



**Purbeck Local Plan Part 1**  
**Monitoring Report**  
**Biodiversity**  
**(1st April 2006 – 31st March 2016)**



**January 2017**

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## Introduction

1. This is Purbeck District Council's report on policies relating to Biodiversity and Geodiversity. The report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
2. We use our adopted planning policies in the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 to measure our progress and to assess how well we are doing. The policies relevant to this report are Policy BIO: Biodiversity and Policy DH: Dorset Heaths International Designations.
3. Dorset Environmental Records Centre provides the data that tells us about the areas protected by environmental designations and what kind of condition they are in.
4. We also produce monitoring reports on a number of other topics, such as Employment Land, Housing, and Retail.
5. For further details please contact:

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## Biodiversity & Geodiversity

### Policy BIO: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

All data sourced from DERC

What we will measure	Target in Local Plan Part 1	Progress at 1 April 2016
Changes in areas of biodiversity importance	No overall decrease in area year-on-year up to 2027.	+ 17.12 ha in monitoring year. Cumulative amount: 151.74 ha

Date	Hectares	Cumulative
1 April 2007	+ 0.11	0.11
1 April 2008	+ 2.44	2.55
1 April 2009	+ 12.98	15.53
1 April 2010	+ 31.48	47.01
1 April 2011	+ 29.54	76.55
1 April 2012	+ 30	106.55
1 April 2013	+ 1.14	107.69
1 April 2014	+ 10.65	118.34
1 April 2015	+ 16.28	134.62
1 April 2016	+ 17.12	<b>151.74</b>

All data sourced from DERC

6. Purbeck has a large number of sites of biodiversity importance. These are international sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. Purbeck also has many national designations known as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and local sites known as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) as well as Regionally Important Geological sites (RIGs).

### Changes in areas of biodiversity importance (2010 – 2016)

#### Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2010 - 2011

Designation	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)
<b>International Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>National Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>Local Sites</b>	SNCI	Egliston Gwyle	SY88/011		✓		<b>-0.13</b>
	SNCI	Weatherby Castle	SY89/036		✓		<b>-2</b>
	SNCI	Oak Hill	SY89/048	✓			<b>+0.34</b>
	SNCI	South Gwyle	SY97/014	✓			<b>+0.47</b>
	SNCI	Scoles Lane Copse	SY98/077			✓	<b>+1.41</b>

SNCI	Durlston Country Pk	SZ07/024			✓			<b>+29.72</b>
<b>LNRs/RIGs</b>		<b>No change</b>						

7. Changes in areas during 2010-11 are listed in the table above. The gains were all in SNCIs: Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. Durlston Country Park SNCI was designated by the SNCI panel at their panel meeting in early 2011. The SNCI project is administered by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. The other more minor changes (both losses and gains) are due to the ability to map these sites more accurately.

**Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2011 - 2012**

Designation	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)
<b>International Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>National Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>Local Sites</b>	SNCI	Ailwood	SY98/069	✓			<b>+0.55</b>
	SNCI	Bloxworth & Morden Heaths	SY89/033	✓			<b>+20.55</b>
	SNCI	Purbeck Forest Tracks	SY98/060	✓			<b>+8.85</b>
	SNCI	Woolbridge-Hyford Ditches	SY88/026	✓			<b>+0.05</b>
<b>LNRs/RIGs</b>		<b>No change</b>					

8. Changes in areas during 2011 – 2012 are listed in the table above. The gains were all in SNCIs: Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. The changes in size of Ailwood SNCI and the Woolbridge Hyford Ditches SNCI are as a result of an improvement in the ability to map these sites more accurately. The other two sites - Bloxworth and Morden Heaths SNCI and Purbeck Forest Tracks SNCI - have increased in size due to felled areas of woodland that have now reverted to heathland.

**Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2012 - 2013**

Designation	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)	
<b>International Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>					
<b>National Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>					
<b>Local Sites</b>	SNCI	New Barn	SZ07/017		✓		-0.42	
	SNCI	Holton Heath Industrial Estate	SY99/062	✓			+0.45	
	SNCI	Whiteway Farm Wood	SY98/027	✓			+0.29	
	SNCI	Rempstone Wood	SY98/036	✓			+0.07	
	SNCI	California Farm	SZ07/020	✓			+0.75	
	RIG	St Aldhelm's Head Quarry	G SY97/11	✓			+0.16	
	RIG	Swanworth Quarry	G SY97/12	✓			+0.1	
	RIG	Keates' Quarry	G SY97/15	✓			+0.37	
	RIG	Redcliff Point	G SY98/11	✓			+0.04	
	RIG	Shipstal Point, Arne	G SY98/12		✓		-0.02	
	RIG	Steeple Chalk Pit	G SY98/13		✓		-0.1	
	RIG	Rollington Farm Quarry	G SY98/14		✓		-0.11	
	RIG	Glebe Farm Chalk Pit, Corfe Castle	G SY98/15	✓			+0.01	
	RIG	Corfe Castle	G SY98/16		✓		-0.04	
	RIG	Stonehil Down Nature Reserve	G SY98/17		✓		-0.01	
	RIG	California Farm Quarry	G SZ07/11	✓			+0.01	
	RIG	Brownsea Island, South Shore/Pottery	G SZ08/12	✓			+0.05	
	RIG	Brownsea Island, Wellington Hill	G SZ08/13	✓			+0.17	
	RIG	Giant's Trencher	G SZ08/14		✓		-0.05	
<b>LNRs</b>			<b>No change</b>					

9. The very minor changes in SNCIs during 2012 - 2013 were a result of the SNCI panel reviewing a number of sites and extending or reducing them as appropriate. Some of these changes are because part of a site no longer qualifies under the scheme's criteria or, on the other hand, because surrounding areas have improved to meet the current criteria. Many of the sites that are actually looked at by the panel will not change at all, and hence are not listed in these figures.

10. The RIGS sites (now called Local Geological Sites) underwent a complete review by the Dorset Geology group (DIGS) that is responsible for designating them. Many of the changes are due to using more up-to-date maps and aerial photos.

**Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2013 - 2014**

Designation	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)
<b>International Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>National Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>				
<b>Local Sites</b>	SNCI	Old Ram Plantation	SY89/042	✓			+0.5
	SNCI	Bryantspuddle Heath	SY89/047	✓			+10.69
	SNCI	Harpstone	SY98/049		✓		-1.19
	SNCI	Holton Heath Industrial Estate	SY99/062	✓			+0.65
<b>LNRs/RIGs</b>			<b>No change</b>				

11. Bryantspuddle Heath was extended to the north east of the existing site. The very minor changes in SNCIs during 2013 - 2014 were a result of the SNCI panel reviewing a number of sites and extending or reducing them as appropriate.

**Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2014 - 2015**

Designation	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)	
<b>International Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>					
<b>National Sites</b>			<b>No change</b>					
<b>Local Sites</b>	SNCI	Millum Head	SY89/045		✓		-0.42	
	SNCI	Five Marys	SY78/031	✓			0.96	
	SNCI	Broadmead Field	SY97/028			✓	2.84	
	SNCI	Winfrith	SY88/028	✓			0.37	
	SNCI	Worgret Heath	SY98/048	✓			0.86	
	SNCI	Worgret Junction	SY98/053	✓			0.34	
	SNCI	Cobbs Legg	SY98/065	✓			10.8	
	SNCI	Ulwell Withy Bed	SZ08/014				✓	-0.18
	SNCI	Greenland	SZ08/017		✓			-0.84
	SNCI	Corfe Castle	SY98/046	✓				1.55
<b>LNRs/RIGs</b>			<b>No change</b>					

12. This year saw some small losses in local SNCI site areas but also some larger gains. There were no changes in international and national site areas.

