

Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Draft - Review

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-s-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

Dead line 30 July 2025

It is difficult to understand how one Nature recovery plan can serve to two different areas.- Both BCP Council and Dorset administrative areas have very similar [populations, hovering around 380,000 to 400,000 people](#). This means that roughly the same number of people live in each council area. But that is where the similarities end.

They have a vast difference in Land Area: Dorset Council covers an enormous geographical expanse (977 sq miles) compared to BCP Council (63 sq miles). BCP Council is roughly 1/15th the size of Dorset Council, or approximately 15.51 times.

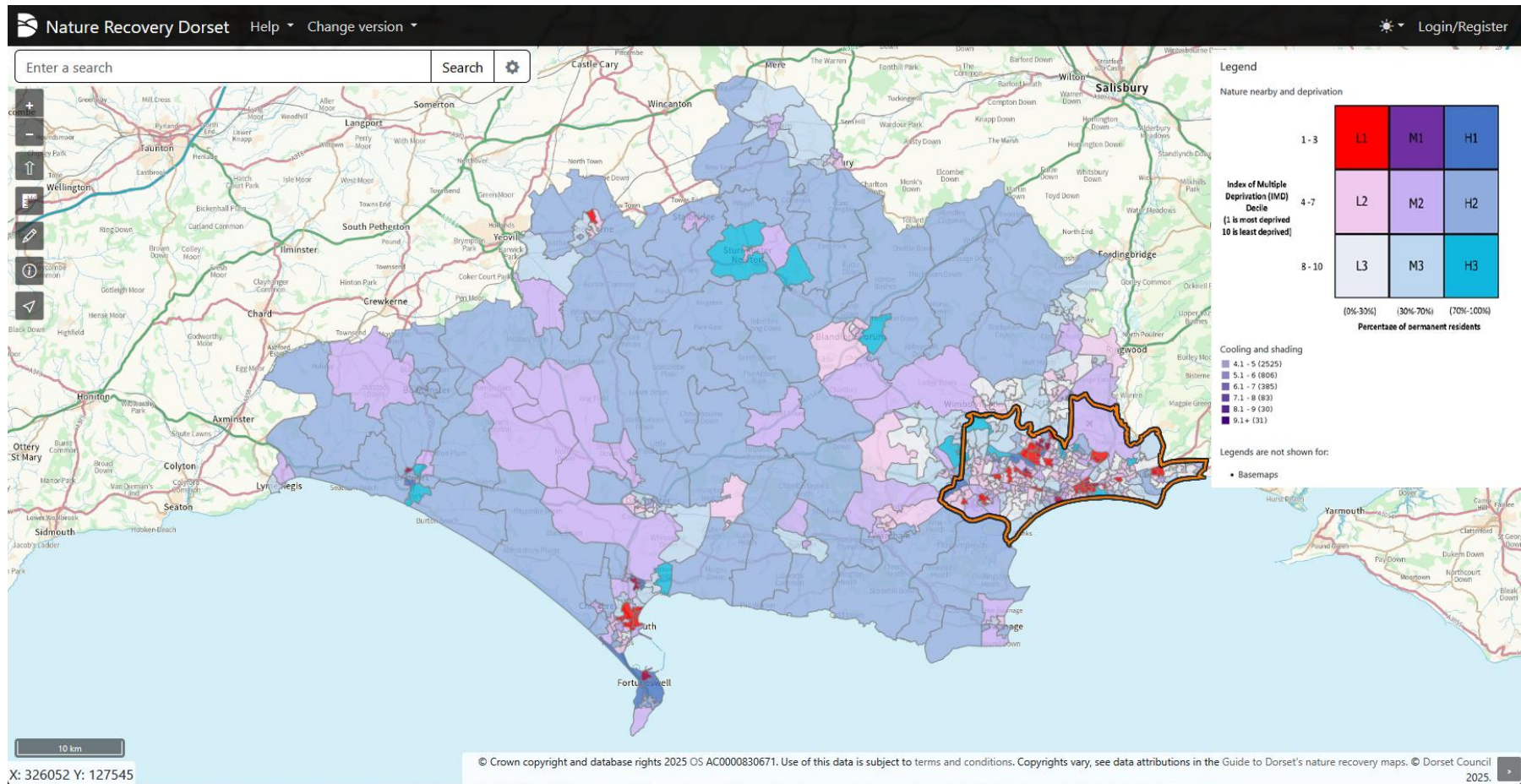
In essence, these two neighboring local authorities manage very different types of areas, despite serving a similar number of population:

BCP Council governs a compact, largely urban and suburban conurbation, dealing with challenges and opportunities typical of a high-density area (e.g., urban infrastructure, traffic, housing demand, city services). This means that pressure on nature is much greater, with larger populations within close proximity to protected habitats and species.

Dorset Council governs a predominantly rural and expansive area, with challenges related to dispersed populations, rural infrastructure, environmental protection (e.g., maintaining countryside, agricultural land, smaller market towns)

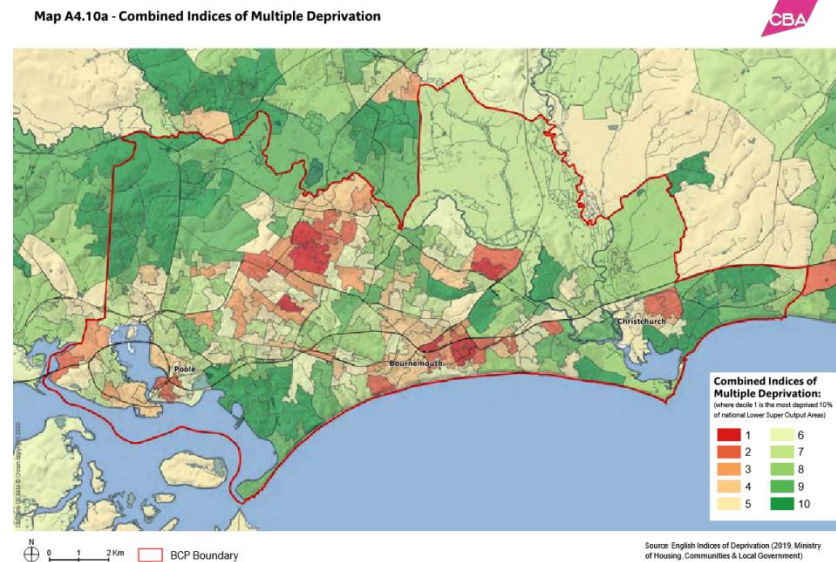
This difference in spatial characteristics profoundly influences everything from public transport provision to waste management, emergency services, and planning policies in each council area. The two Councils' nature recovery strategies need serve the same purpose. However, each local nature recovery strategy will be specific and tailored to its area. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies/local-nature-recovery-strategies>

The below map is a screen shot from the Dorset explorer. It has the layer showing the Nature nearby and Deprivation. The area with the orange outline is BCP. From this you can see the size of the area of BCP when compared with Dorset. BCP also has the most nature deprivation, as indicated by the red areas. However, a high proportion of the designated nature conservation sites also lie within BCP.

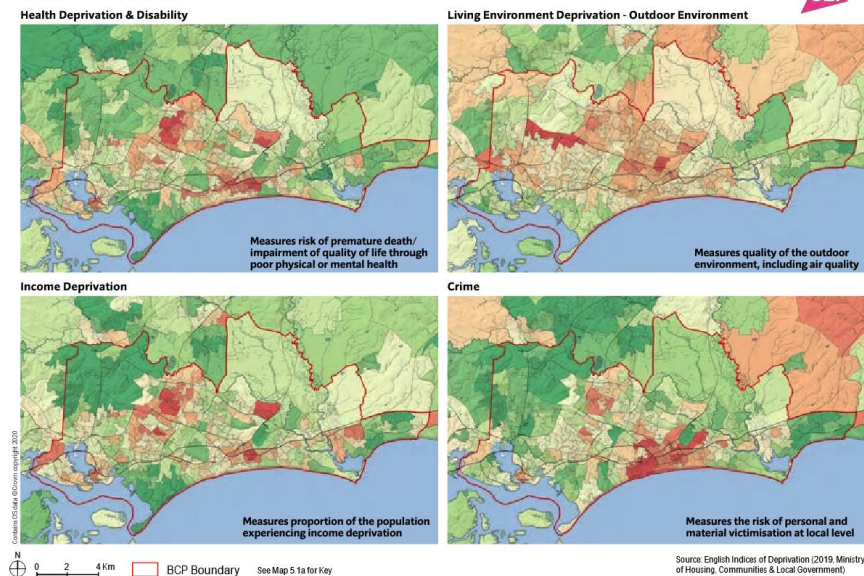


<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsetexplorer/nature-recovery#map=10.87/50.80666/-2.28120/0&layers=564/100/100,1388/100/100/&basemap=9/95/100>

Further documentation of the deprivation can be found on page 97 to 99 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2031. Which shows the areas of Life expectancy and poor Health and well being



Map A4.10b - Key Indices of Multiple Deprivation



<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/leisure-culture-and-local-heritage/GI-Strategy-Appendices-v4-final-14.6.22-compressed.pdf>

This highlights that the need for nature recovery is more acute in BCP than Dorset. From the health perspective of the population of BCP, there are many reports of the Health benefits and exposure to nature. For example, health benefits gained from exposure to nature builds on the work of MP White, I Alcock, J Grellier and others on why [spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing](#). This found that individuals who spent at least 120 minutes a week in nature had consistently higher levels of both health and well-being than those who reported no exposure. From the Government's Census report on the [Health benefits from recreation, natural capital, \(UK: 2022\)](#) evidence shows similar data: the value of health benefits associated with outdoor recreation within the UK was estimated to be between £6.2 billion and £8.4 billion in 2020. The conclusions from a report from the [Glasgow University](#) on the populations exposed to less green environments suggests that they may be less protected from income deprivation related health inequality. As BCP is more much density

populated, its activity has had much more of an impact on nature. On the other hand, [improving access to quality greenspace has the potential to improve health outcomes for the whole population](#). (the Debate on Public Access to Nature, House of Commons Library.) Again, this emphasises that a priority of the Nature Recovery Strategy should be to resolve these potential conflicts between protecting sites and increasing access to nature.

But to bring it back to nature and its recovery, “One of the biggest risks to nature is that people do not have a connection with it, and so it becomes irrelevant and de-prioritised” [Pressures on nature and Opportunities for recovery in Dorset](#) page32.

The nature recovery steering group behind the Draft Strategy consisted of 12 organisations . It appears that BCP Council was the only representation for the population of BCP. The Dorset Local Nature Partnership Annual Forum 2024 was in Wardon Hill Evershot, Nr Dorchester on the 8th Feb. From the presentations : <https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Dorset-LNP-Annual-Forum-2024-Report.pdf>.

Who were the other stakeholders representing BCP’s perspective? In the BCP area there are a wide range of communities, environmentalists and gardening/ allotment groups. Which although are not land owners, are custodians for nature within BCP. I could not find in the Dorset LNRS [Consultation and Engagement Report](#) (Page 28) where the Urban environment was represented. **Out of the 308 responses how many were from BCP ?**

Were any interested parties or groups from BCP invited to be apart of the steering groups ?

Did any of the consultation from the steering groups have an impact on the plan for BCP? From the BCP perspective it refers to the 26th May 2022 document. [Green Infrastructure Strategy Investing in a healthy, biodiverse, resilient and world class city region 2022-2031](#). **Goal 3** of this document “supporting nature recovery and biodiversity to tackle the ecological emergency, by creating space for nature through targeted habitat restoration, creation and expansion to strengthen ecological connectivity and improve *species recovery*.” Page 12.

Has the effect of the Green-Infrastructure-Strategy been monitored or any of its principles or goals been followed yet ?

What is the priority species in BCP,that is it focused on recovering ?

The Typical urban species according to Dorset Nature Recovery [Priority 6 Urban](#) are the Common frog Hedgehog and Slow worm. However these are not in the [Priority species list](#). Page 80. Personally I would like to see the Slow worms and Nightjars protected, which are appropriate to the BCP environment. **What was the reason why nightjars were excluded from the priority list ?** [Download the species longlist as an excel](#).

Sort all	Sort Group	Group	Order	Family	Current scientific name	UK species dictionary / Inventory name	Common name	Ai	Aii	Bi	Bii	Biii	C	D	Ei	Eii	F	G	Suitable for inclusion in priority list	Reason/s to exclude from priority list	Survey and monitoring requirements
114	5	Reptiles	Squamata	Anguidae	Anguis fragilis	Anguis fragilis	Slow worm	Ai	Aii												
16	16	Birds	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	Caprimulgus europaeus	Caprimulgus europaeus	European nightjar	Ai													

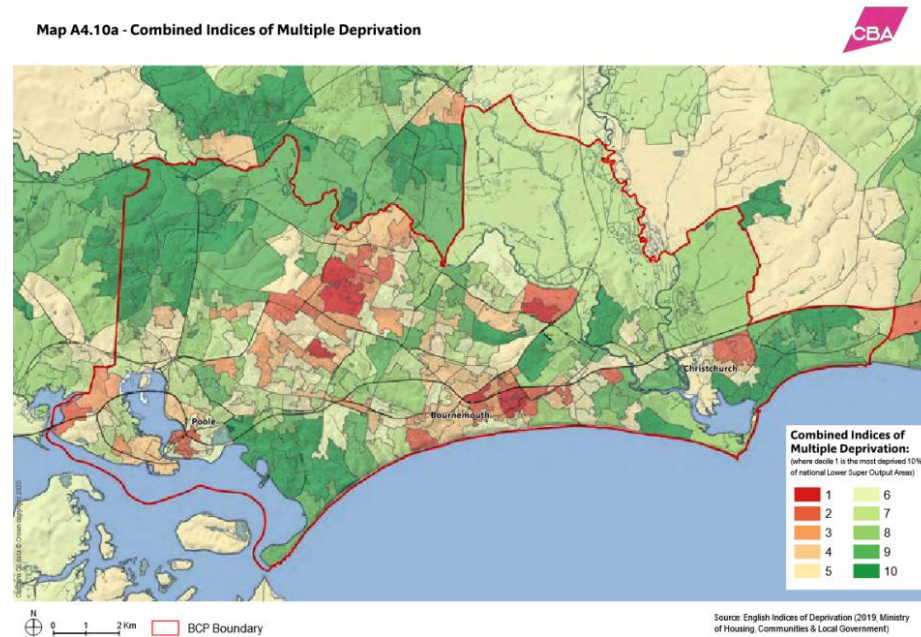
There are other species which are uniquely dependent on the environments within BCP, that are specific to it . Common Lizards and Grass Snakes, for example. These reptiles can thrive in neglected urban green spaces, railway embankments, heathland, allotments, and larger gardens, but are vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation. As well the as the Dartford Warbler and Hen Harrier. To date, the Council's record on protecting these species from development on smaller sites has been poor. This, despite such sites often forming link sections of "wildlife corridors". **How many species which are in the BCP area are included in the LNRS priority list ?**

If one of the aims of the Local nature recovery strategy is to help people in nature-deprived areas form a connection with the natural world, would it not be more effective to focus on protecting, enhancing, and recovering nature within the urban, nature-deprived areas of BCP?

(Figure 1) As identified in [Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2031 Technical Document](#), **"1.3.3 The priority areas for focusing action and investment are GI Zones with the most deprived wards and highest levels of health inequalities:..."** page 190.

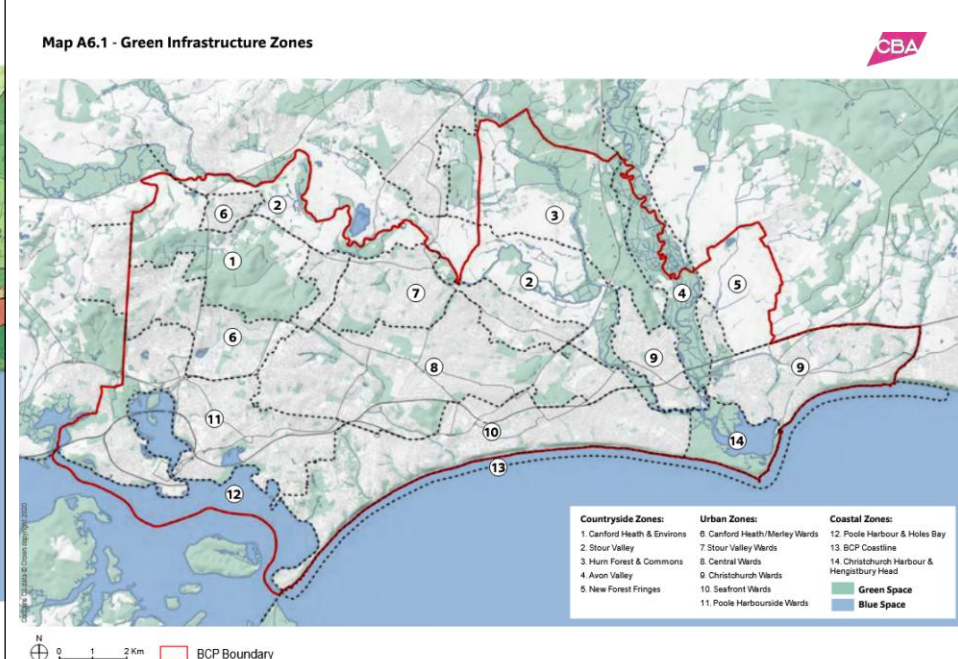
These areas for focusing action and investment are identified as, "Green Infrastructure Priority Areas". Which are the areas of 7,8 ,9,10 ,11. on the map **(Figure 2)** . For half the population of Dorset as a whole, which the Local Nature Recovery Plan seeks to help, seems to me to be unrepresented. More focus on the needs of BCP environments might help encourage the people living in the area foster a stronger connection to nature and tackle its inequalities.

Figure 1



<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/documents/leisure-culture-and-local-heritage/GI-Strategy-Appendices-v4-final-14.6.22-compressed.pdf> Page 97

Figure 2



Page150

From BCP's web site on the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) <https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/dorsets-local-nature-recovery-strategy> .It refers to the 2019 [Nature Pledge](#) and [Climate and Ecological Emergency](#). The Rethinking the future of parks and green spaces report was written in July 2021. From the rethinking the future of parks and green spaces report 4 years ago, what has been learnt from its application that's relevant and has been used in the LNRS for Dorset?

The Defra Secretary of State will instruct responsible authorities to review and republish their local nature recovery strategies every 3 to 10 years. These reviews should show what nature recovery activities for Dorset have been done since the strategy was last published.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/measuring-success-of-nature-recovery>

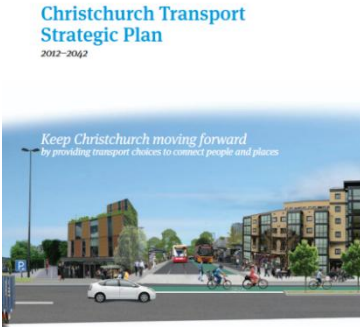
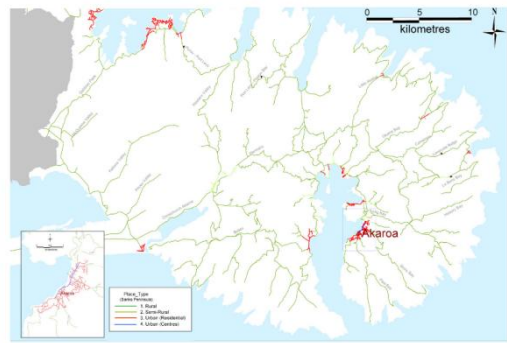
When is the next date for review for the Green Infrastructure Strategy ?

In the [Policies strategies and plans relating to the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Excel](#) or in the [PDF](#) from the supporting Documents <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery-strategy-supporting-documents> No 166 (screen grab below)

2	Strategy or plan name and URL	Lead organisation	Area covered	Purpose and scope	Time range	Priorities relating to nature recovery
165						Improved quality of life
166	Christchurch Transport Strategic Plan https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Strategies/ChchTransportPlan2012Appendices.pdf	Christchurch City Council	Christchurch	The vision is to keep Christchurch moving forward by providing transport choices to connect people and places	2012-2042	

<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Strategies/ChchTransportPlan2012Appendices.pdf>

The above link will open the Christchurch Transport Strategic Plan from New Zealand (**Figure 3**). How does a policy document from New Zealand Transport strategy contribute to Dorset local nature recovery strategies, using it's Nature-based solutions as identified with a Y within the spread sheet?

