

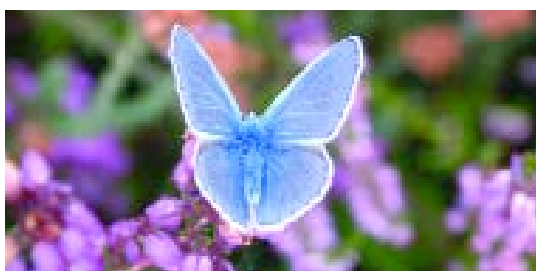


1. Introduction: A Framework for the Future

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The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - A National Treasure

- 1.1 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or 'AONBs' are our finest landscapes. They are nationally and internationally important and receive protection to safeguard their special character and qualities. The primary purpose of the designation is to 'conserve and enhance the natural beauty' of the AONB. This is defined in sections 1.12 and 1.13.
- 1.2 This is the first management plan to be produced specifically for the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It describes the special qualities of the area and identifies the policies and actions required to ensure that they are managed for the benefit of future generations.
- 1.3 In 1959, the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was among the first AONBs to be designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Of the 41 AONBs in England and Wales, Dorset is the fifth largest covering 1,129 square kilometres, around 42% of the county. It stretches from Lyme Regis in the west along the coast to Poole Harbour in the east, and north to Blandford Forum. It supports a population of 92,000, living in vibrant coastal and market towns and scattered villages and hamlets.
- 1.4 The Dorset AONB contains some of the finest unspoilt countryside and coast in Britain. There are a number of overriding outstanding qualities that underpin its designation as an AONB. The strongest of these is the contrast and diversity of the landscape. The AONB is a collection of distinctive landscapes, each with its own sense of place. The AONB also has an unrivalled expression of the interaction of geology, natural processes and human intervention. This has resulted in many unique natural and historic features. The area has strong cultural associations, most notably through Thomas Hardy's evocative novels. Its wildlife habitats are a most significant part of its diversity – Dorset supports about 80% of British mammal species, 90% of birds and 80% of butterflies. In fact, the Wareham 10km square is the richest for plant diversity of any in the whole UK.



Dorset supports 80% of British butterfly species

The AONB Designation

- 1.5 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). The designation embraces areas of high landscape quality and its primary purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. The designation of AONBs is the responsibility of the Countryside Agency, subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 1.6 In 1991, the Countryside Commission and Countryside Council for Wales published a revised policy statement for AONBs. This has been endorsed by the Countryside Agency (successor to the Countryside Commission) and forms the basis of planning and management policy for all AONBs. The Countryside Agency's policies on the AONB designation are:
 - The primary purpose of 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 of 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.
- 1.7 The purposes and significance of AONBs were confirmed, and better arrangements for their management created, by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). This Act placed a new statutory duty on local authorities to produce management plans for all AONBs, as described below. It also enabled the establishment of Conservation Boards for larger and administratively complex AONBs. The CROW Act also requires 'relevant authorities' to 'have regard' to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs.
- 1.8 In June 2000, the Government confirmed in relation to PPG7 (as amended) that the qualities and protection of AONBs are equivalent to those of National Parks. The protection of the Dorset AONB is therefore of national interest as well as local.

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The qualities and protection of AONBs are equivalent to those of National Parks.

centuries of human activity. It is impossible and impractical to separate the landscape from the people that live and work within it. This plan therefore includes social and economic activity in the AONB. Following guidance from the Countryside Agency (CA23: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, A Guide, Countryside Agency, 2001) the Plan also includes aims and policies relating to the built and historic environments, recognising that these are a valuable part of our heritage and lend much to the character of the AONB. Our aim is to take an integrated approach to management, recognising all aspects that influence the landscape, including: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in the AONB, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit.



It is impossible and impractical to separate the landscape from the people that live and work within it.

The Need for the Management Plan

- 1.9 Since its designation in 1959, the Dorset AONB has seen many changes. One of the most significant influences has been from changes in agriculture and the associated impacts on natural beauty. The growth of the tourism industry and the needs of an increasing population all present challenges. If not managed carefully, there is a danger that the pressure of these changes will damage the very things people come here to enjoy.
- 1.10 Such changes are taking place in every AONB in the country. Recognising these pressures, the Government has made a renewed commitment to conserving AONBs through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, which requires the production of Management Plans. The plans must be completed and adopted by April 2004, establishing a strategic framework for the next five years.
- 1.11 The key challenge for the AONB is to conserve and enhance the environment while supporting the communities that live in it. Never before has the Dorset AONB had a plan that addresses this challenge from an AONB perspective. By presenting an agreed vision with clear, sustainable aims and policies, the plan provides a framework to guide and positively manage change.

