



5A. NATURAL BEAUTY & HERITAGE



5A.1. LANDSCAPE QUALITY

20 YEAR VISION

The character and diversity of the AONB landscape will be conserved and enhanced, retaining its special qualities of tranquillity, remoteness and unspoilt panoramic views. A better understanding of what makes the landscape special will enable us to plan ahead for landscapes that retain their character while adapting to changing conditions and needs.

INTRODUCTION

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. The themed chapters which follow in this management plan address different aspects of the landscape and management of the activities that can influence it. This chapter focuses specifically on the qualities of the landscape, such as tranquillity, remoteness and unspoilt views, and summarises some of the broad issues that can affect them.

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AONB

The character and quality of the landscape underpins the purposes of the AONB and provides a host of environmental, social and economic benefits. From contributing to our health and wellbeing to supporting our tourism industry, the landscape is a changing backdrop to our daily lives. By managing the quality and beauty of the landscape and its characteristic features we will continue to benefit from the AONB in the future.



DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

Running throughout each character area are qualities that make the AONB inspiring and special, such as the sense of remoteness, tranquillity and sweeping views across diverse landscapes. The variety of landscape types found within the area is a defining feature of the AONB, with dramatic changes from high chalk and greensand ridges to low undulating vales or open heaths. It is often the transition from one landscape type to another that creates drama and scenic quality. At the local level, individual landmark features and boundaries add to character.

CHANGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Climate change will have numerous impacts on the landscape, with changes in agricultural crops (e.g. vines, sunflowers), potential changes to some wildlife habitats, and the need for building styles designed for higher temperatures. For example, current research predicts significant losses of around 30-40% of biodiversity with a 2 degree C rise in global temperature. This would have significant impacts on the landscape and its ability to support our everyday needs.
- There is growing pressure for renewable energy developments, particularly wind farms, which can have significant adverse impacts on the landscape.
- Inappropriate development degrades the visual quality of the AONB, e.g. skyline development interrupting landforms and views.
- Some equine development can alter traditional character with adverse visual impacts.
- Light and noise pollution from transport, development and recreation erodes tranquillity.
- Intensive agriculture can affect the visual quality of the landscape.
- Lack of management of boundary features such as stone walls, park railings, hedgerows, banks and ditches and local landmarks such as tree clumps can weaken the character of the landscape.
- Intrusive and degrading elements such as power/phone lines, pylons, masts/aerials, flytipping and litter impact on the landscape.
- Cumulative effects of small changes to the landscape can erode character.
- There is a lack of understanding of landscape sensitivity and how this varies across the AONB.

LANDSCAPE Policy Framework and Delivery Plan

OBJECTIVE L1: CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE SPECIAL AND DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF THE AONB'S LANDSCAPES AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

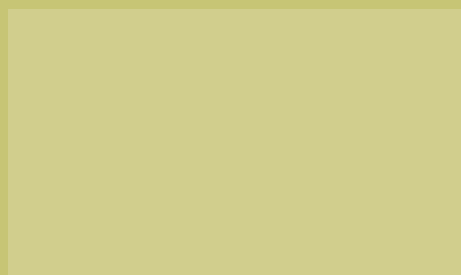
Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
L1a: Protect and enhance landscape character and quality and promote the use of landscape character assessment to shape decisions affecting the AONB.	Provide advice and training on application and use of the AONB landscape character assessment.	4 training events for planners and land managers by 2014 Make interactive landscape character assessment available via the web by 2009	Existing initiative £ available	AONB/LAs	Lead
L1b: Minimise and reduce the cumulative impacts of small scale incremental change that erodes landscape character.	Develop informal guidance and checklists to inform the development control process and guide the public and farmers on small scale domestic development and agricultural development.	Produce checklists and guidance by 2012	New initiative £ available	AONB/LAs	Joint lead
L1c: Provide informal guidance on equine management in the AONB.	Produce guidance document and run training events on good equine management and associated development.	Guidance produced and 2 events run by 2014	New initiative £ available	AONB/ FWAG/BHS/ LAs	Joint lead
L1d: Protect, enhance and create local landmark features such as boundary features, tree clumps etc.	Develop a Parish Landmarks Project to identify, map, conserve and create local landmark features and associated history.	20 parishes involved by 2014	New initiative £ required	AONB/ DAPTC/LAs/ DC	Joint lead

OBJECTIVE L2: PROTECT THE AONB'S PANORAMIC VIEWS, TRANQUILLITY AND REMOTENESS

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
L2a: Protect and maintain the tranquillity of the AONB and reduce noise and light pollution.	Ground truth and refine national tranquillity mapping and identify a management strategy.	Ground truthing and strategy produced by 2014 No net loss of tranquillity	New initiative £ required	AONB/CPRE	Joint lead
	Run a light pollution campaign.	Light pollution monitoring	New initiative £ required	BAACfDS/ CPRE/AONB	Joint lead
	Turn off rural street lights overnight to reduce light pollution and energy use.	Complete and evaluate trial by 2010; if successful roll out across AONB by 2014.	Existing initiative £ available	DCC	Promoter
L2b: Remove eyesores to restore the quality of the landscape.	Place the most intrusive low voltage power lines in the AONB underground.	20km line under ground 2009-2014	Expansion of existing initiative £ available	SEPD/Western Power/AONB	Partner
	Run a litter campaign and ensure prompt removal of fly-tipped waste.	Reduction in fly tipping incidents	Existing initiative £ available	DCAL CPRE/AONB/ LAs	Partner
L2c: Retain and enhance remote areas within the AONB.	Implement measures to conserve the remoteness of the southern shore of Poole Harbour, the shore of the Fleet and identify other appropriate areas.	No loss of remoteness in identified areas, e.g. through development pressure or increased access	New initiative. £ available	AONB/NE/ LAs	Partner

OBJECTIVE L3: PLAN AND SHAPE THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE TO ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
L3a: Use analysis of landscape sensitivity to guide future development and change.	Undertake sensitivity study.	By 2011	New initiative £ required	LAs/AONB	Partner
L3b: Monitor and address changes in the condition of the landscape.	Undertake a landscape condition survey every five years.	Repeat 2006/7 survey by 2012	Existing initiative; £ available	AONB/LAs/ NE	Lead





5A.2. BIODIVERSITY

20 YEAR VISION

Biodiversity in the AONB will be thriving, with extensive mosaics of wildlife habitat supporting robust populations which are adapting to the changing climate over time. The AONB will be valued as one of the richest wildlife areas in the country, enriching the lives of local communities, landowners and visitors who take an active role in caring for the wildlife in their areas.

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity (biological diversity) is defined as the variability among all living things including terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems, diversity within species and between species. Dorset has an exceptional wealth of wildlife. This chapter addresses the issues and opportunities for the wildlife habitats and species in the Dorset AONB. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy.

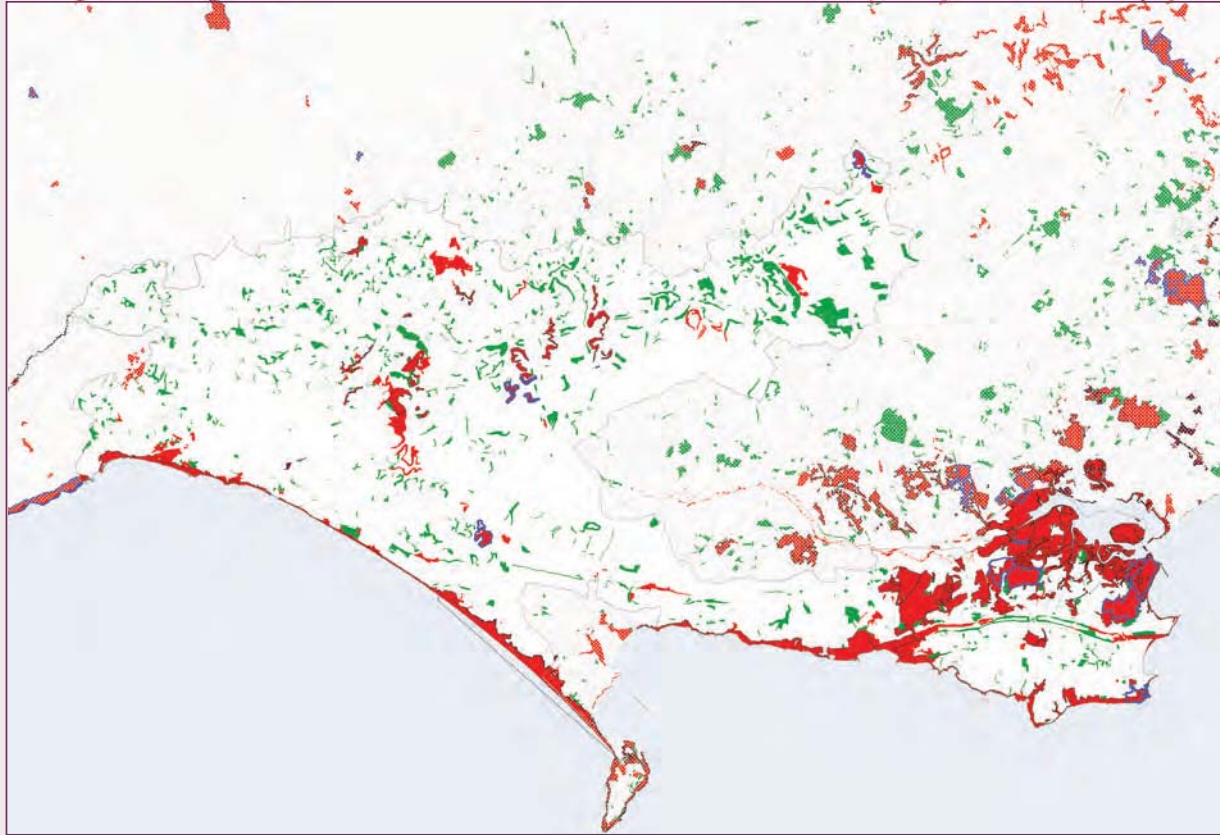
SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AONB

Biodiversity is a fundamental part of natural beauty. The AONB's wealth of wildlife, from the common and widespread to the globally rare, is one of the outstanding qualities that underpin its designation. The biodiversity of the AONB is shaped by the underlying geology and the landscapes that arise from it. It is also influenced by the social, cultural and economic activities of past and present landuse, which biodiversity supports by providing resources such as food, timber, clean water and crop pollination.