 <p>Figure 3</p>	<p>The sustainable nature of these concepts positively contribute to environmental management and urban design. Ongoing build up of urban development allows places of cultural significance to be forgotten about as each layer of urban design that is added presents another barrier to connection to whakapapa and traditional Māori ways of living.</p> <p>Māori consultation</p> <p>There were three key recommendations identified at the hui.</p> <p>1. Provision for Kaumātua</p> <p>One of the key themes to be discussed at the hui was the need to ensure that there is specific and special provision for kaumātua (elders) in the transport system. Specific concerns were raised about the ability and convenience for kaumātua to access and use the public transport system. Apprehension was raised around ensuring that community vans for kaumātua use were included in the same classification as the bus system.</p> <p>In addition, there were concerns raised about etiquette for public transport users particularly where rangatahi (youth) no longer adhere to what was regarded as traditional ethical values, such as rangatahi giving up their seat for kaumātua. It was felt that a concerted effort should be applied to educating youth around the use of public transport.</p> <p>2. Effects on Papatūānuku (Earth)</p> <p>It was noted that the intensification of urban areas has contributed to decreased access for Māori to Papatuanuku. This situation was exacerbated by ongoing development of roads, highways and other transport infrastructure. There was discussion about the development of more open, green spaces and areas that signify cultural significance for Māori which provide a connection between place and people.</p> <p>3. Recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi</p> <p>There was discussion about the importance of increasing access to Reo Māori through signage, in particular ensuring Māori place names are used including for example 'Pahi Kura' signs available for Kura Kaupapa and Kohanga Reo buses.</p> <p>There was discussion about the opportunity for Māori to provide feedback on the Draft RLTS prior to it being released, to ensure that whakaaro Māori (Māori thoughts) are visible in and influence the RLTS.</p> <p>On Page 39 is the only reference to nature</p>	<p>Figure 4: Illustrates the Liveable Streets place type classification applied within Banks Peninsula.</p>  <p>Page 55 https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Strategies/ChchTransportPlan2012Appendices.pdf</p>
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From the Government website ,[Local nature recovery strategies](#). It states “Each local nature recovery strategy will agree priorities for nature recovery and *propose actions in the locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities.*”

In BCP there are :25 Nature reserves in Poole

<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-local-heritage/parks-and-open-spaces/nature-reserves-in-poole>

10 Nature reserves in Bournemouth

<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-local-heritage/parks-and-open-spaces/nature-reserves-in-bournemouth>

8 Nature reserves in Christchurch

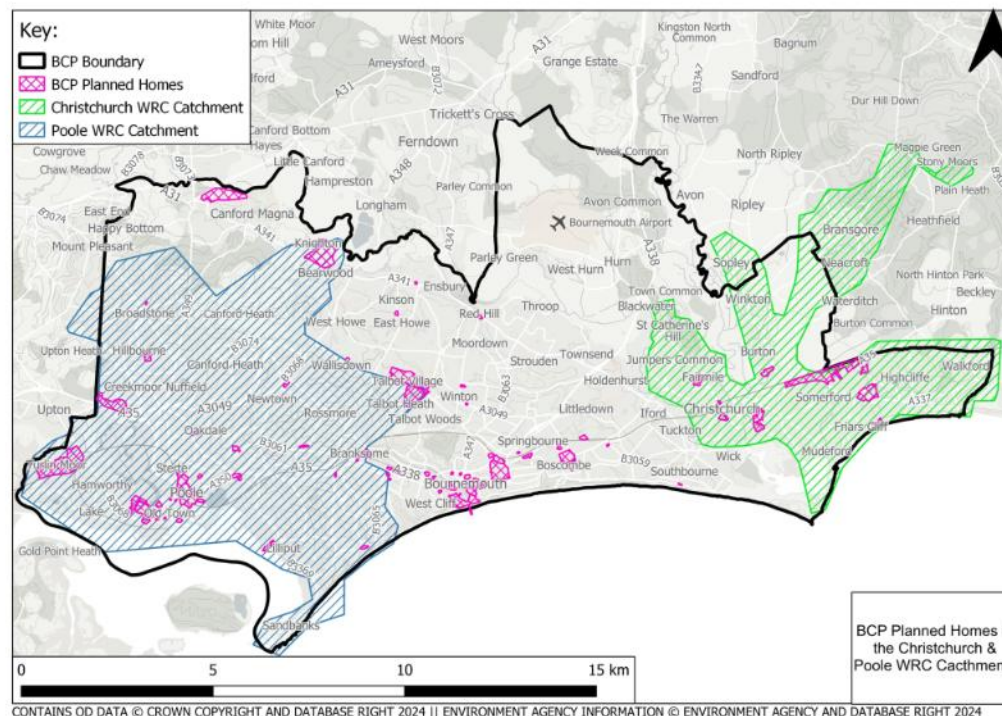
<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-local-heritage/parks-and-open-spaces/nature-reserves-in-christchurch>

TOTAL :43

There are 22 habitat sites within 15km of the BCP area including six SPAs, five of which also incorporate Ramsar sites and 11 SACs. As BCP and Dorset have very different location demands on them. It would be good to see more of a location based approach in the nature Recovery Strategy. The pockets of nature that we do have in the BCP are vital and need to be protected.

The nutrient neutrality assessment has only considered the planned homes in wards located within the Christchurch & Poole WRC catchments, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: BCP Councils Planned Homes in the Christchurch and Poole Catchments



From the documents presented and submitted for the draft local Plan June 2024. It showed that the **Environment was already at its limits.**

The Water Quality nutrient for example showed the total phosphorus load discharged from Christchurch WRC to the Hampshire Avon SAC during the BCP Local Plan period 2024 – 2039 will be 700.51kg.

And in Poole WRC will discharge to Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site a total of 4,209.27kg of total phosphorus and 6,031.19kg

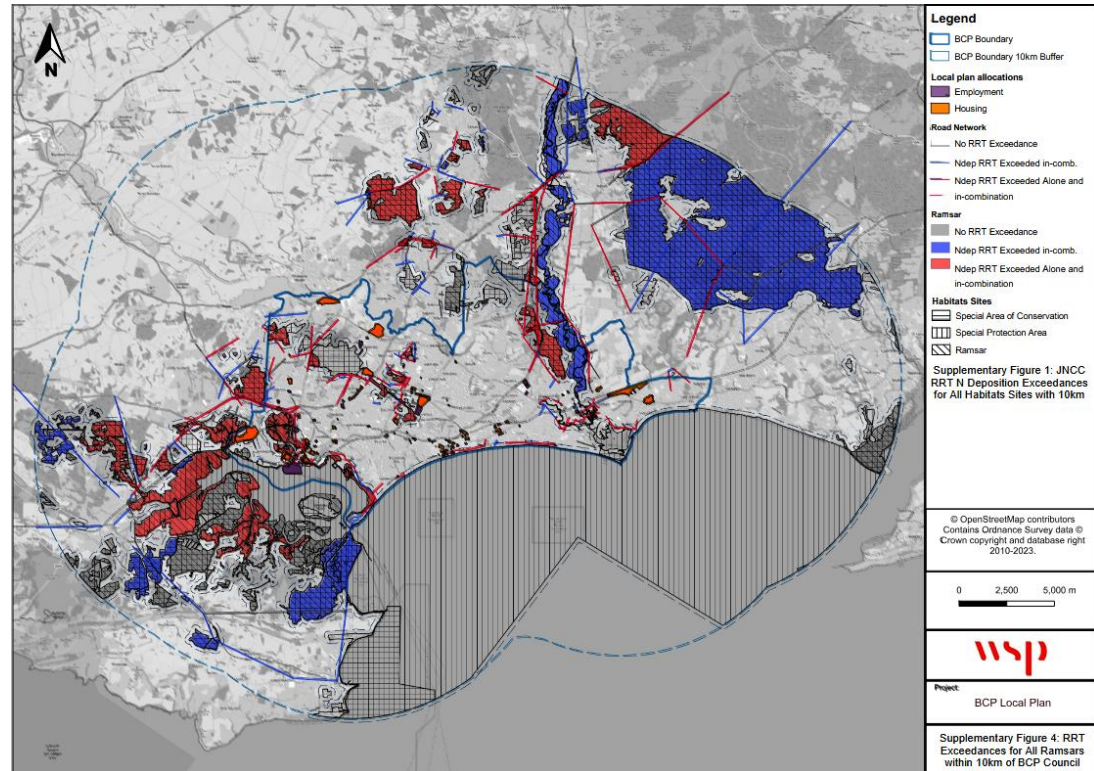
<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/Evidence-base/Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-Draft-Local-Plan-Water-quality.pdf>

For the Air Quality **Road-relevant Thresholds - RMT**. The RRT provide indicative traffic data threshold above which exceedances of 1% of the relevant Critical Levels and Loads for NOX, NH3 and N deposition

'Dorset Heathlands'

There are widespread exceedances both alone and in-combination throughout the SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites. This includes both forest and short habitats.

- Of the 312 road links within 200m of the SAC:
89 and 203 links exceed the 'forest' RRT alone and in-combination respectively.
136 and 231 links exceed the 'short' RRT alone and in-combination respectively.
- Of the 298 road links within 200m of the SPA:
93 and 196 links exceed the 'forest' RRT alone and in-combination respectively.
143 and 222 links exceed the 'short' RRT alone and in-combination respectively.
- Of the 228 road links within 200m of the Ramsar:
69 and 148 links exceed the 'forest' RRT alone and in-combination respectively.
105 and 165 links exceed the 'short' RRT alone and in-combination respectively



<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/Evidence-base/Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-Draft-Local-Plan-Air-quality.pdf>

Any future developments in the BCP area will be an extra burden to the natural environment and will have an impact of survival on its wild life.

Within a wider legal picture of the LNRS, the legally-binding targets for the natural environment were established under the [Environment Act 2021](#) , including those to halt species decline by 2030, and to increase species abundance by at least 10% and to exceed 2022 levels by 2042. The changes in the legislation regarding LNRS can be found in [sections 104 and 108](#) Part 6.

Under the Environment Act 2021, Local Planning Authorities must '**have regard to**' LNRS when making planning decisions. The legislation has been updated for [Section 40\(2A\)](#). The "**have regard to**" has been mentioned in: *109 Species conservation strategies* (9): A local planning authority in England and any prescribed authority must in the exercise of its functions **have regard to** a species conservation strategy so far as relevant to its functions. And in *112 Habitats Regulations*: power to amend general duties (b) to require persons within regulation 9(3) of the Habitats Regulations, when exercising functions to which that regulation applies, to **have regard to** matters specified by regulations under this section instead of the requirements of the Directives. To "**have regard to**" something ,responsible authorities must give it due attention and consideration.

For the BCPs local plan in 2024. BCP Council proposed building **24,000** homes over 15 years - about **1,600** homes a year. But now it has been tasked with **42,000** homes over 15 years- about **2,806** homes a year. This is a **75%** increase from its previous target, or the equivalent to a 24% increase in the number of dwellings in BCP. Obviously adding much more pressure to where and how it is going to do this in its constituency .

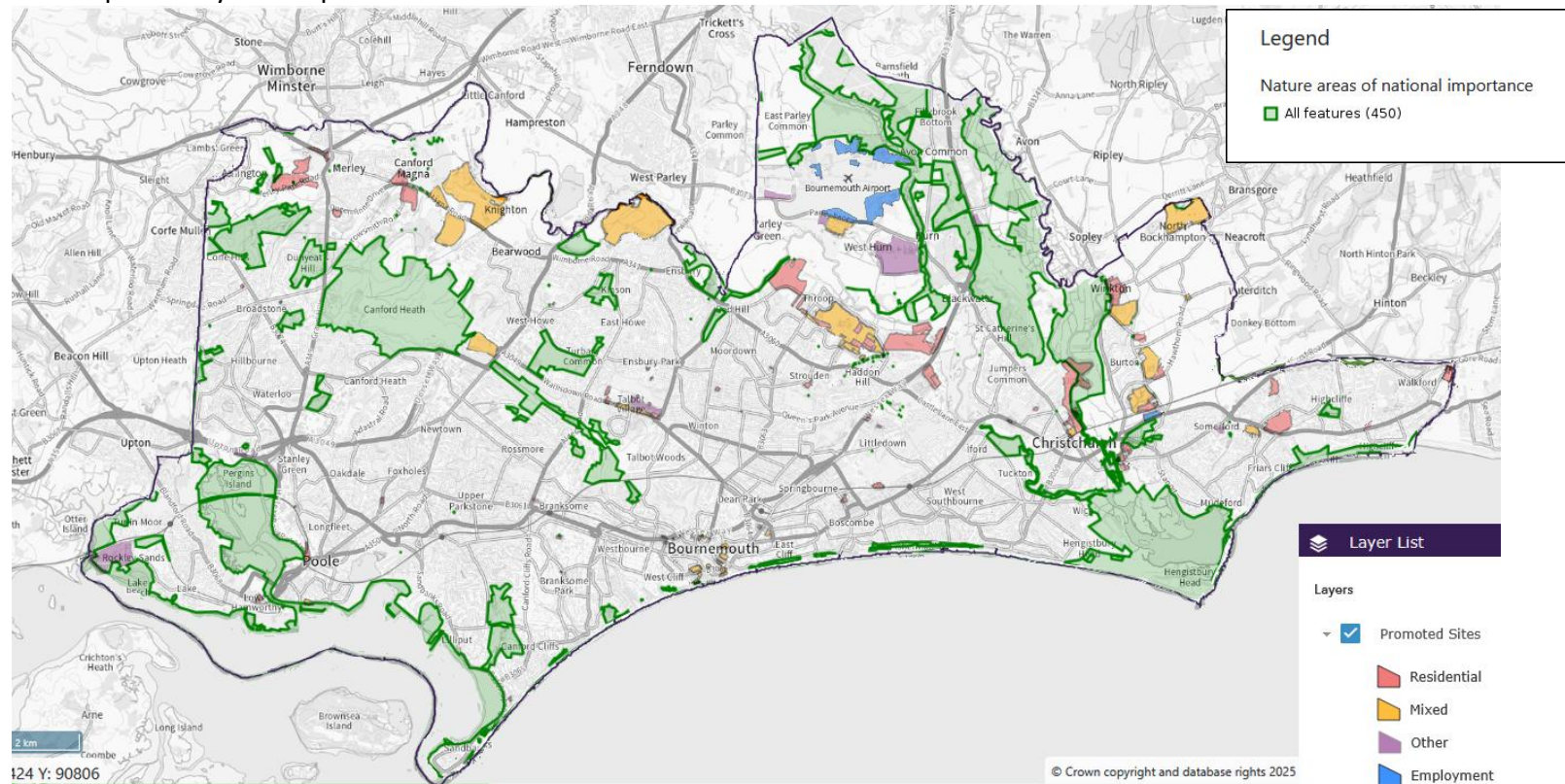
Housing				
Council	Standard method figure (2023-2033) (homes per year)	Local Plan target (homes per year)	Local Plan Status	Plan period
BCP Council	2,806	1,600	Publication Version March 2024	2024-2039
Dorset Council	1,793	1,793	Consultation draft Published January 2021	2021-2038 ¹
Total	4,599	3,393		

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/35024/282495/Statement%20of%20Common%20Ground%20-%20BCP%20and%20Dorset%20Council%20March%202024.pdf/fe8b7af0-390d-6501-e878-72ec097dafdf>

I have been comparing the areas with were set aside for residential and employment development from the rejected [BCP Local Plan Call for Sites 2019](#) , and overlaying this map with the various layers from the [nature recovery maps](#) of how the spaces for nature recovery fits into it . Bear in mind that BCP council will now need to find addition areas of land for its new housing target , and are currently looking for [areas of land](#) for the next rendition in March [2028](#). By doing this I wanted to see how much "**regard to**" was been given to the LNRS.

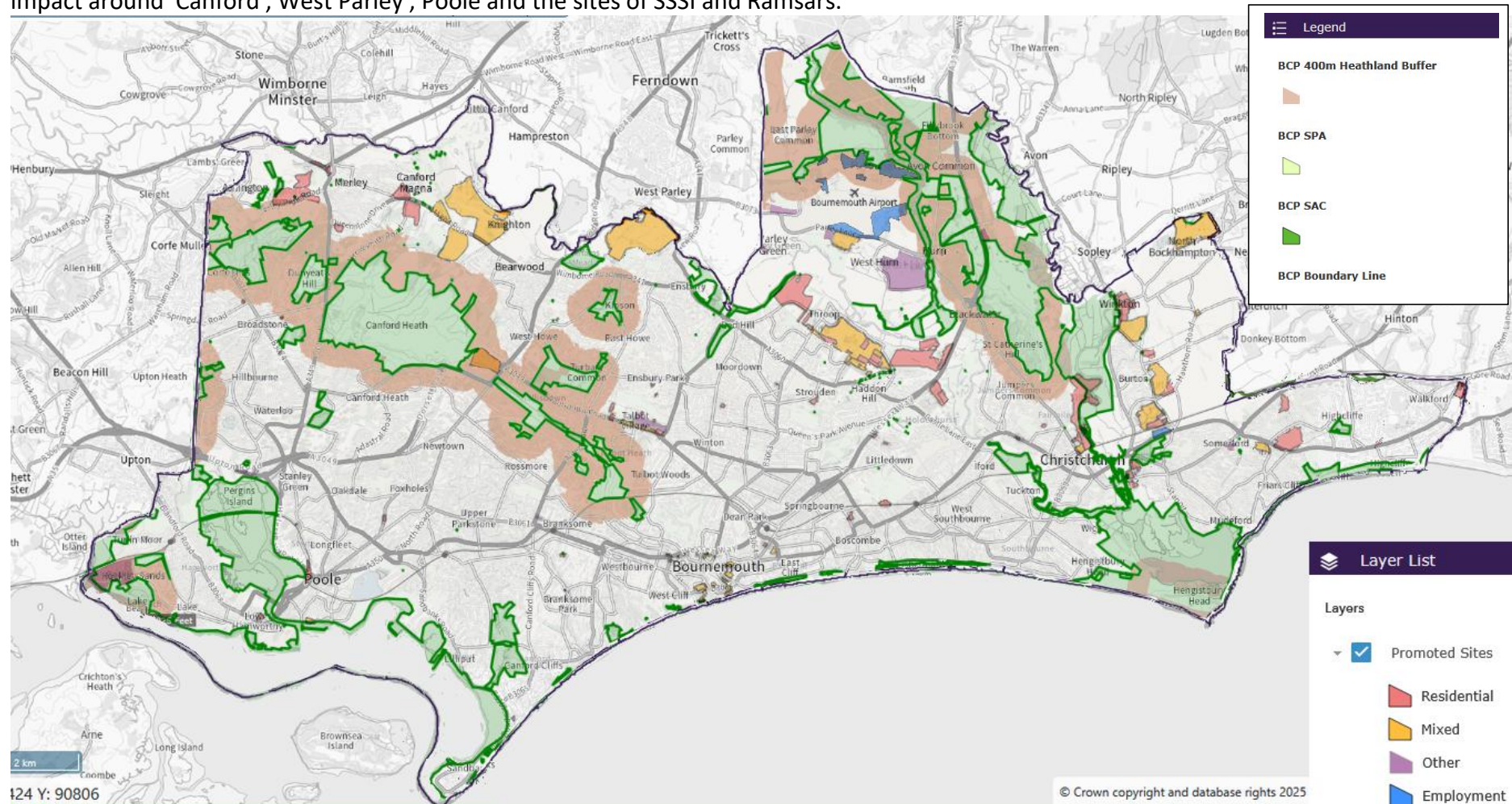
Habitats

Looking at the [Nature areas of national importance](#) .Its purpose is to provide a nationally consistent baseline of sites that are currently recognised and protected within the land-use planning system for their biodiversity value in England. This layer shows the places across Dorset that are recognised and protected for nature in the planning system. This covers 60.6% for the whole of Dorset. As you can see areas of this were going to be impacted by developments