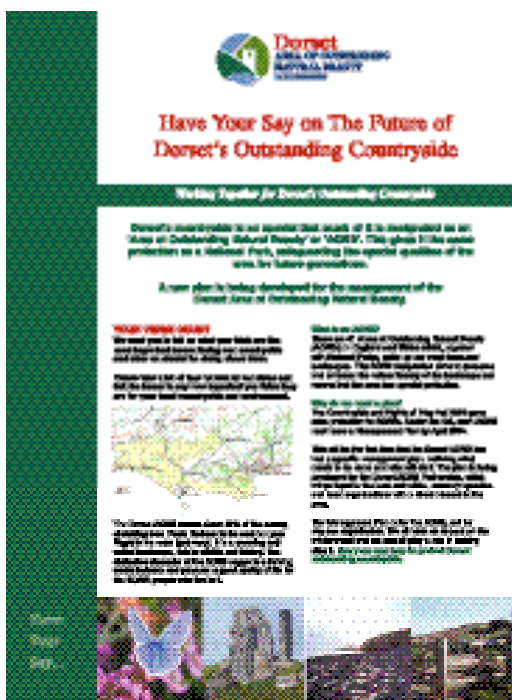
The Scope of the Management Plan

- 1.12 The primary purpose of this plan is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Dorset AONB. The statutory definition of natural beauty includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features.
- 1.13 To achieve this, it is essential to acknowledge that the landscape we have now is the result of

Developing the Management Plan

- 1.14 The development of this Final Plan is the result of an extensive and rigorous consultation exercise. This began early in 2003 with a **scoping exercise** to identify issues affecting the AONB. Drawing from a wide range of expert advice from local authorities, statutory agencies, wider organisations and individuals, the issues were identified and analysed.
- 1.15 Broad aims and objectives to form the basis of the policy framework were then produced and these were the subject of a wide **public participation exercise**. Four **drop-in sessions** were run across the AONB, inviting people to rank the importance of the policy aims and to give comments. The sessions were well attended, with between 60-100 people at each. In addition, a **questionnaire** was produced and circulated asking the same questions.

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The public were consulted on the issues and broad aims for AONB management

- 1.16 Most of those who took part in the consultation exercise felt that all of the policy aims were very important, however some priorities did emerge. The **built environment** was identified as a top priority, highlighting the need to ensure that developers have regard for the landscape character and quality of the AONB and that high standards are used in siting, design and construction. **Farming and agriculture** was also a high priority, underlining the significance of the industry in this very rural area. All three policy aims for farming and agriculture were in the top ten priority aims identified. Conserving **wildlife** habitats, providing **affordable housing**, protecting and interpreting the **World Heritage Site** and managing the **historic environment** were also in the top ten.
- 1.17 Lower scoring aims included some of those relating to tourism and access. This is interesting, given the significance of the tourism industry to the local economy. Some of the more strategic aims, such as ensuring integration of policies and strategies, also generated lower scores. This perhaps indicates that more action-orientated aims were seen as the priority.
- 1.18 Following on from the drop-in sessions, four **workshops** were held for parish councils, local societies and community groups. The workshop groups considered potential actions to deliver the aims. Local issues, opportunities and priorities were developed, providing a valuable insight into potential local projects.

- 1.19 A **conference** was held in July 2003 for representatives from strategic organisations whose functions overlap with the AONB in terms of its environmental, social or economic agenda. Sixty-seven delegates attended, representing local authorities, statutory agencies and other county-wide organisations such as the National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust and National Farmers Union. Delegates assessed the policy aims in terms of their urgency and significance for the AONB. Priorities included management of **landscape character, farming and agriculture, sustainable access**, sympathetic management of **road corridors**, developing better **understanding of the working countryside**, supporting local **communities and services, building design** and **affordable housing** provision.
- 1.20 Delegates then looked at current activity and delivery mechanisms and identified gaps that need to be addressed. Some of the key action areas to emerge include provision of information to support integrated **advice for farmers**, local produce initiatives to help the livestock sector, reversing the degradation of the **South Dorset Ridgeway** and its historic features, developing **voluntary payback schemes** to enable funds from tourism to support the environment, producing **design guidance** for buildings and road corridors, AONB award schemes, better **liaison with planners** to ensure protection of the AONB and **education / awareness** campaigns linked to the countryside.
- 1.21 The participation process outlined above provided the foundation for the development of the Draft Dorset AONB Management Plan. This first draft was made available for public consultation from 15th September to 7th November 2003. Over 900 copies were circulated to all relevant organisations and individuals and to libraries and information centres for the general public. The plan was also available on the AONB web site. Press releases were circulated to promote the consultation, resulting in a number of press articles and radio interviews. Large colourful Public Information Point displays promoting the plan consultation were featured in every library in the county.
- 1.22 Following the eight-week consultation period, a total of 137 responses were received with approximately 900 comments. Of these, 47% used the feedback form provided with the plan, 13% came via the feedback form on the web site and 40% were more detailed written responses. The breakdown of responses by organisation type is as follows:

