



Recommendations & Priority Action



This section sets the framework for ensuring Dorset's trees, woods and forests provide a variety of benefits to the people of Dorset.

Having identified the three policy areas in Section 2, the following tables set out the issues, recommendations and actions that will be taken forward by the Woodlink Partnership.

Note: Many of the issues cut across some or all of the three policies but have been placed in the most appropriate table.

Enviromental		
Issue	Recommendation	Action(s)
Lack of data relating to the condition of Dorset's trees, woods and forests.	Determine current state and/or condition of Dorset's trees, woods and forests.	Collate current information and identify gaps and funding opportunities to undertake further survey.
Lack of planned management leading to mismanaged woodlands.	County based Woodland Officer to facilitate management of trees, woods and forests.	Ensure a County Woodland Officer is in post and acts as a link between woodland owners and possible timber outlets.
Declining biodiversity.	Halt decline in woodland biodiversity. Ensure no net loss of ancient woodland cover.	Ensure 95% of woodland SSSI's are in favourable condition by 2010. Adopt landscape scale and ancient woodland priority area approach to identify priority species and habitats to target funds and management. Provision of specialist advice.
Rising population of deer, non-native and invasive species detrimental to sustainable woodland management.	Focus on activities to ensure sustained, effective management.	Set up County-wide steering group & encourage co-ordinated management. Work with Deer Initiative and Poole Basin Deer Management Group. Promote. Direct from Dorset as value adding accreditation scheme.
New Plantings for - Biodiversity, connectivity & de-fragmentation.	Identify priority areas for biodiversity gain and habitat linkages. Use a landscape scale approach and take account of other land uses and public benefits.	Adopt landscape scale and ancient woodland priority area approach to identify fragmented woods and forest and utilise SW Nature Map to identify planting areas. Use the Local Developments frameworks to address fragmentation.
Inappropriate tree cover on non woodland habitats.	Remove inappropriate trees, woodland or forest for restoration of BAP habitats where the benefits outweigh the environmental and social costs.	Identify non-woodland BAP habitat restoration areas and determine benefits of tree removal. Work with landowners to ensure a strategic approach.
Management of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands.	Maintain, improve, protect and manage existing sites.	Identify priority sites using ancient woodland priority area approach and identify funds.
Restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites.	Restoration of all identified PAWS.	Identify priority sites ancient woodland priority area approach and identify funds.
Safeguarding Wet Woodlands.	Maintain current extent and identify restoration areas.	Using information available, identify suitable restoration sites. Identify funding possibilities.
Conservation of Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage features.	Determine current state and/or condition of Dorset's woodland archaeology.	Improve awareness and provide information and advice to owners/ managers regarding woodland heritage management. Investigate possible tourism opportunities.
Distribution & number of ancient and veteran trees.	Locate and identify veteran and ancient trees.	Survey to determine veteran tree resource.

Environmental cont'd

Issue	Recommendation	Action(s)
Neglect, isolation and protection of veteran trees.	Identify and map future veteran trees. Re-instate appropriate management practices. Maintain, improve, protect and manage existing trees.	Greenwood Tree Project officer to collaborate with Woodlink Partnership, DERC, NET and district tree officers & local communities. Identify and map suitable trees. Produce guidance notes/ seminars/ training to ensure protection through liaison with planning departments, tree officers and developers.
Planning/development relating to ancient and veteran trees.	Maintain 'network' of veteran trees and semi-natural habitats across the county.	Planners to incorporate measures to protect veteran trees from further loss and damage. Veteran trees to be protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Planners should apply PPS9 to ALL proposed developments that will affect veteran trees' conservation value, (including root systems), any alteration of local hydrology and pollution issues.
Loss of orchards and locally indigenous fruit varieties.	Maintain and increase the area of traditional orchards using local fruit varieties.	Collate existing orchard data and work with Common Ground, Dorset Wildlife Trust and local communities to reinstate orchards. Explore the opportunity for including urban orchards in new developments and green infrastructure.
No reliable statistics on the extent of the overall parkland resource, or on historical and current rates of loss, degradation or condition.	Determine current state and/or condition of Dorset's parkland resource.	Collate existing information and identify gaps and funding opportunities to undertake further survey.