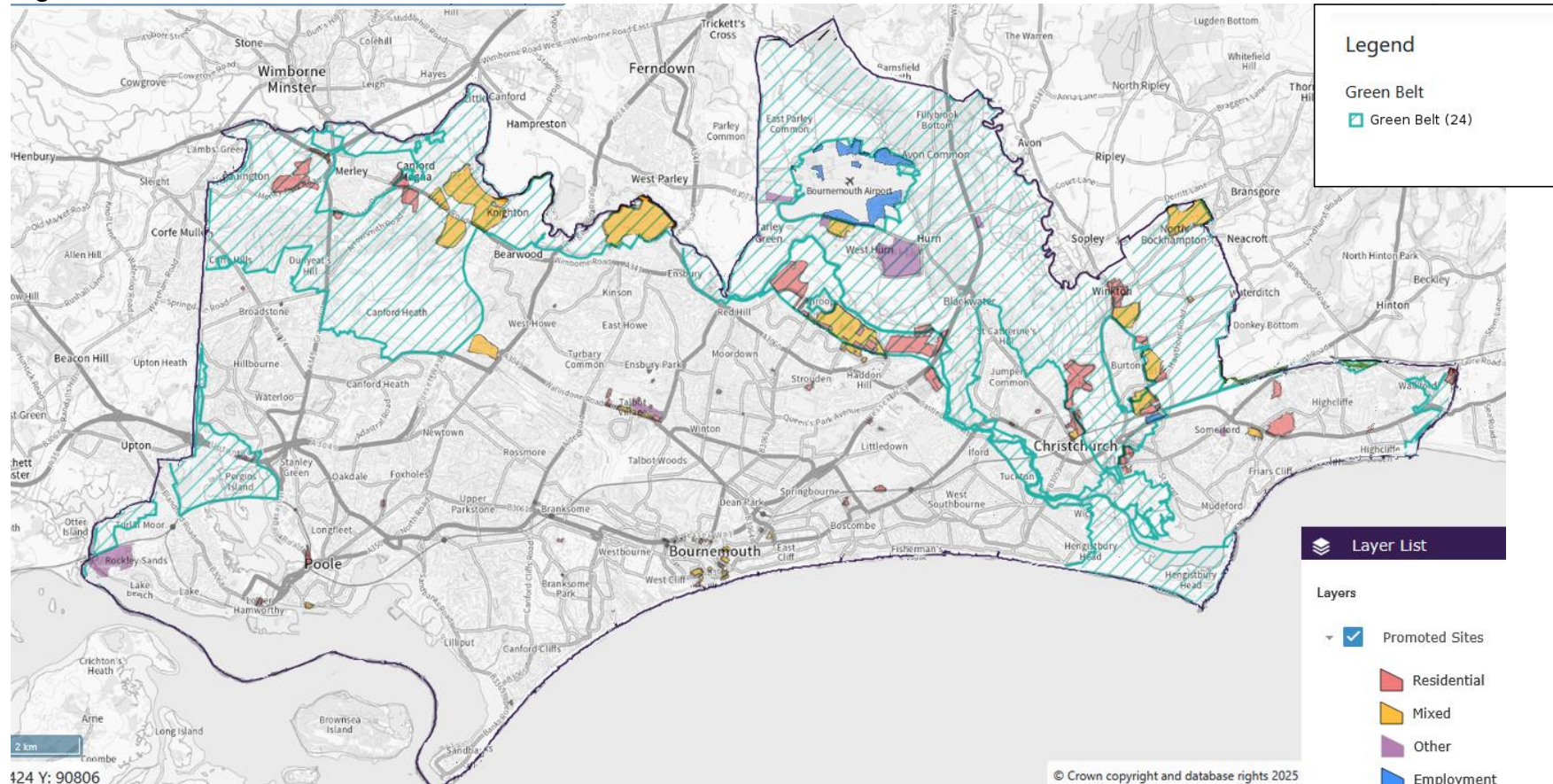


Already the development infringes areas in Christchurch, Poole and Parley . And this is without the 75% increase

If we add the [heathland mitigation strategy](#) which restricts development within [400 metres of the Dorset Heathlands](#) . We can start to see the impact around Canford , West Parley , Poole and the sites of SSSI and Ramsars.

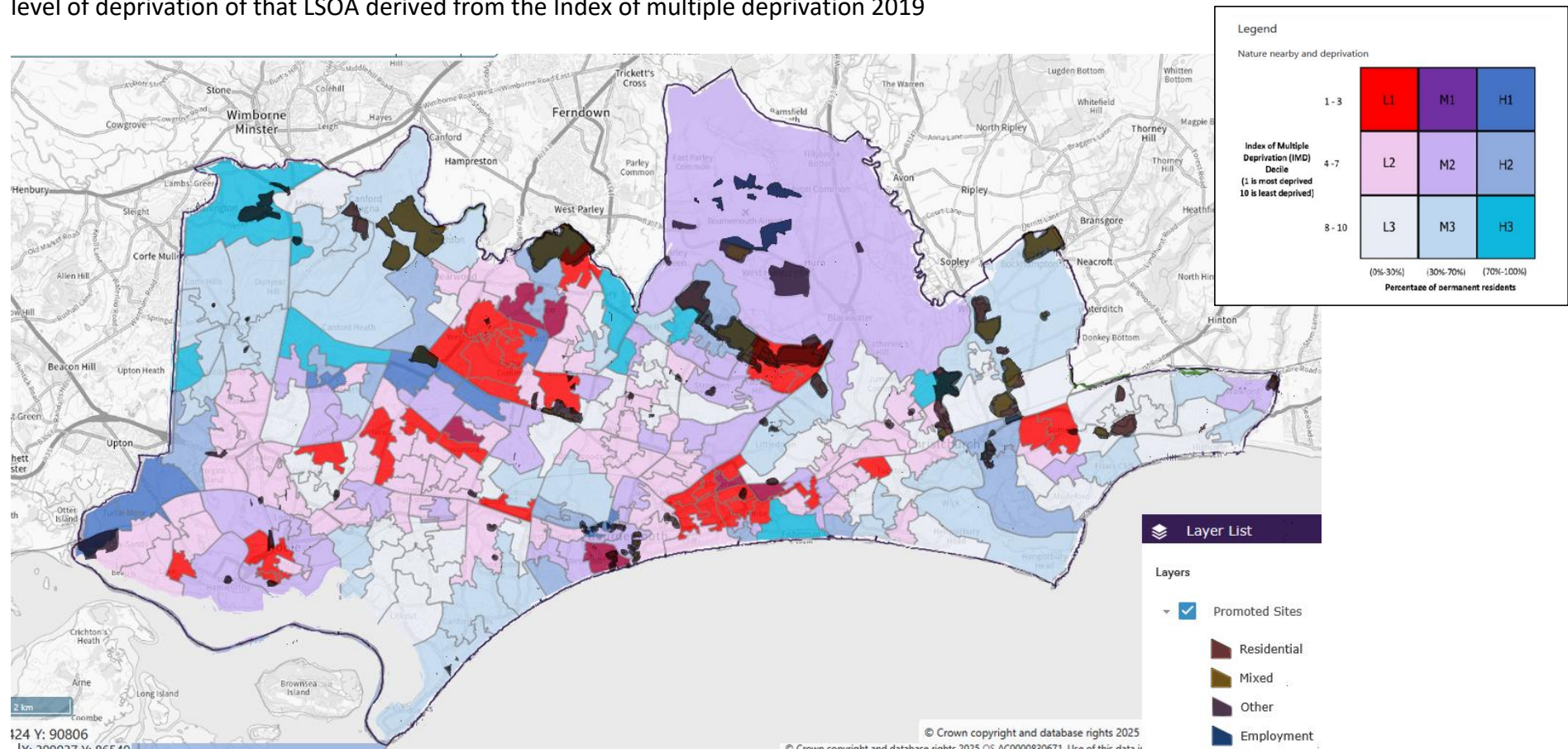


To add the [Green belt](#) within the boundary of BCP .The fundamental aim of [Green Belt policy](#) is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of [Green Belts](#) are their openness and their permanence. But we can see how this protection was going to be diminished



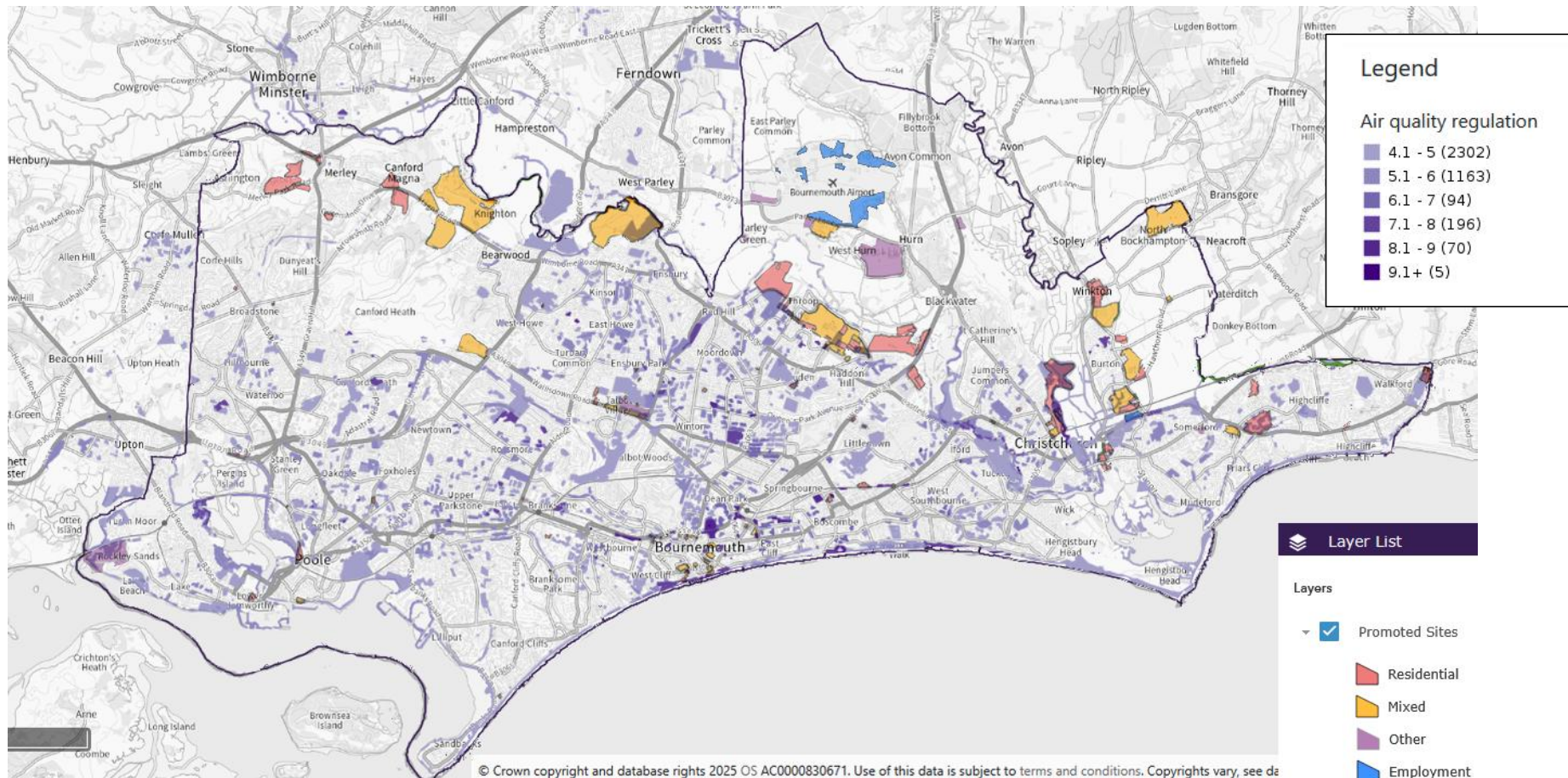
NB; [Dorset Council is concentrating its housing development](#) subject to a policy change around the West Parley, Ferndown, Wimborne Minster and Corfe Mullen BCP boundary. My guess is the policy change is due to these developments being in the Green Belt area.

Nature nearby and deprivation This layer shows nature nearby and deprivation. BCP and Dorset have been divided into Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and colour coded according to: • The percentage of the population of that LSOA estimated to live with Nature Nearby • The level of deprivation of that LSOA derived from the Index of multiple deprivation 2019

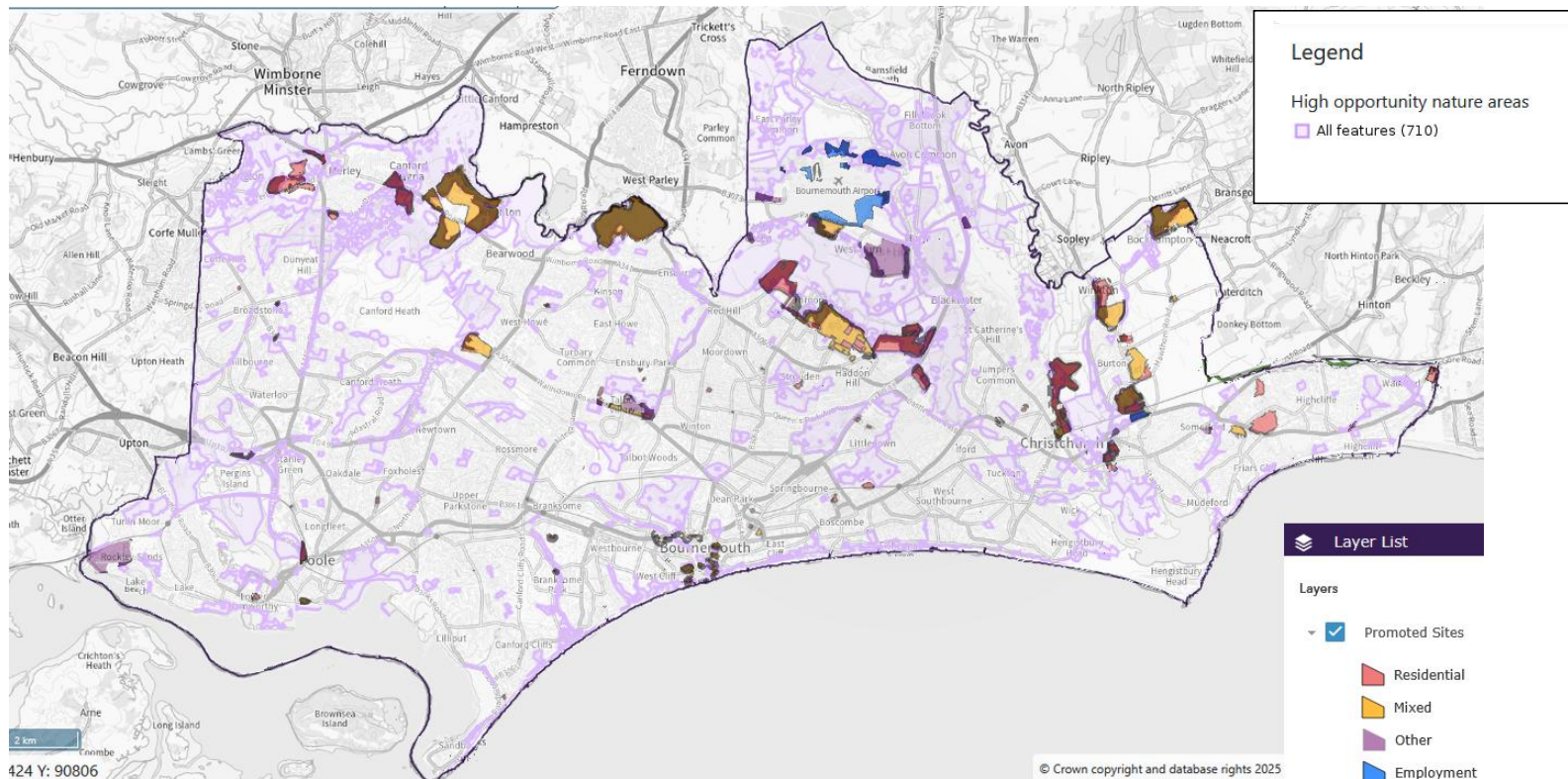


West Parley, Black water and Poole appear to be most affected. Proposed new development would be adding to this deprivation .

[Air quality regulation](#) A model of where habitat creation could help improve air quality. This model is based on scrub creation, but there could also be opportunity to create other habitat types that help deliver this ecosystem service. You can see the darker areas where developments were taking the place of that habitat creation.



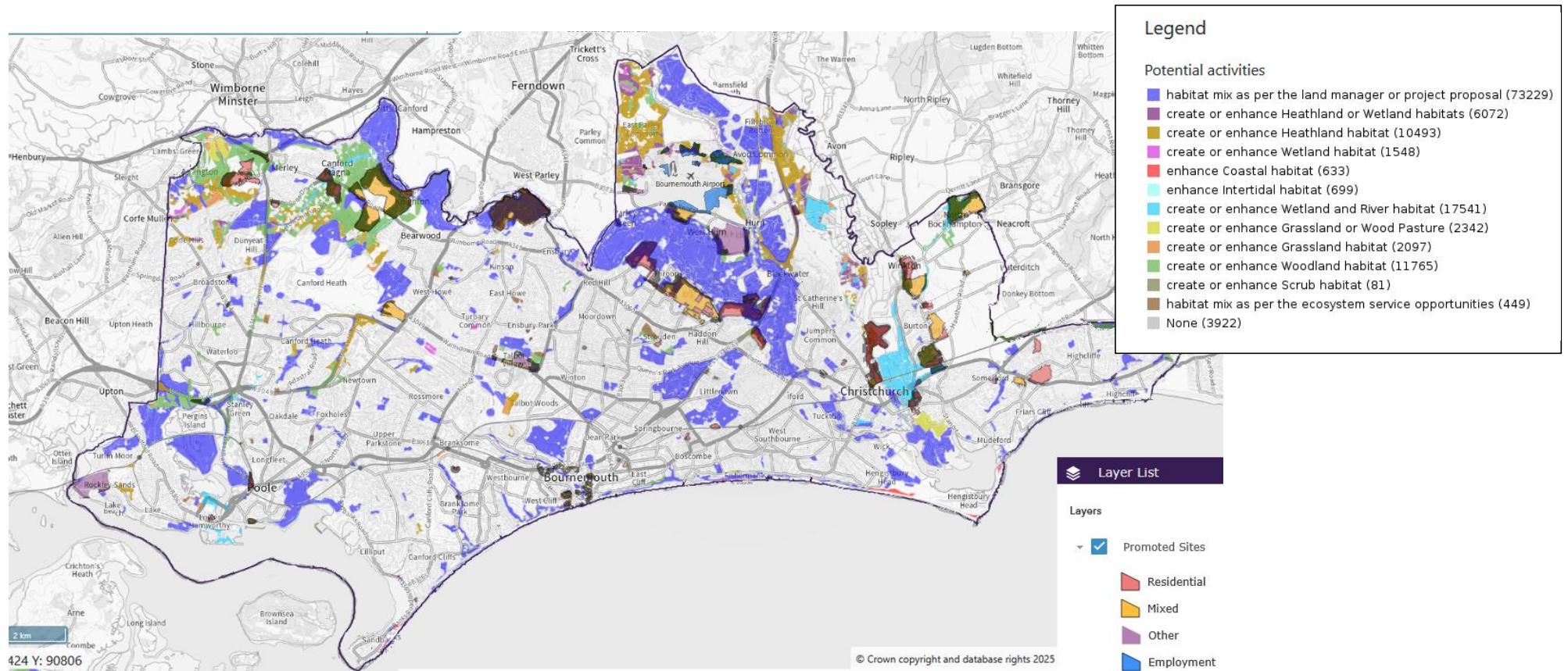
The [High opportunity nature areas](#) shows where effort should be targeted to achieve the most for nature recovery and the wider environment. The high opportunity nature areas can be used to guide where efforts and funding are targeted in the next 10 years. Focusing on these areas could help deliver the most benefit for nature and the wider environment. According to the LNRS this covers 49.1 % of Dorset



The darker areas on the map show where the areas for high opportunity were ring fenced for new residential / employment in the 2024 local plan. My observation would be that these opportunity's in these areas no longer exist.