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Organisation type	Percentage of response
Parish / Town Councils	21
Individuals	20
Local Authorities / Heritage Committees	16
NGOs / Partnerships	16
Local interest groups	10
Private businesses and estates	8
Statutory / Government Agencies	7
Community Partnerships	2

1.23 Comments from the feedback forms gave overall support to policy aims and objectives and the overall response to the plan has been positive. Particularly encouraging was the high level of response from local representatives (61% of all responses), reflecting the interest expressed at the four community workshops held earlier in the plan development process. Reports on the outcomes of the draft plan consultation are available on the AONB website.

Making the Links

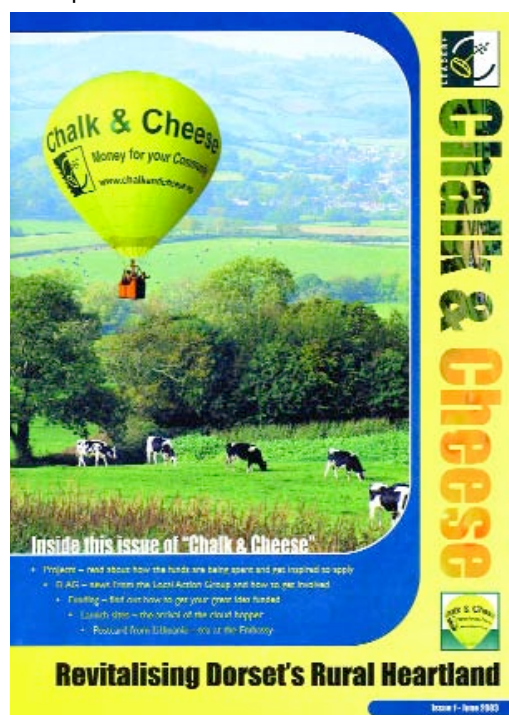
1.24 There are a host of strategies, plans and policies ranging from the European level to the local that impact on the Dorset AONB. Integration with these plans is necessary and a brief overview of the main ones is provided below. Further documents relating to policy subject areas are listed within the policy framework of each section in chapter five.

International Policy and Activity

1.25 Since 1975, farming practices in the UK have largely been driven by the EU **Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP), which provides agricultural support to farmers in EU member states. Until now, these subsidies have been directly linked to production, securing and managing food supply. However, recent reforms to CAP have been agreed that will decouple subsidies from production with a single farm payment. A greater emphasis will be placed on environmental and socio-economic concerns. CAP reform therefore presents significant opportunities for the management and quality of the AONB environment.

1.26 **LEADER+** is a European Community initiative that co-funds small-scale, innovative projects addressing local rural development issues. In Dorset, 'Chalk and Cheese' is a LEADER+ initiative covering much of the AONB. It aims to revitalise Dorset's rural heartland through innovative community-led projects.

1.27 The Dorset and East Devon Coast was designated as a **World Heritage Site** in December 2001 under the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science, Culture and Community (UNESCO) Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). This is in recognition of its high earth science value, with a near continuous sequence of rocks that documents 185 million years of earth history in 95 miles. A strategy for the management of the 'Jurassic Coast' has been developed and integration with this Plan will be required.



"Chalk & Cheese" is the Leader+ initiative covering much of the AONB.

National Policy and Activity

1.28 The **England Rural Development Programme** (ERDP) describes how the Government is implementing the 'second pillar' of CAP - the Rural Development Regulation (RDR) in England. The RDR provides a set of measures and CAP funds which EU members can use alongside their own funds to benefit the rural environment, economy and communities. The ERDP underpins the Government's New Direction for Agriculture by assisting farmers in becoming more competitive, diverse, flexible and environmentally responsible. It also provides help to rural businesses and communities. Schemes within the ERDP relevant to the Dorset AONB include:

- **Farm Woodland Schemes** - such as the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme and the Woodland Grant Scheme, run by the Forestry Commission.

