Woodlands, for example, provide a range of ecosystem services, including climate regulation, timber for construction, fuel, recreational space and habitat for a range of other plants and animals. The UK’s woodlands are estimated to remove 4 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere every year, and store an estimated total of 150 million tonnes of carbon. However, their contribution to greenhouse gas reduction can be even greater with better management and greater substitution of woodfuel for fossil fuels.

An ecosystems approach provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision making, and for valuing the ecosystem services they provide, to ensure that we can maintain a

healthy and resilient natural environment now and for future generations. We will promote consideration of ecosystem services through the implementation of this plan. We have identified the ecosystem services relevant to each chapter within the policy framework as a starting point to this process.

Using landscape character as a guide

Within the broad framework of the principles set out above, this management plan uses an understanding of landscape character to guide local activity. Landscape character recognises the holistic nature of the landscape, which goes beyond visual quality and scenic beauty. Landscape is about the relationship between people and place, a product of the interaction of people with the natural environment over time. It encompasses aesthetic, historical, ecological, economic and cultural components.

Conservation and enhancement of the character and quality of the AONB landscape lie at the heart of all the chapters in this management plan.

There are four landscape management strategies that can be used:

Conserve - for landscapes in good condition with strong character where the emphasis is on protecting the key characteristics of the area.

Enhance - for landscapes where some features have fallen into decline. Management should aim to reintroduce features, improve their management and remove features that detract from the overall character.

Restore - for landscapes where features have been lost or are in a severe state of decline. Management should aim to repair and re-establish characteristic features.

Create - for landscapes where condition is poor and character weak beyond repair. Management should consider creation of a new landscape.

In taking forward these approaches, AONB management tends to focus on large or ‘landscape scale’ initiatives rather than small sites. Initiatives also tend to be integrated to include many different interests.





2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

AONBs are designated for the fine quality of their landscape – their outstanding natural beauty. It has long been recognised that natural beauty does not simply refer to the visual appearance of the countryside, but includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features, manmade, historic and cultural associations and our sensory perceptions of it. The combination of these factors in each area gives a unique sense of place, and helps underpin our quality of life.

The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has a suite of special qualities that combine together to make it unique and outstanding, underpinning its designation as a nationally important protected landscape. These are the special qualities we need to conserve and enhance for the future and they should be considered in all decisions affecting the AONB. This Statement of Significance is based on the 1993 Assessment of the Dorset AONB produced by the Countryside Commission.

These special qualities are:

Contrast and diversity – a microcosm of England’s finest landscapes...

The AONB is much more than just one fine landscape – it is a **collection of fine landscapes**, each with its own characteristics and sense of place, including different landforms, soils and wildlife habitats. Chalk downland, limestone country, Greensand ridges and clay vales all occur in the Dorset AONB, but here they are often closely juxtaposed to create **striking sequences of beautiful countryside that are unique in Britain**. The transitions between the component landscapes of the mosaic are often particularly attractive, with strong contrasts in some areas and a gentle transition of character in others.

The ridge tops of west Dorset and the chalk escarpments add an extra dimension to the Dorset AONB landscape by providing stark contrasts of landform that serve to increase and emphasise its diversity. These areas of higher ground also allow the observer **uninterrupted panoramic views** to appreciate the complex pattern and textures of the surrounding landscapes.

Nowhere is the contrast and diversity of this rich assemblage of landscapes more graphically illustrated than in the Isle of Purbeck. Here, many of the characteristic landscapes of the Dorset AONB are represented on a miniature scale to create scenery of spectacular beauty and contrasts, which mirrors that of the whole AONB.

Within this overall context, there are **numerous individual landmarks**, such as hilltop earthworks, monuments and tree clumps that help to contribute an individuality and sense of place at a local scale.

In addition to its outstanding scenic qualities, the AONB retains a sense of **tranquillity and remoteness** that is an integral part of these landscapes. It retains **dark night skies** and an **undeveloped rural character**. The recently published assessment of the AONB, ‘Conserving Character’, adds further understanding of the contrast and diversity of the AONB landscapes and their management requirements.





Wildlife of national and international significance...

The contrast and diversity of the AONB as a whole is reflected in its wildlife. **The range of habitats and associated species is unusually rich**, including 80% of all British mammal species, 90% of bird species and 80% of butterfly species. The AONB's southern location and relatively warm climate make it hospitable to many species unable to survive further north and also home to species new to Britain, naturally expanding their ranges with the changing climate. The AONB includes many areas of **international significance**, including Poole Harbour and the Fleet which are key sites for breeding and overwintering birds, lowland heath areas in the east, calcareous grasslands in the Cerne and Sydling Valleys, ancient woodlands at Brackets Coppice and the West Dorset alder woods, and important cliff and maritime habitats along significant sections of the coast.

Further coastal and marine areas are proposed for protection at European level. Many further areas are important at the national level and are supported by a large number of locally significant sites. The quality of the wider AONB landscape offers high potential to rebuild extensive mosaics of wildlife habitat.



A living textbook and historical record of rural England...

The Dorset AONB boasts an unrivalled expression of the interaction of geology, human influence and natural processes in the landscape.

In particular, the Dorset AONB has an **exceptional undeveloped coastline**, renowned for its spectacular scenery, geological and ecological interest and unique coastal features including Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon, Lulworth Cove and fossil forest, Durdle Door and Old Harry Rocks. The unique sequential nature of the rock formations along Dorset and East Devon's Jurassic Coast tells the story of 185 million years of earth history. The significance and value of this to our understanding of evolution is reflected in the designation of the coast as a World Heritage Site. The dynamic nature of the coast means that it is constantly changing and new geological discoveries are constantly being made, emphasising the importance of natural coastal processes.

With relatively little large scale development thus far, the Dorset AONB retains a strong sense of continuity with the past, supporting a **rich historic and built heritage**. This is expressed throughout the landscape, as generations have successively shaped the area. It can be seen in field and settlement patterns and their associated hedges, banks and stone walls, the wealth of listed historic buildings and the multitude of archaeological sites and features. The South Dorset Ridgeway is a fine example of this, with a concentration of prehistoric barrows and henges similar to that at Stonehenge and Avebury giving a focus to this ancient landscape.