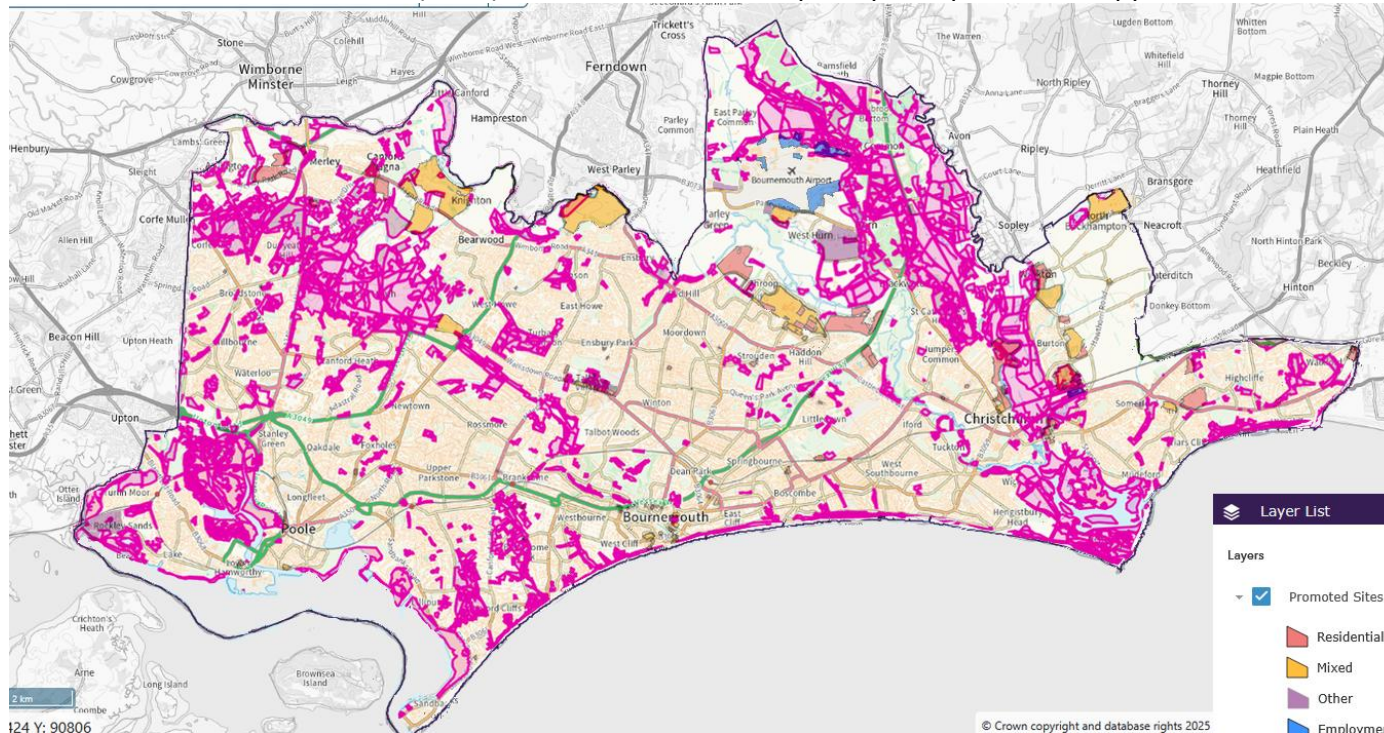
Has the impact of the new housing/ developments been calculated in the BCP area, against the calculations for nature recovery in Dorset ?

To guide what activities to take where to help achieve the nature recovery priorities [Potential activities](#) layer provides guidance but is not a prescription. Site-specific assessments and management plans would confirm what would work best in an area



The darker areas on the map also show where the areas for potential active areas were ring fenced for new residential / employment in the 2024 local plan . My conclusion would be that the potential active areas for nature recovery in these areas no longer exist .

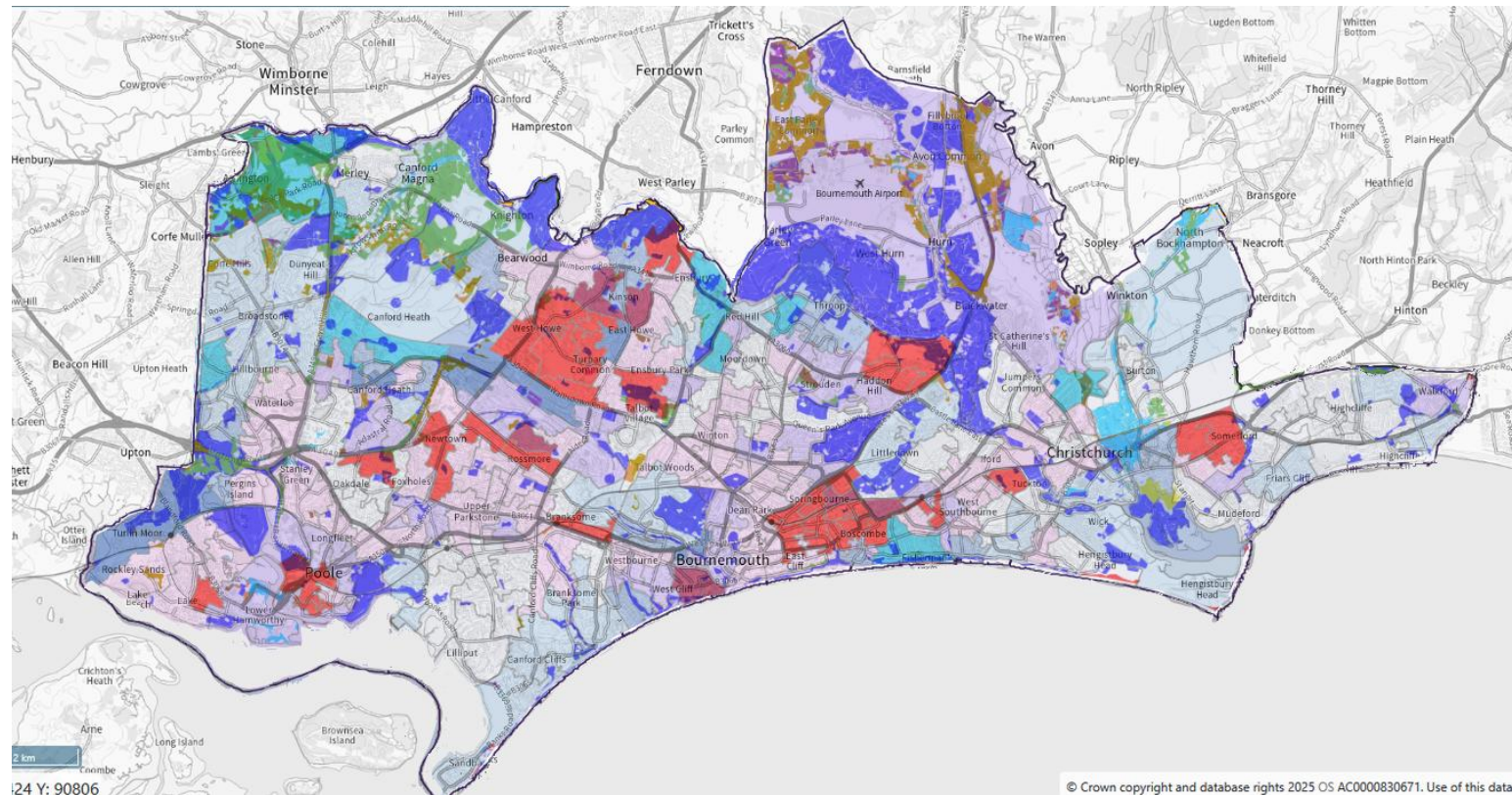
Dorset Priority Habitats Layer. [Found in the Dorset explorer](#) This is a spatial data set that describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance. Clipped to Dorset.



From this what is evident is the areas in Poole and Parley being build upon. Remember that the housing target has increase to 75% from the indicated areas. By looking at the maps, and seeing that the opportunity and potential areas for nature to recover are were already set aside for developers in 2019.

Personally, I not convinced that the LNRS plan will reach the 30 by 30 target as indicated on page 89 of [Dorsets LNRS](#) as the 60.6% of existing nature is being diminished or that [by the end of 2042, we will restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites, compared to 2022 levels](#) within BCP.

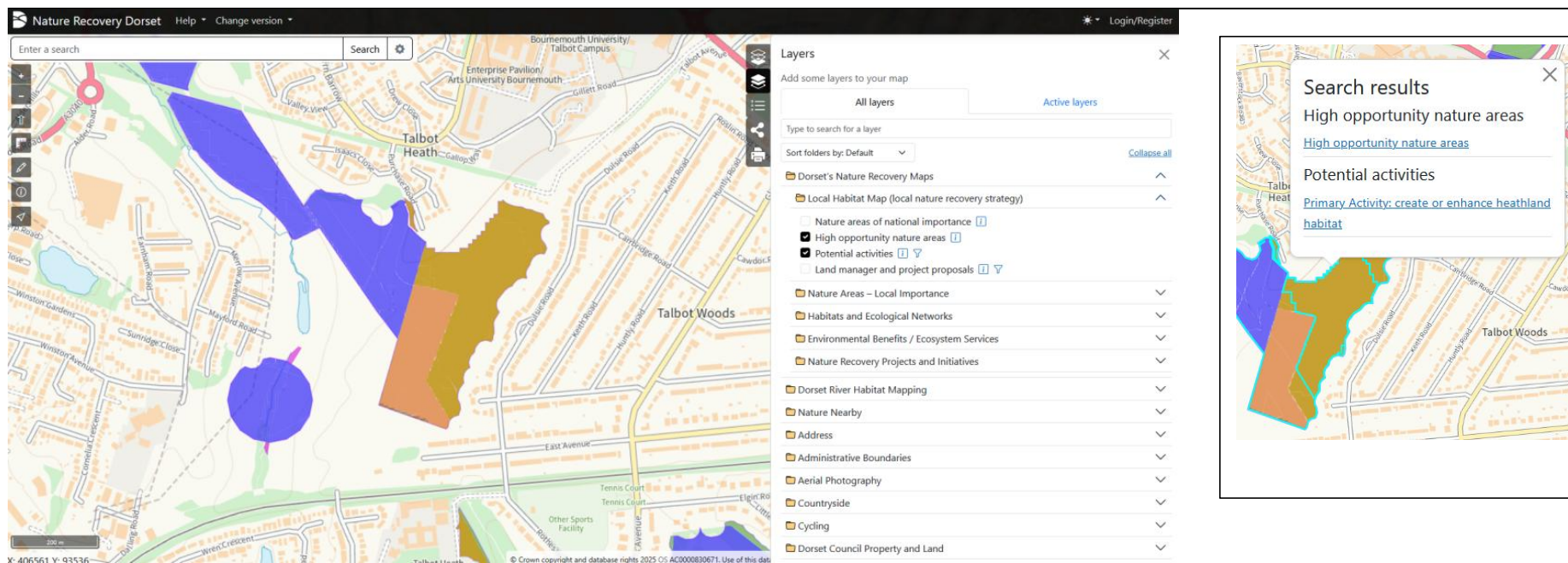
In the below map I've combined the [Nature nearby and deprivation](#) map to show where nature is most needed with the nature recovery priorities [Potential activities](#) map. **Would it not be of greater benefit to recover nature where it is most deprived ?**



It is difficult to see from the maps strategically where the 4 key principles of creating “more, bigger, better and joined” spaces for nature, as outlined in the [making space for Nature](#) report led by Professor Sir John Rawton in 2010 has been applied to the areas which need it the most .

From a personal interest and connection with I've been looking into the area on the map known as **High moor Farm /Talbot Heath** as a case study to see how nature recovery habitat sites work.<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsetexplorer/nature-recovery#map=15.98/50.73706/-1.88851/0&layers=828/100/100/,1402/100/100/&basemap=9/100/100>

With the Local Habitat Map (local nature recovery strategy) layer open and the High opportunity nature areas and Potential activities layers selected. When the area of high moor farm is clicked on the map it says it is indeed a High opportunity nature area with Potential activities. The area of Highmoor farm is the area in yellow / orange on the Nature Recovery Dorset map.



Its definitions mean:

<p>High Opportunity Nature Areas</p> <p>Locations where effort should be targeted to achieve the most for nature recovery and the wider environment.</p> <p>The highest opportunities have been selected through a mixture of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers, landowners and projects putting forward land where they're planning to deliver nature recovery • Modelling of opportunities to expand and connect the largest areas of semi-natural habitat • Modelling of opportunities to deliver wider environmental benefits through habitat creation or enhancement 	<p>Potential activities LMP</p> <p>A guide to the most effective practical activities to deliver in an area, to achieve the most for nature recovery and the wider environment.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Potential Activities</th><th>Potential Activities</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Primary Activity: create or enhance grassland habitat</td><td>Primary Activity: create or enhance heathland habitat</td></tr> <tr> <td>Habitat: create or enhance a mix of habitat types including: grassland</td><td>Habitat: create or enhance a mix of habitat types including: heathland, grassland</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ecosystem services opportunities: Air Quality (modelled on scrub), nutrient mitigation</td><td>Ecosystem services opportunities: Water Quality (modelled on woodland), Air Quality (modelled on scrub), nutrient mitigation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Most relevant priority: 1</td><td>Most relevant priority: 3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Potential Activities	Potential Activities	Primary Activity: create or enhance grassland habitat	Primary Activity: create or enhance heathland habitat	Habitat: create or enhance a mix of habitat types including: grassland	Habitat: create or enhance a mix of habitat types including: heathland, grassland	Ecosystem services opportunities: Air Quality (modelled on scrub), nutrient mitigation	Ecosystem services opportunities: Water Quality (modelled on woodland), Air Quality (modelled on scrub), nutrient mitigation	Most relevant priority: 1	Most relevant priority: 3
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Most relevant priority: 1	Most relevant priority: 3										

But as local residents we know the area is due to be developed by Talbot Village Trust From the publicity from TVT <https://talbotquarter.org/>



Invest in a bold new vision for innovation, health, and creativity.

The **Talbot Quarter** in Bournemouth is set to become a next-generation innovation cluster, driving growth in creative healthtech.

With a projected £350m GDV, 1,370 new jobs, and a new 125,000 sq ft **Nuffield Health Bournemouth Hospital** and Orthopaedic Research Institute, Talbot Quarter offers a compelling opportunity for investors and delivery partners. Backed by long-term commitment from the **Talbot Village Trust** and adjacent to two leading universities, this is a future-focused development ready to go.

Explore Talbot Quarter and other major projects in the Great South West Investment Brochure: <https://lnkd.in/gVvzQ53M>

#BackTheGreatSouthWest #Bournemouth #Dorset #HealthInvestment #UKInvestment BCP Council Bournemouth University Arts University Bournemouth Dorset Chamber

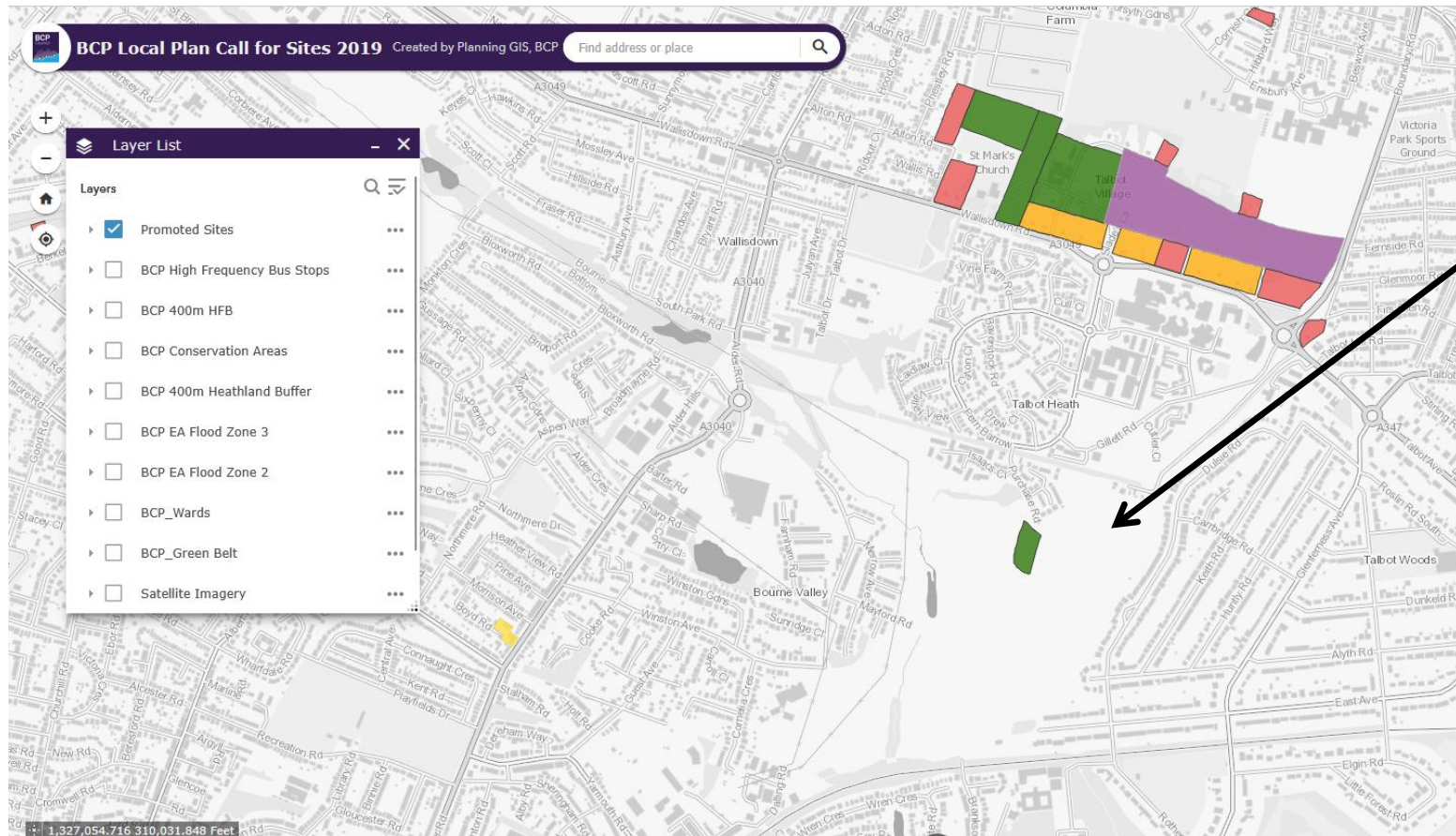


TALBOT VILLAGE IQ ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

A hybrid planning application with development of an 11,606 m² gross floorspace Nuffield Health hospital, associated parking, access, part of a cycle and pedestrian route, cycle link, landscaping and SUDs to be considered in detail and where outline permission is being sought for the development of up to 13,394 m² of gross floorspace, to comprise a mix of Class E(g) uses, health care facilities (Class E(e) uses) and university-related uses, supported by ancillary uses e.g. café, and with the development of a Growing Hub. Change of use of agricultural land to provide a 12-hectare Heathland Support Area, in accordance with Policy PP21 of the adopted Poole Local Plan.

This area of land was set aside from the 2018 Poole plan. From using this area as an example. Are there any other areas which have been identified for nature recovery which have been marked for development ?

How will Dorset Nature recovery plan mitigate against loss of land set aside for nature recovery which is now being used to meet its new housing/developments targets in BCP ?



As you can see .

For some reason the Talbot quarter was left out of the 2019 call for sites map. Even though it has been in the Poole local plan from 2018.

