



A Framework for the Future of the  
Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## **The Dorset AONB Action Plan 2004 -2009**

*Working Together for Dorset's Outstanding Countryside*



# Introduction

This Dorset AONB Action Plan has been formed from key actions and priorities that have emerged from consultation on the Dorset AONB issues paper, a public consultation programme, response to the Draft Dorset AONB Management Plan and through a programme of partner meetings to discuss priorities. Its aim is to be realistic, focusing on the delivery of key objectives. The plan seeks to achieve a balance between further establishing the essential framework for the implementation of the management plan and crucially achieving real benefits 'on the ground'. It does not encompass all the actions put forward by partners, and it is recognised that many of these may also be progressed within the 5 year period, and these too will play an important role in delivering the policy aims and objectives. This further list of potential actions is included, and their delivery will be monitored and, if resources allow, supported by the AONB Partnership Board.

The action plan represents those actions seen as achievable priorities for the AONB and is not intended solely as an action plan for the AONB unit, nor any single organisation. Therefore, the action plan includes actions which are to be led by the AONB unit, but also those led by others. This is indicated in the right hand column of the action plan (please see key to role below). It is recognised that the AONB unit is a key resource and it will seek as an underlying principle to add value to each action by working in partnership with others.

Some activity will be part of the AONB unit's core role, other actions will require AONB officer time in project groups, co-ordination, networking and liaison. Where the AONB unit is being asked to lead a new initiative, which will require significant AONB unit time and for which fund raising will be necessary, an indicative project outline has been produced and is attached as an appendix to the action plan.

Project development will be subject to partner organisations' ability to commit resources and on successful funding applications.

## **Key to role abbreviations:**

- A AONB Partnership & unit lead and co-ordination – immediate
- B AONB Partnership & unit lead and co-ordination – follows on from other work
- C Other partner lead which will require input of AONB unit resource
- D Other partner lead that will happen anyway but to which AONB unit can add value

**AONB unit** = 6 officers

## **General Key:**

% (right hand column) = The estimated % of AONB unit time resource required for actions within 2004/5

This Action Plan was approved by the Dorset AONB Partnership Board, 10th March 2004.

# Landscape Assessment

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>1. Landscape Character &amp; Condition Survey</b>	<p>1) Detailed survey of AONB landscape character areas to assess condition of key landscape elements &amp; features.</p> <p>2) Generate management guidelines, for use in planning, work targeting, monitoring etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Landscape Character Assessment</li> <li>Identification of measurable elements.</li> <li>Undertake sample analysis &amp; produce report.</li> <li>Begin specific survey of elements most under pressure / in decline.</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L5, L6, L7, L8, L10, BE1, H5, B1, B2, B4, B6, H6, F1, NR1, NR2, W2, W6.	2004-5	LA's, CA, EN, DERC, EH, DEFRA, Communities, DBP.	<p><b>(A)</b> AONB lead and co - ordination re 1) &amp; 2)</p> <p>10%</p>
<b>2. Promote application and utilisation of Historic Landscape Character Assessment in AONB</b>	<p>1) Historic character assessment (due to be complete in Feb 04) assimilated with landscape character, condition and built environment character assessment as part of spatial analysis.</p> <p>2) Evaluation of local heritage by liaison and engagement with community partnerships and Town and Parish Councils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process established for assimilation with landscape assessment.</li> <li>Make available in readily useable format for community and other use.</li> </ul>	L3, L4, L5, L9, L10, H1, H2, H3, H5, H6, H7, H8, T1, EH6, BE1, BE2, BE4, BE8, F1, W1, W2, T5, T6, T7, T12, T13, PJS10, NR1.	2004-9	EH, LA's, HC's, CCWWD, CA, EN, DEFRA, HET, DAAS, FWAG.	<p><b>(A)</b> AONB lead and co-ordination re 1)</p> <p><b>(C)</b> re 2)</p> <p>2%</p>
<b>3. AONB Built Environment Character Assessment</b>	<p>1) The identification and description of key built environment character areas in AONB and characteristics.</p> <p>2) Assimilation of built environment character within landscape character database as part of spatial analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The identification and description of key built environment character areas and characteristics – report produced. (Underway)</li> <li>Process established for assimilation of built environment character within landscape character database.</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L7, L9, L10, H1, H2, H3, H4, H6, H7, H8, EH3, EH6, BE1, BE2, BE3, BE4, BE7, BE8. T1, TR4, PJS6, PJS9, NR1.	2004 -5	Consultant, LA officers, HCs, HET.	<p><b>(A)</b> AONB lead on setting brief &amp; contract.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> actual task re 1</p> <p><b>(A)</b> re 2)</p> <p>2%</p>