A rich legacy of cultural associations...

Over the centuries, Dorset's landscapes have inspired poets, authors, scientists and artists, many of whom have left a **rich legacy of cultural associations**. The best known of these is Thomas Hardy whose wonderfully evocative descriptions bring an extra dimension and depth of understanding to our appreciation of the Dorset landscape. Other literary figures inspired by Dorset's landscapes include William Barnes, Jane Austen, John Fowles and Kenneth Allsop. Turner, Constable and Paul Nash are just a few of the many artists associated with Dorset, while Gustav Holst captured the character of the Dorset heathlands in his work 'Egdon Heath'. Such cultural associations, both past, present and future, offer a source of inspiration to us all and may help develop new ways of understanding and managing the AONB.





3.VISION



OVERARCHING VISION FOR THE DORSET AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY...

This management plan is based on a 20 year vision of the Dorset AONB in which:

The character, beauty and diversity of the AONB landscape is enhanced, with tranquil areas and unspoilt panoramic views.

The landscape is carefully managed to protect and make best use of the natural resources it provides and to ensure that these are also able to provide for future generations.

Wildlife in the AONB thrives, with large blocks of habitat supporting more viable species populations.

The coastline of the AONB, which is a World Heritage Site, is valued and enjoyed, remaining natural and undeveloped with a thriving marine environment.

Greater understanding of the historic environment of the AONB has revealed much about the evolution of the landscape, and a higher value is placed on caring for our heritage and culture.

A diverse farming and forestry sector thrives in the AONB, underpinning the sustainable management of landscape, natural resources, wildlife and heritage.

Both local people and visitors are more aware of the AONB and actively involved in caring for it, enjoying the inspiration, benefits to wellbeing and high quality local products that a sensitively farmed and managed landscape can provide.

Communities in the AONB enjoy sustainable economic and social prosperity, with better service provision and an improved quality of life, benefiting from and contributing to the area's high environmental quality.

The AONB is able to adapt to the changing climate and AONB management actively contributes to efforts to mitigate further climate change.

All people are equally able to access the AONB in a sustainable way, enjoying the recreational and lifelong learning opportunities it has to offer.



4.A LANDSCAPE APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

A Landscape Character Assessment for the Dorset AONB – Conserving Character – was published in 2008 (available at www.dorsetaonb.org.uk). This provides an understanding of:

- The qualities, elements and features that make the landscape special;
- How these features combine in different ways in different places to give each area its own unique character; and
- The strength and condition of these features and how they are changing.

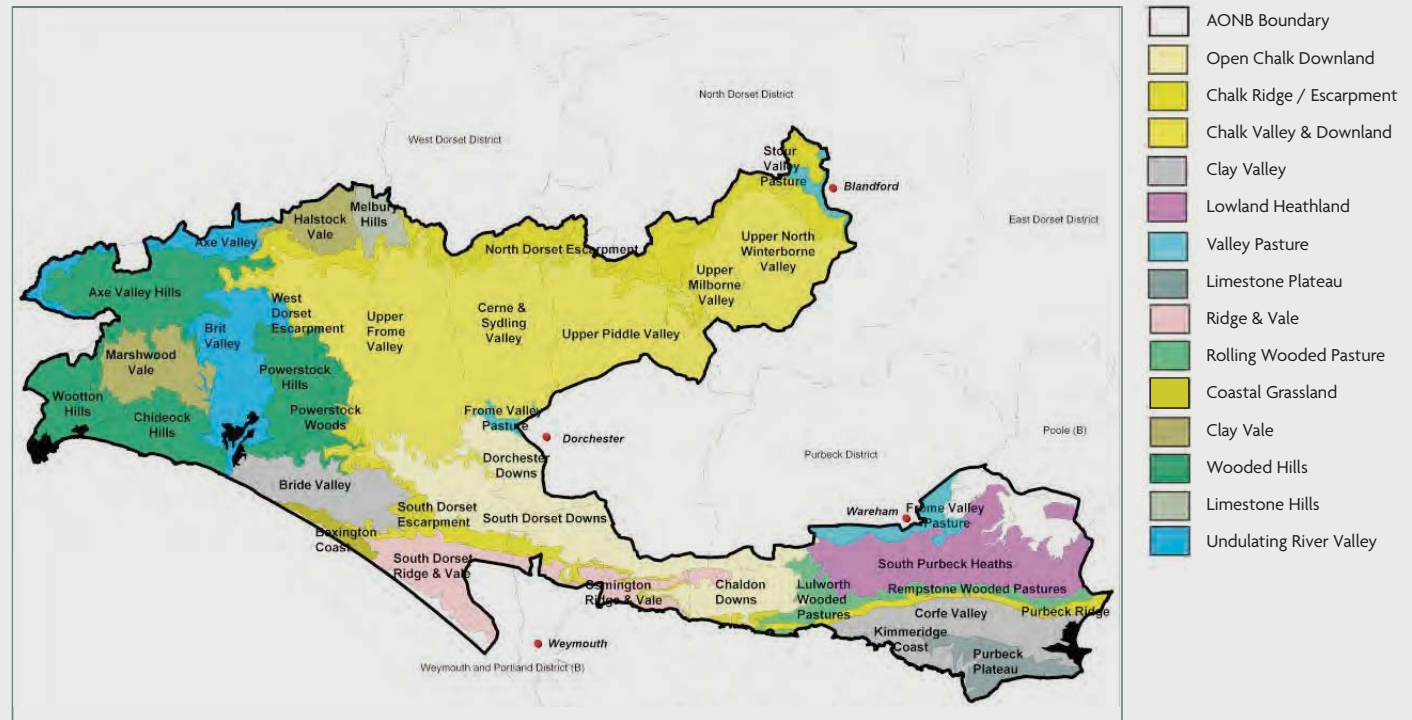
In this section we have summarised the key characteristics and management needs of the different landscape types and some of the actions we are proposing to take through this management plan. This provides a spatial framework for AONB management.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The Dorset AONB landscape character assessment identifies 14 landscape types, such as open chalk downland, clay vales, limestone hills and rolling wooded pasture. These landscape types share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influence but are not specific to a particular location. The landscape character assessment breaks these landscape types into individual and unique geographical areas called character areas, such as the Upper Piddle Valley or Marshwood Vale. The assessment identifies 34 character areas in the AONB.