Dorset is particularly rich in some habitats and species. For example, lowland heathland and the characteristic species associated with it form a recognisable landscape across southern England. In Dorset, however, there is a concentration of species such as sand lizards and smooth snakes that do not occur in such numbers anywhere else in the country.

Since 1945, the landscape has changed markedly in response to changes in economic, agricultural and forestry policies. For example, intensification and increasing use of fertilisers and pesticides has affected many species and habitats. Some of our most cherished wildlife areas have become degraded over time through habitat loss and fragmentation. It is important to conserve remaining habitats for the wealth of species they will have developed over time, as well as enhancing and reconnecting them by habitat recreation.





Natura 2000 sites



SSSI
Site of Special Scientific Interest



NNR
National Nature Reserve



SNCI
Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (Local sites)



LNR
Local Nature Reserves



DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

The Dorset AONB encompasses a great variety of biodiversity – chalk and limestone grassland which is found across the AONB and along the coast; lowland heathland concentrated in the eastern part of the AONB; ancient meadows and woodlands scattered throughout; and maritime coast and cliff along much of the Jurassic Coast. This is reflected through a number of nature conservation designations:

- Nine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) of international importance for habitats and species: Cerne and Sydling Downs; West Dorset Alder Woods; Bracket's Coppice; Chesil and the Fleet; Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes; Dorset Heaths; Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs; St. Aldhelm's Head to Durlston Head; and Sidmouth to West Bay.
- Three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) of international importance for birds: Poole Harbour, Dorset Heathlands and Chesil and the Fleet. Together, SACs and SPAs form a network of 'Natura 2000' sites - European sites of the highest value for rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species.
- Nine National Nature Reserves (NNRs) lie wholly within the AONB: Stoborough Heath, Hartland Moor, Studland Heath, Arne Reedbeds, Hambledon Hill, Hog Cliff, Horn Park Quarry, Durlston and the Valley of the Stones
- 70 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), of national importance for their wildlife and/or geological interest, which cover 99% of the AONB
- 655 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) covering nearly 6% of the AONB.

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) have wildlife or geological features of special local interest. They offer opportunities for study, learning and enjoyment of nature.

The AONB includes 26 of the 42 UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority terrestrial and maritime habitats. There are many important species, such as the marsh fritillary butterfly, water vole, southern damselfly, Dartford warbler, smooth snake and sand lizard.

The majority of the land-based habitats are under agricultural or forestry management and in private ownership.



BIODIVERSITY IN THE LANDSCAPE

This table shows how biodiversity habitats link to the landscape types identified in the Landscape Framework in chapter 4. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats that are significant to each landscape type are listed.

Landscape Type	UK BAP Priority Habitats
Open Chalk Downland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland
Chalk Ridge/Escarpment	Lowland Beech and Yew, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Wood Pasture & Parkland
Chalk Valley and Downland	Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Wood Pasture & Parkland, Rivers, Hedgerows
Clay Valley	Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Rivers, Hedgerows
Lowland Heath	Coastal Saltmarsh, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Heath, Lowland Meadows, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Rivers, Reedbeds, Coastal Sand Dunes, Oligotrophic Lake
Valley Pasture	Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland, Rivers, Reedbeds

Landscape Type	UK BAP Priority Habitats
Limestone Plateau	Lowland Calcareous Grassland
Ridge & Vale	Coastal Saltmarsh, Coastal Vegetated Shingle, Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Coastal Lagoon
Rolling Wooded Pasture	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wood Pasture & Parkland, Hedgerows
Coastal Grassland	Coastal Vegetated Shingle, Lowland Meadows
Clay Vale	Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Rivers, Hedgerows
Wooded Hills	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Acidic Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wet Woodland, Wood Pasture & Parkland, Rivers
Limestone Hills	Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush, Wood Pasture & Parkland
Undulating River Valley	Lowland Meadows, Lowland Deciduous Woodland, Rivers



CHANGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Climate Change is predicted to have a number of implications for biodiversity, including:
 - Predicted changes such as drier summers, warmer winters and more extreme weather will benefit some species but disadvantage others.
 - Some species ranges will alter; in general a north-east shift is predicted and in Dorset this is likely to include new species arriving from the continent.
 - Changes in seasons, such as an earlier growing season may affect life cycles of both resident and migratory species.
 - Sea level rise may affect intertidal and coastal habitats such as saltmarshes, mudflats and lagoons, particularly where their movement is constrained by hard coastal defences.
 - Indirect impacts may arise from changes in land use such as change to cropping patterns or an increase in tourism.
- Changes in agriculture driven by global markets and policy reviews such as the Common Agricultural Policy review in 2012 have implications for the support of environmental management on farms, crop types and farming practices.
- The Marine Bill sets out proposals to establish a national network of Marine Conservation Zones. Proposals for new marine Special Areas of Conservation along the Dorset coast are also being developed.
- Past loss of habitat has left remaining areas isolated and fragmented. For example chalk grassland has declined by over 75 % since the 1940s with remaining habitat in scattered patches. The South West Nature Map identifies target areas for habitat restoration at a landscape scale. This approach places a greater emphasis on linking and restoring habitats to create extensive wildlife areas that can adapt and change with the changing climate, rather than relying solely on potentially isolated designated sites.
- Forestry plantations on heathland, grassland and ancient woodland sites conflict with the conservation of these priority habitats.
- Lack of management due to economic factors reduces the biodiversity value of some habitats e.g. inappropriate or lack of grazing on grasslands and heathlands, and coppicing in small woodlands.
- Diffuse and point source pollution from a variety of sources can affect wetland and coastal systems. Implementation of the Water Framework Directive aims to bring systems into good ecological status.
- Whilst many habitats require active management to keep them at their best for wildlife, some areas would benefit from a non-intervention approach.
- Development pressure can impact on biodiversity through direct loss of habitats and species and indirect pressure such as recreational use.
- Many species in Dorset are still declining.
- Invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and American mink can pose a threat to native wildlife if not managed.
- There is a lack of data and monitoring of species and biodiversity assets such as species rich ancient hedgerows, veteran trees and ponds, limiting our ability to conserve them.
- Recreation pressures will continue to increase as Dorset's population grows. Horse and pony grazing can damage grassland wildlife, while dogs can be a significant source of disturbance for ground nesting birds.
- Awareness of British wildlife and its conservation has increased, with more people making an active contribution through recording schemes, volunteering and buying land for conservation.



BIODIVERSITY Policy Framework and Delivery Plan

OBJECTIVE B1: RESTORE, RECONNECT AND MANAGE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER HABITATS AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES AT A LANDSCAPE SCALE TO INCREASE RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
B1a: Develop and support landscape-scale initiatives to restore UK BAP priority habitats, conserve their associated species and increase their resilience to climate change.	Deliver the Dorset Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy to conserve and enhance management of the AONB's woodland resource and associated wildlife.	Secure enhanced management for 100 ha of woodland Ensure no net loss of woodland Identify sites where a non-intervention approach would be beneficial	Existing initiative £ required	AONB/DBP/NE/FC/DCG/DWT/LAs/NT/landowners	Joint lead (as host to Woodlink)
	Develop a landscape scale woodland project in the west of the AONB to create a mosaic of woodland, wet woodland and open habitat through woodland planting and management.	Secure agreements for creation/management of 50ha woodland by 2014 Ensure no net loss of woodland	New initiative £ required	AONB/DBP/FC/DCG/DCC/DWT/LAs/landowners	Joint lead (as host to Woodlink)
	Continue Pastures New grassland restoration and management at target sites contributing to the Dorset Downs climate change adaptation pilot project.	Restore and reconnect 300ha of grassland habitat by 2014 Grassland butterflies as condition indicator	Expansion of existing initiative £ required	AONB/DBP/DWT/NE/FWAG/NT/LAs/DERC/ PKP/BC/DC	Joint lead
	Develop a project to conserve and enhance chalk streams and winterbournes across the AONB, including the Frome, Piddle and North Winterborne catchments and create floodplain wetlands/flood storage areas, building on existing initiatives.	Enhance 5 km of in-stream or riparian habitat by 2014 Biological water quality as condition indicator	Expansion of existing project £ required	DBP/DWT/AONB/EA/WW/FWAG/NE/DC/LAs/ PKP/Landowners	Joint lead (as host to the Winterbournes Project)
	Develop and start implementation of landscape scale heathland restoration plan.	Plan agreed and management agreements in place by 2014.	Expansion of existing initiative; £ required	NE/FC/RSPB/AONB/NT/FWAG/LAs/Landowners	Partner
	Develop an integrated project to enhance the Stour Valley.	Feasibility study by 2011.	New initiative £ required	NE/DBP/LAs/NT/DC/FC/FWAG/landowners	Promoter
	Explore potential to develop a joint project to enhance the biodiversity, landscape and heritage of the Axe, Brit and Char Valleys.	Develop project by 2012.	New initiative £ required	AONB/DBP/DC/FWAG/NE/LAs	Joint lea