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- **Countryside Stewardship Scheme** - agri-environment scheme offering incentive payments to farmers for less intensive and more sympathetic management and payments for capital items such as fencing.
- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme** - aims to protect areas where the landscape, wildlife or historic interest is of national importance. The South Wessex Downs ESA covers much of the Dorset AONB, focusing on the chalk upland area. Like Countryside Stewardship, it offers incentive payments linked to environmental management.
- **Organic Farming Scheme** - to support organic land management and food production.
- **Vocational Training Scheme** - offers grants for training that improves occupational skills of farmers and other land managers.
- **Rural Enterprise Scheme** - support for sustainable diversification activities.
- **Energy Crops Scheme** - provides establishment grants for short-term coppice and miscanthus and aids the development of producer groups for coppice-growers.
- **Processing and Marketing Grant** - grants for developing processing facilities for primary agricultural products.

1.29 The agri-environment schemes offered by the Government are currently being reviewed. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme will be replaced by a two-tier scheme. The current agri-environment schemes have met with relative success, with 369 agreements in the AONB, covering some 53,210 hectares. It is hoped that the new Entry Level Scheme will encourage higher uptake of agri-environment schemes and deliver many landscape benefits.

1.30 **'A Better Quality of Life - A Strategy for Sustainable Development'** - this is the overarching framework for national, regional and local policy within which the CROW Act and AONB Management Plans sit. It identifies four themes for sustainable development:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone.
- Effective protection of the environment.
- Prudent use of natural resources.
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

1.31 **Rural White Paper November 2000: 'Our Countryside; the Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England'** - presents a range of measures which make up the Government vision of:

- A living countryside, with thriving rural communities and access to high quality public services.
- A working countryside, with a diverse economy giving high and stable levels of employment.
- A protected countryside in which the environment is sustained and enhanced, and which all can enjoy.
- A vibrant countryside which can shape its own future and with its voice heard by Government at all levels.

1.32 **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000** - provides the better management arrangements for AONBs already mentioned, but also addresses the following:

- New statutory rights of access to the countryside.
- Modernisation of the rights of way network.
- Greater protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and strengthened wildlife enforcement legislation.

1.33 The planning system, governed through the **Town and Country Planning Act**, is one of the most important mechanisms for the conservation and enhancement of the AONB. It deals with demands for housing, mineral extraction, transport and leisure developments. The development plans already in place in Dorset have policies relating to landscape protection and the AONB.

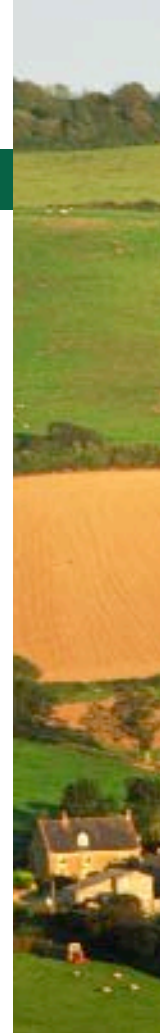
1.34 **The Planning Green Paper** entitled **'Delivering a Fundamental Change'**, contains significant changes to the land use planning system. These proposals include:

- Development of 'Regional Spatial Strategies' to replace Structure Plans and Regional Planning Guidance.



The planning system is one of the most important mechanisms for the conservation of the AONB.

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- Local Development Frameworks to replace local and unitary development plans (to include detailed area action plans for key areas of change or conservation).
 - Mineral and Waste Development Frameworks to replace mineral and waste local plans.
- 1.35 The Government has published a policy statement in response to its consultation on the green paper entitled – ‘**Sustainable Communities – Delivering through the Planning System**’ which includes:
- A commitment to set out a statutory purpose for planning. The aim would be to provide a clear signal for the development and implementation of sustainable planning policy.
 - The inclusion of ‘sustainable’ development as a key purpose for planning to be included in PPS 1 General Policy and Principles.
 - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill which, within section 38, requires those involved in preparing Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) and Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Bill also requires that in preparing revisions to RSSs and in preparing LDFs there should be a sustainability appraisal of the proposals in the plan.
 - A review of all 25 Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) which are to be re-issued as Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) or scrapped within 3 years.
 - A review of permitted development rights.
 - A diversification of skill base within the planning system to provide for a better representative and holistic planning system.
- 1.36 It is important to ensure that the AONB management plan is considered fully within the planning system and that it plays a key role in achieving sustainable development. The Dorset AONB Partnership Board will encourage the establishment of a Planning Advisory Group to advise on AONB planning issues and to help ensure the free flow of information.
- 1.37 In June 2000, the Planning Minister made a statement in the House of Commons that confirmed that AONBs are equivalent to National Parks in terms of their landscape quality, scenic beauty and their planning status. Consequently ‘**Planning Policy Guidance 7 (PPG7) Countryside, Environmental Quality and**