# Information and Communication

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>4. Production and implementation of AONB Interpretation &amp; Education Strategies and implementation of AONB Communication Strategy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ongoing programme of raising awareness e.g. development of AONB web site, newsletters and other publications, media releases and events.</li> <li>2) Framework for interpretation that all can use, identifying key messages and promoting best practice, co-ordinating with other key players.</li> <li>3) Action plan of work to take forward.</li> <li>4) Implementation of AONB Interpretation and Education strategies.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter published.</li> <li>• Web site maintained and developed.</li> <li>• Media releases.</li> <li>• Action plan reflecting agreed interpretation framework, to identify key messages and promote best practice and co-ordination with other key players.</li> </ul>	L3, L4, L10, B1, B3, B6, B8, B12, H2, H5, H7, EH1, EH2, EH6, EH7, EH9, EH10, EH10, F8, W4, W5, AR4, AR7, T5, T6, T7, T13, NR3, NR6.	Produce strategy 2004-5  Implementation ongoing	IG, DCS, LA's, WH Team, EN, CA, EA, EH, NT, RSPB, DWT, Landowners, Communities, PHC, DBP.	(A) AONB lead & co-ordination as core responsibility re 1)  (C) Interpretation Group lead re 2) 3)  (A) AONB lead & co-ordination re 4)  12%

# Land Management

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>5. Develop and implement South Dorset Ridgeway Initiative</b>	<p>1) Integrated project to include archaeological, heritage and biodiversity management, promotion of agri-environment schemes, local products, interpretation, access, tourism, etc.</p> <p>2) Development and implementation of initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish partnership.</li> <li>Map project area and assets.</li> <li>Identify priorities, develop proposals and ensure synchronisation with other initiatives.</li> <li>Raise awareness of the ridgeway and its heritage assets.</li> <li>Liaise with landowners and produce whole farm plans.</li> </ul>	L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, B1, B2, B5, B6, B9, B11, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H8, EH6, BE3, BE6, F1, F2, F3, F4, F7, F8, F9, W2, AR2, AR3, AR4, AR6, AR7, AR8, AR9, AR10, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7, T8, T10, T11, T12, T13, TR6, PJS7, NR1.	2004-9	NT, EH, EN, HC'S, DCS, DCC, WDDC, WPBC, PDC, DWT, HET, DAAS, FWAG, DANHS, DEFRA, SWCPHETG, Landowners, Communities, DCR, DCM.	<p>(A) AONB lead &amp; co-ordination re 1)</p> <p>(B) (C) &amp; (D) re 2)</p> <p>10%</p>
<b>6. Develop and implement a Tree and Woodland Programme</b>	<p>1) Development of a strategic programme to include spatial analysis, planting, management, landscape improvement, tree nurseries, orchards, markets for wood products, recreation, wildlife, resource protection, bio-fuel, community forests, etc.</p> <p>2) Engagement with communities &amp; consultation on programme.</p> <p>3) Pilot / demonstration projects and events.</p> <p>4) Costed programme of action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership, resources and funding developed.</li> <li>Woodland resource mapped.</li> <li>The identification of themes and development of programme.</li> <li>Establish protocol for delivery.</li> </ul>	L4, L6, L7, L8, L9, B1, B2, B4, B5, B7, B11, H5, H6, BE6, F1, F2, F5, F9, W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, AR2, AR3, AR4, AR6, AR8, AR9, T2, T5, T6, T8, T10, PJS1, NR4, NR6.	<p>Produce programme 2004-5</p> <p>Implement 2005-7</p>	FC, DCG, EN, LA's, HC's, TGA, DERC, NFU, CLA, SWRDA, ITF, ST, NF & CF, WT, DWT, FWAG, EH, landowners and contractors, DWF, DREG, DBP.	<p>(A) re 2 (B) &amp; (C) re 2) 3) 4)</p> <p>8%</p>