DEVELOPING THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH TO AONB MANAGEMENT

This map shows the landscape types and character areas identified through the AONB Landscape Character Assessment.





A broad assessment of the condition of the landscape was also carried out, which is summarised in the map below. Condition assessment takes into account a range of factors including landform, historical and ecological features, field boundaries, land use and settlement patterns. The condition and integrity of these features, plus how the landscape is currently changing and likely to change in future all form part of the assessment.

SPATIAL FRAMEWORK

The following table summarises the key characteristics of the AONB's landscape types, their condition and management needs, and the actions that will be carried out through this management plan to conserve and enhance them. Note that not all actions in the Plan are included here, the focus being on spatially specific work that is targeted to direct landscape management/enhancement. More generic actions are not generally included.



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Open Chalk Downland

- Chaldon Downs
- South Dorset Downs
- Dorchester Downs

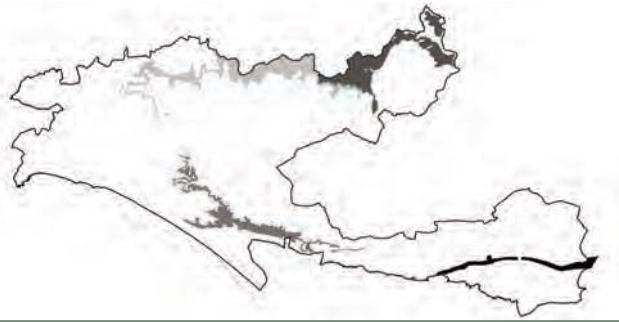


CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS			MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The open chalk uplands of the Chaldon Downs, Dorchester Downs and South Dorset Downs form significant areas of the AONB. They are simple, large scale landscapes of rolling open hills and dry valleys with large agricultural estates mainly under arable production. Partly circled by a narrow face of steep escarpments, the open uplands provide the setting for a series of intimate chalk river valleys. There are strong cultural associations with Thomas Hardy.</p>	<p>Chaldon Downs – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Retains distinctive settlement patterns and undeveloped rural character ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Use of post and wire ● Loss of open field systems ● Lack of woodland management ● Loss of chalk grassland 	<p>Dorchester Downs – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impact of major roads & associated development ● Loss of prehistoric & ecological features ● Fragmented hedgerows ● Use of post and wire ● Impact of development pressure ● Loss of chalk grassland 	<p>South Dorset Downs – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmented hedgerows & stone walls ● Impact of pylons & masts ● Impact of conifer plantations ● Impact of major roads & associated development ● Loss of prehistoric & ecological features ● Loss of chalk grassland 	<p>Management should aim to conserve the distinct downland landscape of open broad rolling hills and gentle slopes. There should be an emphasis on restoring the condition of the characteristic features and habitats to increase visual unity and make the combination and pattern of elements more distinct. Impacts of built development around Dorchester, along main road corridors and other settlements and traffic impacts are causing declines in the character of some areas, likely to be exacerbated with further urban expansion. Power lines and other infrastructure can be intrusive in this open landscape. Climate change may affect species distributions, crop types and could impact on flows in the winterborne.</p>	<p>Grassland restoration project – this is a Pastures New target area</p> <p>South Dorset Ridgeway & National Mapping Programme – Deliver a programme of local research, celebration, access and interpretation of the South Dorset Ridgeway</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches</p> <p>Develop a project to enhance the management and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB.</p> <p>Delivery of landscape enhancement package associated with Weymouth Relief Road</p> <p>Develop a project to conserve and enhance the South Winterborne and its historic features, building on existing initiatives</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Place the most intrusive low voltage power lines in the AONB underground</p> <p>Develop multi-use green links between Dorchester, Weymouth and S.D. Ridgeway and develop Poundbury green infrastructure project</p> <p>Hardy's Wessex Project to enhance and promote Hardy links around Dorchester and beyond</p> <p>Woodlink project: Woodland management and woodfuel development</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Chalk Ridge/Escarpment

- Purbeck Ridge
- North Dorset Escarpment
- South Dorset Escarpment
- West Dorset Escarpment

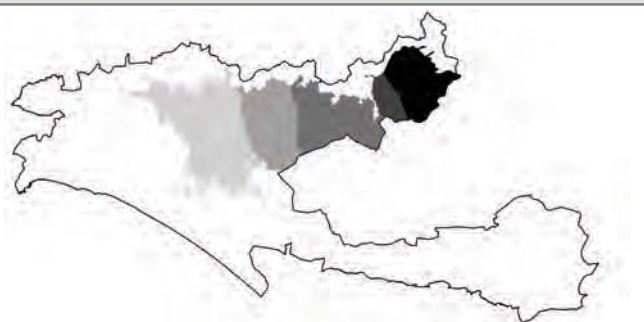


CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS				MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The North, West and South Escarpments and the Purbeck Ridge form dramatic backdrops to, and give views of, much of the surrounding AONB. With an undeveloped and open character, this landscape type with its steep sides supports important patches of chalk grasslands and hanging woodlands.</p>	<p>Purbeck Ridge – good improving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of ancient woodlands, chalk grasslands and agri-environment schemes ● Impact of skyline communication masts ● Scrub encroachment ● Use of fencing in open landscape 	<p>North Dorset Escarpment – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland and grassland habitats ● Invasive species ● Scrub encroachment ● Loss of archaeology through ploughing ● Loss of grasslands and degradation of ancient woodlands through conifer planting and arable ● Impact of skyline communication masts and barns ● Fragmentation of habitat by recent enclosure 	<p>South Dorset Escarpment – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scrub encroachment ● Loss of archaeology through ploughing ● Loss of grasslands through conifer planting and arable ● Impact of skyline communication masts, powerlines and barns ● Fragmentation of habitat by recent enclosure ● Impact of major roads 	<p>West Dorset Escarpment – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland and grassland habitats ● Scrub encroachment ● Impact of skyline communication masts, powerlines and barns ● Impact of conifer plantations 	<p>Management should aim to conserve the historic character, uninterrupted landform, tranquillity, strong open skyline and the distinct mosaic patterns of woodland, scrub and chalk grassland. Seek opportunities to restore and enhance habitats and historic features. Impacts from urban development and roads/traffic are a concern in some areas, notably around Dorchester and Weymouth.</p>	<p>Grassland restoration and management through Pastures New and Purbeck Keystone Project</p> <p>South Dorset Ridgeway & National Mapping Programme – Deliver a programme of local research, celebration, access and interpretation of the South Dorset Ridgeway</p> <p>Restoration of Osmington white horse</p> <p>Delivery of landscape enhancement package associated with Weymouth Relief Road</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches</p> <p>Develop a project to enhance the management and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB.</p> <p>Woodlink project: Woodland management, PAWS restoration and development of forest education/training</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Place the most intrusive low voltage power lines in the AONB under ground</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Chalk Valley and Downland