<https://bcpcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=16946c1881c54105a6fe6f637799d84d>

This area earmarked for development will deplete the important wildlife corridor. [Making less space for nature.](#)

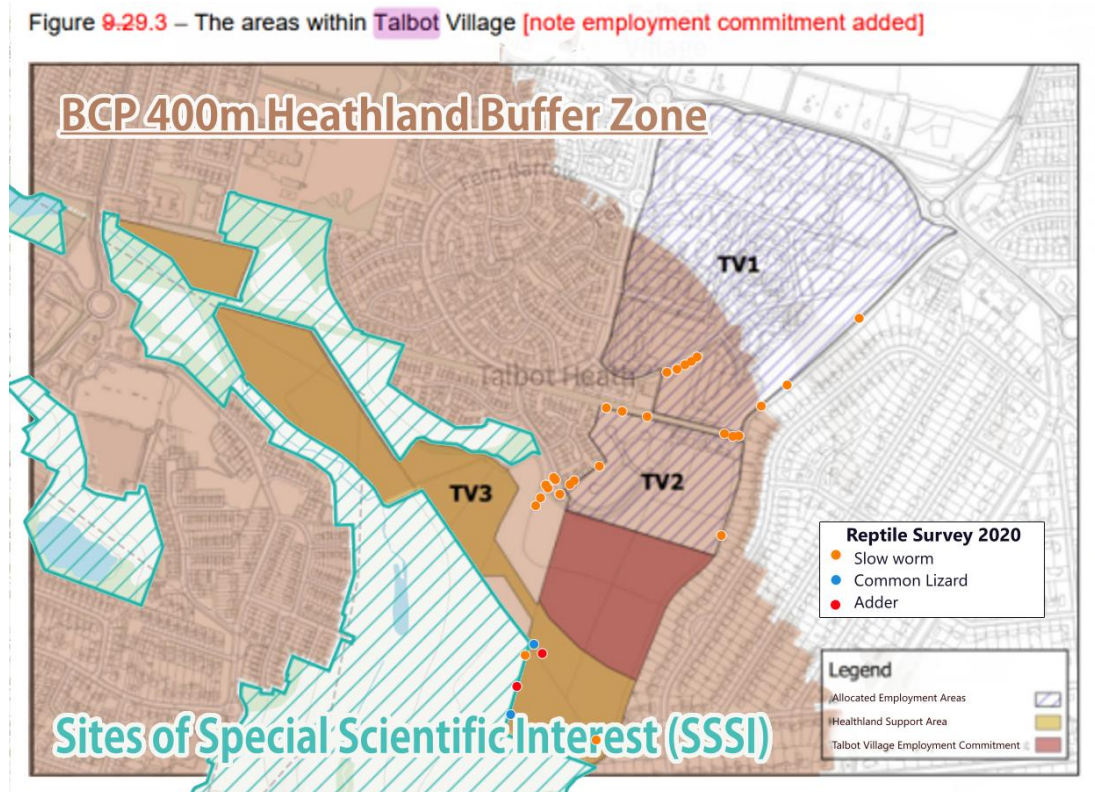
<https://planning.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Planning/Display/APP/22/01455/F#undefined>

To the right is a map I've put together, which is an overlay of where the SSSIs are and the Reptile survey results.

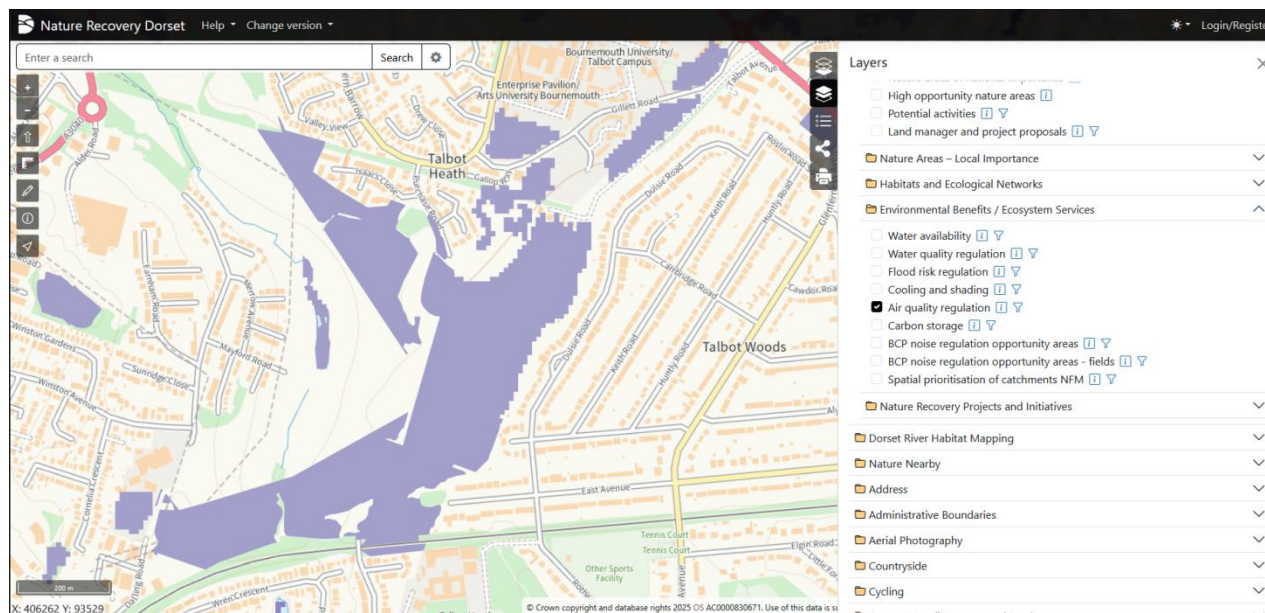
I hope it's clear where the slow worms were/are. I'm particularly concerned about the Priority Habitat within the 400m radius from TV1 and TV2

Reptile survey results in 2020, p. 194 has records of Slow worms, Common lizards and an Adder.

<https://planning.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Documents/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=276868&planId=2343710&imageId=1246&isPlan=False&fileName=2857935.pdf>



“Monitoring of lowland heathland should be carried out on a six-year cycle for national reporting. However, this habitat is vulnerable to rapid and unchecked changes. It is therefore recommended that sites should be checked more frequently, at least every two years if possible, to detect any negative impacts of management or neglect.” <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/cea45297-15af-46b7-8bf4-935d88b0a30a/CSM-LowlandHeathland-2009.pdf>. What has happened to these species of Slow worms, Common lizards and Adders due to the developments around High-Moor Farm? IE: the university over flow car park, the digital exchange and the student accommodation.



This area also has Environmental Benefits / Ecosystem Services . Under the tab -Air quality regulation information

<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsetexplorer/nature-recovery#map=15.98/50.73708/-1.88851/0&layers=559/100/100/&basemap=9/100/100>

...it says

A model of where habitat creation could help improve air quality. This model is based on scrub creation, but there could also be opportunity to create other habitat types that help deliver this ecosystem service.

This layer shows scores of 5 out of 10 and above. See the guide to Dorset's nature recovery maps to find out more about the modelling and how to use this layer.

From the BCP Local Plan – Determining the Potential for Air Quality Impacts at Habitats Sites

<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/Evidence-base/Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-Draft-Local-Plan-Air-quality.pdf> The red areas on the TVT map show nitrogen deposition (Ndep) and road-relevant thresholds(RTT) that exceeded alone and in-combination levels. Below, (**Figure 4**) is a screen grab of a section I of Supplementary Figure 2 page 24

In 2022, the Annual mean bias-adjusted data for NO₂ for Boundary Road, Talbot Avenue, Walisdown Road roundabout (B18) was 25.3 µg/m³. The Annual Mean: Raw Data was 33.3µg/m³. EU's annual limit of 40µg/m³

From the 23 Dec 2022 BCP HIGHWAYS report;

<https://planning.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Document/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=276868&planId=2324593&imageId=376&isPlan=False&fileName=2738347.pdf>

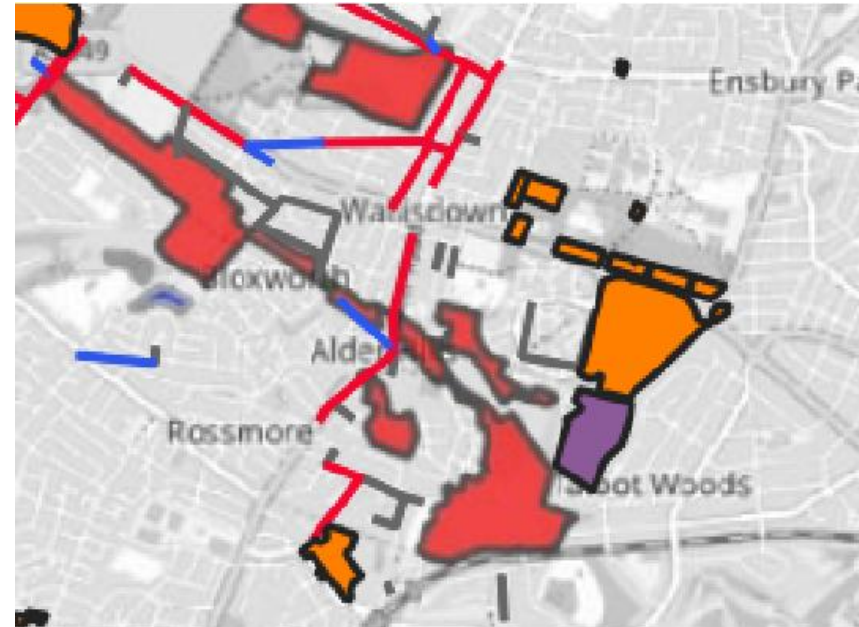
"The traffic impact analysis results show that the likely network impact of the **hospital only** development would not exceed a 4% average increase on the above main road"

*"Boundary Roundabout (Junction 3, TA Table 6-6) Year 2026 & Year 2033. Apart from Gillett Road South all roundabout arms are 1% or less increase. Gillett Road South has an increase of **14%** which is expected as this would be one of the main routes from the site to the main highway network and the Policy allocated land is currently predominantly undeveloped. The total average increase on this junction is **4%**"*

For traffic growth with **all the proposed development**. The report says, *"From the traffic modelling submitted, it's clear that the proposal will have an impact on the main road roundabout junctions in the vicinity of the site. The Highway Authority would have wished for analysis to have been undertaken to see if there are options for amendments to those junctions to mitigate the traffic impacts of the proposals"*

In its summary *"Traffic modelling is not considered to use a realistic figure for car use and further analysis of traffic flow mitigation measures should be investigated"*

Figure 4:Detail of Supplementary Figure 2 page 24

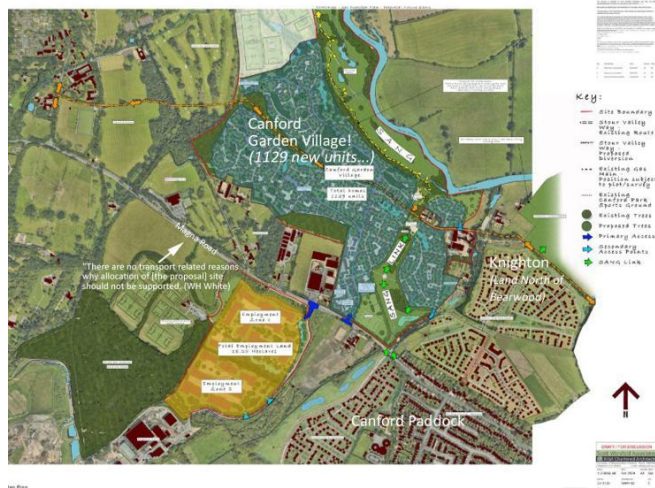


In the conclusion of this Determining the Potential for Air Quality Impacts at Habitats Sites 20th March 2024

<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/Evidence-base/Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-Draft-Local-Plan-Air-quality.pdf> page 22. "A review of current baseline conditions in the vicinity of the screened in Habitats sites indicates that there are pre-existing exceedances of the NH3 Critical Level all assessed Habitats sites except for Poole Harbour SPA / Ramsar"

With this new development it's hard to envisage how nature will be able to not be diminished let alone recover for Talbot Heath. Traffic control measures are already being proposed, to deal with the air quality impacts of traffic on adjacent heathland. It is hard to see how the Plan will cope with the traffic growth generated by a 24% growth in the population of BCP as well. With the [summary of net additional FTE](#) (page 33, A1.52) employment numbers being an extra 1370 people possibly commuting into the area. Its hard not to imagine the impact this will have from an environmental point of view.

In another example from BCP, but where planing permission has not been granted. Yet if the plans for Canford Garden Village go ahead. The 1200 new homes will be another infringement on the high opportunity nature areas and potential encompassing approximately 55 hectares .



<https://sw-arch.com/canford-garden-village/>

In the Request for a Scoping Opinion Page 4: Application number P/25/02772/SCOPE

3.2 Nature of the Proposed Development

The indicative description of development is as follows

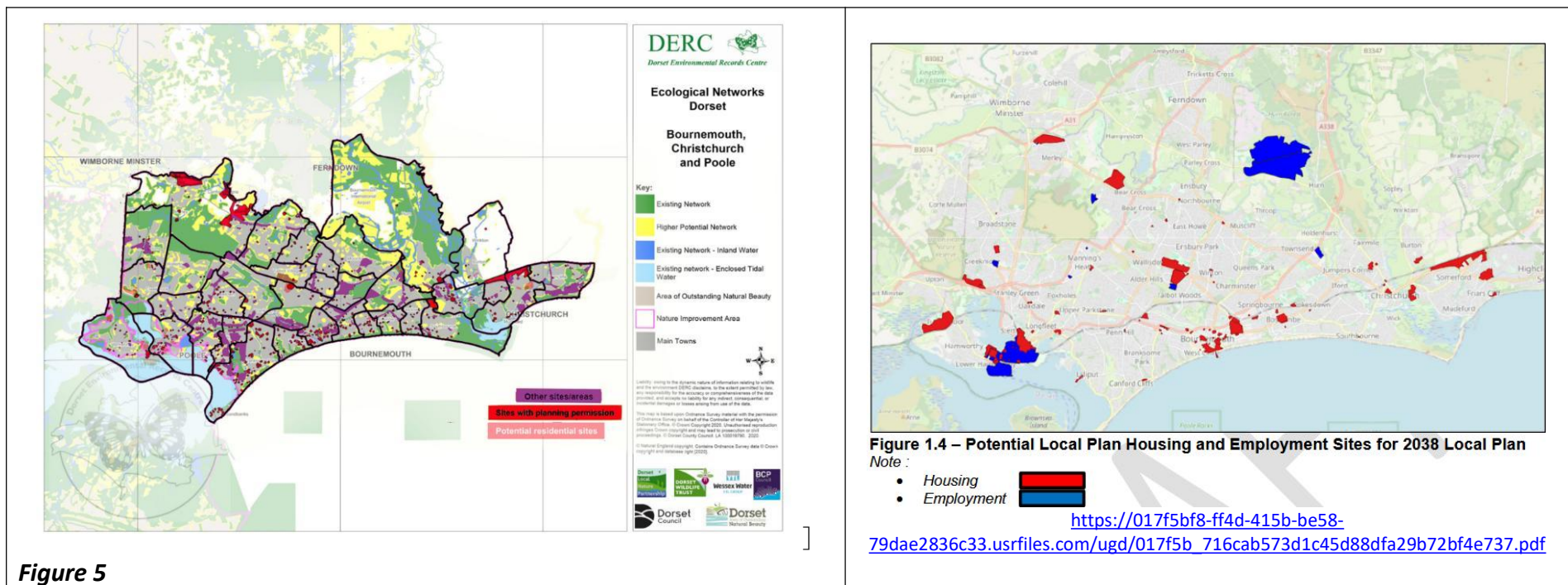
Whilst the exact nature and quantum of the Proposed Development is still being established, it is anticipated that it will comprise:

- Up to 1,200 new homes of which 50% would be affordable;
- A minimum of 10 custom/self build plots;
- A two form entry (2FE) primary school, offering places for 420 children;
- A 60-bed care home;
- A range of employment opportunities within a new local centre, which is likely to include shops, services, café, pub, doctors' surgery and community buildings; and
- The release of extant SANG capacity (c.14.6ha) - phase 3 of Canford Park SANG to help offset recreational pressure on the nearby Dorset Heaths SAC, SPA and Ramsar; with scope to supplement this through the release of the extant Meadow SANG, or parts thereof.

<https://planning.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Planning/Display/P/25/02772/SCOPE#undefined>

Overall , I hope it is clear that there needs be to more than just an opportunity and potential for nature to recover in BCP.

Even from using 2020 the Ecological Networks Dorset map and combining with the maps showing 24,000 homes and developments from the [Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment](#). You can see that areas with the existing Ecologic Network will be built on. LNRS and the planning system have been designed to fit together(**Figure 5**). Under the Environment Act, Local planning authorities now have a strengthened biodiversity duty. However looking at the maps,it appears this has been over looked.



<https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eco-Net-BCP-Sept-2020.pdf>

If the 2024 local plan had gone ahead it would have had an impact on the LNRS, habitat restoration and connectivity. The areas of Bearwood, Talbot Heath, Branksome Park and Poole would have been the most affected. This does not give me much faith that nature will be restored. As the protection for nature is currently too fragile, and is often overridden by development even with the policies that the councils have in place. Especially now with the 2806 housing target in BCP. There will undoubtedly be less opportunity and potential for nature to recover.

It is not clear know the LNRS maps are safeguarding components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks. According to [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

192. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶⁸; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation⁶⁹; and

The long term target in the [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) is to restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites, compared to 2022 levels. My concern is that BCP will be seen as the poor neighbour to Dorset Council. Any funds raised by the development of BCP land, will be used in Dorset Council areas. Nature will ultimately lose, as will the health of BCP residents.

Examples of the disregard for nature can be seen in the [written statements](#) from the developers from the last BCP local plan examination hearings. And their aim to build on the Green Belt. For example ;

WS1/3-Consortium (263)including AJC Bellway Homes, Fortitdillo ,Miller Homes, WH Whites Limited, Watt Homes

1.2.8.2 The environmental bias within the SA is recognised by the Council, clarifying that there is an increasingly high profile on the environmental aspects of the Local Plan, due to the Council declaring a climate and ecological emergency in 2019²⁷. Yet, there is little reference to the context of a national and local housing crisis.

1.2.11.1 It is clear how the SA has informed judgements about future growth – but for the reasons set out above it is fundamentally flawed. The choice of the preferred strategy is based on³⁰ Appendix C of the Consortiums Reg 19 response Page 12 of 15a criteria which is inherently biased towards environmental considerations, and has viewed Green Belt as an absolute constraint rather than a spatial strategy tool.

WS1/10 Home Builders Federation

The SA should therefore, at the very least, have considered the impacts of meeting the housing need in full to reach a conclusion as to whether or not the environmental impacts of doing so were unacceptable.. To begin from the assumption that meeting the housing need in full was

impossible for environmental reasons is to undermine the whole point of the SA process, which is to consider an assess different options to help the Council decide on their preferred way forward.

With the extra pressure BCP Council faces, with its increase of housing number targets. I had hoped that the LNRS would have be able to provide more of a stronger protection, and better equip the councils and local communities against the over zealous land developers. Especially those who are targeting the more profitable and soft option of the Green belt.

Biodiversity net gain

In regard to biodiversity net gain and its mention in the draft consultation. Evidences shows that BCP is more nature depleted than the rest of Dorset. There for BCP needs more funding from BNG in order to deliver natures recovery projects . The draft consultation feedback is probably not the place to raise this. However there has been no other opportunity.