# Land Management

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>7. Establish funding streams for grants to support countryside management and community projects that help deliver AONB objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Review of existing schemes, targets and gaps in provision.</li> <li>2) Explore development of a voluntary visitor pay back scheme.</li> <li>3) Proposal paper for consultation.</li> <li>4) Development and agreement of any additional funding mechanism.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of existing schemes, targets and gaps in provision.</li> </ul>	L1, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L9, L10, B1, B4, B5, B7, B11, H3, H4, H6, H7, H8, EH2, EH3, EH4, EH9, BE3, BE4, BE6, BE7, BE8, F9, W2, W3, W5, W6, AR3, T9, TR1, PJS2, PJS5, NR6.	2004 -9	PB, LA's, DSP, HC's.	(A) AONB lead and co-ordination re 1) to 4)  5%
<b>8. Develop a Winterbournes Project</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Project definition &amp; development.</li> <li>2) Specialist management advice and support for riparian owners.</li> <li>3) Increased awareness and understanding by local communities.</li> <li>4) Research into flows, ecology etc.</li> <li>5) Water efficiency campaign.</li> <li>6) Management/interpretation of associated heritage, such as water meadows, cress beds, mills etc.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish advisory group.</li> <li>• Collate existing information on pilot stream.</li> <li>• Run community workshop.</li> <li>• Undertake land use, invertebrate and archaeological surveys in valley.</li> <li>• Run training day on management.</li> <li>• Produce 2 whole farm plans.</li> <li>• Promote project and stream through newsletter articles and poster.</li> </ul>	L1, L3, L8, L9, L10, B1, B2, B5, B7, B11, B12, H3, H4, H7, H8, F1, F2, F3, F4, F7, F9, W6, T5, T8, PJS1, NR1, NR5, NR6.	2004 - 9	EA, WW, EN, DWT, EH, Landowners, CA, NFU, CLA, LA's, BL, HET, GCT, CCWWD, DCR.	(A) AONB lead & co-ordination re 1)  (A) & (C) variously re 2) to 6)  10%
<b>9. Focus attention on the increasing litter problem and removal of eyesores</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identification of opportunities for raising issues, increasing awareness and focusing resources on restoration of natural beauty.</li> <li>2) Inclusion within project initiatives such as South Dorset Ridgeway</li> <li>3) Liaison with services re litter and monitor key areas.</li> <li>4) Identification of opportunities to resolve 'eyesores' and liaise to achieve.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising issues, increasing awareness and focusing resources on restoration of landscape beauty.</li> <li>• Issues addressed within South Dorset Ridgeway initiative projects.</li> <li>• Liaise with services re litter and monitor key areas.</li> <li>• Produce report for Partnership Board.</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, L9, L10, B10, H1, H5, H6, EH4, BE8, F1, F2, AR8, T5, T6, T8, T12, TR5, NR1, NR3.	2004 ongoing	DAAS, DCR, FWAG, LA's, H.C's.	(A) AONB lead & co-ordination re 1) 2)  (B) re 3) 4)  2%

## Planning & Development

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>10. Liaise with planning authorities and inform planning decisions that impact upon the AONB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Establishment of Planning Advisory Group in liaison with LPA's, supported by the AONB team.</li> <li>2) Provision of landscape and planning advice.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Planning Advisory Group and terms of reference.</li> <li>• Provision of landscape and planning advice to planning authorities.</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L10, B1, B4, B6, B9, B11, H1, H2, H6, H8, EH3, BE1, BE2, BE3, BE4, BE5, BE6, BE7, F9, W5, W6, AR8, AR8, T1, T2, T6, T7, TR1, TR4, TR6, PJS1, PJS5, PJS6, PJS7, PJS9, NR1, NR2, NR3, NR4, NR7.	2004 ongoing	PB, LA's, SWPLF, NAAONB'S, SWRDA, GOSW, DBOG.	<p>AONB lead &amp; co-ordination re 1) and 2)</p> <p>8%</p>
<b>11. Liaise with Highways Authorities to influence transport decisions that impact on the AONB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Landscape and built environment established as a consideration in implementation of Local Transport Plan in AONB.</li> <li>2) Development of a 'Rural Road Protocol' to include speed, signage, design, lighting, road &amp; verge management, etc.</li> <li>3) Produce a guidance document.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and built environment established as a consideration in Local Transport Plan in AONB.</li> <li>• Development of a 'Rural Road Protocol' to include speed, design, lighting, road and verge management, etc.</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L10, H1, BE1, BE2, T1, T2, T7, TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4, TR5, TR6, PJS3, PJS9.	2004-6	PB, Highways Agency, DCC, LA-TAG, CCWWD, CPRE, CA, H.C's, HA.	<p><b>(A)</b> AONB lead &amp; co-ordination re 1) and 2) AONB plus HA jointly re 3)</p> <p>6%</p>