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
B1b: Provide targeted and co-ordinated whole farm advice and support to landowners and managers on best practice biodiversity management.	Target co-ordinated advice and grants to help achieve landscape-scale schemes.	65% of AONB in agri-environment schemes by 2014 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010 and maintained through sustained management 66% SNCIs in favourable management by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	NE/AONB/DWT/FWAG/NT/DCC	Partner through hosted projects
	Provide reactive advice to landowners to maximise opportunities for habitat and species management and establish advisers forum.	Forum established by 2010	Existing initiative; £ available	NE/DWT/FWAG/AONB/RSPB/FC/DBP/DCC	Partner through hosted projects
B1c: Promote the sensitive restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) back to native broadleaved woodland.	Secure management agreements and grants for PAWS restoration.	150ha PAWS under restoration to native broadleaved woodland by 2014	Existing initiative £ required	AONB/FC/DWT/NE Landowners	Joint lead (as host to Woodlink)
B1d: Promote and support measures to increase the biodiversity value of arable farmland.	Develop an arable biodiversity project to target surveys and habitat enhancements for farmland birds and rare arable flora.	Enhance 500ha of arable wildlife habitat with measures to support farmland birds and flora by 2014; bird counts as indicator	Existing initiative £ required	FWAG/NE/RSPB AONB/DWT/PlantLife/NT landowners	Partner
B1e: Promote sustainable and appropriate measures to manage introduced invasive species where they are causing harm.	Develop a co-ordinated deer management initiative, building on existing schemes.	Deer initiative successfully operating across the AONB by 2014.	Expansion of existing initiative £ required	Poole Harbour Deer Management Group/NE/FC/AONB/Landowners/Deer Initiative	Partner (through Woodlink)
	Provide advice to landowners on the appropriate control of American mink.	2 training events held	New initiative £ required	DWT/EA BASC/landowners	Advocate
	Control invasive plants such as Himalayan balsam through a targeted and co-ordinated approach on river catchments.	10 km cleared starting from upper reaches of catchments	Existing initiative £ required	EA DWT/AONB/FWAG/Devon WT (Axe)/landowners	Partner

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
B1f: Minimise the impacts of development on biodiversity and seek opportunities for biodiversity enhancement at a landscape scale.	Implement heathland mitigation programme in east of AONB and extend to other schemes as opportunities arise.	Developer contributions at agreed rates.	Expansion of existing initiative £ required	LAs/NE AONB/DC/DBP	Partner
	Ensure planning policies protect biodiversity and seek enhancement opportunities, using South West Nature Map and green infrastructure plans as a guide.	All Local Development Frameworks to include appropriate biodiversity policies as they are produced.	New initiative; £ available	LAs, NE, DBP	Promoter
B1g: Promote monitoring of key habitats and indicator/flagship species in the AONB.	Continued development of Dorset Wildlife Counts initiative and develop improved habitat monitoring scheme.	Status report every 5 years.	Expansion of existing initiative £ required	DBP/DERC NE/specialist groups	Promoter

OBJECTIVE B2: RETAIN THE IRREPLACEABLE AND RESTORE/RE-ESTABLISH LOST OR DECLINING FEATURES SUCH AS VETERAN/ANCIENT TREES, SPECIES-RICH HEDGEROWS, ORCHARDS AND PONDS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED SPECIES.

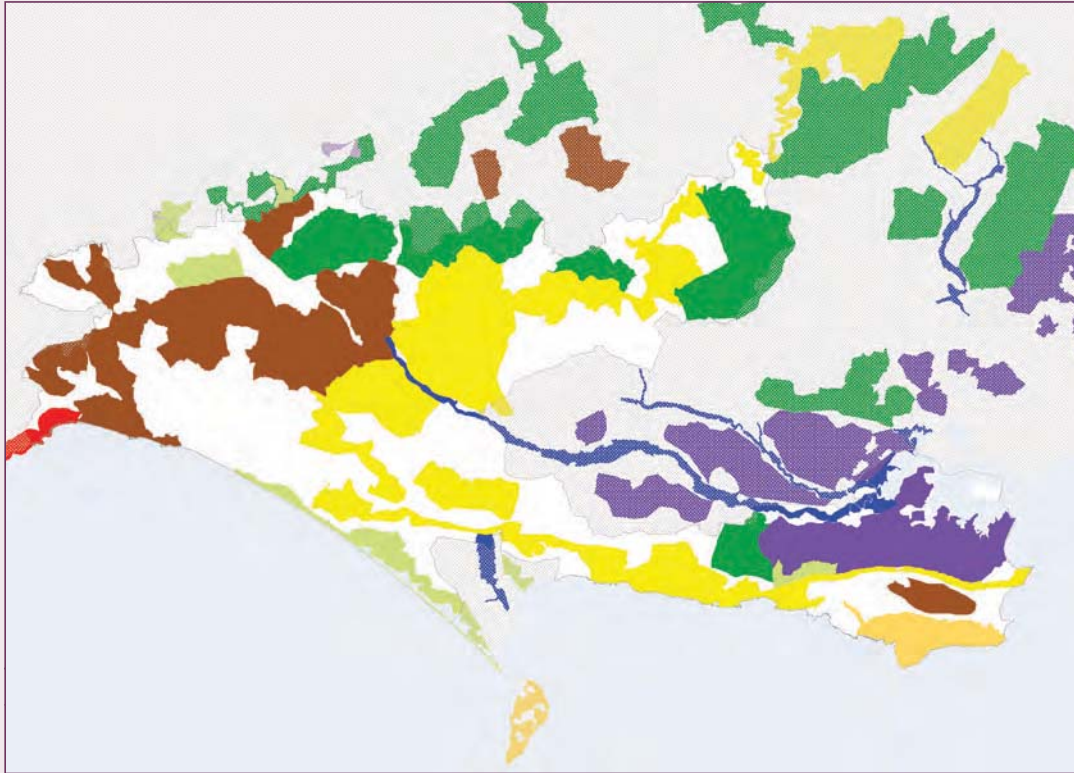
Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
B2a: Support the survey and management of threatened biodiversity features including veteran trees, ponds, orchards and ancient hedgerows.	Develop a Pond Project to survey, manage and create ponds and conserve their associated species, pilot in Purbeck and expand to other areas.	Enhancement/creation of 15 ponds by 2014.	Existing initiative £ required	DWT/AONB/LAs/NT/NE/ PHC/DC	Partner
	Survey and conserve veteran and landmark trees and their associated wildlife and gather information on their cultural and historical value through the Greenwood Tree Project.	Survey of veteran trees in 15 parishes by 2014, targeted to landscape areas with most opportunity.	Existing initiative £ required	DWT/AONB (Woodlink)/ LAs/landowners/DERC/NE	Partner
	Develop a hedgerow volunteer survey to identify ancient hedgerows in the AONB.	Survey of ancient hedgerows in 10 parishes by 2014, targeted to landscape areas with most opportunity.	New initiative £ required	AONB/DERC/DWT/DC/ LAs	Lead
	Support community projects to restore and create orchards using traditional local fruit varieties.	5 orchards enhanced/created.	Existing initiative £ required	Community groups/ Landowners/LAs/AONB/ FWAG/DWT	Partner
	Support local/community projects to record and conserve locally significant wildlife.	10 projects developed/supported by 2014.	Expansion of existing initiatives; £ required	NE/DBP/Communities	Promoter

OBJECTIVE B3: PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE AND INTER-TIDAL HABITATS IN AND LINKED TO THE AONB

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
B3a: Support the creation of Marine Conservation Zones at appropriate locations.	Undertake a seabed mapping project to identify habitats and areas requiring protection.	Complete seabed mapping from Handfast Point to Chesil Beach by 2014	Existing initiative £ available	DWT/MMO/CEFAS	Promoter
	Designate and/or develop management plans for marine and coastal SACs and marine conservation zones and support implementation of Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan.	Management plans in place for designated sites by 2014	Existing initiative £ available	NE/FS/PHCo/MMO	Promoter



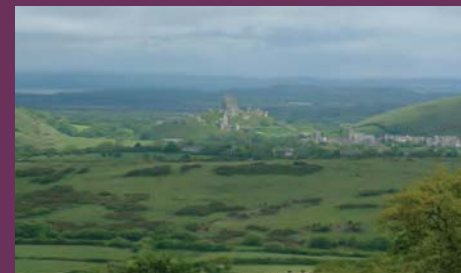
ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY IN THE AONB



The South West Nature Map shows broad target areas for habitat action.

