



6. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & REVIEW

HOW WILL THE PLAN BE DELIVERED?

This management plan brings together the actions of many delivery partners, all of which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB. The policy framework tables in the previous chapters outline the tasks that need to be undertaken in the next five years and who will be involved; they also highlight clearly the anticipated role of the AONB Team.

This is an ambitious management plan and, as resources for delivery are often limited, some actions are aspirational. However, the Dorset AONB Team has a strong track record on delivery and has helped secure substantial funding to make more of the projects outlined achievable.

The Team's role and the use of AONB Partnership resources for the delivery of the Plan are defined more clearly in the AONB Partnership's Business Plan. This is reviewed annually and prioritised to ensure that, where resources are limited, they are focused on the most important areas of work. The Business Plan can be viewed via the AONB web site (www.dorsetaonb.org.uk).

HOW DOES THE AONB TEAM OPERATE?

The AONB Team has three roles, set out in the policy framework tables in the previous chapters. These are:

- Lead – where the team takes the lead role in developing, managing and implementing a project or initiative, securing and managing the funds and staff required to take it forward.
- Partner – where the team is actively involved in the initiative but another organisation is leading. This may involve helping to steer the project, providing some financial support or taking responsibility for implementing some elements of it.
- Promoter – where the team is not actively involved in the project or initiative but may promote it as a delivery element of the management plan.

The Team works closely with a wide range of organisations in the area and with landowners/managers and local communities. The Team works at a regional, national and sometimes international level to share best practice and influence policy development.

DELIVERY PRINCIPLES

In taking forward AONB projects, the Team follows these guiding principles:

- Projects generally take an integrated approach, tackling a number of different interests together and linking up with existing work to maximise benefits;
- Projects are inclusive – we will develop an access and inclusion policy to help improve this as part of our work over the next five years. This will ensure that everyone has the same opportunity to get involved and that the issues that might prevent some people's engagement with AONB projects are tackled;
- Local involvement – we will always endeavour to work closely with local people and encourage them to be actively involved in shaping and delivering projects from start to finish;
- We will work in partnership, bringing together relevant organisations to work with us and local communities ensuring that all relevant parties are involved;
- We will carry out our work in a sustainable way, minimising our impacts on the environment and our use of finite resources.
- We will follow Dorset County Council's procedures as appropriate to ensure we deliver value for money and make best use of our resources. The County Council is accountable body for the Partnership.



CASE STUDIES:

DORSET WOODLINK

The first Dorset AONB Management Plan highlighted the need for a new focus on woodland management. The AONB Partnership took the lead in bringing together a partnership initiative – Dorset Woodlink – to champion Dorset’s woodlands and secure a sound and viable future for them that delivers benefits to Dorset’s environment, economy and communities. Partners include Forestry Commission, Natural England, Dorset Biodiversity Partnership, local authorities, Dorset Coppice Group, Cranborne Chase AONB and private sector representatives. The project operates across Dorset, with a full time project officer based at the Dorset AONB and delivery also by Dorset Coppice Group. A Dorset Trees, Woods and Forests strategy has been developed and is now being implemented, with successes so far including training of 14 people in the woodfuel sector, 4 woodfuel installations, advice given to over 60 landowners and development of an Ancient Tree Project. There is much work still to do and this project will continue through this management plan period.



SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY

The South Dorset Ridgeway is one of Dorset’s best kept secrets – an area with such a concentration of prehistoric archaeology it parallels Stonehenge and Avebury. It is also an important area for its grassland habitats and for rare farmland birds and arable flora. The South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project brings together archaeologists, ecologists, land managers and members of the local community to celebrate, research and manage this important area. So far, a detailed survey of the Neolithic monuments and some of the Bronze Age monuments has been completed by experts and 23 local volunteers, with reports published, the National Mapping Programme has been extended into the area, locating new archaeological sites, 12 people have been trained in oral history recording techniques and over 600 local people have attended project events. A suite of further work, including trails and celebrations culminating in a Ridgeway Festival, will take place in the coming years, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Natural England. Work is also underway to restore the grassland and arable habitats and associated species.

PASTURES NEW

In 2006 the Dorset AONB Partnership secured £165,400 to deliver a grassland restoration target as part of Dorset’s Local Area Agreement. This is an agreement with central Government which, when completed, will secure £800,000 of funding for the County. With 75% of our chalk grassland habitats lost over the last 60 years, the target presented a valuable opportunity to kick start restoration work in the county. The target developed into a partnership project – Pastures New – involving Dorset Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Cranborne Chase AONB and the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group. In the last 3 years, the project has brought nearly 3000 hectares of land into positive management to restore and reconnect grassland habitats. The work has included surveys, management advice and a capital grants scheme to fund essential infrastructure (fencing, water supply etc) to make grazing management more viable. The project has already secured substantial additional funding and further work will be undertaken to continue the project over the next five years.





MONITORING

Two types of monitoring will be undertaken for this Management Plan:

1. Performance monitoring – this will be reported annually and will assess delivery of actions/outputs against the management plan targets. We will focus particularly on those areas being led by the AONB Partnership but will also aim to include activities being led by others.

2. Condition monitoring – this will include data collection against a number of identified indicators as set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment. These indicators provide some measure of the state of the AONB's environment, economy and communities. This will be reported less frequently due to the nature of the data but a report will be published after 3 years of plan delivery to check the situation. Any notable adverse changes in the indicators may prompt a change in priorities for action.



AONB CONDITION INDICATORS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

SEA TOPIC	Indicators
Biodiversity	Condition of SSSIs and SNClS
	Habitat and species (e.g. farmland birds, butterflies) monitoring through Biodiversity Partnership
	Agri-environment Scheme coverage
Water	Pollution incidents
	Chemical and biological water quality
	Bathing water quality
Air and climate	Number of air quality monitoring areas declared
	Renewable energy installed capacity
Landscape	Countryside Quality Counts data
Geodiversity	Condition of RIGS
Waste	LAA waste performance indicators
Cultural heritage	Monuments/buildings at risk
Human health	Number with long term limiting illness
Transport	Traffic growth
Education, enjoyment, training & skills	Qualifications data for 16-74 year olds
Economy	Percentage of working population employed/unemployed

NB. This monitoring system makes best use of data already being gathered by other partners. The AONB team will also undertake fixed point photography at key sites around the AONB to monitor visual changes in the landscape and the condition survey of the AONB will be repeated within the plan period to assess changes since the first assessment.

REVIEW

The AONB Business Plan and annual performance report offer the opportunity to regularly assess progress on the Management Plan and redefine priorities each year. This allows for new opportunities or challenges to be addressed should this be necessary. Stakeholders are welcome to bring issues or proposals to the Partnership at any time if they feel that action is required. The Partnership Board meets three times each year and is the body that decides how staff and financial resources are used.

The Management Plan will undergo a formal review in five years, with a draft plan developed in 2013 and reviewed plan for 2014-19 in place by March 2014.



DORSET AONB PARTNERSHIP

The Dorset AONB Partnership Board was formally established in January 2003 to oversee the management of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the development of this statutory Management Plan.

The Partnership Board includes the following organisations:



Working Together for Dorset's Outstanding Countryside

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