## Supporting Communities

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>12. Work with LA partners to achieve strategic AONB objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A review of AONB Partnership role in relation to LA corporate plans.</li> <li>2) Review of agreement on service arrangements between the AONB Partnership &amp; LA partners in Dorset AONB, (including relationship to communities and Heritage Committees) to ensure collaborative effort, 'joined up' policy &amp; action, avoid duplication and rationalise delivery.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman to lead an organisational review in conjunction with partners.</li> <li>• Review agreement on service arrangements and agreement on any changes.</li> </ul>	L3, L4, L5, L10, B6, B11, H2, H7, H8, EH9, BE4, T1, PJS9, NR1, NR4.	2003* - 2004 (*underway already). Ongoing	LA's, PB, DSP, DCA, H.C's, DBOG.	<p><b>(A)</b> AONB lead &amp; co-ordination in conjunction with LA partners re 1) &amp; 2)</p> <p>1%</p>
<b>13. Assist Dorset Strategic Partnership (DSP) to achieve strategic objectives for AONB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A review of AONB Partnership role in relation to DSP work.</li> <li>2) Established protocol and service arrangements between the AONB Partnership and the DSP to ensure collaborative effort, 'joined up' policy &amp; action, avoid duplication and rationalise delivery.</li> <li>3) Agreed AONB Partnership role and AONB team work programme.</li> <li>4) Identify how best to assist communities in implementing their plans where they support AONB objectives.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an organisational review in conjunction with partners to establish role.</li> <li>• Establish protocol &amp; service arrangements.</li> </ul>	L3, L4, L5, L10, B6, B11, H2, H7, H8, EH9, BE4, T1, PJS9, NR1, NR4.	2004 ongoing	PB, DSP, LA's, DCA, H.C's, DBP.	<p><b>(B)</b> AONB lead &amp; co-ordination in conjunction with all partners, re 1) to 4)</p> <p>3%</p>

## Developing Access & Enjoyment

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>14. Development of trails and greenways</b>	<p>1) Undertake asset and spatial analysis.</p> <p>2) Integrated access and route corridor management including within the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South West Coast Path</li> <li>• Wessex Ridgeway</li> <li>• North Dorset Trailway</li> <li>• South Dorset Ridgeway.</li> </ul> <p>3) Identification of a network of quiet lanes and utility routes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to spatial analysis.</li> <li>• Agree shared objectives with SW Coast Path.</li> <li>• Membership of Wessex Ridgeway steering group.</li> <li>• Establish contribution to North Dorset Trailway initiative.</li> <li>• Access element of South Dorset Ridgeway progressed (see action 6).</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L3, L4, L7, L8, L9, L10, B1, B2, B5, B11, H7, EH7, EH9, BE6, PJS9, F7, W1, TR1, TR2, T2, T12, AR1, AR2, AR3, AR4, AR5, AR6, AR7, AR9.	2004-9	DCS, LA's, LAF, DCC, SWCP, Communities, Landowners, RA, WHT, HA, DCN, BHS, SCPT, SWCPHETG.	<p>(C) re 1) 3)</p> <p>(B) &amp; (C) re 2)</p> <p>3%</p>

## Monitoring & Evaluation

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>15. Develop an AONB Proofing checklist</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Adoption, co-ordination and assimilation of AONB plan and policy framework within other programme objectives.</li> <li>2) Ensure that landscape character, condition and vulnerability influence the decision making process.</li> <li>3) Public bodies and statutory undertakers have due regard to conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in line with CROW Act 2000.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin to monitor adoption and implementation of management plan/policy.</li> <li>• (Fully operational after development of planning group and landscape assessment process and implementation of management plan/policy.)</li> </ul>	L1, L5, B6, H1, EH2, BE1, BE2, F1, F2, W4, W6, AR1, AR3, AR5, AR8, T2, T6, TR3, TR5, PJS7, NR1, NR2, NR4, NR5, NR6.	2004-6	PB, DSP, CA.	<p>(A) AONB lead &amp; co-ordination re 1)</p> <p>(B) re 2)</p> <p>(B) re 3)</p> <p>2%</p>
<b>16. Produce monitoring and evaluation system for the AONB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identification of condition indicators and establishment of protocols with data providers.</li> <li>2) Produce annual State of the AONB report of baseline data to further understanding of current situation and set targets.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of condition indicators and establishment of protocols with data providers.</li> <li>• Produce annual State of the AONB report of base line data to further understanding of current situation and set targets. (Duty of all AONB Partnerships and teams.)</li> </ul>	L1, L2, L3, B8, H2, F1, AR8.	2004-5 ongoing	PB, SWPLF, NAAONB'S, CA, DEFRA, H.C's.	<p>(A) lead &amp; co-ordination re 1) &amp; 2)</p> <p>8%</p>