Strategic Nature Areas (NatureMap)

- Chalk Grassland
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Limestone Grassland
- Lowland Heath
- Maritime Cliff and Slope
- Mosaic
- Neutral Grassland
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
- Woodland



The following map shows a more detailed set of target areas for actions to conserve and enhance priority habitats.



- Pastures New target areas
 -  Pastures New target areas
- Project priority rivers & Streams
 -  Priority chalk river
 -  Priority winterbourne
- Dorset arable project target area
 -  Dorset arable project target area
- Axe, Brit & Char - potential project area
 -  Axe, Brit & Char - potential project area
- Woodlands - potential project area
 -  Woodlands - potential project area
- Heathland - potential project area
 -  Heathland - potential project area
- Seabed Mapping
 -  DORIS project area





5A.3.GEODIVERSITY

20 YEAR VISION

Dorset's internationally important geodiversity will continue to be valued and conserved, providing an educational resource for lifelong learning and research. It will underpin a sustainable geotourism market that benefits the rural economy. The significance of geodiversity to the landscape, built environment and distinctiveness of the AONB will be recognised and reflected in wider policy and management.

INTRODUCTION

Geodiversity can be defined as the 'variety of geological processes that make those landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils and soils which provide the framework for life on Earth.'

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AONB

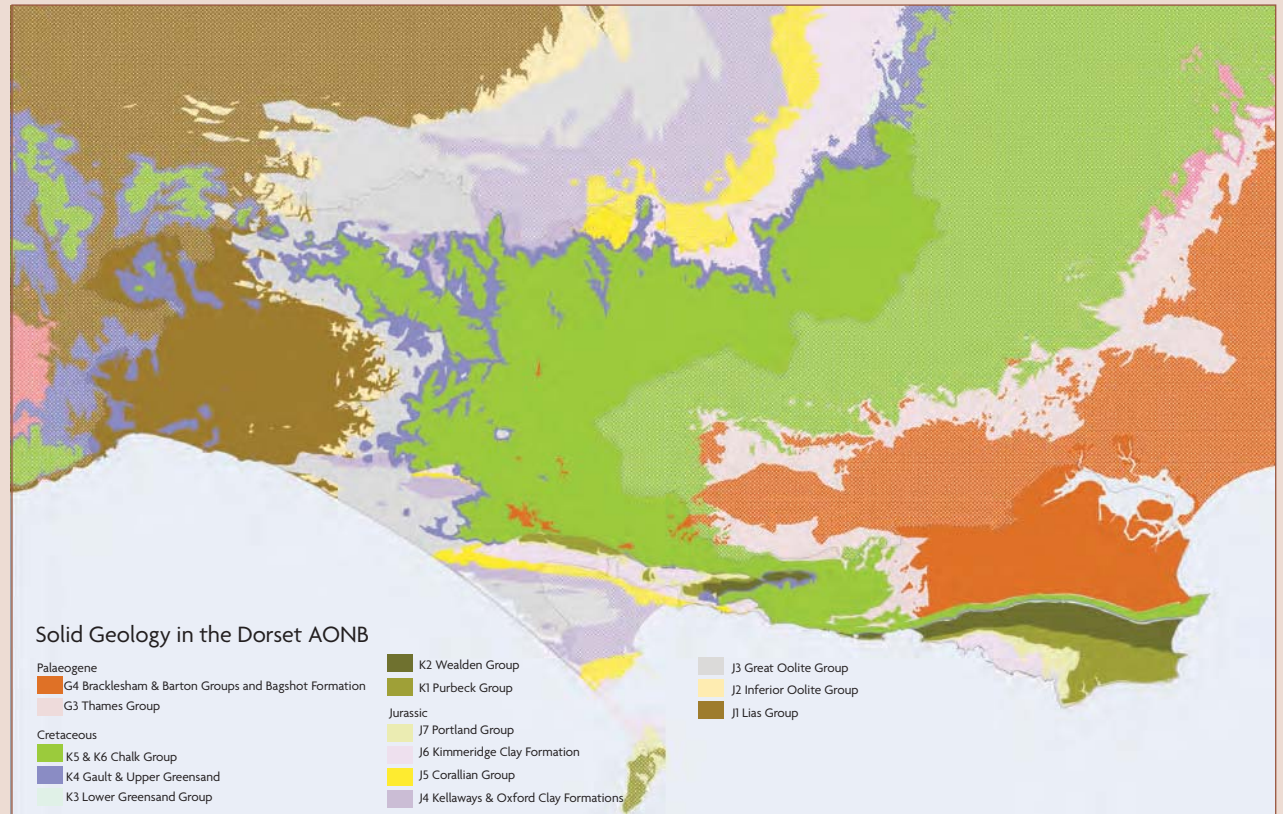
Geodiversity underpins the natural beauty for which the AONB is designated. It is the diverse underlying geology and geological/geomorphological (i.e. landform-related) processes both past and present that give us the range of wildlife habitats, landforms, land use and ecosystem services such as building stones that make up the character and distinctiveness of the landscape. Dorset is extremely rich in geodiversity, most notably recognised through the designation of the coast as England's first natural World Heritage Site for its unique exposure of a sequential record through the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods and that diversity is reflected in the Dorset AONB. This also contributes to cultural life through learning and enjoyment.



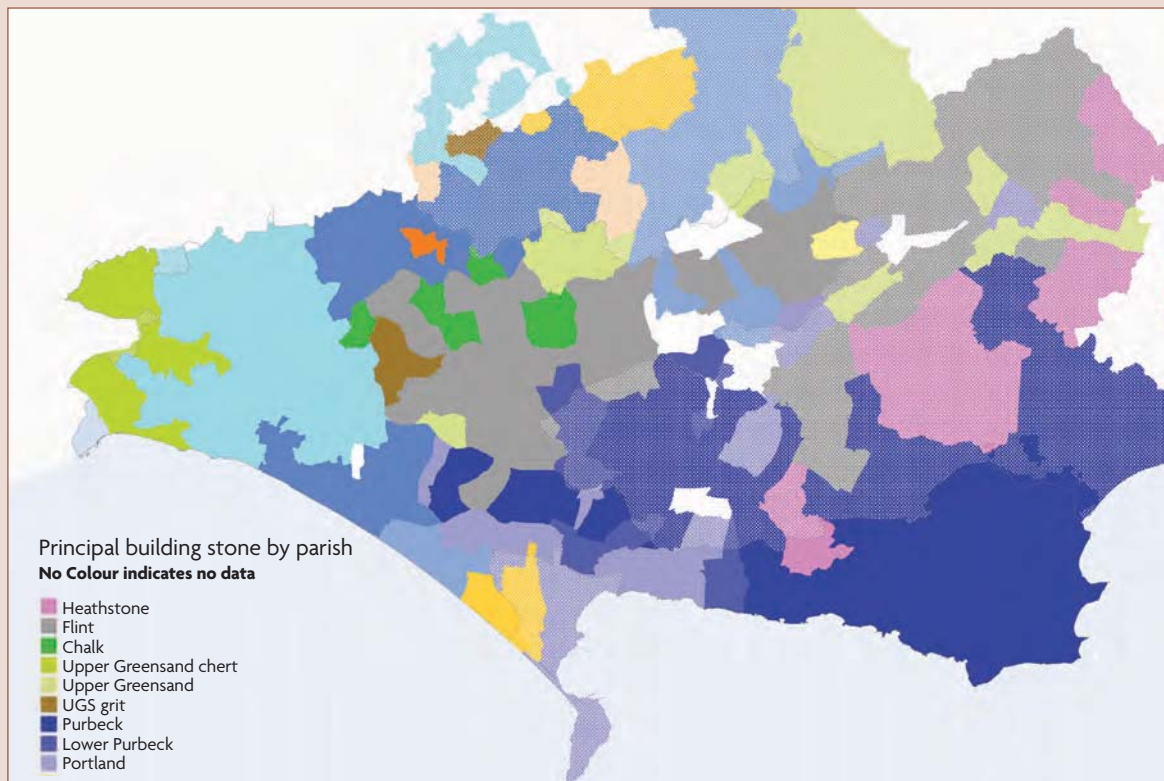
DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

The geology of the Dorset AONB spans some 200 million years of Earth history. Much of west Dorset is formed from Jurassic sediments that record changing marine conditions and contain an exceptional fossil record. Cretaceous chalk and sands lie across the central swathe of the AONB covering much of the Jurassic outcrop. In the east more recent deposits from the Cenozoic – sands, gravels and clays – overlie the Cretaceous rocks, giving rise to important heathland habitats.