**Changes in areas of biodiversity importance during 2015 - 2016**

Type of Site	Site Name	Site Number	Extended	Reduced	New	Deleted	Losses & Gains (ha)
<b>International Sites</b>							
Ramsar	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar	DT/A003		✓			-0.37
SAC	Dorset Heaths SAC	DT/A012	✓				0.13
SAC	St Albans Head to Durlston Head SAC	DT/A019	✓				0.37
SAC	Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes SAC	DT/A013		✓			-0.37
<b>National Sites</b>							
SSSI	Worgret Heath	SY88/007	✓				0.12
	Cull-Peppers Dish	SY89/006		✓			-0.01
	Blashenwell Farm Pit	SY98/002	✓				0.01
	Brenscombe Heath	SY98/004		✓			-0.05
	Corfe Meadows	SY98/006		✓			-0.01
	Creech Grange	SY98/007	✓				0.04
	Thrasher's Heath	SY98/015	✓				0.23
	Belle Vue Quarry	SZ07/001		✓			-0.01
	Townsend	SZ07/002	✓				0.36
<b>Regional Sites</b>							
SNCI	Claywell	SY98/070	✓				7.82
SNCI	Breach Plantation	SY98/045	✓				8.62
LNRs	No change						
RIGS	No change						

13. Although this year has seen some reductions in individual site areas, overall there has been an increase in areas of biodiversity importance. There has also been a year-on-year increase in areas of biodiversity importance in accordance with the PLP1 target.



## Purbeck Sites Condition

-based on visits by SNCI surveyors – reflects actual condition of sites.

Area of land designated as:	Source	Site Area (ha)	Number of sites	%
<b>SAC</b>	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	6521.17	4	n/a
<b>SPA</b>	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	7360.79	2	n/a
<b>RAMSAR</b>	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	7058.26	2	n/a
<b>Combined area for RAMSAR, SPA &amp; SACs</b>	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	9059.8	n/a	n/a
<b>SSSIs (management units)</b>	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	9938.9	n/a	n/a
Favourable Condition	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	3936.3	n/a	39.60
Unfavourable Declining	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	151.85	n/a	1.53
Unfavourable No Change	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	389.23	n/a	3.92
Unfavourable Recovering	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	5458.52	n/a	54.92
Destroyed	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	0	n/a	0
Part Destroyed	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	3	n/a	0.03
Not Assessed	DERC – NE Table Jan 2016	0	n/a	0
<b>SNCIs</b>	DERC – March 2016	2058.12	205	
Good	DERC – March 2016	574.1	80	27.89
Fair	DERC – March 2016	773.04	78	37.56
Poor	DERC – March 2016	44.49	4	2.16
Not Known	DERC – March 2016	666.49	43	32.38
<b>NNR</b>	DERC – Jan 2016	1471.35	7	n/a
<b>LNR</b>	DERC – March 2016	0.75	1	n/a

<b>RIGS</b>	DERC – March 2016	135.06	17	n/a
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### Purbeck local sites in positive conservation management

-proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented, based on countryside stewardship grants, advice, management plans etc.

Sites	Number of sites at March 16 (year 8)	Number of sites at March 09 (baseline)	Baseline 2009		Year 8 - 2016		% increase against baseline
			Number qualify	% qualify	Number qualify	% qualify	
<b>SNCIs &amp; RIGS</b>	222	217	78	35.94	160	72.07	36.13
<b>SNCIs</b>	205	200	74	37	148	72.20	35.20
<b>RIGS</b>	17	17	4	23.53	12	70.59	47.06

#### Notes

1 DERC had not receive any data from Defra on Countryside Stewardship for Year 8 by 26th September so changes could not be included in the calculations.

2 There are some gains through Woodland Grant Schemes but the majority of gains are through the SNCI Project and the provision of management advice to landowners.

3 The baseline was set at March 2009.

4 The number of sites is not the current number of SNCI and RIGS in Dorset. It includes any new sites, i.e. those selected since March 2009. Any sites deleted since March 2009 continue to be counted.

5 The total number of sites is not the sum of the sites in each district as sites can count in more than one area if they cross a district boundary.

6 Sites which cross a district boundary will count in both districts. If the boundary for a site is later amended, e.g. an area is removed, it may no longer count in one of the districts.