## Servicing AONB Partnership

Action (Priority)	Outputs	1st Year - (April 04-05) Output	Policy Objectives Addressed	Time Scale	Potential Partners	Role & % Estimate of AONB Unit Resource Req'd
<b>17. Management &amp; administration on behalf of the partnership</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AONB unit management &amp; resourcing.</li> <li>2) Servicing the Dorset AONB Partnership.</li> <li>3) Servicing the district Heritage Committees and Countryside Panel.</li> <li>4) General administration.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff development, budget control, funding applications carried out.</li> <li>• Servicing the Dorset AONB Partnership by maintaining communication and supporting Partnership Board meetings etc.</li> <li>• Servicing the district Heritage Committees and Countryside Panel by ensuring communication and supporting meetings.</li> <li>• General Administration maintained.</li> </ul>	In support of all.	Ongoing	PB, PBC, CA, LA's, HC / CP.	<p>(A) re 1), 2) &amp; 4)</p> <p>(C) re 3)</p> <p>8%</p>

## Additional Potential Actions

Actions identified as being able to support the policy aims and objectives of the Dorset AONB Management Plan

Additional Actions	Outputs
<b>Information and Communication</b>	
<b>1. Develop an information base on the AONB to assist rural delivery</b>	Land management data base to guide land management, planning and community development.
<b>2. Produce and maintain register of projects operating in the AONB</b>	Better co-ordination, communication and partnership working, avoidance of duplication: 1) Assessment of whether best established at County/ AONB level. 2) Established register.
<b>Land Management</b>	
<b>3. Develop a grassland restoration initiative</b>	Building on existing initiatives to develop a project to include: 1) Restoration and management of grasslands. 2) Advice and support for landowners. 3) Local seed collection and marketing. 4) Grazing scheme. 5) Promotion and awareness. 6) Local product promotion.
<b>4. Support implementation of Purbeck HLF Bid</b>	Delivery of programme to link heritage and social / economic benefit in Purbeck. 1) Co-ordination of Purbeck Heritage Lottery Fund supported initiatives with relevant parts of AONB programme. 2) Review of PHLF initiatives in developing Dorset AONB funding bid. 3) Support initiatives.
<b>5. Contribute to research into renewable energy opportunities in the AONB</b>	Report assessing opportunities and impacts of renewable energy options and recommendation as to most appropriate to AONB.
<b>6. Survey the extent and condition of the designed landscapes of the AONB</b>	An agreed work programme between the Dorset AONB & the Dorset Historic Gardens Trust to include mapping, survey and dissemination of information, leading to a programme of proactive targeted management of historic parks and gardens in the AONB.
<b>7. Promote production and implementation of Whole Farm Plans</b>	To provide the means and resources for implementation of AONB objectives on farmland.
<b>8. Provide management advice on restoration and use of old quarries and other geologically important sites</b>	Better management of sites for education and conservation purposes.

## Additional Potential Actions

Additional Actions	Outputs
<b>9. Develop conservation management plans for existing holiday parks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Owner liaison, partner development, development of initiative tool kit.</li> <li>2) Provision of landscape character, sensitivity and vulnerability advice.</li> <li>3) Implementation of 10 year management plans for holiday parks to include landscape, wildlife and heritage management and mitigation of visual impacts.</li> </ol>
<b>10. Develop rural skills programme</b>	To link existing initiatives and create a programme to provide training and support in rural skills, diversification etc.
<b>11. Create a series of demonstration farms</b>	Promotion of best practice management, exchange of ideas and skills.
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	
<b>12. Provision of open space for recreation, wildlife and play within settlements and urban fringe areas in the AONB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify opportunities and establish links with community planning partnerships, North Dorset Countryside Panel and Heritage Committees.</li> <li>2) Development of improved open space provision.</li> </ol>
<b>13. Develop a stone catchment map of local building stone for builders and planners</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Initiate and develop support for idea.</li> <li>2) Production of a map for planners and developers et al.</li> </ol>
<b>14. Liaison with utilities to optimise opportunities for under grounding of power lines.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A statement of agreement between AONB partners, LA's and power companies that together we will seek to identify opportunities for the removal of overhead power lines in the AONB.</li> </ol>
<b>15. Light pollution campaign</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promotional campaign to raise awareness.</li> <li>2) Development of best practice guidelines on lighting.</li> </ol>
<b>16. Research into affordable housing provision in other protected areas</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A report identifying schemes and approach in other protected areas, e.g. Exmoor Rural Housing Project.</li> <li>2) A report evaluating schemes and identifying options to address issue in Dorset.</li> </ol>
<b>Supporting Communities</b>	
<b>17. Conduct research into the role of modern technology in improving rural life</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Research and evaluation paper.</li> <li>2) A report on opportunities for local communities and businesses, including remote access to services, reducing need to travel and improved communications.</li> </ol>
<b>18. Develop a West Dorset Carrier Scheme</b>	Improved community transport and distribution networks for local producers.