In addition to the geology and fossils, the Dorset coast is renowned for its geomorphology and active erosion processes. Key sites and features include Chesil Beach, one of the world’s finest barrier beaches; the landslides at Lyme Regis and Charmouth; the ammonite beds at Horn Park Quarry National Nature Reserve and the fossil forest and dinosaur footprints in Purbeck. Many of the rocks and mineral resources are important for the extraction industries; the variety of building stones found in the AONB is a major contributor to the local distinctiveness of our settlements.



PRINCIPAL BUILDING STONES BY PARISH IN THE AONB



CHANGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The changing climate is bringing greater pressure for coastal/flood defence works that can impact on geodiversity.
- Built development can impact on geodiversity sites and processes, both inland and along the coast; coastal developments in particular can result in greater future demands for defence works which can exacerbate impacts.
- Awareness and understanding of the importance of geodiversity is gradually increasing led by national and local policy; the World Heritage inscription has significantly raised understanding of the geological interest of the coast though understanding and awareness of inland geodiversity is lower.
- Access to inland geodiversity is relatively poor and many sites are not actively managed, limiting their value for education.
- Interpretation of geodiversity and its links to landscape character needs improvement through a variety of media appropriate to location and the range of audiences.
- Use of local stone for building has significantly decreased over the last 100 years; recently a greater understanding of the importance of local stone has developed. Key sources of stone for repairs to historic buildings and use in vernacular developments need to be identified and protected.
- There are opportunities to conserve and interpret geodiversity through restoration of quarry sites.
- Irresponsible fossil collection can result in damage to sites and loss of material that may have significant scientific value.
- There are opportunities to use the World Heritage Site and the AONB's wider geodiversity to stimulate scientific research.



GEODIVERSITY Policy Framework and Delivery Plan

OBJECTIVE G1: CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE GEODIVERSITY OF THE AONB AND VALUE THE CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
G1a: Support greater collaborative working and co-ordination of geodiversity work in the AONB.	Establish and resource a geodiversity working group linked to appropriate national/international networks to further geodiversity work in Dorset.	Working group established by 2010	New initiative £ available	DCC/NE/DIGS/JCWHT/AONB/LAs	Partner
	Review the Local Geodiversity Action Plan.	Review undertaken by 2011	Existing initiative £ available	DCC/NE/DIGS/JCWHT/AONB/LAs	Partner
G1b: Provide targeted advice and support to landowners and managers on the management of designated/priority geological sites, including for conservation and access.	Develop a management plan for Horn Park Quarry National Nature Reserve.	Management Plan in place by 2010	Existing initiative £ available	NE/ JCWHT/DCC/DIGS/AONB	Partner
	Identify a network of 10 priority sites (to include Horn Park Quarry) and proactively develop management agreements for best practice conservation, access and interpretation.	Sites identified by 2010 Plans in place by 2013	New initiative £ required	DCC/NE/DIGS/JCWHT/AONB	Partner
	Provide management advice for designated geodiversity sites and explore potential for further designation of inland geomorphological sites.	95% of geological SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010 and maintained to 2014 50% Regionally Important Geological Sites in favourable management by 2014	Existing initiative Some £ required	NE/DCC	Advocate
G1c: Promote full consideration of geodiversity conservation in all plans and strategies affecting the AONB, notably local development frameworks, minerals development frameworks and shoreline management plans.	Implement Strategic Stone Study of Dorset, providing information on local stone use in different settlements and identifying and protecting sources of stone for repairs and future vernacular development.	Complete Stone Study by 2014	Existing initiative £ available	DCC/NE/LAs/DERC	Advocate

OBJECTIVE G2: INCREASE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF GEODIVERSITY IN THE AONB

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
G2a: Increase public understanding of geodiversity and recognition of its links to biodiversity, landscape and local distinctiveness.	Develop trails, interpretation and events to link and promote the 10 priority accessible geodiversity sites within the context of the wider landscape.	Trails and interpretation in place by 2014	New initiative £ required	DCC/AONB/NE/DIGS/ JCWHT/landowners/DC	Joint lead
G2b: Promote research studies based on the World Heritage Site and inland geodiversity.	Link with universities to develop a research programme to further scientific understanding based on Dorset's geodiversity.	Programme identified by 2012	Existing initiative £ required	DCC/ JCWHT/Universities/AONB/DIGS/NE	Partner



5A.4.COAST & SEA

20 YEAR VISION

The outstanding coast and marine environment of the Dorset AONB will be conserved, enhanced and enjoyed. This unique part of the AONB will benefit from sensitive integrated management that recognises and works with the links between land and sea and the dynamic nature of the coast. This special environment will provide a unique experience for local people and visitors, through sustainable high quality access and tourism, supporting thriving coastal businesses and products that contribute to the management of the environment.

INTRODUCTION

This chapter relates to the unique qualities and challenges associated with the coast and marine environments both within and integrally linked to the Dorset AONB. While there is considerable cross over with other chapters in relation to wildlife, geodiversity, heritage, access and local products, this chapter focuses specifically on coastal and marine issues, including management of the coast and shoreline, links with marine spatial planning and marine conservation areas and conservation of the Heritage Coasts and setting of the World Heritage Site.

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AONB

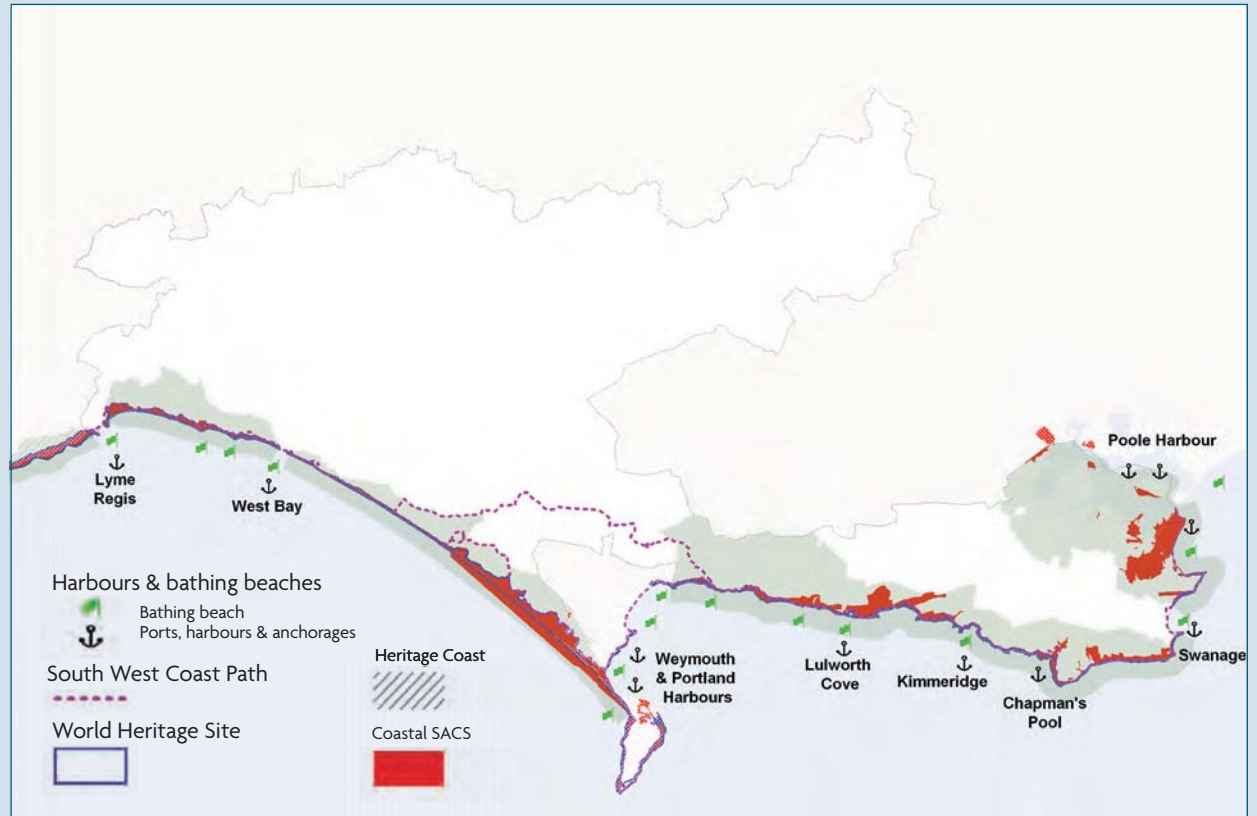
The coast and marine environments of the AONB are among its most popular and defining characteristics. Our unique World Heritage Site is globally significant, but also one of the most dynamic and changing parts of the AONB. Approximately half of Poole Harbour lies within the AONB boundary and habitats along the coast are particularly special due to the maritime influence. Being a coastal AONB, Dorset also supports a range of maritime industries and a rich coastal and marine heritage.



DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

The AONB includes approximately 95 miles of coastline, of which much is covered by nature conservation designations. Key links with marine habitats are at Chesil and the Fleet – the UK’s largest tidal lagoon - which is a marine Special Area for Conservation, Poole Harbour – the UK’s largest lowland natural harbour - which lies partly within the AONB and at Kimmeridge where there is a voluntary marine reserve. Many important wildlife species depend on both marine and terrestrial habitats for their survival, emphasising the need for integrated management.