Economic and Social Development’ was revised to reflect this statement. It now states that: “...*The primary objective of designation of AONBs is conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape. Local authorities should reflect this objective in their structure and local plans and development control. AONBs differ from National Parks in that the promotion of recreation is not an objective of their designation, though these areas should be used to meet the demand for recreation so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses....*

In general, policies and development control decisions affecting AONBs should favour conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape. In all cases the environmental effects of new proposals will be a major consideration, though it will also be appropriate to have regard to the social and economic well-being of the areas. Major proposals should be demonstrated to be in the public interest before being allowed to proceed. Consideration of applications should therefore normally consist of:

- *the need for the development, in terms of national considerations, and the impact of permitting it or refusing it on the local economy;*
- *the cost of and scope for developing elsewhere outside the area or meeting the need for it in some other way; and*
- *any detrimental effect on the environment and landscape, and the extent to which that should be moderated.”*

Virtually all the planning policy guidance notes are relevant to the management of the AONB.

- 1.38 The new draft ‘**PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas**’ states that “*The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given greater weight in planning policies and development control decisions in National Parks...and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Planning authorities should also set out positive policies for development necessary to facilitate the economic and social well-being of these designated areas and their communities, including the provision of adequate housing to meet identified local needs. Major developments that are more national than local in character should not take place in these designated areas, except in exceptional circumstances. Because of the serious impact that major developments may have on these areas of natural beauty, and taking account of the recreational opportunities that they provide, applications for all such developments should be subject to the most rigorous examination...*”

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- 1.39 The **National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB)** was formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of AONBs in England and Wales. The Association is administered by an Executive Committee and lobbies for greater protection and more secure funding for AONBs. It also works through Joint Accords with major organisations, such as the Association of National Park Authorities and Forestry Commission.
- 1.40 The Dorset AONB includes two **Heritage Coast** designations – Purbeck and West Dorset. These were designated by the Countryside Commission in 1970 and represent some of the finest stretches of undeveloped coastline in England and Wales. Extensive work has been undertaken by the local authorities to conserve and enhance the Heritage Coasts and this provides a firm foundation on which to take forward management across the whole AONB.

- 1.42 As a result the South West Regional Assembly, together with the South West of England Regional Development Agency, Government Office for the South West and Sustainability South West are working on the development of an integrated **Regional Strategy** that will provide a common set of objectives for the region and promote more integrated working.
- 1.43 The Assembly's work on the environment is led by a Member Group and supported by an Officer Group. The Environment Group's aim is to identify and assess the implications of issues and challenges facing the region's environment. This will involve the preparation of the **Renewable Energy Strategy** and 'Our Environment: Our Future – The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment', currently being consulted upon, as part of the region's Integrated Strategy. The Group will also promote the implementation of environmental policies in Regional Planning Guidance and consider the implications of the outcomes of monitoring and the need for review. It will also draw together work on the **Regional Sustainable Development Framework**.

Regional Policy and Activity

- 1.41 Government is increasingly looking to Regional Assemblies to provide an integrated approach to strategic policy at the regional level. The Regional Governance White Paper "**Your Region Your Choice**" stresses the need for better integration between regional strategies and more co-ordinated working between regional organisations. Existing Regional Assemblies have now been given a much stronger role in co-ordinating and integrating these regional strategies.

- 1.44 In addition to the increased role for regional assemblies, planning reform will result in the development of '**Regional Spatial Strategies**' and **Local Development Frameworks**.
- 1.45 To help deliver strategic rural regeneration, the South West Regional Development Agency is developing a '**Rural Renaissance**' funding initiative. It aims to help rural communities in the South West respond to and influence economic change, by supporting the development and implementation of sustainable projects to:



Administrative context of the Dorset AONB

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- create prosperity and generate employment;
- improve delivery and access to services; and
- realise the value of the environment as an economic asset.