## Additional Potential Actions

Additional Actions	Outputs
<b>Developing Access &amp; Enjoyment</b>	
<b>19. Development of access assets data base &amp; framework for integrated access development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Framework for access development.</li> <li>2) Development of strategic integrated access proposals.</li> </ul>
<b>20. Develop integrated cycleways to improve network, tackle safety issues and provide alternative access &amp; transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identification of gaps in network and consolidation of partnership.</li> <li>2) Development of strategy and programme.</li> <li>3) Implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>21. Implement Studland Transport Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduction of transport pressures through provision of sustainable non car alternatives.</li> </ul>
<b>22. Develop a green accreditation scheme for tourism providers in the AONB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Higher quality, environmental responsibility and overall sustainability.</li> <li>2) Development of Travel Plans for key tourism sites to enable provision and promotion of car free travel.</li> </ul>
<b>23. Identify and develop gateways to the AONB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify requirement for information and access gateways as part of strategic planning for AONB management.</li> <li>2) Input into existing and developing gateways.</li> </ul>

The AONB Partnership will seek to integrate with existing initiatives and programmes that meet AONB objectives, to ensure the most efficient allocation of resources, add value and avoid duplication.

## Key to Acronyms & Abbreviations

AONB unit	Dorset AONB staff unit	IG	Interpretation Group
BC	Butterfly Conservation	ITF	International Tree Foundation
BCTV	British Trust Conservation Volunteers	KMC	Kingston Maurward College
BHS	British Horse Society	LA21	Local Agenda 21
BL	Business Link	LAs	Local Authorities
CA	Countryside Agency	LAF	Local Access Forum
CCWWD	Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB	LANTRA	Land Training Association
CDS	Campaign for Dark Skies	LAP	Local Area Partnership
CLA	Country Landowners & Business Association	LA – TAG	Local Authority Transport Advisory Group
CP	Community Partnerships	LEAF	Linking Environment and Farming
CP&HC	Countryside Panel & Heritage Committees	LGAP	Local Geo-diversity Action Plan
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England	LPA's	Local Planning Authorities
DAAS	Dorset Agricultural Advisory Service	LSC	Learning & Skills Council
DANHS	Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society	MQC	Minerals & Quarries Companies
DART	Dorset Action for Rural Transport Partnership	MOD	Ministry of Defence
DATPC	Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils	NAAONB	National Association of AONB
DBG	Dorset Buildings Group	NF&CF	National Forest & Community Forest Programme
DBOG	Dorset Biodiversity Officers Group	NFU	National Farmers Union
DBP	Dorset Biodiversity Partnership	NT	National Trust
DCA	Dorset Community Action	PB	Dorset Partnership Board
DCC	Dorset County Council	PBC	Partnership Board Chairman
DCG	Dorset Coppice Group	PBM	Dorset AONB Partnership Board members (individually)
DCM	Dorset County Museum	PDC	Purbeck District Council
DCN	Dorset Cycling Network	PHC	Purbeck Heritage Committee
DCS	Dorset Countryside Service	RA	Ramblers Association
DCR	Dorset Conservation Rangers	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	ST	Silvanus Trust
DERC	Dorset Environmental Records Centre	STP	Studland Transport Project
DGS	Dorset Geological Society	SWCP	South West Coast Path team
DGT	Dorset Gardens Trust	SWCPHETG	South West Coast Path Historic Environment Task Group
DREG	Dorset Rural Energy Group	SWPLF	South West Protected Landscape Forum
DSP	Dorset Strategic Partnership	SWRA	South West Regional Assembly
DWF	Dorset Woodland Forum	SWRDA	South West Regional Development Agency
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	SWRO	South West Regional Observatory
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust	SWT	South West Tourism
EA	Environment Agency	TAGS	Transport Action Groups
EDAONB	East Devon AONB	TGA	Timber Growers Association
EH	English Heritage	WDDC	West Dorset District Council
EN	English Nature	WH Team	World Heritage Team (DCC)
FC	Forestry Commission	WPBC	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group	WT	Woodland Trust
GCT	Game Conservancy Trust	WW	Wessex Water
GOSW	Government Office South West		
HA	Highways Authority		
HC's	Heritage Committees		
HET	Historic Environment Team (DCC)		

# Appendix 1: Project Outlines

The Dorset AONB Action Plan includes three significant new land management initiatives. The following project outlines give details of their aims and objectives. These projects will be developed further with partners in the first year of Plan implementation. For further information or to get involved, contact the AONB Team on 01305 224279 or [dorsetaonb@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetaonb@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## South Dorset Ridgeway

**Aim:** To conserve and enhance the archaeological, historic and wider landscape character of the South Dorset Ridgeway and its value as an asset to the area.