There are two Heritage Coasts within the AONB – West Dorset and Purbeck. Heritage Coasts are stretches of largely undeveloped coastline of exceptional or very good scenic quality. While not a statutory designation, they are a material consideration in planning terms and are defined with the aim of protecting their special qualities from development and other pressures. Their statutory protection is delivered through the AONB designation where they overlap. The AONB designation also provides the statutory landscape protection for the setting and presentation of the World Heritage Site.



The main ports along the coast are at Poole and Portland, both just outside the AONB boundary. Fishing harbours and anchorages that support the inshore fishing community are located at Lyme, West Bay, Weymouth, Lulworth, Kimmeridge and Chapman's Pool. Coastal resorts provide a link between land and sea where people live, come to visit and carry out the increasing trend of water-based recreation.

CHANGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The introduction of new legislation through the Marine Bill will be a significant change during the plan period; the Bill introduces a new Marine Management Organisation, establishment of marine conservation areas and a new right of coastal access. It will be important to ensure that the marine and terrestrial planning systems link together and that impacts on the AONB from marine-based developments are considered.
- Heritage Coasts no longer receive direct funding support, and the focus on their objectives has to an extent been lost; a national review of Heritage Coasts is likely to be undertaken within the plan period.
- The review of Shoreline Management Plans, identifying coastal defence issues, is likely to have implications for the AONB, World Heritage Site and Heritage Coasts.
- Lack of resources for integrated coastal zone management and its current lack of statutory footing are limiting progress.
- Sea level rise, increasing wave heights and coastal erosion, exacerbated by climate change, threaten some areas, affecting coastal communities, infrastructure and key recreational/wildlife sites such as Studland and Brownsea and the continuity of the South West Coast Path National Trail. Coastal erosion risk maps are due to be published in 2009 by DEFRA and will highlight areas and infrastructure at risk.
- Some geological processes along the coast may become more active, especially large landslides at White Nothe and between Worbarrow Bay and St Aldhelm's Head, producing significant changes to the coastal landscape and especially its flora.
- Marine-based pollution can have serious impacts on the AONB, with marine litter degrading beaches and harming wildlife and the risk of major oil or chemical spills.
- Land-based pollution can impact on the quality of inshore waters, affecting marine and inter-tidal wildlife and tourism.
- Assessment and data on the value/quality of coast and marine landscapes and seascapes is limited, restricting our ability to plan for these challenging areas in an integrated way.
- Some marine-based transport and recreational activity can impact on the tranquillity, wildlife value and public enjoyment of coastal areas.
- The hosting of the sailing event for the 2012 Games in Portland Harbour presents a unique opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of the coastal and marine environment.



COAST AND SEA Policy Framework and Delivery Plan

OBJECTIVE CS1: CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE COAST AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AONB THROUGH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT THAT RECOGNISES THE LINKS BETWEEN LAND AND SEA

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
CS1a: Develop greater integration between marine and terrestrial planning and ensure consideration of the AONB, World Heritage Site and Heritage Coasts in both.	Develop a marine spatial planning pilot to test approaches to planning and management through different activities and interests in a defined marine area.	Pilot evaluated by 2014	New initiative; £ available	DCF	Partner
	Develop Coastal Explorer Planning web based tool to provide accessible information on planning policies and activities to support integrated coastal zone management.	Tool available by 2012	New initiative; £ available	DCF	Partner
	Contribute to the national review of Heritage Coasts and development of marine legislation and policy.	Input as required	Existing initiative; £ available	AONB/Europarc Atlantic Isles LAs/DCF/ JCWHT/DC	Joint lead
CS1b: Promote catchment sensitive farming practices in all catchments draining into inshore waters in or adjacent to the AONB.	Target advice and support to relevant catchments.	15 km river with protection measures in place Bathing water quality as indicator	Existing initiative; £ available	NE/FWAG	Advocate
CS1c: Promote and support measures to reduce marine pollution and litter.	Support and expand the Great Dorset Beach Clean.	Beach clean held at all key beaches in the AONB at least annually	Existing initiative; £ available	DCF/DC	Advocate
	Develop a campaign to lobby for measures to reduce marine litter.	Hold marine litter summit 2009; develop manifesto by 2010	New initiative; £ available	DCF/DWT AONB/NE	Partner
	Lobby for and develop measures to reduce risk of marine pollution.	Ensure appropriate emergency plans in place by 2010	New initiative; £ available	DCC/JCWHT/ AONB/DCF	Partner

OBJECTIVE CS2: SUPPORT THE NATURAL EVOLUTION OF THE COAST, ALLOWING NATURAL COASTAL PROCESSES TO OPERATE WHERE POSSIBLE

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
CS2a: Ensure that the South West Coast Path National Trail is available as a continuous route for accessing the coast.	Identify sections of the Coast Path likely to be affected by coastal change and plan ahead to roll path back or create alternative routes.	Length of Coast Path diverted	Existing initiative; £ required	DC/SWCPT/NE	Advocate
CS2b: Support a 'no active intervention' approach to coastal management wherever possible.	Develop plans for future management of wildlife/recreation sites likely to be adversely affected by coastal erosion and sea level rise, including Brownsea, Studland and the Wareham Channel.	Plans in place by 2014	Existing initiative; £ required	NT/NE/EA	Advocate
	Support development of Shoreline Management Plans.	Input as required	Existing initiative; £ available	LAs/NE/EA/ JCWHT/AONB	Partner

OBJECTIVE CS3: MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE OPEN AND UNDEVELOPED NATURE OF THE AONB'S COASTAL LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Priority	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
CS3a: Support and develop initiatives to conserve and enhance the coastal and marine landscape/seascape and our understanding of it.	Undertake a targeted landscape/seascape assessment and develop zoning to guide management through the coastal corridor action plan.	Complete assessment by 2011	New initiative; £ available	AONB/DCF LAs/NE/DC/ JCWHT/NT	Joint lead
CS3b: Conserve tranquil areas along the coast.	Identify tranquil areas and maintain through zoned management as part of the coastal corridor action plan.	Identify by 2012	New initiative; £ required	AONB/DCF/LAs/ JCWHT/DC/NT	Joint lead
CS3c Conserve the undeveloped nature of the coast.	Ensure appropriate policies in LDFs and prevent intrusive coastal development.	Policy in LDFs as developed	Existing initiative; £ available	LAs	Promoter
CS3d Promote and support the removal of intrusive and urbanising features from the coast .	Develop and implement guidance on the management of car parks in the coastal corridor to reduce urbanising features and sign clutter.	Produce guidance by 2010 and develop 3 demonstration sites by 2014	Existing initiative; £ required	WDDC/AONB/ WPBC, PDC/ JCWHT/NT/DC	Joint lead
CS3e: Promote the creation and management of semi-natural habitat along the coastal strip through targeting of advice and agri-environment support.	Proactively target agri-environment schemes to creation of semi-natural habitat in coastal corridor.	Length of coast (km) managed as semi-natural habitat	Existing initiative; £ available	NE/AONB/NT/ DC	Joint lead
CS3f Promote understanding of underwater landscapes.	Provide interpretation at centres and events linked to Natural England's marine campaign.	2 events by 2014	New initiative; £ required	NE/DCF/AONB	Partner



5A.5.HISTORIC & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

20 YEAR VISION

The AONB's iconic, plentiful yet finite historic resource, from its ancient monuments and earthworks to the distinctive buildings of its picturesque villages and towns, will be conserved and valued as part of a constantly evolving historic landscape. The rich cultural landscape will remain a source of local pride, strengthening the local economy. Local communities will be actively engaged in celebrating and researching our past, and sensitively shaping its future.

INTRODUCTION

This chapter considers the evolution of the historic environment and the sites and features within it, from the prehistoric to the present. Historic landscapes include the enclosure patterns, settlement patterns and designed landscapes in parks and gardens; sites include the ceremonial, agricultural, industrial, and those related to settlement and defence.

The built environment of this chapter refers to our built heritage, largely that which is covered by Listing and Conservation Area status. Other aspects of the built environment are addressed in the planning, development and infrastructure chapter.

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AONB

Marks of human occupation and use are integral components of the 'natural' landscape, a record of how people have used the environment and the services it provides over time. The Dorset AONB is particularly marked by the area's prehistoric occupation; its transport, settlement patterns and administrative boundaries have Roman and Saxon origins; its villages and hamlets contain fine historic churches and houses.

Underpinned by a complex geology, the AONB contains a wealth of traditional building materials, shaping a unique sense of place and time depth to our villages and towns. Settlement patterns retain close links to the surrounding landscape with a range of past and present rural industries shaping the evolving historic character.