- Upper North Winterborne Valley
- Upper Milborne Valley
- Upper Piddle Valley
- Cerne & Sydling Valley
- Upper Frome Valley



CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS					MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The distinctive, secluded chalk valleys of the AONB drain the surrounding open chalk downlands. Flowing southwards into the larger Stour, Piddle and Frome rivers, each valley has its own unique character and sense of place, with a diversity of important habitats and cultural features. With traces of old water meadows, distinctive church spires, country houses and characteristic settlements of stone, brick and flint, the chalk valleys display a rich rural, cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Upper North Winterborne Valley – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Leylandii and conifer planting • Excessive road signage • Urban fringe encroachment • Negative horse paddock management • Loss of chalk grassland through recent woodland planting and arable use • Loss of wet woodlands and pastures • Lack of water meadow management • Poor condition of some railings and hedgerows 	<p>Upper Milborne Valley – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of parkland views and features • Impact of Leylandii and conifer planting • Excessive road signage • Negative horse paddock management • Loss of chalk grassland through recent woodland planting and arable use • Loss of wet woodlands and pastures • Lack of water meadow management • Poor condition of some railings and hedgerows 	<p>Upper Piddle Valley – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Leylandii and conifer planting • Impact of HGV's • Excessive road signage • Urban fringe encroachment • Negative horse paddock management • Loss of chalk grassland through recent woodland planting and arable use • Loss of wet woodlands and pastures • Lack of water meadow management • Poor condition of some railings and hedgerows 	<p>Cerne & Sydling Valley – good improving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats • Distinctive settlement patterns • Good coverage of agri-environment schemes • Poor condition of some railings and hedgerows • Lack of woodland management esp. relic hazel coppice • Lack of water meadow management 	<p>Upper Frome Valley – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats • Some urban fringe encroachment • Impact of Rampisham Down masts • Impact of Leylandii and conifer planting 	<p>Management should aim to conserve the strong settlement patterns, restoring broadleaved woodlands and meadows, chalk grasslands and important boundary features. Climate change may impact on flow regimes of chalk streams and associated wetland habitats and affect crop types.</p>	<p>Grassland restoration project – this is a Pastures New target area</p> <p>Develop a project to conserve and enhance chalk streams and winterbournes and their historic features and create floodplain wetlands / flood storage areas, building on existing initiatives</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p> <p>Woodlink Project: Develop a landscape scale woodland project to create a mosaic of woodland, wet woodland and open habitat through woodland planting and management</p> <p>Promote and support water-sensitive farming practices</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Deliver Rural Roads Protocol pilot scheme on B3143</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Clay Valley

- Corfe Valley
- Kimmeridge Coast
- Bride Valley

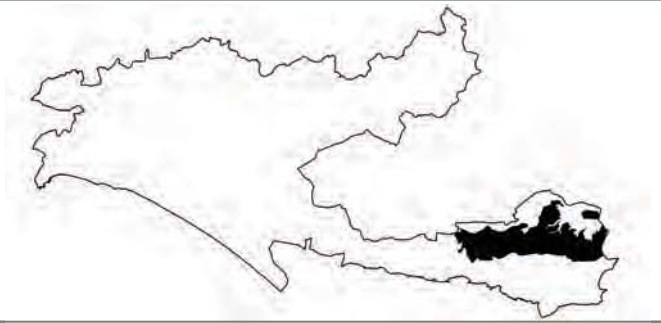


CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS			MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The sweeping landscapes of the Kimmeridge Coast, Corfe, and Bride valleys each have a unique identity. Enclosed by surrounding escarpments and ridges, they generally have a settled rural character with coastal influences. A patchwork of rolling pastures and scattered woodlands have been shaped by centuries of woodland clearance and agricultural improvement. Small farmsteads and nucleated villages with landmark churches are dotted throughout the landscape.</p>	<p>Corfe Valley – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of woodland management ● Fragmentation and loss of hedgerows and stone walls ● Scrub encroachment on rough grasslands ● Unsympathetic leylandii planting ● Excessive signage along rural lanes ● Negative impact of Swanage urban fringe 	<p>Kimmeridge Coast – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undeveloped coastal character ● Fragmentation of some hedgerows ● Arable encroachment onto parkland ● Some erosion of historic glass and alum works 	<p>Bride Valley – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats ● Unsympathetic leylandii planting ● Negative impact of visitor based development ● Fragmentation and loss of hedgerows and stone walls ● Negative impact of conifer plantations 	<p>The overall aim should be to conserve and restore the intimate patterns of grasslands, woodlands, field boundaries and nucleated settlements. Opportunities to enhance rural-urban fringe areas should be explored. Climate change may result in increased coastal change and pressure for further tourism development.</p>	<p>Undertake a targeted landscape / seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management of the coastal corridor</p> <p>Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor</p> <p>Improve walking links between the Coast Path and access points including coastal towns and villages and public transport stops</p> <p>Deliver Rural Roads Protocol pilot scheme on B3157</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches</p> <p>Woodlink Project: Management, linkage and enhancement of woodlands</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Lowland Heath