Pearl Bordered Fritillary © Peter Burgess, Butterfly Conservation

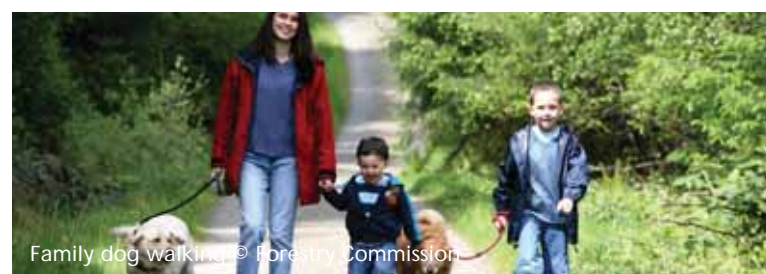


Mixed species bluebell wood © David Rees



Water storage by flood plain woodland © Forestry Commission

Social		
Issue	Recommendation	Action(s)
New Plantings for Social & Community.	Identify priority community sites that would benefit local communities and provide a green infrastructure.	Work with local authorities, planners and developers to identify sites. Develop and implement a community woodland policy.
Limited opportunities for access & recreation.	Engage with landowners and user groups to encourage appropriate, quality access, education and recreation opportunities.	Identify appropriate woods and forests that can be most effectively utilised by the tourism industry and local communities for both organised sport and informal recreation. Explore funding opportunities to enable match funding of projects.
Limited opportunities for community accessibility, education & learning.	Provide suitable and appropriate forest and woodland access.	Develop a Forest School in Dorset. Implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan ensuring that woodland is an integral part of wider green-space and access strategies and programmes.
Inadequate opportunities for health & well being- Quality of life.	Collaboration between industry initiatives such as sport, recreation, tourism, community projects or education.	Partnerships should be identified that would provide opportunities for improving quality of life and health. Promote the benefits of healthy walking and exercise in woods and forests and set up pilot projects close to main urban centres.
Insufficient green Infrastructure.	Draw up a green infrastructure plan for Dorset.	Work with county and district councils, Natural England and the two AONB's to develop a framework for delivery green infrastructure.
Limited development of Sustainable Communities and places.	The benefits and opportunities provided by trees, woods and forests should be reflected in county and district planning guidance, local development frameworks and local plans.	Work with developers, planners, arboricultural officers and local authorities to promote the opportunities provided by trees in new and existing developments.
Loss of traditional skills base and products.	Make education and training in forestry and related construction, environmental and leisure sectors more relevant to students'.	Work with partners across the South West to develop mechanisms to coordinate practical experience that has been identified, following on from college-based studies.



Economic		
Issue	Recommendation	Action(s)
Certification	Increase woodland area under certification through targeting of funds and facilitating management work.	Encourage woodland owners/managers to enter into appropriate schemes such as EWGS, ES and Direct from Dorset.
Improving woodland economics.	Support existing markets and develop new opportunities and explore mechanisms that would enable revenue to contribute to management costs.	Identify new markets and opportunities and work with the sector to form a co-operative and strengthen current markets. Link with Woodland Renaissance survey to assess the growing stock within woods and forest in the Southwest.
Integration of planning/development.	No net loss of woodland area. Local Development Frameworks to include measures to identify opportunities for linking or buffering woodland, in particular ancient woodlands.	Planning authorities should not grant planning permission for any development unless the need outweighs the loss of the woodland habitat. Where this occurs compensatory planting should be carried out. Planners to incorporate measures to protect woodland from further loss and damage and identify ways of reversing fragmentation of habitats.
Lack of awareness of product specifications.	Engage with architects, developers, planners, and local communities. Promote wood products as local, sustainable and carbon.	Raise awareness amongst developers, specifiers, timber processors and the construction industry of the potential to increase local timber sourcing for construction and ancillary purposes given the sustainability advantages of wood over alternative materials.
Identifying and engaging landowners.	Implement suitable, proactive method of engagement.	Liaise with organisations, private estates and sub-regional initiatives.
Lack of woodland management.	Relate benefits of woodfuel to owners' interests.	Continue to hold woodland/woodfuel events annually. Attend meetings and site visits. Produce information sheets and articles for appropriate publications and promote management grants. Promote EWGS to facilitate management for woodfuel.
Limited opportunities for capital grants and investment for woodfuel.	Identify appropriate sources of grant funding and private investment.	Liaise with Forestry Commission, DEFRA, RDA, Local Authority and businesses. Establish a mechanism for supporting woodland owners and publicising information.
Producer confidence in the woodfuel supply chain.	Engage with woodland owners, contractors, communities, end users and financial investors.	Develop a directory of suppliers of certified wood products and end users such as developers and local authorities.
Wood for fuel consumer confidence.	The use of fuel wood from existing woodlands and ensuring that its potential is recognised by developers, planners and woodland owners should be promoted Develop links and partnerships with suppliers, accredited installers and landowners.	Actively identify and engage with potential suppliers, heating engineers, training establishments and landowners. Work with developers and planners to create a sustainable demand. Further research should be undertaken at a county level to assess the potential utilising thinnings and low-grade wood for heat and energy generation.

Economic cont'd

Issue	Recommendation	Action(s)
Woodfuel supply chain complexity.	Provide impartial advice and support and identify supply chain 'needs' such as training, research, resources and barriers.	Act as 'honest broker' enabling a joined-up advancement of the woodfuel industry. Concentrate investment on generating 'clusters' of end users.
Limited education/awareness.	Engage with woodland owners, contractors, engineers, end users and local communities.	Hold training and awareness raising events and produce publicity material.
Carbon offsetting.	Provide a carbon off-setting scheme.	Identify suitable partners to develop a Dorset Carbon Offset scheme to enable the planting of community/urban forests, providing green infrastructure, reducing habitat fragmentation and supporting the installation of biomass boilers.
Ensuring continuity of timber resource and silvicultural management.	Not net loss of woodland area by restocking and new plantings.	Identify areas where restocking with commercial species is acceptable. For new plantings identify areas where there will be multi-use benefits.
Limited new markets.	Explore ways of promoting local timber, including demonstration projects.	Establish a project to demonstrate opportunities for utilising small diameter local timber for items such as window frames, bespoke furniture and garden furniture. Investigate opportunities for using local timber in the 2012 Olympics.