From the **Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Publication draft March 2024**

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/Evidence-base/Pre-Sub-draft-BCP-Local-Plan-SA-March-2024-Final2.pdf>

The environment agency commented in Appendix 1 – SA/SEA Scoping Report Consultation Responses, regarding BNG

<p>5.0 Key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the plan</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>With Suitable Alternative Nature Green Space (SANGS) the planning of these should ensure that not too much pressure is put on these nature areas (without designations). The Dorset Stour has SANGS which are under pressure which have resulted in riverbank erosion and opening up of the river Stour to many people. There should be areas which are inaccessible within these SANGs for example along river corridors to ensure some of these areas are protected from people, for nature. Although they are not designated, they can still support sensitive wildlife and habitats. This will also protect these sites during times of very high use. Impacts to nature sites has been observed with more people staying local for exercise and recreation in recent months, and it's possible these habits will continue longer term.</p> <p>Nature Recovery Networks are really important in protecting species and habitats and we are pleased this is included. One sustainability issue included is the role of alternative nature sites reducing pressures on heathland. Given our comments above regarding SANGS, the pressure that these alternative sites are already under, or could face, should also be included as a sustainability issue.</p> <p>We note there is also reference to biodiversity net gain. Whilst the Environment Bill will mandate 10% net gains for biodiversity, we are encouraging councils to seek ways this can be increased, with other council areas already incorporating aims for 20% net gain. We would support and recommend any aspirations to aim/require more than the Environment Bill 10% target.</p>	<p>infiltration through appropriate adaptation measures.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>A principal sustainability objective of the BCP Local Plan is to 'Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets'. As part of this assessment impacts on existing SANGS and other recreational areas could be considered in the decision-making process and scored in terms of whether the policy limits pressure on non-designated sites arising from recreational uses. Also added as a key sustainability issue under health and prosperity that greenspaces next to watercourses have been impacted by recreational pressures.</p> <p>The SA framework comprises a sub objective to 'Protect and enhance habitats and species, conserve ecological networks and secure opportunities for biodiversity net gain'. This is distinct and separate from a further sub objective to protect against loss of designated habitats.</p> <p>A Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is also being prepared jointly with Dorset Council. The LNRS will identify the priority habitats and those locations considered important for nature recovery. This will help to guide the type and location of habitat creation and other green infrastructure included in developments, to ensure they make a positive contribution to the objectives of the strategy. The LNRS when complete, will also help to direct off-site biodiversity net gain to those areas of strategic importance.</p> <p>In accordance with the Environment Act 2021, the Local Plan policy will impose on development, a minimum of 10% BNG on applicable sites and will be encouraged to be higher where they are not exempt under the forthcoming regulations.</p>
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“We note there is also reference to biodiversity net gain. Whilst the Environment Bill will mandate 10% net gains for biodiversity, we are encouraging councils to seek ways this can be increased, with other council areas already incorporating aims for 20% net gain. We would support and recommend any aspirations to aim/require more than the Environment Bill 10% target”

Could the Councils set out a more ambitious target, going above 10% BNG sooner in order to fund its projects. The more action now will no doubt be cost effective in the long term. Or is the plan not to be ambitious, so that it might tick a box, but not really be effective. As you know the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, with on average about half its biodiversity left - far below the global average of 75%. [The State of nature report](#) was written in 2023. You could argue that previous plans to restore nature have not been ambitious enough.

Laura Archer, from BCP Planning Policy stated “ Whilst the legislation would allow a local authority to have a policy requiring a higher net gain than 10%, this would need to be supported by robust evidence to demonstrate that this would not disproportionately affect the viability of a development scheme. The draft local plan policy for biodiversity refers to biodiversity net gain but relates more to the local considerations when implementing the legislation.” **Does the LNRS not look at Local considerations for BNG ?**

Some local authorities are looking to go above 10% as a target. Further information is provided in this Planning Resource article [Seven councils have published local plans requiring a biodiversity net gain of more than 10%, report reveals](#) and [Carter Jonas study on Biodiversity Net Gain in local plans](#). Evidence for such policies is covered in Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 74-005-2023 of the [draft BNG PPG](#).

[Guildford Borough Local Plan: Development Management Policies](#) (part 2 of the Local Plan) was adopted on 22 March 2023 with **Policy P7: Biodiversity in New Developments** requiring 20% BNG once BNG becomes mandatory. The main evidence to support 20% net gain in this case was [Surrey Nature Partnership's recommendation for 20% BNG](#) and the policy was also tested through the Viability Assessment, which you can find on [Guildford Borough Council's Submitted documents webpage](#). Further evidence was submitted to support the policy under [Matter 3 during the Examination](#), including a specific study. See Dan Knowles from Guildford Borough Council's presentation from June 2023 on their approach below.

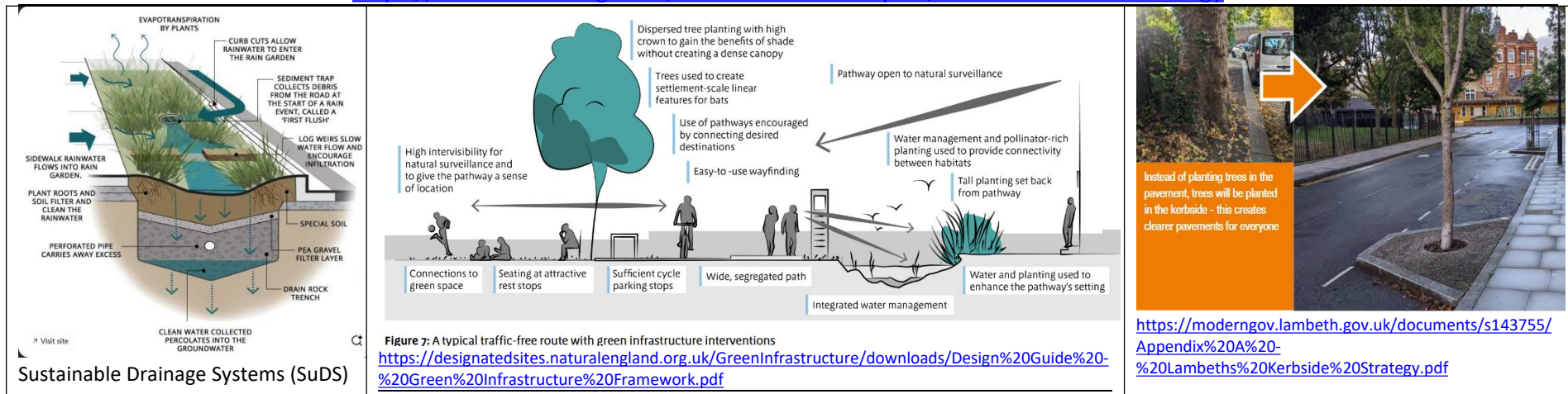
The Kent Nature Partnership net gain group has published a county-wide strategic viability assessment to understand the implications of a 20% BNG approach for Kent: <https://kentnature.org.uk/nature-recovery/biodiversity-net-gain/> Swale Borough Council used the Defra impact assessment ‘central estimate cost per dwelling for the South East’ for their draft [Local Plan Viability Study](#). This looked at the difference between provision of 10% and 20% BNG and put costs at £948 per dwelling for 10% BNG with an

additional £180 per dwelling for 20% BNG. Swale BC recently consulted on their pre-submission Local Plan Review which included a policy for 20% net gain.<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/about/pas-archive/biodiversity-net-gain-local-authorities/journey-biodiversity-net-gain>

A [briefing last year from Wildlife and Countryside Link](#) surveys leading local authority BNG policies – most of these are in the south and south east but I noticed BCP is not among them. The briefing also explains how raising the BNG target above 10% need not undermine the viability of planned development. There's also this [study dating from 2023](#) concluding that BNG isn't guaranteed just by having a policy. Councils need to monitor compliance and effectiveness, which means they need to put resources behind the policy.

These extra funds could be used by BCP council to expand and implement the ideas in its own [Urban Greening Design Guide](#) and [BCP Urban Forest Strategy](#). Or by transforming BCP into an award winning green space with ideas from [Meristem Design](#), for example. Investing in [Kerbside Strategy](#) or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Much more is going to be needed to be done for adapting our environments in order to cope with climate change. We are going to need to design for nature integration into the urban environment, instead of separating ourselves from it. **Will the BCP and Dorset be raising the BNG minimum of 10% uplift in Biodiversity value?**
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/DesignGuide.aspx>

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/streets-roads-transport/lambeth-kerbside-strategy>



“ There is a perception that BNG schemes or funding will be difficult to deliver in city and urban areas and may be redirected to more urban fringes or rural areas. This would exacerbate inequalities in access to green space and miss opportunities for co-benefits for health and climate adaptation through cooling and flood risk reduction” [Powers in Place - Nature: People and Nature: Local Authority Powers Connecting People with Nature](#). In the urban settings is important to avoid BNG funds leaking away from the people who have a greater need to access green space.

In the supporting documents [Policies strategies and plans relating to the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy PDF](#) the [Dorset Biodiversity Strategy 2003](#) it mentions mitigation once.

Biodiversity Principles for Land Use Planning in Dorset

- Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is a key test of sustainable development.
- Where appropriate attempts should be made to reverse habitat fragmentation and species isolation.
- Development should not lead to a net loss of biodiversity.
- Where losses cannot be avoided they must be kept to a minimum and adequate mitigation provided.
- New development can offer an opportunity to contribute towards a net gain in biodiversity and can incorporate biodiversity into new designs and plans.
- Designated sites must be afforded levels of protection appropriate to their status.
- Ecological systems must be recognised as being highly complex. Indirect and cumulative impacts should be taken into account in assessing potential impacts.
- Natural Area and Biodiversity Strategy priorities should be used as part of the suite of guidance for planning policies.
- Plans at all levels should be based on adequate biodiversity information and interpretation.
- Adequate information must be provided with planning applications to enable the local planning authority to determine the effects the development will have on biodiversity.
- The land use planning system should monitor the effects of development on biodiversity.
- Wherever possible the land use planning system should provide the opportunity for local people to become involved in maintaining, enhancing and enjoying biodiversity in their area. Community Strategies should provide a key element in achieving this.

Page101

Biodiversity targets by Natural Area

Habitat	Natural Area with the greatest potential for restoration and expansion	Habitat restoration	Habitat expansion
Lowland Calcareous grassland	Blackdown	Secure sympathetic management of 30% of remaining resource by 2005, 100% by 2010	Re-establish grassland of wildlife value: * 5 ha by 2010
	Dorset Heaths		*2 ha by 2010
	Isles of Portland and Purbeck		*25 ha by 2010
	South Wessex Downs		*200ha by 2010
	Wessex Vales		*15ha by 2010
Lowland dry acid grassland	Blackdowns		*5ha by 2010
	Dorset Heaths		*25ha by 2010
	Isles of Portland and Purbeck		*5ha by 2010
	South Wessex Downs		*2ha by 2010
	Wessex Vales		*5ha by 2010
Lowland hay meadows	Blackdowns		*2ha by 2010
	Dorset Heaths		
Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh	Isles of Portland and Purbeck		Re-establish new area of grazing marsh#: 25 –50 ha by 2010
	South Wessex Downs		
	Wessex Vales		
Lowland heathland	Dorset Heaths	Restore 50 ha by 2010	# 50ha by 2010
		Restore 100 ha by 2010	-
	Isles of Portland and Purbeck	-	-
	Wessex Vales	-	-

Page 126

I am trying to establish what happened with the plan of conserving and enhancing Biodiversity in Dorset. In order to understand if the direction the nature recovery plan is going in. In the [Dorset Biodiversity Strategy 2003](#) report it has clear targets for Habitat. As its states on Page 110 ,4.4 Monitoring of Progress. *“The setting of local targets and the implementation of a biological monitoring strategy, will allow us to monitor progress”*. The monitoring of this progress for the new LNRS is vital.

What was gained from the mid term review in 2007 from the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy ? 4.5 Reviewing the Actions. Page 110.

The following are examples of achievements made against actions set out in the Strategy since its launch in 2003.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS UNDERWAY/ ACHIEVED)

- Completion of the Hardy's Egdon Heath project, resulting in management of 1325 ha of heathland and restoration of 1356 ha.
- 23% of British breeding population of Dartford Warbler were recorded on Dorset Heathland SSSIs. This is the largest percentage on a Heathland area in Britain.
- Establishment of Urban Heaths Partnership to ensure good management of heaths by grazing and also engage the public, raising awareness of the value and sensitivity of the habitat.
- The EU Life project for urban heaths was completed successfully. This built the foundations for the development of an Interim Planning Framework (IPF) for heathlands in South East Dorset.
- The IPF process has been upheld by several public inquiry decisions and has funded a number of heathland [mitigation](#) projects through developer contributions. It has also produced a number of important research papers on 'urban' effects on heathlands.
- West Dorset District Council now has draft planning obligations guidelines for heathlands which complement the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework.
- The Forestry Commission have consulted on an 'Open Habitats Policy' which seeks to restore open habitats such as heathland from areas where such habitats have been lost to afforestation and secondary woodland.
- Dorset County Council and the RSPB have successfully bid for a joint post on minerals restoration.

Page 29 Lowland Heath

Did Dorset reach the Habitat Restoration and Habitat expansion targets by 2010 ?

In the follow up [Dorset Biodiversity Strategy Mid Term Review is from 2010](#) it mentions the word mitigation ten times .

Page 29. It only mentions one Health land restoration project . The Hardy Egdon Heath Project.

It make me wonder what happened to the other plans.

You do not rise to the level of your goals, but you fall to the level of your systems.

Mitigation / money

I am concerned who benefits from the money raised from the mitigation and BNG and where it is going to be spent. From the explanation from <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning/mitigation>

“mitigation must now be delivered by the developers themselves either on land they own or from other third parties they enter into an agreement with or developers can buy nitrogen credits from a scheme managed by Natural England or from the council mitigation projects Council mitigation projects include land purchase or grant funding external organizations”

Will BCP council guarantee that the money it is raising from developers mitigation be spent on enhancing / protecting and restoring the wildlife within the BCP area? Where is the sense in degrading and destroying the environment, adding to the deprivation of nature within BCP, without the means to restore it. Failure to invest in nature recovery in BCP would also deprive the population of its benefits: clean air, healthy exercise. Populations exposed to less green environments are less protected from income deprivation related health inequality.

Will any of the money raised from mitigation or BNG go towards Dorset Wild life Trust or the National Trust ?

In regard off-site [biodiversity gains from a developer](#), Will the local authorities have any say in where this goes ?

Will the local authorities set them self up as Land bankers in order to protect and invest in local habitats ?

For a long term view, “[an estimated 1.1 million](#) fewer people across the UK gained health benefits from spending time in nature in 2022 compared with two years earlier, according to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The value of those lost health benefits is estimated at about £390 million, or £356 per person, on average, as explained in the ONS’ [‘UK natural capital accounts methodology guide: 2023 release’](#). The £390 million represents what the NHS would spend if it used treatments to achieve equivalent health benefits to those gained from time spent in nature.”

The total asset value of ecosystem services in the UK was around [£1.8 trillion in 2022](#), an increase of 11% since 2018.

Health benefits from recreation made the largest contribution to the total asset value of UK ecosystem services, at £489 billion in 2022.

A case study by Dr James Alden Paediatrician and Public Health Fellow for a New park in Southampton finding were

Urban park design - a new park in Southampton



- **Nature exposure**

- Current countrywide population % that gets >120 minutes of nature exposure/week = 41.6%, which can be applied to any local population
- If increasing nature exposure in the population of Southampton by 1% (i.e. qualifying population), monetary benefit in healthcare avoided costs = £825,419

- **Physical activity**

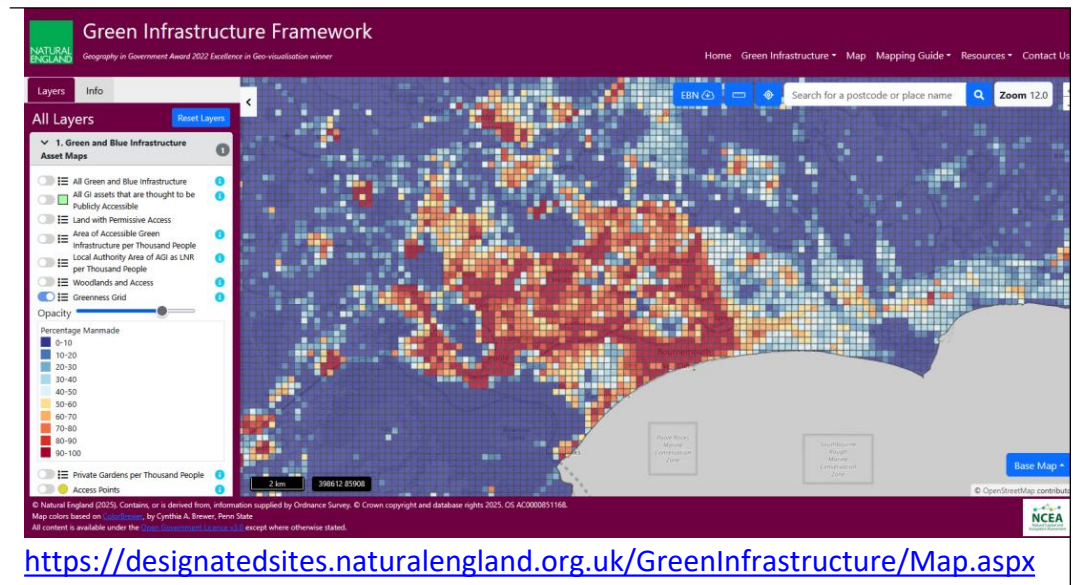
- Current countrywide population % that engages in physical activity outdoors >150mins/week = 25.2%, which can be applied to any local population
- If increasing activity in the population by 1% in Southampton (i.e. qualifying population 26.2%), monetary benefit in healthcare avoided costs = £1,785,050

Further research can be found in the [Nature exposure and health Report: People and Nature Survey by Natural England](#)

By not reinvesting in nature within BCP, it will financially cost the council more. And its populations health will suffer.

If the mitigation projects / Habitat recovery happens outside of BCP , the Wildlife Trusts' Dom Higgins said:

"There are also structural barriers, such as access to public transport, as well as social inequity, which means that some people from ethnic minority groups, for example, are less likely to access nature." Previous ONS research has shown that [the percentage of homes without a garden is higher among income deprived](#) .



What counts as Mitigation ?

According to Dorset Council <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/heathland-mitigation>

For [Poole Harbour Recreation Mitigation](#) There are two approaches in the strategy:

1. *Strategic Access Management and Monitoring - focusing on wardening, education and monitoring the strategy.*
2. *Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects - physical infrastructure projects that provide facilities to manage visitor access to Poole Harbour. This includes the creation or improvement of an alternative access around the shoreline or rationalising multiple access points into one principle access point to an area of shoreline.*

These approaches do not restore nature's habitat, only improve the public access to it, which may increase the pressure on natural systems and undermine their resilience even further. We have seen this approach before with the widening of the A338 mitigation. Resulting in the monitoring of a species demise.

[For Heathland mitigation](#) There are two approaches in the strategy:

1. *Strategic Access Management and Monitoring - focusing on wardening, education and monitoring the strategy. Much of this is undertaken by Dorset Heath Partnership*
2. *Heathland Infrastructure Projects - provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) or enhancement of existing greenspaces to attract people away from protected heathlands.*

The examples it chooses to show are a skate park and a suitable Alternative Natural Green Space. A skate park and a SANG is still development for the benefit of humans and not a benefit for nature. (**Figure 6**)

The [Dorset Heathlands Air Quality Mitigation](#) is just as vague . Its aim to increase the resilience of heathland habitats within 200 meters of roads. **How does a Council increase the evolutionary fortification of a species and habitat that are dependent on the heathland ?**

What constitutes as no significant adverse to habitat effects after the harm has been done ? (Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive).

<https://bcpprojects.net/heathland-mitigation/>

However, these measures do nothing to counteract the effects of increased development, let alone reverse the decline in heathland.

Corfe Mullen Wheel Park

Corfe Mullen wheel park is one of a few within east Dorset area that has received funding to help reduce pressure from illegal dirt jump building on nearby heaths. On local nature reserves damaging bike activities have decreased and, in some cases, ceased entirely.



Woolslope Strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

In 2012 through local housing development Woolslope Farm was secured and established by former East Dorset District Council for use as a strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace. Woolslope Farm and Riverside Walk now provide an area of approximately 16 hectares for everyone's enjoyment.