### Background

The South Dorset Ridgeway and Purbeck Ridge form the southernmost band of chalk in England between Abbotsbury and Ballard Down at Swanage. Along the ridge lie a spectacularly large number of Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows, a neolithic stone circle and earth works from later periods, the most famous of which is Maiden Castle Iron Age hillfort near Dorchester. Archaeologists have proposed that these monuments should be considered collectively as a cultural ceremonial landscape of the importance of Avebury or Stonehenge. The ridge is also ecologically significant and provides an important access route, much of it forming the inland route of the South West Coast Path National Trail.

Around the central focus of its archaeological importance there exists an opportunity for landscape improvements, heritage promotion, cultural awareness, enjoyment and economic benefit as part of an integrated land management initiative.

### Project Objectives

- Conservation of the archaeological and historic heritage of the South Dorset Ridgeway.
- Raise awareness of the importance of the South Dorset Ridgeway as an ancient ceremonial landscape.
- Conservation, enhancement and restoration of landscape quality and natural beauty.
- Conservation, enhancement and restoration of the biodiversity of the South Dorset Ridgeway.
- Develop a land management database, which allows the many diverse issues of land management and heritage conservation to be viewed and considered in context.
- Provide a framework for the targeting of resources to increase land management options and the viability of each.

- Develop a mutually beneficial accord with farmers, land managers and land management advisors.
- Integration of strategic objectives with Parish / Town and community planning and identification of benefits to local people and visitors.
- Conservation and enhanced management of access provision.
- Promotion of the South Dorset Ridgeway's heritage, landscape, environmental quality, local character and products in a manner complimentary and adding value to the World Heritage Site and Dorset's many other assets.

### Key Principles

- The application of landscape character and historic character to influence and guide the initiative.
- The application of national, regional and local biodiversity strategies and action plans to guide the initiative.
- The development of joint understanding and agreement by working in partnership with local people and other organisations.
- The application of the need for economic viability and overall sustainability.
- The application of integrated land management principles.
- To add value.

### Key Tasks

- To establish and service a South Dorset Ridgeway Partnership.
- To identify and map the geographical area and its natural and heritage assets.
- To identify and agree priority land management targets and opportunities for implementation.
- To ensure synchronisation with complimentary initiatives such as South West Coast Path, Purbeck Heritage Lottery Initiative, World Heritage Site strategies, Ilchester Estate projects, Parish / Town / Community planning initiatives.
- To develop proposals with landowners and land managers.
- To co-ordinate activity and ensure integration of strategic objectives.
- The promotion of the South Dorset Ridgeway and its value as an asset.

## Dorset Tree, Woodland and Forestry Programme

**Aim:** The production of a strategic programme to develop action plans for trees, woodland management and woodland creation in the landscape character areas of the Dorset AONB.

### Background

Local priority concerns include the viability of woodland management and consequent decline of ancient semi-natural woodlands and their biodiversity, key landscape character elements such as hedgerow trees in the Marshwood Vale and the restoration of heathland from conifer plantations. The strategic role of trees and woodlands such as landscape and heritage conservation, landscape restoration and enhancement, amelioration, soil and watercourse protection, energy production, wildlife habitat, recreational provision and economic generation are not currently integrated within a programme of action and the many diverse potential benefits not realised. This integrated approach to trees and woodlands, towards realising their many benefits, will be a key element of the programme.

The programme will seek to take stock of and increase the assets provided by trees and woodlands for the future. It will build on and deliver the England and Regional Forestry Strategies at a local landscape character level.

### Project Objectives

- Restoration, conservation and enhancement of semi-natural woodland in Dorset.
- Development of woodland management systems and techniques suited to smaller scale woodland management enterprise.
- Build on the management skill base and develop training opportunities.
- Support sustainable woodland management and wood product enterprises.
- Conservation and enhancement of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and trees in the farmed landscape.
- Restoration and enhancement of parkland trees.
- Development of open forest, agri-forestry and dual use agricultural and amenity landscapes.
- Support the conservation and creation of orchards.
- Conservation and promotion of trees in the built environment.
- Development of tree rich landscapes around and within settlements.
- Development of the use of trees and woodlands in the restoration of soils and land and protection of watercourses.
- Establish tree nursery to provide local provenance stock.
- Identification of appropriate areas for new woodland creation.