7 The data has been produced by Dorset Environmental Records Centre in conjunction with the Dorset Wildlife Trust. It is based upon information provided by Dorset Wildlife Trust, Pastures New, Defra, Forestry Commission, Dorset RIGS, National Trust and Local Authorities.

8 Liability. Owing to the dynamic nature of information relating to wildlife and the environment DERC disclaims, to the extent permitted by law, any responsibility for the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data provided, and accepts no liability for any indirect, consequential, or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data.

9 DERC make every effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information. More detail about the sites that qualify can be provided by DERC or DWT.

Contact: **Carolyn Steele** (Records Centre Manager) Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Dorset History Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1RU Tel. 01305 225081 Email: [derc@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:derc@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

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## Dorset Heaths

14. Policy DH: Dorset Heaths International Designations is the relevant policy for monitoring how successful we have been in protecting Dorset heaths.
15. The Dorset heaths are a vital part of the natural environment of south east Dorset, contributing to the area's special qualities. Over time, the expansion of the towns and villages in South East Dorset, afforestation and agricultural practices have resulted in the loss of substantial areas of heathland. Today, those areas that remain are afforded the highest level of protection as European wildlife sites whilst also providing access to countryside for local people and visitors.
16. In Summer 2006, the local authorities whose areas include designated heathland were advised by Natural England, the Government's advisor on nature conservation, that scientific evidence was showing that housing development within a wide area (up to around 5km) around heathland was likely to have a significant cumulative effect on them. In Purbeck, this area included everything but a small stretch of coast.
17. Since 2007, the councils in south-east Dorset (Bournemouth, Christchurch, East Dorset, Poole and Purbeck) have put in place a series of interim and supplementary planning documents. The documents have set out a protocol for collecting development contributions towards mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects of additional residential development.
18. The current SPD covers the period 2015 – 2020 and took effect in Purbeck on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/387392/Dorset-Heathlands-Planning-Framework>.
19. Successful implementation of heathland mitigation depends on being able to collect contributions from development to fund mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects arising from additional residential development. Mitigation is achieved through a combination of projects that provide facilities to attract people away from protected heathland sites, including Sites of Alternative Natural Greenspace (known as a SANG) and strategic access, management (including education), and monitoring.
20. In Purbeck, we currently have three SANGs: Upton Country Park, Upton Woods and Bog Lane, Wareham. The former is mainly in the Borough of Poole, and Poole will be monitoring progress on this area. Purbeck will be responsible for monitoring the Upton Woods and Bog Lane SANGs.

## POLICY DEV: Development Contributions

21. The Council's S106 and CIL Income and Expenditure Report (produced annually) sets out how much S106 income we have received and spent each year in accordance with Policy DEV: Development Contributions - <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/purbeck-community-infrastructure-levy> .

## POLICY DEV: Adoption of Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

22. In summer 2014, the Council adopted a CIL charging schedule. CIL is a tariff-based planning charge that enables the Council to raise funds from development to contribute to district-wide infrastructure. Infrastructure projects to be funded at least in part by the CIL are set out in the Council's priority for spending list, known as a regulation 123 list, available at this link <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeck-community-infrastructure-levy>. The priorities include heathland mitigation as well as transport projects; social infrastructure such as education; and green infrastructure such as sports facilities. Again, the Council's S106 and CIL Income and Expenditure Report (produced annually) sets out how much CIL income we have received and spent each year in accordance with Policy DEV: Development Contributions <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/purbeck-community-infrastructure-levy>.

### Policy DEV: Development Contributions

What we will measure	Target in Local Plan Part 1	Progress at 1 April 2016
Heathland Mitigation Development Contributions Annual Statement	Completion of annual statement to ensure that money has been spent on implementation of projects	Statement produced (see report link above) for period 2015/16

### Policy DH: Dorset Heaths International Designations

#### Monitoring of planning applications

What we measure	Target in Local Plan Part 1	Progress: 1 April 2016
Number of planning applications for net residential development granted within 400m protected heathland buffer	0	No planning applications granted for net residential development within 400m of heathland buffer since adoption of policy

23. In line with Natural England advice on meeting the requirements of European legislation, Purbeck has not granted any planning applications for a net increase in residential development within 400m of protected heathland. This does not compromise our housing targets as there are many areas outside of this 'buffer' that we could consider for residential development.