- South Purbeck Heaths

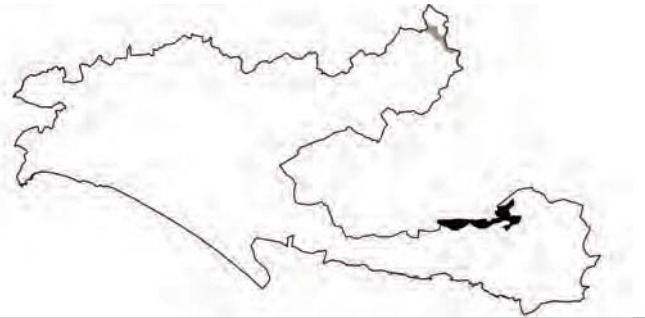


CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS	MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The internationally important lowland heathland landscape of the South Purbeck Heaths, similar to many other heathland landscapes around the Poole Basin, is a complex and diverse mosaic of open dry and wet heath and wooded scrubby heath. A range of land uses affect condition, with the fragile heaths under constant pressures. Remaining heathland patches, many of which are internationally important habitats, are fragmented by significant conifer plantations, with a variety of land uses including mineral extraction and planned farms.</p>	<p>South Purbeck Heaths – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significant negative impacts of conifer plantations on former heathland ● Scrub and woodland encroachment on open heathlands ● Recreational pressures on sensitive heathlands ● Fly tipping and fires ● Negative impact of major road corridors 	<p>The overall aim for the area should be to conserve and enhance existing open heathland habitats and restore important former heathland sites. Enhance the balance of other heathland mosaics through improved management of scrub.</p> <p>Protect and enhance important woodlands that mitigate intrusive developments and provide for strategic recreation. Potential urban expansion is likely to increase recreational pressure on fragile heathland habitats, and climate change may increase fire risks.</p>	<p>Develop and start implementation of landscape scale heathland restoration plan.</p> <p>Implement heathland mitigation programme in east of AONB and extend to other schemes as opportunities arise</p> <p>Develop plans for future management of wildlife / recreation sites likely to be adversely affected by coastal erosion and sea level rise, including Brownsea, Studland and the Wareham Channel</p> <p>Woodlink Project: Woodfuel development opportunities from heathland restoration</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Retention and enhancement of remote areas in the AONB</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Valley Pasture

- Frome Valley Pasture
- Stour Valley Pasture

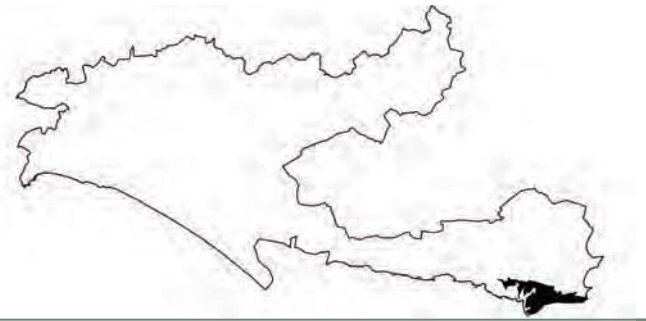


CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS		MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The valley pasture landscape type is found along the lower reaches of the Stour and Frome, formed from alluvial deposits. They have wide, open meandering floodplains that historically support transport routes and market towns around the fringes. A series of wet woodlands, large pastures and water meadows are typical of this landscape type.</p>	<p>Frome Valley Pasture – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats ● Undeveloped character ● Some fragmentation of wet woodlands and pastures through arable change ● Visual impact of surrounding main urban areas and roads ● Lack of water meadow management ● Negative impact of powerlines 	<p>Stour Valley Pasture – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation of wet woodlands and pastures through arable change ● Visual impact of surrounding main urban areas and roads ● Lack of water meadow management ● Negative impact of powerlines ● Fragmentation and loss of some hedgerows ● Lack of woodland management 	<p>The overall aim should be to conserve the strong open character and visual unity of the valley. Conserve and restore features and the diversity of semi-natural habitats such as wet woodland pastures, water meadows, and boundary features. Future urban expansion may affect character. Climate change may affect river flows, with greater chances of flooding due to increased extreme weather events. Management for flood storage could create good wetland habitats.</p>	<p>Develop a project to conserve and enhance the River Frome and its historic features and create floodplain wetlands / flood storage areas, building on existing initiatives</p> <p>Promote and support water-sensitive farming practices</p> <p>Woodlink Project: support management, restoration and creation of wet woodlands</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Develop an integrated project to enhance the Stour Valley</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Limestone Plateau

- Purbeck Plateau



CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS	MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The Purbeck Plateau is the only limestone plateau in Dorset. It has a simple but striking character represented by its exposed and treeless appearance. A long tradition of stone extraction has left its mark, shaping a near continuous network of stone walls, extraction routes and small quarries dotted across the area. Limestone villages and open grasslands add to the character of this distinct landscape type.</p>	<p>Purbeck plateau – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of management of some stone walls ● Intensive management of some grasslands and arable fields ● Negative impact of visitor based development ● Negative impact of powerlines 	<p>The overall aim should be to conserve the strong open character. Restore the important features of limestone grasslands and stone field boundaries across the plateau and ensure new built development respects local character. Climate change may result in greater pressure for tourism development.</p>	<p>Grassland restoration and management through Pastures New and Purbeck Keystone Project</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of stone walls</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Undertake a targeted landscape / seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management of the coastal corridor</p> <p>Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor</p> <p>Improve walking links between the Coast Path and access points including coastal towns and villages and public transport stops</p>