Figure 6:

“Natural England has advised the authorities of concerns arising from the increase in residential development across South East Dorset and the resultant pressures placed upon protected heathland by new occupants of these developments living in close proximity to the heathlands. Various studies, have found that public access to lowland heathland, from nearby development, has led to an increase in wild fires, damaging recreational uses, the introduction of incompatible plants and animals, loss of vegetation and soil erosion and disturbance by humans and their pets amongst other factors have an adverse effect on the heathland ecology. [para. 3.1]

On the basis of the evidence, the proposed increase in residential development within 5 km of the Dorset Heathlands will inevitably result in greater urban pressures upon the heathlands. Therefore Natural England advises that the cumulative effect of a single dwelling up to 5 km from the Dorset Heathlands would have a likely significant effect on those designated sites. [para. 3.4]”

[\(The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025, Supplementary Planning Document\)](#)

To date, there is no clear evidence on whether any of these mitigation measures are actually effective in restoring and protecting wildlife .

In the [Urban development and Dorset Heaths: long term anyalysis & evdence base review](#)

3.33 *Given that the existing SANGs have been carefully selected and designed as mitigation for existing housing, it is therefore potentially unlikely that they can be relied on to further mitigate for new housing. The existing SANGs should however be used as the basis to consider new mitigation, using the existing SANG and HIP network as the foundation from which to increase and enhance the network of Green space and recreation provision.*

The report also shows vehicles traveling to the SANG increasing. Visit rates on SANG sites correlate with the weighted housing variable and with the amount of housing change (2007-21) within 5km, suggesting that use of SANGs is related to the amount of housing nearby. There has been an increase to heathland sites as well. The total number of vehicles across the core heath locations as a whole has increased by around 27%. 8 heaths showed decreases, 16 showed increases. Sensor data from SANGs and non-heath locations show a stronger comparative increase in visitor use.

There is no clear evidence that more SANGs or HIPs (Heathland Infrastructure Projects) lead to reduced visitor numbers to SSSIs. Data shows that SANGs do not take the visitor pressure from SSI. Housing developers using mitigation funds to create SANGs in order to counteract Biodiversity loss is not a simple solution. It's common sense that with any sort of building/ housing development it will have an impact. Much more scrutiny needs to be done to counteract biodiversity loss. Are we just condensing nature to live in smaller prescribed areas?

In particular, what evidence (quantitative and qualitative) is there about the effectiveness of various "mitigation" strategies? The Plan may have an over-reliance on techniques that do not actually work.

Much more needs to be done safeguarding and monitoring the species

As mentioned before. What species in BCP is it focused on? The heathland of BCP supports a number of species – Nightjar being one of them.

[In the Habitats Regulations Assessment report for BCP Local Plan : Recreation Impacts document](#)

3.7 *The general (global) impacts of development on wildlife sites are well documented (e.g. McDonald, Kareiva & Forman 2008; McDonald et al. 2009). The impacts of urban development on heathlands in the UK have been the subject of a range of studies and have been reviewed by Haskins (2000) and Underhill-Day (2005). Studies using data from multiple heathland sites have shown reduced densities of nightjars (Liley & Clarke 2003; Liley et al. 2006) and woodlarks (Mallord 2005) on sites with higher levels of surrounding urban development, **in other words, heaths with more houses around them support fewer birds**. Studies of fire incidence have shown that heathland sites with high levels of housing within 500m of the site boundary have a higher fire incidence (Kirby and Tantram, 1999). These studies provide strong evidence that surrounding urban development has a negative effect on the European site interest.*

3.16 *For both nightjar and woodlark studies have shown recreation use affects the distribution of birds within sites, such that busy areas are avoided (Liley et al. 2006; Mallord et al. 2007; Lowe, Rogers & Durrant 2014). For Dartford warblers, breeding productivity is lower in territories where access levels are high (Murison et al. 2007), this is because disturbed birds nest later in the season. For nightjars there is also evidence of breeding success being lower on busier sites and busier parts of sites (Murison 2002). For woodlarks at least, **there are clear population-level impacts as a result of the presence of people on the heaths** (Mallord et al. 2007)*

It is crucial that baseline and monitoring is done well, in order to see where such policies have made a material difference in nature recovery. It may be of note that these were priority species in 2003 are the same in 2025 :

- Ladybird spider
- White-clawed crayfish
- Little tern

What actions were taken in 2003 to mean that they are still a priority ?

What happened to the species from 2023 which were a priority, but now are not on the 2025 priority list ?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ● Nail fungus | ● Spider hunting wasp |
| ● Churchyard lichen | ● Purbeck mason wasp |
| ● Golden-hair lichen <i>Teloschistes flavicans</i> | ● Hornet robber fly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> |
| ● Thatch moss <i>Leptodontium gemmascens</i> | ● Mottled bee-fly <i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i> |
| ● Marsh clubmoss <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> | ● Heath bee-fly <i>Bombylius minor</i> |
| ● A moss <i>Habrodon perpusillis</i> | ● A weevil <i>Cathormiocerus britannicus</i> |
| ● Acid-loving plants | ● A water beetle <i>Graphoderus cinereus</i> |
| ● Lizard orchid | ● Wart-biter bush cricket |
| ● Early gentian | ● A spider <i>Enoplognatha tecta</i> |
| ● Pillwort | ● Pink sea fan |
| ● Bog ant <i>Formica candida</i> | ● Great crested newt |
| ● Fairy shrimp | ● Sand lizard |
| ● Southern damselfly | ● Nightjar |
| ● Pearl bordered fritillary | ● Otter |
| ● Speckled footman moth | ● Water vole |
| ● A micro moth <i>Eudarcia richarsoni</i> | ● Pipistrelle bat |
| ● Reed leopard moth | ● Harbour porpois |

Table 3 Priority species with existing plans or initiatives in Dorset				
	Species action that has been generated nationally	SW Regional BAP	Purbeck BAP	Dorset Biodiversity Project (1998-2001)
Lower plants and fungi				
Nail fungus			✓	
Churchyard lichen			✓	
Golden-hair lichen <i>Teloschistes flavicans</i>			✓	
Thatch moss <i>Leptodontium gemmascens</i>			✓	
Marsh clubmoss <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>			✓	
A moss <i>Habrodon perpusillis</i>			✓	
Vascular plants				
Acid-loving plants				✓
Lizard orchid			✓	
Early gentian		✓		
Pillwort	✓			
Invertebrates				
Bog ant <i>Formica candida</i>	✓			
Heath tiger beetle <i>Cicindela verrucivorus</i>	✓			
Fairy shrimp			✓	
Southern damselfly	✓		✓	✓
Pearl bordered fritillary*			✓	✓
Speckled footman moth*			✓	✓
A micro moth <i>Eudarcia richarsoni</i>			✓	
Reed leopard moth*			✓	
Spider hunting wasp	✓			
Purbeck mason wasp	✓			
Hornet robber fly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>			✓	
Mottled bee-fly <i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i>	✓			
Heath bee-fly <i>Bombylius minor</i>	✓			
A weevil <i>Cathormiocerus britannicus</i>			✓	
A water beetle <i>Graphoderus cinereus</i>			✓	
Wart-biter bush cricket	✓			
A spider <i>Enoplognatha tecta</i>			✓	
Ladybird spider	✓			
Pink sea fan		✓		✓
White-clawed crayfish		✓		
Also Environment Agency 'South Wessex white clawed crayfish BAP'				
Vertebrates				
Great crested newt		✓	✓	✓
Sand lizard	✓	✓	✓	
Nightjar		✓		
Little tern		✓ (sea birds)		✓
Otter	✓			
Water vole	✓	✓		
Pipistrelle bat		✓		
Harbour porpoise		✓		

<https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dorset-Biodiversity-Strategy-2003.pdf>

Page 17

Targets and commitments

Biodiversity on land

The target to halt the decline of species by 2030 is our apex target. To meet this, we must make good progress towards our other long-term environmental targets and commitments at home, such as our tree canopy and woodland cover target and water quality targets.

Long term targets:

- By the end of 2030, we will halt the decline in species abundance.
- By the end of 2042, we will increase species abundance so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.
- By the end of 2042, we will restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites, compared to 2022 levels.
- By the end of 2042, we will improve the GB Red List Index for species extinction compared to 2022 levels.

Interim targets:

- To restore or create 140,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 31 January 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- All SSSIs will have an up-to-date condition assessment by 31 January 2028.
- 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a6d9c1c531eb000c64fffa/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf>

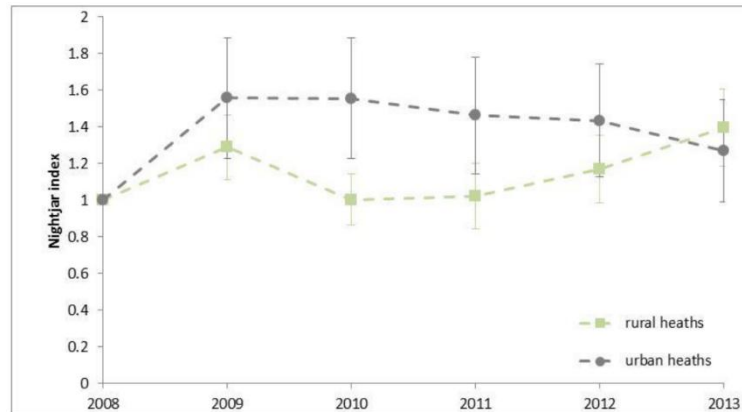
Page 34

From the [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#). Its target by the end of 2042, is to increase species abundance so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030. Getting into the granular details .

How will the LNRS restore the species of nightjar numbers, so there numbers are in more abundance from 2022 data ?

For Canford Heath there were 60 nightjars in 2022. From the latest figures there are now only 45. Numbers of nightjars have dropped by around a third at Canford Heath since 2009. From [the impact study of urban development and human disturbance on the numbers of nightjar on heathlands in Dorset](#). The results clearly demonstrate that the number of nightjars present on a heathland site is linked to a measure of urban development around the periphery of the site.

The Housing data shows, there had been an additional 6,936 dwellings registered in a residential postcode database within 5km of the SPA/SAC boundary between 2020/23.



Nightjar trends for urban and rural sites for the period 2008-2013. Trends generated using time effects model in TRIM page 19 (Trends in Nightjar, Woodlark and Dorset Warbler on Dorset Heaths, 1991-2013 by Durwyn Liley & Helen Fearnley)

The <https://www.dorsetheaths.org.uk/monitoring/> looks like a good example of things done well. Is there consistency with the other standards of reporting and monitoring ? What is that standard ?

In the last BCP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that was initially published for consultation with the statutory bodies in June 2021 <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents-old/planning-and-building-control/A-BCP-Local-Plan-Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-2021.pdf>

In it mentions that the Environmental Report will be produced at a later stage . Can I have a copy of this environmental report please ?

Meeting the requirements of the SEA directive

- 2.7 This scoping report includes a number of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive). The following table sets out those sections of the scoping report that are considered to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, with the remaining elements to be met in subsequent stages of the BCP Local Plan.

SEA Directive Requirement	Where this has/will be met
Preparation of an Environmental Report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Article 5 and Annex I).	The full SA Reports for the BCP Local Plan will constitute the 'Environmental Report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process

Page 6

It was not published on the <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/examination-library>
I have asked both councils and no one yet has responded to this request.

Also the [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) set the expectation ,” As part of the guidance for public authorities to implement the biodiversity duty, which came into force on 1 January 2023, we will make clear our expectation that they must be consistent with their duties to conserve SSSIs, take efforts to restore their protected sites. We expect all public authorities to ensure they have management plans in place, by the end of the year, to support their sites to reach favourable status..”

Where would I be able to find theses management plans for Dorset and BCP ?

Delivering nature recovery through local action

<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/delivering-nature-recovery-through-local-action>

In their report “[Powers in Place: Nature](#)” from September 2023, UK100 diagnosed five critical challenges for local government that are holding up implementation and hampering their ability to create long lasting change: Page 3

- **Nature protection and enhancement is not given the weight in decisions** that it should be, and other forms of development are often prioritised
- **Lack of clear, coherent and connected national policies** is compounded by a complexity of responsibilities at the local level and across different organisations
- **Local authorities simply do not have the capacity, capability and often skills** to stand up for nature or plan it into their services
- **Insufficient funding provided through competitive bids** for the short term hampers effective planning
- **Lack of a whole-systems approach** leading to an inability to prevent the cumulative impacts of development on habitats and species.

I hope that the leadership in Dorset and BCP carefully consider the points mentioned above and take action to address these critical challenges in order to implement the vitally changes successfully . Page 67

**Nature protection and enhancement is not given the weight in decisions that it should be given.
The failure is in the delivery policies and implementation, not in the duties and targets.**

As part of the Natural England funded Nature Recovery Network project PAS has started to pull together a mini library of good examples where local authorities are delivering nature recovery activities. Last updated 21st November 2022. Here are examples of local authorities delivering nature recovery activities <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/nature-recovery-local-authorities/examples-local-authorities-delivering-nature>. And here is Research and analysis from [Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilots: lessons learned](#) Published 12 July 2021

How will Dorset and BCP authorities make room for the capacity, capability, or the resources to stand up for nature and plan it into their other services. How will they be accountable ?

As [DEFRA mapped out the different authority's responsible across England](#). I looked at areas which have similar geographical features to Dorset. So that I could compare the solutions to the same issues. West Sussex and East Sussex County Councils have similar dynamic to Dorset and BCP in the way that a small, dense urban area is paired with a much larger rural expanse, both contributing equally to the population tally.

- **Urban Core:** The coastal towns of Brighton (technically in the separate Brighton & Hove unitary authority), Eastbourne, and Hastings form densely populated urban areas with vibrant economies and cultural scenes.
- **Rural Hinterland:** The rest of East Sussex — including the South Downs and High Weald — is largely rural, with villages, farmland, and protected landscapes.
- **Population Balance:** The rural and urban zones are surprisingly close in population, despite the rural area being much larger geographically.

From looking at [Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies Habitat Measures](#) .It sets out a clear vision and a way forward by simple statements, leading questions and clear definitions :

***“Priorities:** High level statements of what the LNRS should strive to achieve for nature recovery in Sussex within its timeframe.*

***‘What does success in 10 years look like’** statements: These provide detail of what delivery of the priority should look like within a 10 year time frame to be considered successful. In most cases, this will require the implementation of both the core measures and enabling measures listed for each priority.*

***Core habitat measures:** Actions ‘on the ground’ that are required to deliver the priorities and outcomes identified for nature’s recovery in Sussex. These are the main focus of the LNRS as required by statutory guidance. Each measure is supported by notes on ‘How’ (the techniques that could be used to deliver each measure (which in many cases will vary depending on the specific characteristics of a site), and ‘Where’ – where they could be targeted to deliver greatest benefit. Links to further information/guidance and local case studies are also provided.*

Enabling Measures: These are measures which are not habitat or species focused and therefore cannot be addressed directly by Local Nature Recovery Strategies. They largely relate to supporting mechanisms, processes and functions that are considered critical to the delivery of core measures. While they cannot be picked up by LNRS, they are a focus of key local partnerships such as the Sussex Nature Partnership.”

By asking ” **What does success in 10 years look like**” In its different habitats. It is inviting its community to share in a vision. Also by asking which species and habitats were important to there community in a public questionnaire helped engage people. So communities have a vested interest in the results . [Reading there habitats report](#) and [there species report](#) . I believe them when they say “At the heart of each LNRS are the collaboratively produced and locally agreed priorities for nature's recovery and the actions”

I like the clear explanations of why certain species were not shortlisted and species that have been shortlisted :

- **Hedgehog, swift** and **glow worm** have also been shortlisted. Whilst these species are relatively widespread across the country, they are declining and need support to reverse these losses. These species featured highly in the 2000 responses we had to our public questionnaire, demonstrating their importance to local people. Measures to support these species are relatively simple and can be implemented virtually anywhere by anyone.

<https://sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/news/developing-the-shortlist-of-sussex-lnrs-species>

It was not clear to me from the statement in [Dorsets LNRS](#) page 89, Nature recovery in the next 10 years. 49.1% combined with 60.6% . What this meant or looked like. If you combine? This makes it seem like the task ahead is intangible.

Whereas from the [Sussex LNRS: Shortlisted Habitat Priorities and their Outcomes](#) sets out clear measures identifying what does success in 10 years look like.

What does success in 10 years look like?

By asking the leading question , it invites people in to imagine, and leads with possibilities .

From a neurodiverse accessibility point of view I particularly like <https://sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/faqs>. The simple drop down information , while you stay on the same page, means you don't lose your way with the information.

Nature recovery in Dorset in the next 10 years

A guide to what we can achieve based on implementing the priorities and activities in the high opportunity nature areas:

- the high opportunity nature areas layer covers 49.1% of Dorset, made up of:
- if you combine that with, the existing nature areas of national importance, this covers 60.6% of Dorset, indicating how the nature recovery network could grow and help achieve 30 by 30

In the Core Protected Sites Measures from the Sussex [Habitat Measures](#) sets out the plan the ‘action on the ground’ required to deliver this priority. Answering the practical questions : Measures needed , how , where and further info and guidance.

Code	Measures	How	Where	Further info/guidance
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What I particularly like about this layout is that it gives you the information of precisely and what actions are going to be taken. In a system which can be easily monitored and communicated, by using clear reference codes. The impression that it gives is that they are committed too the action that is needed, by mapping to specific proposals. And you can also see the agreed priorities.

It was interesting to me that in a [Review of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and their role in contributing to nature recovery commitments in England, by the Office for Environmental Protection](#). It mentions ..” *There is no requirement to set targets in the LNRS, and RAs have not been advised to do so by Defra or Natural England. Therefore, most strategies did not include specific, quantifiable targets. There were some exceptions, for example Greater Essex commits to achieving 16.5% tree canopy cover and reaching 30% blue and green habitat coverage by 2030. Greater Manchester commits to expanding its tree canopy cover from 15% to 17%.*

In some cases, although targets were specified, they were generally single isolated targets without defined timelines. In others, targets reflected pre-existing commitments rather than introducing new ones through the LNRS process. Instead, the strategies conveyed broad expressions of ambition, aligning with the EIP’s overarching goals such as commitments to halting biodiversity loss, supporting species populations, and creating a vision for abundant and resilient nature by 2035.” However this report only managed to review 12 of the 38 Responsible Authorities LNRS. It will be interesting to see if another review is done when they all are completed.

Personally, I don’t understand that in order to achieve the [National environmental targets and objectives](#) , LNRSs are designed to bring theses statutory targets to life through specific local plans and actions. Which will depends on these local actions being, coordinated, monitored , measured, recorded and paid for. It would have been reassuring to see more than just potential glimpses of what Dorset needs to do . From the same [Review of Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#) on Pages 58 and 11. Its comments resonated with me and could be applied to Dorsets LNRS.

6.4 Delivery and coherence

We found a lack of clarity around how LNRS ambition will be translated into practical, on-the-ground delivery of nature recovery action. In particular, the various delivery mechanisms and how they should work together coherently.

“Clarity on what delivery mechanisms will be used, and how they will work coherently together will be vital for providing assurances as to how LNRS will deliver for nature recovery. “

My impression is that due to differences in the Dorset councils, the level of detail in the strategic commitment from both councils is not evident. It appears one has adapted a pre-existing document to fit into this process, while the other Councils priorities are understandably different, given its geographical size. This isn't a reflection on the valuable and committed work of the operational teams. It does make me wonder about the foundational support provided to them and the level of support they've received from higher up. Particularly from senior officers and other councillors.

Strategic Policies are not universally designated or consistently defined across UK local authorities. The content and scope of these policies vary depending on the local plan and priorities of each authority. There's no single national template for what the strategic policy prefix must be.

For policies related to nature conservation, biodiversity, and green infrastructure. They are typically known as “NE” Natural Environment, within a Local Plan framework. Policy “NE” is designed to be consistent with the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF), particularly Section 15. However, some councils use different numbering conventions or prefixes (e.g., "ENV" for Environment, or a different numbering sequence)

A good example of clear and transparent communication about policies that I found is from [Lewes Local Plan - Defining our policies and early site allocation proposals](#).