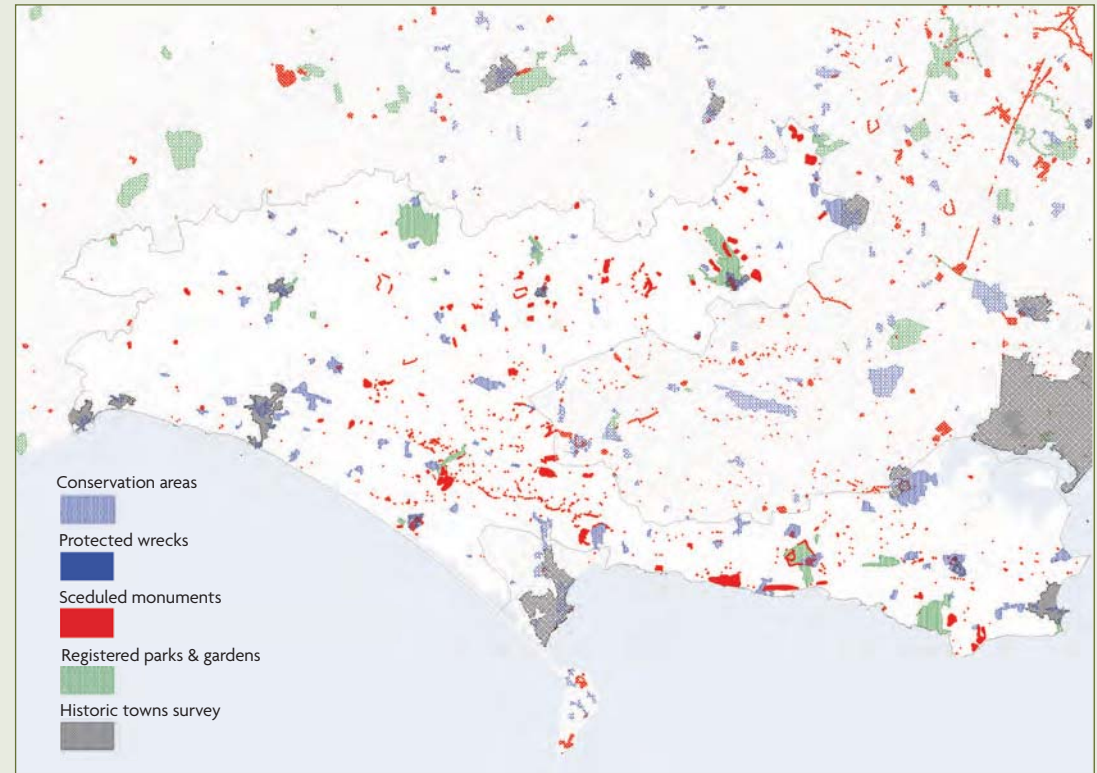


DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

Set within a complex and diverse mosaic of constantly evolving historic landscape types, the Dorset AONB boasts some of the finest visible archaeological remains such as Maiden Castle and the extensive Neolithic-Bronze Age ceremonial landscape of the South Dorset Ridgeway. Significant features from all ages from the Neolithic to the present day are visible in the AONB's landscape; there is even some evidence of earlier human activity (e.g. Palaeolithic terracing in the Axe valley). The Dorset AONB has over 800 Scheduled Monuments totalling over 1100 ha. Also within the AONB are 16 registered parks and gardens covering over 2300 ha (1 Grade I, 9 Grade II*), 17 locally important parks and gardens, 86 conservation areas, and nearly 4000 listed buildings (111 Grade I, 215 Grade II*) though it should be noted that this is the number of listings and the actual number of individual listed buildings will be greater.

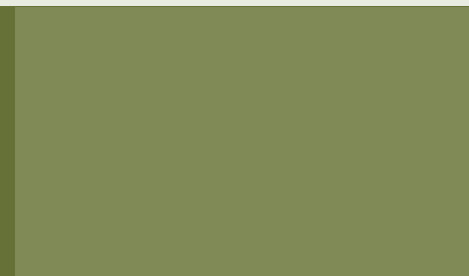
The Dorset AONB also has one of the highest concentrations of listed thatched buildings in the country (as a proportion of the total resource), lending a picturesque charm to most of its settlements. Offshore, there are 1,727 reported shipwrecks between Lyme Regis and the mouth of Poole Harbour, 253 of which have been located on the seabed. Of these, three are protected wrecks and there are four sites designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act – four of only fifty vessels designated worldwide. Despite the numerous records, archaeology is under-recorded in the AONB, particularly in the vales in the west of the area. Woodland archaeology is also under-recorded, both in terms of archaeology beneath woodlands which is hard to survey and also archaeology relating to past woodland management, such as sawpits, wood banks etc.

OCCURRENCE OF PROTECTED HISTORIC FEATURES

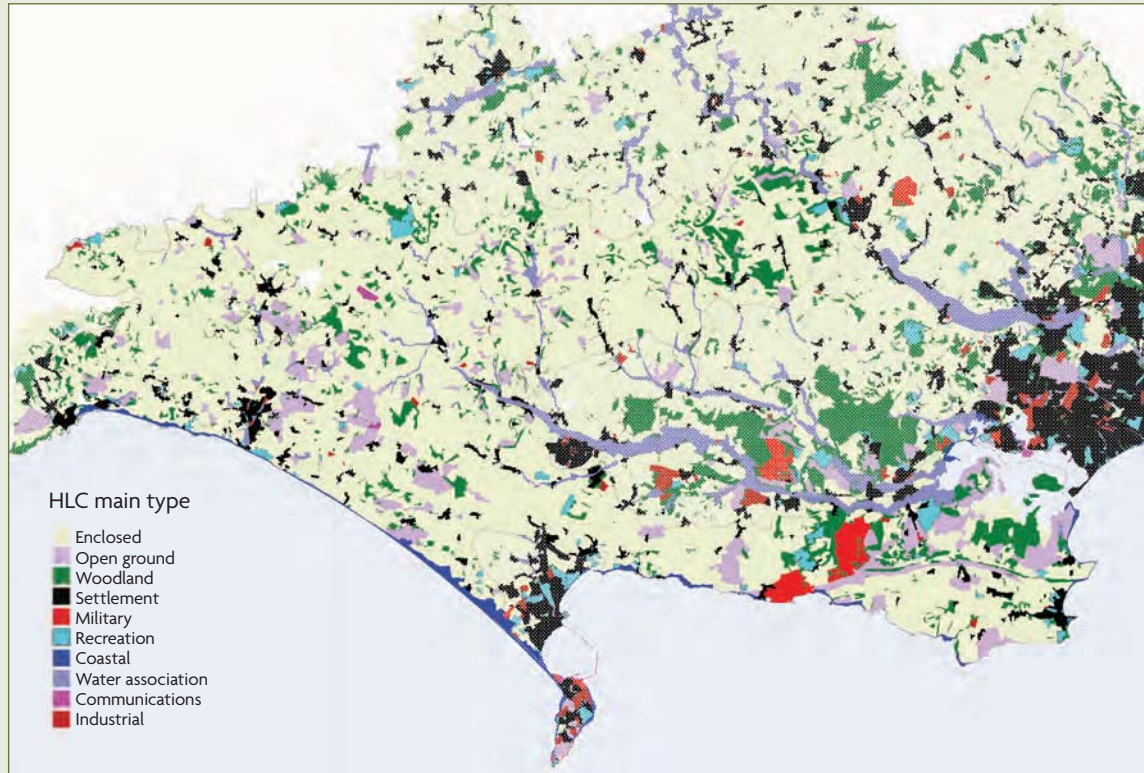


HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AONB LANDSCAPE

- **Neolithic (c.4000 – c.2400BC):**
Long barrows (e.g. Hell Stone, Portesham), bank barrows (e.g. Broadmayne), the Long Bredy cursus and the causewayed camp and long mound on the site that later became Maiden Castle date from the Neolithic.
- **Bronze Age (c.2400 – c.700BC):**
The South Dorset Ridgeway encompasses the most extensive Bronze Age cemetery in the country, comprising a minimum of 428 round barrows in 14 major groups (e.g. Poor Lot, Kingston Russell); there are other round barrows throughout the landscape. Stone circles date from this period (e.g. The Nine Stones, Winterbourne Abbas).
- **Iron Age (c.700BC – 44AD):**
There are over 20 hillforts in the AONB (e.g. Eggardon & Maiden Castle), and large areas are covered by the geometric pattern of field systems from this age (e.g. Valley of the Stones).
- **Roman (44AD – c.410):**
Civil and military development under the Roman administration left significant marks, e.g. the 9km Dorchester aqueduct, the roads that link Dorchester to a port on the Wey (S), Exeter (W) and Ilchester (NW), and fine villas have been uncovered (e.g. Frampton). There was a significant pottery industry in Purbeck during the Roman era exporting Black Burnished Ware across the empire.
- **Saxon/Early Medieval (c.410 – 1066):**
the Saxon estate structure created the majority of our parish boundaries, and fine Saxon churches exist (e.g. the Romanesque church at Studland).
- **Medieval (1066 – c.1500):**
The Normans left their mark in the fine castle at Corfe, motte and bailey castles (e.g. Chelborough) and abbeys which were significant and powerful landowners (e.g. Abbotsbury, Cerne and Forde) in the medieval period. Abandoned medieval settlements can be seen (e.g. Modbury, Holworth and Ringstead), abandoned as a consequence of adverse climatic conditions, economic depression and plague.
- **Post-medieval (c.1500 – c.1800):**
The start of the parliamentary enclosures marked this period (e.g. Langton Herring, 1761). Early industry left its mark, such as water cress beds (e.g. Sydling), water meadows and associated weirs, channels and sluices, sheep washes (e.g. Lyscombe), quarrying (Purbeck), and there was the growth of country houses and their designed landscapes (e.g. Melbury). Flax and silk industries flourished around Beaminster and Bridport; rope and net manufacture still continues there.
- **Industrial (c.1800 – 1913):**
Enclosure continued and agriculture became more mechanised, the railways were developed and this led the rise of the tourist industry. Relics from this era include lime kilns, Victorian architecture and Brownsea's brick-making industry.
- **War & Inter-war (1914 – 1945):**
As well as significant defence infrastructure (e.g. the development of radar at Worth Matravers, coastal batteries, anti-tank blocks e.g. on the Fleet and pill boxes), this period saw the plantation of heath with conifers (e.g. Wytch Heath).
- **Post-war (1945 - present):**
Since the war period there has been a reinvigoration of traditional crafts, growth of tourism, the compulsory purchase of Army ranges and a huge increase in our knowledge and understanding of the historic environment.