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Ridge & Vale

- South Dorset Ridge and Vale
- Osmington Ridge and Vale



CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS		MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The Ridge and Vale landscape type covers two character areas to the east and west of Weymouth. Backed by the South Dorset Escarpment, these types are characterised by low lying limestone ridges running east to west, with undulating clay vales of mixed farming and nucleated villages.</p>	<p>South Dorset Ridge and Vale – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland grassland habitats towards the west ● Distinctive settlement patterns ● Excessive road signage ● Urban fringe encroachment towards Weymouth ● Negative horse paddock management ● Lack of management of some stone walls ● Scrub encroachment on coastal grasslands ● Negative impact of caravan parks and other visitor based development ● Negative impact of powerlines ● Pollution of the Fleet ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement 	<p>Osmington Ridge and Vale – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excessive road signage ● Urban fringe encroachment towards Weymouth ● Negative horse paddock management ● Lack of management of some stone walls ● Scrub encroachment on coastal grasslands ● Negative impact of caravan parks and other visitor based development ● Negative impact of powerlines ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement 	<p>The overall aim should be to restore the characteristic features of grasslands and field boundaries along the coast. Urban and road development pressures are causing declines in character. There is a need to re-create and improve the urban fringe landscapes with new woodland planting, greenspace provision and reduce the impact of urban fringe and visitor based land uses. Climate change may increase the pace of coastal change and increase pressure for tourism development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of survey and restoration of stone walls South Dorset Ridgeway & National Mapping Programme – Deliver a programme of local research, celebration, access and interpretation of the South Dorset Ridgeway Develop a project to enhance the management and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB. Place the most intrusive low voltage power lines in the AONB under ground Retention and enhancement of remote areas in the AONB Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora Delivery of landscape enhancement package associated with Weymouth Relief Road Deliver Rural Roads Protocol pilot scheme on B3157 Woodlink Project: facilitate the creation of small scale community woodlands Undertake a targeted landscape / seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management of the coastal corridor Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor Improve walking links between the Coast Path and access points including coastal towns and villages and public transport stops Support and promote measures to reduce levels of diffuse pollution in the Fleet catchment

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Rolling Wooded Pasture

- Lulworth Wooded Pasture
- Rempstone Wooded Pasture



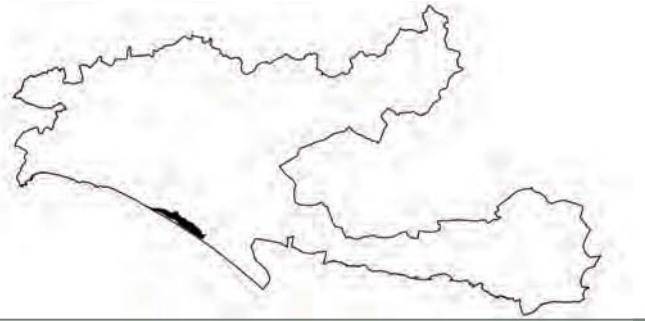
CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS		MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The rolling wooded pasture landscape type is found around the margins of the Dorset Heaths. Although land cover varies, the areas are unified by remnant heathy patches within a well wooded landscape of pastures and dense hedgerows, shaping an intimate and rural landscape. Rempstone has a more agricultural character whilst towards Lulworth, the area has strong parkland character.</p>	<p>Lulworth Wooded Pasture – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative impact of conifer plantations ● Negative impact of military activity ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Use of post and wire ● Lack of woodland management 	<p>Rempstone Wooded Pasture – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative impact of conifer plantations on former heathland 	<p>The overall objective is to conserve the diverse intimate wooded pastoral character. Conserve features such as woodland blocks, dense hedgerows and the presence of scattered trees. Enhancement of many key features, such as the hedgerows and characteristic rural winding lanes is also required to enhance the sense of continuity across the landscape.</p>	<p>Woodlink Project: Woodland management and linkage and woodfuel development</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of hedgerows</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p> <p>Develop and start implementation of landscape scale heathland restoration plan.</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p> <p>Place the most intrusive low voltage power lines in the AONB under ground</p>



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Coastal Grassland

- Bexington Coast



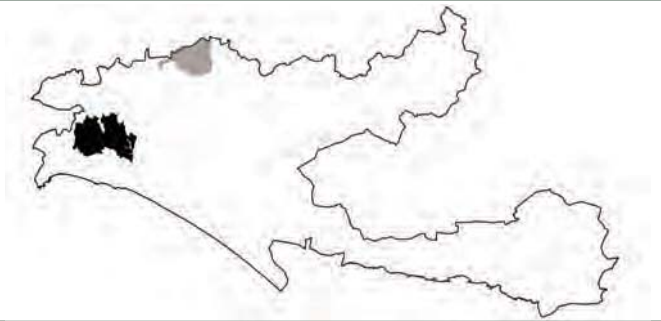
CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS	MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>Coastal grasslands, as a habitat, are found along much of the immediate coastline. It becomes a landscape type where the characteristic coarse grasses, exposed by the full force of the coast, are backed by the southern escarpment and divide it from the inland landscapes. A lack of development and the sweeping coastal views underpin a natural appearance.</p>	<p>Bexington Coast – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of post and wire ● Negative impact of visitor based development ● Scrub encroachment on coastal grasslands 	<p>The overall management aim for the area should be to conserve the open and undeveloped coastal character whilst enhancing the characteristic features of rough coastal grasslands and reeds. Reduce the impact of visitor based development. Climate change may increase the pace of coastal change and pressure for tourism development.</p>	<p>Undertake a targeted landscape / seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management of the coastal corridor</p> <p>Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor</p> <p>Improve walking links between the Coast Path and access points including coastal towns and villages and public transport stops</p> <p>Implement the Dorset Arable Project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora</p>



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Clay Vale

- Marshwood Vale
- Halstock Vale



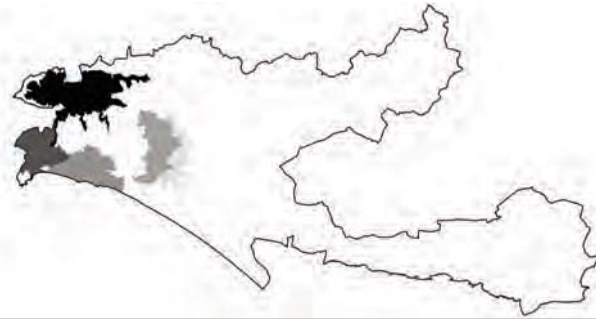
CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS		MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The clay vale landscape type is represented by the intimate and rural Marshwood and Halstock Vales. They have predominantly small pastoral fields with trimmed hedgerows and hedgerow oaks, patterns of Medieval settlement and clearance and a long tradition in dairy farming. Scattered farmsteads underpin the largely undeveloped and tranquil character.</p>	<p>Marshwood Vale – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement ● Intensive management of pastures ● Loss of wet woodlands and meadows ● Negative impact of large prominent barns 	<p>Halstock Vale – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement ● Intensive management of pastures ● Loss of wet woodlands and meadows ● Negative impact of large prominent barns ● Negative impact of conifer plantation 	<p>The overall aim is to conserve the patterns that contribute to the rural, tranquil landscape of winding lanes and small scattered settlements. Restore elements in decline such as the hedgerows and hedgerow trees and narrow corridors of wet woodlands. Climate change may affect river flow regimes, affecting wetland wildlife.</p>	<p>Woodlink Project: promote and facilitate woodland management and linkage</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of hedgerows</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p> <p>Support projects to restore and create orchards using traditional local fruit varieties</p>