# Appendix 1: Project Outlines

## Key Principles

- The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.
- The application of 'natural areas', landscape character and historic character to guide tree and woodland management and creation.
- The application of national, regional and local biodiversity strategies to guide woodland management and creation.
- The use of appropriate tree species of local provenance wherever possible.
- The application of risk assessment practice.
- The application of integrated land management and sustainability principles.

## Key Tasks

- To establish and service a tree, woodland and forestry advisory and steering group.
- To interpret national, regional and local policy and strategy to establish strategic guidelines for programme.
- To survey, analyse and set targets for woodland restoration, conservation and enhancement and identify areas most appropriate for tree rich landscape and woodland creation.
- To produce individual topic programmes, consult, promote and seek opportunities for their implementation as follows:
  - Small woodland management and practice.
  - Conservation of trees and woodlands in the farmed landscape.
  - The value of trees – a guide to the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits of trees, woods and wood products.
  - The creation of new woodland.
  - Trees in the urban and built environment, open space and community forests.
  - The role of trees and woodlands in the restoration of land, amelioration of pollution and sustainable land management.
  - Trees in the school environment and their educational potential.
  - Orchards, wood pasture, agri-forestry and mixed land use systems.
- To establish protocol with Forestry Commission and Rural Development Service teams to seek opportunities for implementation of the programme in Dorset.

## Dorset Winterbournes Project

***Aim: To conserve and enhance the wildlife, heritage and landscape value of Dorset's rare winterbournes, and to raise understanding and involvement of local communities in the AONB.***

### Background

Winterbournes are small ephemeral streams, fed by water held in the chalk that underlies much of the Dorset AONB. Their intermittent flows support an unusual range of species specially adapted to cope with such conditions. In Dorset, winterbournes are a fundamental feature of the chalk landscape and have a strong association with local villages, many of which have a Winterborne prefix to their names. However, they are also a globally rare habitat and Dorset contains a significant proportion of the global resource. These important streams are subject to pressure from abstraction of groundwater leading to unnaturally low flows, inappropriate management leading to ecological damage, pollution from a variety of sources, loss of their associated heritage and a general lack of awareness and understanding of their significance.

### Pilot Project: The North Winterborne

Initially, a pilot project will be developed on the River Winterborne (referred to as North Winterborne to avoid confusion). It rises at Winterborne Houghton in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and flows through a series of villages before its confluence with the River Stour near Sturminster Marshall.

### Project Objectives:

- Conservation of the natural beauty, wildlife and heritage associated with Dorset's rare winterbourne streams.
- Increase scientific understanding of the ecology and function of winterbournes and the impacts of management regimes.
- Promotion of best practice integrated management.
- Increase public understanding and awareness of the significance of winterbournes, their wildlife and heritage.
- Support and facilitate local communities in caring for their local environment and becoming actively involved in winterbourne monitoring and management.
- Improved management of access to winterbournes where appropriate.
- To raise understanding of the link between our use of water and the impact on the local environment, thus promoting sustainable use of resources.

## Key Principles

- The application of landscape and historic character to influence and guide this initiative.
- The development of consensus and agreement with strategic partners and local communities and the involvement of local people.
- The application of integrated catchment management based on sustainability.
- To add value to existing initiatives.

## Key Tasks

- To establish an advisory group to oversee and steer the Winterbournes Project.
- To establish a pilot project on the North Winterborne.
- To collate and map all existing information on wildlife, management and heritage.
- To hold a workshop with the local community in the Winterborne Valley to introduce the project, increase understanding of the stream, identify local issues and potential actions and agree a way forward.
- To undertake a land cover/use survey of the valley and identify potential target areas for advice / agri-environment grants / management.
- To undertake a survey of instream habitat to identify management issues.
- To undertake invertebrate and macrophyte surveys of the stream.
- To undertake an archaeological survey of the valley to identify heritage assets and management issues.
- Using the information gained through the surveys and public meetings, produce an integrated management plan for the River Winterborne.
- To work with local people to produce a poster interpreting the Winterborne Valley for local residents and schools.
- To promote the project, the stream and its natural and cultural heritage through a series of articles for the local newsletters in the Valley.
- To train local volunteers to undertake flow monitoring to produce a 'winterbourne signature' to assist in overall monitoring of the catchment.
- To train local volunteers to undertake species surveys, such as water vole monitoring at Winterborne Houghton.
- To provide targeted advice on land and river management to farmers and land managers in the Valley and to promote the uptake of agri-environment schemes.
- To run training days on specific management issues as required.