## Monitoring of visitors

What we will measure	Target in Local Plan Part 1	Progress: 1 April 2016
Successful implementation of heathland mitigation	Monitored no of visitors to protected heathland sites before implementation of heathland mitigation	Post-mitigation data is not yet available. This is a long-term monitoring process of around 10 years.
	Monitored no of visitors to protected heathland sites* following implementation of heathland mitigation & completion of housing development	
	Target of no net increase in visitors to protected sites over plan period	
	Monitored no of visitors to SANGs following implementation of heathland mitigation & completion of housing development.	

\*In the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 the target states that we will monitor number of visitors to SANGs, but the intended target was in particular the monitoring of protected heathland sites.

## Monitoring of protected heathland sites

24. Whether we have successfully implemented heathland mitigation is too early to say. Although we have visitor numbers before mitigation took place, we do not yet have information about after mitigation.
25. As stated above, the number of visitors to protected heathland sites before implementation of heathland mitigation is set out in *Visitor Access Patterns on the Dorset Heathlands*, published in 2006 by English Nature (now Natural England). <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/62018>.
26. The Urban Heaths Partnership also undertakes a range of monitoring to identify areas of need and potential management practices for local heathland areas. Further information on the role of the UHP and monitoring the Dorset Heaths can be found at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/411863/Monitoring-the-Dorset-Heaths?formid=1474910>.

## Monitoring of SANGs

27. To know whether our heathland mitigation has been successful, we also need to monitor how our SANGs are being used. Since work was done to improve access to and interpretation of Upton Woods in 2008/09, a simple observational survey indicates that usage of the woods increased, with less graffiti, litter and fly-tipping. In future years we will also need to measure usage of other SANGs. However, as stated earlier, both heathlands and SANGs require long-term monitoring over at least 10 years.

28. PLP1 sets out the following mitigation projects to 2027:

SANGS at:

- South of Frenches Farm, Upton (as part of Upton settlement extension)
- Holme Lane, near Wareham (as part of Wareham settlement extension)
- South of Wool
- Between Bere Regis and Upton
- North of Swanage
- Lytchett Matravers (as part of settlement extension)

29. Permission has been granted for a settlement extension of 153 homes at Worgret Road in Wareham which has secured a SANG at Holme Lane near Wareham. All settlement extensions are expected to provide a SANG. Details of projects will be updated through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Heathland SPD on a five-yearly basis.

## How well are we doing?

30. The table below sets out our monitoring targets in the Local Plan Part 1 that we have been able to monitor. It shows where we have reached our targets (✓) and where we have not reached our targets or where we would like our outcomes to improve (✗)

Indicator	Target	Outcome
Changes in areas of biodiversity importance	No overall decrease	✓
No of planning applications for residential development granted within 400m protected heathland buffer	0	✓
Successful implementation of heathland mitigation	No net increase	Not yet known

## Summary and Recommendations

### Heathland Mitigation

31. It is too early to say how successful we are in implementing heathland mitigation. Although we have the data for the number of visitors before mitigation, we do not yet have the data for after mitigation. Environmental protection is an important part of our monitoring work and in the case of the heathlands we need to start collecting visitor data as soon as it is available from Dorset Environmental Records Centre. However, we will need to monitor for at least 10 years before we have clear indications about whether the mitigation has worked or not. We have started to implement projects, and we now need to find more mitigation projects to use the contributions collected so far.

32. No recommendations are made.

**Areas of biodiversity importance**

33. A particular area of success is in the changes in areas of biodiversity importance. Not only do we have no overall decrease, but we have a considerable increase in the last two years. Although this is not as a result of local plan policies, it adds weight to the importance of local plan policies to protect such areas.

34. No recommendations are made.