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Wooded Hills

- Axe Valley Hills
- Wootton Hills
- Chideock Hills
- Powerstock Hills
- Powerstock Woods



CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS					MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>Significant areas of the western end of AONB form the intimate Wooded Hills landscape type, with several clusters of conical shaped hills formed around the Marshwood Vale. Typically, woodland is found on the valley sides with a network of dense hedgerows, winding lanes and small clustered settlements dotted throughout the pastoral landscape. The market and coastal towns in and around the area support a long tradition of artistic interpretation of the landscape and local cultural traditions.</p>	<p>Axe Valley Hills – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative impact of conifer plantations on prominent hillsides ● Lack of woodland management ● Fragmentation of some hedgerows ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement 	<p>Wootton Hills – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative impact of conifer plantations on prominent hillsides ● Negative impact of visitor based development towards the coast ● Lack of woodland management ● Fragmentation of some hedgerows ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement 	<p>Chideock Hills – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative impact of conifer plantations on prominent hillsides ● Negative impact of visitor based development towards the coast ● Lack of woodland management ● Fragmentation of some hedgerows ● Hedgerow trees in need of replacement 	<p>Powerstock Hills – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats ● Undeveloped rural character ● Negative impact of game coverts ● Lack of woodland management ● Fragmentation of some hedgerows 	<p>Powerstock Woods – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland and grassland habitats ● Undeveloped rural character ● Negative impact of conifer plantations on prominent hillsides ● Lack of woodland management ● Loss of assarts from paddocks ● Some loss of pasture to arable 	<p>The overall aim for the Wooded Hills should be to conserve the intimate, undeveloped and pastoral appearance and protect the wooded character. Ongoing protection of hedgerows, rural lanes, small scale pastures, open skylines and settlement character are important considerations.</p>	<p>Grassland restoration project – this is a Pastures New target area</p> <p>Woodlink Project: Develop a landscape scale woodland project to create a mosaic of woodland, wet woodland and open habitat through woodland planting and management</p> <p>Explore the potential to develop a woodland based recreational and learning area</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of hedgerows</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p> <p>Support projects to restore and create orchards using traditional local fruit varieties</p> <p>Undertake a targeted landscape / seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management of the coastal corridor</p> <p>Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor</p> <p>Improve walking links between the Coast Path and access points including coastal towns and villages and public transport stops</p> <p>Develop a project to enhance the management and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB.</p>

LANDSCAPE TYPE

Limestone Hills

- Melbury Hills



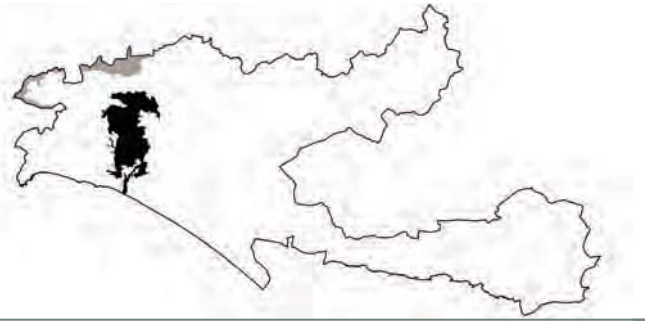
CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS	MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>Although found elsewhere around the northern part of the county, the only limestone hill landscape within the AONB is found at Melbury Park. Much of the area is dominated by the designed parkland at Melbury with its distinctive, sweeping landscape. Elsewhere, a series of low, rounded limestone hills with dense wooded sides contrast to the broad, clay valleys of pastures, arable fields, winding lanes and springs.</p>	<p>Melbury Hills – good stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good coverage of woodland, riverine and grassland habitats ● Strong parkland character ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Use of post and wire ● Lack of woodland management 	<p>The overall aim for the Limestone Hills should be to conserve the parkland landscape and the intimate character of the incised valleys and wooded hillsides.</p> <p>Replant new hedgerow trees and enhance management of existing woodland.</p>	<p>Woodlink Project: Develop a landscape scale woodland project to create a mosaic of woodland, wet woodland and open habitat through woodland planting and management</p> <p>Support projects to restore and create orchards using traditional local fruit varieties</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of hedgerows</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p>



LANDSCAPE TYPE

Undulating River Valley

- Brit Valley
- Axe Valley



CHARACTER SUMMARY	CONDITION – KEY POINTS		MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	ACTIONS PROPOSED (TAKEN FROM THE ACTION TABLES IN SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS)
<p>The undulating river valleys of the Brit and Axe are centred on the floodplains and associated surrounding branching valleys and undulating hills. They have a diverse character ranging from open countryside to market towns and villages dotted along the upper terraces. Characteristic features include damp pastures, linear wet woodlands along the valley floor with small broadleaved woodlands dotted around the surrounding hills.</p>	<p>Brit Valley – moderate declining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation of hedgerows and stone walls ● Negative impact of poplars ● Negative impact of visitor based development towards the coast ● Negative impact of intrusive development around Bridport and major roads ● Loss of wet woodlands and pastures 	<p>Axe Valley – moderate stable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fragmentation of hedgerows ● Negative impact of poplars ● Negative impact of industrial and mineral development ● Loss of wet woodlands and pastures 	<p>The overall management objective for the area should be to conserve the open floodplains, wet woodlands and damp meadows with enhancement and restoration of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Protect the surrounding open rural countryside from further intrusive development. Impacts of development and traffic are degrading character in some areas. Urban expansion could place further pressure on the landscape in future. Climate change could affect crop types and river flow regimes, affecting associated wetland habitats.</p>	<p>Promote and support water-sensitive farming practices</p> <p>Woodlink Project: Develop a landscape scale woodland project to create a mosaic of woodland, wet woodland and open habitat through woodland planting and management</p> <p>Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project</p> <p>Support projects to restore and create orchards using traditional local fruit varieties</p> <p>Explore potential to develop a joint project to enhance the biodiversity, landscape and heritage of the Axe, Brit and Char Valleys.</p> <p>Develop a management plan for Horn Park Quarry National Nature Reserve</p> <p>Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features</p>





5.POLICY FRAMEWORK

This Policy Framework sets out our objectives and policies for managing the AONB to achieve the vision.