1.46 The South West is the only region to have a Forum that brings together all National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The **South West Protected Landscapes Forum** promotes best practice in protected landscape management through networking, co-ordination and joint working and by influencing regional and national decision making. A Co-ordinator is employed to take forward this work. The aims are to:

- Act as a catalyst for networking and relationship building between Forum members.
- Co-ordinate solutions to members' common learning needs.
- Maximise joint working opportunities.
- Support members in identifying and securing joint funding.
- Raise the profile of protected landscapes and promote understanding of their role in the region.
- Keep under review the longer term structural needs of the forum in terms of governance and membership.

1.47 A **Joint Statement of Intent** has been produced for protected landscapes in the South West. The Partners who have signed up to the statement include the 14 AONB Partnerships, the two National Park Authorities, the South West Regional Assembly, the Countryside Agency, Government Office for the South West, Rural Development Service, DEFRA and the South West of England Regional Development Agency. The Statement aims to:

- Develop the contribution that protected landscapes make to the quality of life in the wider region.
- Increase joint working in the delivery of common objectives.
- Improve communication between partners.
- Promote best practice in partnership working to deliver rural regeneration.

1.48 It is clear that, within this framework, the Dorset AONB Management Plan is well placed to influence regional considerations and can provide a significant framework for action within the context of any new regional government agenda.

Local Policy and Activity

1.49 **The Dorset Structure Plan**, produced by Dorset County Council, provides a strategic framework for land use planning, development and transportation in the county. **Local Plans** are produced for each borough and district, and for the AONB include those for West Dorset District, North Dorset District, Purbeck District, Weymouth and Portland Borough and South Somerset District. These development plans provide the policy framework under which planning applications are considered.

Table: Proportion of AONB in Each District

Local Authority	% area of AONB	Area of AONB in District (ha)
West Dorset District Council	68.4	77,258
Purbeck District Council	21.5	24284
North Dorset District Council	9.3	10504
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	0.7	790
South Somerset District Council	0.05	56
East Devon District Council	0.05	56

1.50 A **Community Strategy** for Dorset is currently being developed by the Dorset Strategic Partnership. In addition, Local Area Partnerships are being created across the area to develop more locally focused Community Plans.

1.51 It is important that the policies for the AONB are integrated with these local policy frameworks.



Integration is needed between the AONB Plan and Community Plans and Strategies

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Who is the Management Plan For?

- 1.52 The Management Plan is for the AONB, not for any one organisation or group. It provides a framework for action, encouraging a focus on landscape and natural beauty. It also raises awareness of how our many and diverse activities affect the character and condition of the AONB.
- 1.53 The constituent local authorities have overall responsibility for the Management Plan, the production of which is their statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). The Plan represents their statement of intent for the conservation and enhancement of the Dorset AONB. In addition, the CROW Act places a duty on all public bodies and statutory undertakers to have regard for the purposes of AONBs.
- 1.54 The Plan's implementation relies on many organisations and individuals. About 90% of the AONB is in private ownership and the activities of farmers and land managers have a major impact on the landscape. Highway authorities, developers and many others have a significant influence. It depends on us all to make decisions that take account of our environment.
- 1.55 The integration of AONB management within the policy framework outlined above is important to its success. The AONB Management Plan does not seek to replace this framework or add an additional layer of bureaucracy. Rather it supplements and compliments what is already there and provides guidance on the positive actions that will safeguard the future of the AONB.

The Dorset AONB Partnership

- 1.56 In January 2003 the Dorset AONB Partnership was formed to steer the AONB management process from plan production through to the delivery of practical projects. The Partnership Board includes a wide range of organisations that play a key role in delivering AONB objectives and reflects the broad range of AONB management. The Partners are listed on the back cover of this document.
- 1.57 The Partnership Board is strongly allied to the Purbeck and West Dorset Heritage Committees and the North Dorset Countryside and Heritage Partnership Panel. These district committees help to co-ordinate local delivery and provide a link with the community partnerships that are developing across the county.



The Management Plan provides a framework for all who influence the AONB

- 1.58 A core unit of AONB staff is in place to assist the Partnership in fulfilling their duties. This unit will co-ordinate delivery of the plan, leading on some initiatives and facilitating others.
- 1.59 A governance review of the Dorset AONB will be undertaken in 2004. This will examine, in the light of the Management Plan and Action Plan, how the Partnership Board should function, its role and membership and the future role and duties of the AONB staff unit.

Governance Structure of the Dorset AONB