SIMPLIFIED HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION OF THE AONB



This map summarises the broad historic landscape types found in the AONB. These types are based on the recognisable patterns and features such as hedgerows, woodland, ponds and modified watercourses and also takes account of more intangible patterns such as settlement, land-use and the mixture of enclosed and non-enclosed land, arable and grazing, woodland and parkland. More detailed information such as the type of enclosure (e.g. medieval, piecemeal, planned etc) and the evolution of the landscape has also been mapped.

CHANGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

English Heritage published the register of Heritage at Risk in 2008, showing:

- Scheduled Monuments at Risk in the Dorset AONB:
 - High risk 163
 - Medium risk 180
- Buildings at Risk in the AONB: 4
- Shipwrecks at Risk: 1 (moderate risk)



- Scheduled Monuments are at risk from the impacts of land management (particularly plough depth, sub-soiling and rooting depth of crops), coastal and inland erosion exacerbated by climate change (e.g. Flowers Barrow), visitor pressure and a lack of funding for sensitive management.
- Important buildings are at risk from a lack of funding for maintenance and limited supply of traditional materials and crafts for ongoing repairs (e.g. thatching, stone working and traditional wood work skills). Inappropriate design, site choice, materials and scale can impact on the historic character of settlements.
- Historic parks and gardens are at risk from a lack of protection at the local level, changes in land use and a lack of funds for ongoing management. Opportunity exists to identify and protect parks and gardens of county importance by developing an assessment methodology. Restoration strategies offer opportunities for future protection and heritage based tourism.
- Marine archaeology is both under-recorded and under threat, with trawling and dredging impacting on archaeological remains and no protocols in place for recording finds.
- Changes in land use and management alter the wider historic character (e.g. afforestation and loss/gain of important boundary features). Stone walls are particularly at risk due to the expense of repair.
- The completion of the Historic Towns Survey, Stone Catchment mapping and the Historic Landscape Characterisation will provide a valuable resource to understand, conserve and enhance built and wider historic character.
- Some funding opportunities for ongoing management of sites exist (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund, Environmental Stewardship, Dorset County Council's Monument Management Scheme).
- Public enthusiasm for archaeology and the historic environment has increased in recent years. Opportunity exists to further engage communities in education, celebration and interpretation (e.g. through the South Dorset Ridgeway Project and Historic Environment Liaison Scheme).
- The gradual accumulation of information through the recording of isolated surface finds has the potential greatly to increase our understanding of the historic environment, and there is great potential for community engagement. However, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (which encourages people to report artefacts they have found either through metal detecting or chance finds) is currently under review. There is a continued need to increase awareness of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996, and to enable people to meet their obligations under the Act.
- The draft Heritage Bill proposes change to heritage designations (with a two-tier system of national and, for the first time, locally important heritage assets). It could potentially increase local protection and local engagement in valuing our heritage.
- The historic environment is often managed in isolation with a focus on individual sites. Opportunity remains to take a more integrated approach to planning and management, linking biodiversity, access and learning through a landscape scale approach. The Heritage Lottery Fund remains an important source for funding.
- The historic environment remains under-recorded. Opportunities for expanding the knowledge base exist through initiatives such as English Heritage's National Mapping Programme but these findings should be incorporated into the Historic Environment Record (HER) to be of greatest use.



Policy Framework and Delivery Plan

OBJECTIVE H1: CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE OF THE AONB, RECOGNISING THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE AS WELL AS THE IRREPLACEABLE FEATURES SET WITHIN IT

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
H1a: Support the provision of targeted advice, grants and assistance for the conservation of the historic environment.	Target agri-environment schemes to deliver maximum benefits for the historic environment.	40% scheduled monuments at risk brought into favourable management by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	NE/EH/DCC/AONB	Partner
	Provide targeted grants and support through the Dorset Monument Management Scheme.		Existing initiative; £ available	EH/DCC/DC	Promoter
	Develop a joint monitoring and restoration programme for buildings at risk.	Programme in operation by 2013	Expansion of existing initiative; £ required	LAs/EH/NE/AONB/	Partner
	Develop a project to enhance the management and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB.	Project underway by 2012	New initiative; £ required	AONB/NT/DCC/EH/DC	Joint lead
	Restore the Osmington white horse hill figure.	Restoration complete by 2012	Existing initiative; £ required	DC/EH/landowner/AONB	Partner
H1b: Promote further understanding and application of Historic Landscape Characterisation, Historic Town Survey and other characterisation and design tools.	Complete the historic landscape characterisation of the AONB and historic town surveys and provide training on use and application.	Assessments completed and tools available by 2014	New initiative; £ required	DCC/EH	Promoter
H1c: Promote the use of, and training in, locally-distinctive building materials, styles and traditional skills to protect the historic character of settlements.	Undertake a skills audit on heritage construction and restoration and develop a database on sourcing local/recycled materials.	Audit and database completed by 2014	New initiative; £ required	LAs/AONB/Training providers	Partner
	Review Building Materials Survey and link to Strategic Stone Study.	Survey reviewed by 2013	Existing action; £ required	DCC/LAs	Promoter
	Promote availability and use of local thatch material in locally appropriate styles.	Produce guidance and hold seminar for thatchers, planners and growers by 2014	New initiative; £ required	LAs/DDHF/AONB	Partner

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
H1d: Support the development and use of the Dorset Historic Environment Record.	Undertake a comprehensive monument management survey of the South Dorset Ridgeway.	Survey completed by 2013	Existing initiative; £ available	AONB/DCC/BU/EH/NT	Lead
	Undertake the National Mapping Programme in the AONB to identify unrecorded archaeology through aerial photo analysis.	50% of AONB completed by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	EH/AONB/DCC	Partner
	Continue to identify historic parks and gardens of local importance using a robust methodology and provide management advice and support.	Confirm methodology and complete by 2010	Existing initiative; some £ available	DCC	Promoter
H1e: Promote the recognition and integrated management of the historic environment at a landscape scale.	Develop a programme of survey, research, management advice and support for the South Dorset Ridgeway historic landscape.	Research undertaken and published by 2014 65% of monuments in favourable management by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	AONB DCC/EH/BU/NT/ Parishes/landowners	Lead
H1f: Promote the maintenance, repair and management of the AONB's historically significant boundary features.	Develop a programme of survey and restoration of boundary features in the AONB, including stone walls, hedgerows, banks and ditches.	Survey 10 parishes in relevant character areas by 2014, 100km restored	New initiative; £ required	AONB/DCC/DAPTIC/ FWAG/Parishes/LAs	Joint lead

OBJECTIVE H2: INCREASE KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Management Policy	Action in 2009-2014	Target/Indicator	Delivery	Lead/Partners	AONB Team Role
H2a: Promote initiatives that utilise the historic environment to engage local communities to further their understanding and pride in our rich heritage.	Deliver a programme of local research, celebration, access and interpretation of the South Dorset Ridgeway.	1000 people attending events and 50 volunteers actively involved in project by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	AONB DCC/EH/BU/NT/ Parishes	Lead
	Deliver a programme of research, celebration and enjoyment of hillforts in the AONB.	300 people involved	New initiative; £ required	AONB/NT/DCC/ EH/DC	Joint lead
	Expand the Parish Historic Environment Liaison Officers scheme to ensure a trained link/champion in each parish.	80% parishes to have a trained volunteer officer in place by 2014	Existing initiative; £ available	DCC	Promoter
H2b: Encourage the reporting and recording of archaeological finds.	Develop the Portable Antiquities Scheme and promote awareness of the Treasure Act 1996 to increase reporting of finds, and research, analyse and present information gained.		Existing initiative; some additional £ required	DCC	Promoter
	Develop a protocol for recording finds derived from dredging and trawling activities offshore.	Protocol in place by 2014	New initiative; £ available	DCC	Promoter

POTENTIAL ACTION AREAS FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