The Policy Framework is presented in two sections:

- **Natural Beauty and Heritage**

This section covers the qualities and topics that make up the natural beauty of the AONB. It is presented in five themes:

- Landscape
- Biodiversity
- Geodiversity
- Coast and Sea
- Historic and Built Environment

- **Living, Working and Enjoying**

This section covers activities that influence the natural beauty of the AONB. It addresses these activities in terms of how they relate to AONB purposes (see page 4). Activities in this section are presented in four themes:

- Land management and local products
- Access, enjoying and learning
- Planning, development and infrastructure
- Community action

Each chapter includes background information to describe the topic, its significance to the AONB and its purposes, and a description of the resources in the AONB that relate to the topic. There is also a description of how things are changing and the needs and opportunities arising as a result. Each chapter then contains a table which sets out the objectives, management policies, actions and targets to be delivered over the five-year lifespan of this management plan.



In this plan, definitions are as follows:

Objective – this is what we want to achieve

Management Policy – this is broadly how we will achieve the objectives

Action – this is what we will actually do to deliver the policy

Target – how much action we hope to achieve

Indicator – something we will measure to see if actions are achieving the desired outcome.

For each action the likely lead organisations and some potential partners are included, though these are not exhaustive. The likely role of the Dorset AONB Team is also outlined, as follows:

Lead – projects that the AONB team will lead and co-ordinate

Partner – projects led by others but where the AONB Team will play an active role in delivery

Promoter – projects that are important in delivering the AONB management plan but where input and resources from the AONB Team will be limited, and projects the AONB Team may promote as best practice.

The Delivery column of the tables indicates whether the action is new or continuation of an existing initiative. It also indicates whether funds are already available or new funds required.

The delivery plan will form the basis for the AONB Partnership Business Plan which will identify the costs for each activity and the detail of how it will be delivered and when. The AONB Team will work to secure resources for AONB Management, building on the success of previous Natural England, Heritage Lottery and Local Action bids. The Business Plan is where the AONB Partnership will prioritise its own resources, targeting funds and staff time to those initiatives that will deliver most for the AONB.

Progress on delivery of the plan will be measured both in terms of performance and also in relation to the environmental condition of the AONB. Performance will be measured against the targets and reported in the AONB Annual Review. A set of indicators has been developed for the AONB and will be reported against to check that environmental condition is improving. Indicators include water quality, range and numbers of key species, condition of habitats, monuments and buildings at risk, etc. Monitoring is explored in more detail in the final chapter of this Plan.

POLICY CONTEXT

This management plan sets out the priorities specifically for the Dorset AONB in relation to the purposes of the AONB designation. Delivery of the plan will need to address a number of key challenges which have implications for the AONB in coming years. These include climate change, population growth and changing lifestyles and the resulting need for more housing; agricultural change as food security places greater demands for production; and visitor pressure particularly on the coast.

There are many other plans, strategies and policies that affect the management of the AONB. These are presented in the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the AONB Management Plan and are not repeated within this document.





Delivery Partners

The tables in the following chapters include the objectives, policies and actions to be delivered over the next five years. Delivery partners are often abbreviated as follows:

AONB	Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership/Team	DCG	Dorset Coppice Group	NDDC	North Dorset District Council
BAA CfDS	British Astronomical Association Campaign for Dark Skies	DCM	Dorset County Museum	PCT	Primary Care Trust
BASC	British Association for Shooting & Conservation	DCRS	Dorset Centre for Rural Skills	PDC	Purbeck District Council
BC	Butterfly Conservation	DD	Destination Dorset	PHC	Purbeck Heritage Committee
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	DDHF	Dorset Design & Heritage Forum	PHCo	Poole Harbour Commissioners
BHS	British Horse Society	DEG	Dorset Energy Group	PKP	Purbeck Keystone Project
BU	Bournemouth University	DERC	Dorset Environmental Records Centre	POPP	Partnerships for Older People
C&C	Chalk & Cheese	DIGS	Dorset Important Geological Sites	RFS	Royal Forestry Society
CED	Constructing Excellence - Dorset	DSP	Dorset Strategic Partnership	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust	SEPD	Southern Electric Power Distribution
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England	EA	Environment Agency	SWCPT	South West Coast Path Team
DAAS	Dorset Agricultural Advisory Service	EH	English Heritage	SWPLF	South West Protected Landscapes Forum
DA21	Dorset Agenda 21	FC	Forestry Commission	WDDC	West Dorset District Council
DAPTC	Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils	FS	Finding Sanctuary	WP	Western Power
DBP	Dorset Biodiversity Partnership	FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group	WPBC	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
DC	Dorset Countryside (Rangers & Rights of Way Services based at Dorset County Council)	HS	Hardy Society	WSG	Wessex Silvicultural Group
DCA	Dorset Community Action	JCWHT	Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team	WW	Wessex Water
DCAL	Dorset Campaign Against Litter	JCT	Jurassic Coast Trust	YTPE	Young People's Trust for the Environment
DCC	Dorset County Council	KC	Kingcombe Centre		
DCF	Dorset Coast Forum	LAAs	Local Authorities (County and District Councils)		
		MMO	Marine Management Organisation		
		NAAONB	National Association for AONBs		
		NE	Natural England		
		NT	National Trust		