Each policy from Local authorities must align with the NPPF, which requires strategic policies on environmental protection, however the details, implementation, and naming conventions are locally determined. Policies “NE” in the Dorset Council do not exist. From what I could find, Dorset Council appears to have various prefixes. It's "ENV" policies related to different aspects of development and the environment and various document reference codes. And is not directly comparable to BCP policies (**Figure 7**). For a whole system approach to work, I am unsure if Dorset as a whole will get the clarity that Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies sets out from the beginning. How Dorset Council and BCP Council [will have regard for each others planning policies](#) and the Dorset local nature recovery will remain to be seen. From the second point on page 3 of the [Powers in Place : NatureThe Handbook of Local Authority Nature Recovery Powers](#) “Lack of clear, coherent and

connected national policies is compounded by a complexity of responsibilities at the local level and across different organisations” Appears to be happening on a local level from the out set. I hope it does not hampering their ability to create long lasting change.

Figure 7 :

BCP Document Reference Prefixes	Dorset Document Reference Prefixes
Policy NE1: Natural environment	ENV1:Dorset Biodiversity Strategy
Policy NE2: Habitats sites and wildlife sites	CD/ENV16Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
Policy NE3: Biodiversity	CD/ENV1 Dorset AONB Management Plan - Part 1

<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-control/Local-plan/BCP-Local-Plan-Consultation-Draft-March-2024-web-version.pdf>

https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/evidence-base-for-adopted-west-dorset-weymouth-portland-local-plan?p_l_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DENV4

As I've mentioned before “One of the biggest risks to nature is that people do not have a connection with it, and so it becomes irrelevant and de-prioritised” [Pressures on nature and Opportunities for recovery in Dorset](#) page 32. In my opinion, Dorsets LNRS needed to reach out and involve more to the residents of BCP. Part of the [biodiversity duty](#) is to educate, advise and raise awareness.

Reaching out to all parts of the community and letting them know that they were part the decision making process would have helped strengthen the ability to achieve nature recovery by involving the communities in the long term, as hopefully the LNRS will be recovering nature in all the areas and well as the ones which are most deprived of it in BCP.

As an example, from the out set if communities highlighted in the [Nature Neighbourhoods](#) were invited to help in the formation and shape the steering advisory groups in the very beginning. Then the community would feel a sense of ownership and responsibility. Especially in areas where nature is deprived the most. This would have helped address the common reasons that limit the opportunities for people living in low-income areas to enjoy nature, as outlined in [Naturals England report](#). It could of helped break down some of those barriers.

The results of the [Sussex community LNRS public survey](#), helped engage 1835 people .Along with a public map for people to [share there favourite places](#).There [Interim results from the Public Survey](#) must have helped keep the public engaged.

Here is an example questionnaire from Surrey LNRS: <https://surreynaturerecovery.commonplace.is/contributions/proposal/take-the-survey> some authorities , like [Greater Manchester](#) and [The Lake District](#), have also initiated consultations to seek input from local communities and environmental groups, to ensure the strategy reflects local priorities and needs.

Overall, I feel the Dorset Nature Recovery plan needs to be more ambitious and have more of robust set of priorities for BCP area if it is going to deliver its intended goals of protecting and restoring nature for its inhabitants. If urgent action to reverse nature decline is not taken soon, there could be little left to recover, as habitats and species could be too diminished.

Local authorities have been legally tasked to improve the natural environment. The [Environmental Improvement Plan](#), published in January 2023, sets out the government's plans. And [Defra has published guidance on complying with the biodiversity duty](#). I do hope that the Local authorities will have more than a " *regard to*" restore or create wildlife-rich habitats and increase species abundance. It is vital that in order to enable nature recovery that Dorset's Local authorities see the priorities within the LNRS not just as stand alone aspirations but supports and integrates them into the other policies, in their local Plans. Particularly around planning.

Will the [apex goals](#) of achieving the government's Environmental Improvement Plan targets be achieved by each of the local authorities separately, or will they be combining their results ?

The [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Act \(2A\)](#) also places a duty on all public authorities to consider how they can conserve and enhance biodiversity, and in doing so, they must have regard to any relevant local nature recovery strategies.

[The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) (MHCLG) has updated its planning practice guidance (PPG) on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The updated PPG adds four new paragraphs (044-047) focusing on Local Nature Recovery Strategies. These paragraphs outline the statutory framework for LNRS, the role and responsibilities of local planning authorities (LPAs) in preparing LNRS, and how LPAs should have regard to LNRS in decision-making. In addition, the update revises existing paragraphs (009-011), which clarify the statutory basis for biodiversity conservation and enhancement, the legal duty of LPAs to have regard to LNRS in biodiversity planning, and the evidence required for identifying and mapping local ecological networks. The Green infrastructure policy is also in there.

Greater scrutiny needs to be applied when looking at applications for developments concerning the [Habitats and biodiversity section](#) of the NPPF. The challenge to the local authorities will be if they are able to implement these policies to defend for nature instead of taking it for granted.

Forgive the length and some of the obvious questions in my review. This has been my first opportunity to really feedback on the LNRS from Dorset and the process. The intention of this document is not to be negative or to diminish the hard work that has gone into preparing the draft, but to give a different perspective through a fresh pair of eyes. And also raise my concerns and hopefully avert the decline in nature within Dorset. Particularly in BCP, as it has the most nature-deprived areas within it. Dorset's LNRS has taken an important first step toward nature recovery, and with the right support, I truly hope it can take the next step for a lasting impact. I think the last time anything was attempted at this scale was due to Agenda 21. Which was launched at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. This also translated nature recovery into initiatives throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. Examples of this documentation from Bournemouth Council can be seen in **Figure 8**. I also hope my suggestions and observations have been helpful, and that the LNRS represents a genuine step forward for nature's recovery.

Kind regards
Steve Harper.

Below are the set of highlighted question that I have asked throughout this document:

1. [Who were the other stakeholders representing BCP's perspective apart from BCP council ?](#)
2. [In the consultation of Dorset People about making space for nature. Out of the 308 responses how many were from BCP ?](#)
3. [Were any interested parties or groups from BCP invited to be apart of the steering group ?](#)

4. Did any of the consultation from the steering groups have an impact on the plan for BCP? If so what were they ?
5. Has the effect of the Green-Infrastructure-Strategy been monitored or any of its principles or goals been followed yet ?
6. What is the priority species in BCP, that is it focused on recovering ?
7. What was the reason why nightjar's were excluded from the priority list ?
8. How many species which are in the BCP area are included in the LNRS priority list ?
9. Would it be better to try and protect and enhance the nature and recover it from within the urban nature deprived areas of BCP ?
10. From rethinking the future of parks and green spaces report 4 years ago, what has been learnt from its application that's relevant and has been used in the LNRS ? How do we know what is working ?
11. When is the next date for review for the Green Infrastructure Strategy ?
12. How does a policy document from New Zealand Transport strategy, contribute to Dorset local nature recovery strategies using its Nature-based solutions as identified with a Y within the spread sheet ?
13. Has the impact of the new housing/ developments been calculated in the BCP area, against the calculations for nature recovery in Dorset ?
14. Would it not be of greater benefit to recover nature where it is most deprived ?
15. Are there any other areas which have been identified for nature recovery which have been marked for development ?

16. How will Dorset Nature recovery plan mitigate against loss of land set aside for nature recovery which is now being used to meet its new housing/deveoplements targets in BCP ?
17. What has happened to theses species of Slow worms, Common lizards and Adders due to the developments around HighMoor Farm ?
18. Does the LNRS not look at Local considerations for BNG ?
19. Will the BCP and Dorset be raising the BNG minimum of 10% uplift in Biodiversity value?
20. What was gained from the mid term review in 2007 of the Biodiversity Strategy ?
21. Did Dorset reach the Habitat Restoration and Habitat expansion targets by 2010?
22. Will BCP council guarantee that the money it is raising from developers mitigation be spent on enhancing / protecting and restoring the wildlife within the BCP area?
23. Will any of the money raised from mitigation or BNG go towards Dorset Wild life Trust or the National Trust ?
24. In regard off-site biodiversity gains from a developer, Will the local authorities have any say in where this goes ?
25. Will the local authorities set them self up as Land bankers in order to protect and invest in local habitats ?
26. How does a Council increase the evolutionary fortification of a species and habitat that are dependent on the heathland ?
27. What constitutes as no significant adverse to habitat effects after the harm has been done ?

28. what evidence (quantitative and qualitative) is there about the effectiveness of various “mitigation” strategies?
29. What actions were taken in 2003 to mean that they are still a priority species today?
30. What happened to the species from 2023 which were a priority, but now are not on the 2025 priority list ?
31. How will the LNRS restore the species of nightjar numbers, so there numbers are in more abundance from 2022 data?
32. Is there consistency with the other standards of reporting and monitoring ? What is that standard ?
33. Can I have a copy of this environmental report from the later stage of the BCP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that was initially published for consultation with the statutory bodies in June 2021 ? Page 43
34. Where would I be able to see the Environmental Improvement Plan which came into force on 1 January 2023 for Dorset and BCP?
35. How will Dorset and BCP authorities make room for the capacity, capability, or the resources to stand up for nature and plan it into their other services ? How will they be accountable ?
36. Will the apex goals of achieving the government’s Environmental Improvement Plan targets be achieved by each of the local authorities separately , or will they be combining there results ?

Figure 8

<div data-bbox="264 311 369 383" data-label="Text"> <p>The Bournemouth Library Tel: (01202) 454848</p> </div> <div data-bbox="651 323 712 343" data-label="Text"> <p>DRAFT</p> </div> <div data-bbox="306 432 696 529" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="320 670 692 700" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="324 809 434 874" data-label="Text"> <p>The Bournemouth Library Tel: (01202) 454848</p> </div> <div data-bbox="210 983 268 1042" data-label="Text"> <p>LIBRARY USE ONLY</p> </div> <div data-bbox="219 1045 266 1098" data-label="Text"> <p>LH U769 .069</p> </div> <div data-bbox="468 1003 551 1023" data-label="Text"> <p>January 2006</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="840 256 925 280" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Preface</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="840 295 1352 335" data-label="Text"> <p>The Borough of Bournemouth covers an area of approximately 4620ha of which about 20% is owned and managed by the council.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="840 349 1366 427" data-label="Text"> <p>A significant area (40%) has some form of nature conservation designation attributed to it; which ranges from Local Nature Reserves (LNR) to Special Areas for Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) with the latter two having international recognition.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="840 440 1370 499" data-label="Text"> <p>There is also a considerable area of open space in private ownership, most notably private gardens, which is increasingly important as a reservoir and sanctuary for much of our more common wildlife.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="840 512 1386 590" data-label="Text"> <p>However, Bournemouth Borough Council, as the single largest landowner in the borough, recognises that it has a special responsibility to act wisely and to think of the long-term implications of its actions on the environment both locally and internationally.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="840 604 1370 662" data-label="Text"> <p>Arising from this commitment is the Nature Conservation Strategy, which provides an advisory framework for the Council to work to in partnership with all sections of the community.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1464 261 1590 280" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>1. BACKGROUND</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 287 1977 362" data-label="Text"> <p>There has been a general increase in awareness of environmental matters in recent years and a political will to put into place measures that help protect the natural environment. It is widely recognised that action will need to be taken at all levels:</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 373 1592 391" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>International</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 381 1977 458" data-label="Text"> <p>At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the British government pledged its support for the Rio Declaration and it also signed the Convention on Biodiversity. This highlights the importance of sustaining the variety of life on the planet and resulted in the formulation of an action plan referred to as Agenda 21.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 469 1565 488" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>National</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 475 1966 584" data-label="Text"> <p>In response to this, the government developed a strategy for sustainable development and a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Planning powers were strengthened with the adoption of a Planning Policy Guidance on nature conservation (PPG9) in 1994. This was updated in summer 2005 with the adoption of the new Policy Planning Statement (PPS9).</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 571 1980 663" data-label="Text"> <p>These initiatives, whilst recognising the importance of statutory protected sites, take into account wider nature conservation issues. It is also made clear that Local Authorities should be aware of the natural environment and should take into account nature conservation interests where relevant to local decisions.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 676 1561 695" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>County</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 683 1971 775" data-label="Text"> <p>At the county level, a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) entitled the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy was produced in 2003. This provides a general framework for biodiversity conservation in Dorset. The Bournemouth Nature Conservation Strategy will aim to mirror the objectives of this document.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 788 1570 807" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Borough</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="1487 794 1986 935" data-label="Text"> <p>In the context of the Council, the Nature Conservation Strategy links into a hierarchy of strategy documents (see fig.1). This culminates in the Bournemouth Community Plan that has as one of its 5 core priorities "Sustaining our Environment". A key objective of this priority is to "Protect, maintain and improve the quality of both our natural and built-up areas and increase awareness of the environment". The Strategy sets out policies that will help to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Borough.</p> </div>
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2. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The Nature Conservation Strategy has been prepared by:

The Bournemouth Environmental Advisory Team - **BEAT**.

BEAT is a partnership with representatives from the Council's Countryside and Outdoor Education teams, Bournemouth University, English Nature, Dorset Wildlife Trust and independent specialist ecologists.

BEAT carries out environmental monitoring and research of our green spaces and provides habitat management advice. Although the emphasis, to date, has been on areas with an identified nature conservation value, it is recognised that there is a considerable land area within the Borough that has potential to contribute to the overall biodiversity.

With the above in mind, the **Nature Conservation Strategy** provides an advisory framework of objectives that will enable the Council to:

- protect and enhance the existing biodiversity
- increase awareness and understanding of the local natural resource
- promote responsible access to countryside sites.

3. THE LOCAL RESOURCE

The Borough of Bournemouth covers an area of approximately 4620ha of which about 20% is owned and managed as green space by the Council. Although the Council is the single largest landowner in the Borough, there is also a considerable area of open space in private ownership, most notably private gardens. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Land area percentages

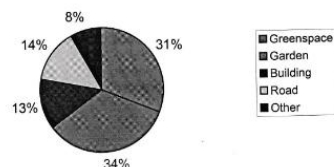


Table 1. Designated sites in Bournemouth

DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	AREA (HA)	TOTAL AREA (HA)
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR)	Hengistbury Head	155.0	285.0
	Kinson Common	14.9	
	Millhams Mead	18.6	
	Pug's Hole	4.2	
	Stour Valley	33.7	
	Turbary Common	43.1	
SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST (SNCI)	Ilford Meadows	15.5	136.6
	Alum Chine	6	
	Bearwood	1.8	
	Berry Hill	0.5	
	Bournemouth Cliffs	23.2	
	Cudnell Wood	2.6	
	Ensburry Wood	7.1	
	Ilford	1.1	
	Littledown	3.7	
	Meyrick Park	11.7	
	Mudeford Spit	5.4	
	Queens Park	59	
	Strouden Woods	5.2	
	Talbot Wood	8.2	
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)	Turbary Common	1.1	184.9
	Hengistbury Head	137	
	Kinson Common	11.4	
	Poole Bay Cliffs	10.5	
SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)	Turbary Common	26	76.1
	Hengistbury Head	38.7	
	Kinson Common	11.4	
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)	Turbary Common	26	64.7
	Hengistbury Head	38.7	
RAMSAR SITE	Kinson Common	11.4	37.4
	Turbary Common	26	

In addition, a large part of Hengistbury Head is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Although this doesn't have a direct bearing on habitat management issues, it is an important designation that needs to be taken into account when implementing nature conservation policy.

Habitats

On a national scale the UK Biodiversity Group has divided the whole land surface and the surrounding seas into 27 broad habitat types of which 21 occur in Dorset.

Biodiversity Action Plan species

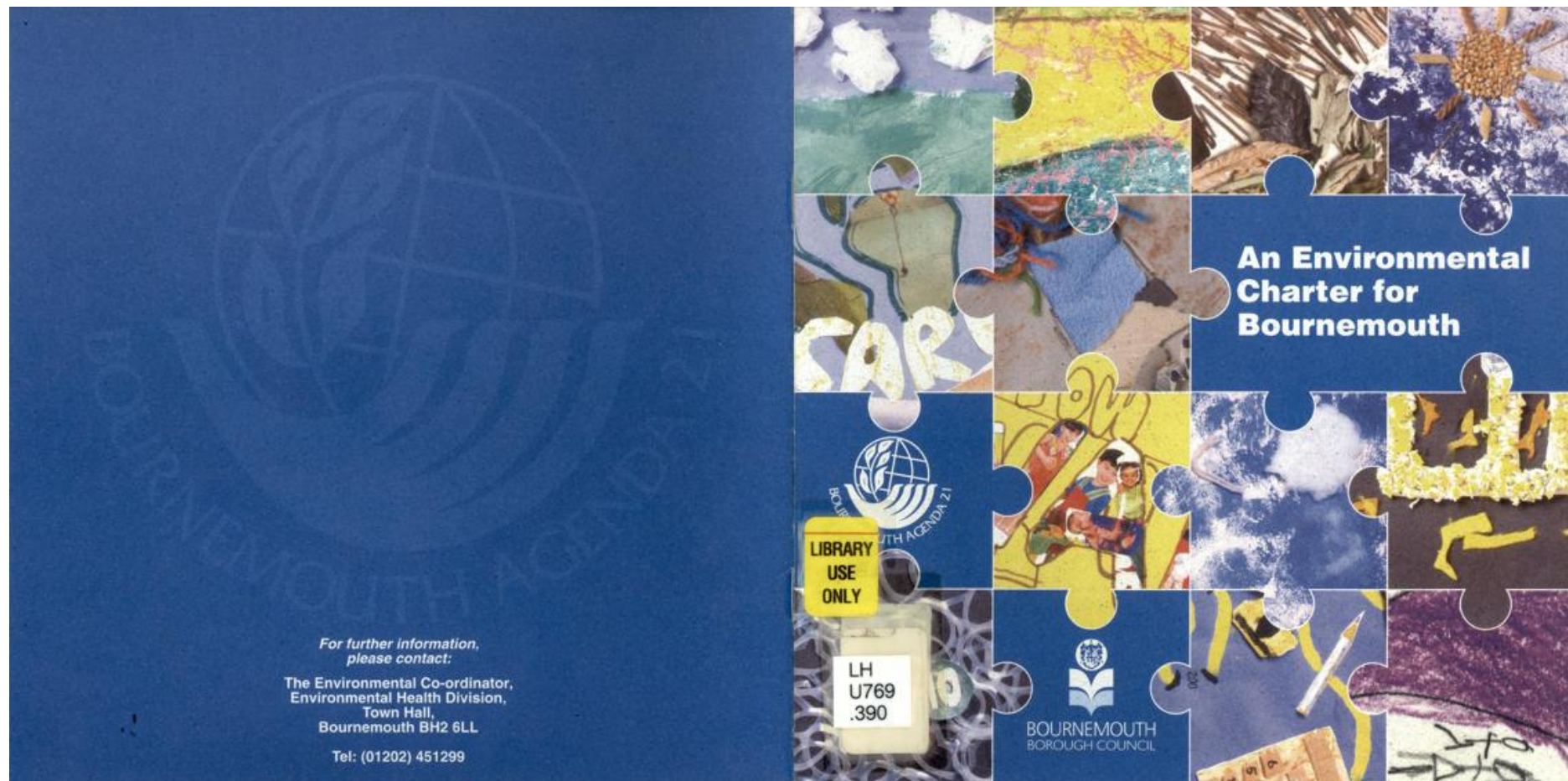
It is apparent that there is considerable biodiversity within the Borough with a whole range of native plant and animal species found. Many of these are common and widespread, but there are others that have a much more local distribution and some that are rare in the national context.

The UK Biodiversity Action Group has compiled a list of priority species that it is considered require a specific action plan. Examples of species with action plans that are found in Bournemouth are shown below:

<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting
<i>Bufo calamita</i>	Natterjack Toad
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Sand Lizard
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle Bat
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter
<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Silver-Studded Blue
<i>Bombus humilis</i>	Carder Bumblebee
<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Stag Beetle

The Council will endeavour to contribute to the action plans for these species.

The importance of the more common wildlife found is recognised and will be fully taken into account in an effort to conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity.



*For further information,
please contact:*
The Environmental Co-ordinator,
Environmental Health Division,
Town Hall,
Bournemouth BH2 6LL
Tel: (01202) 451299

Bournemouth Borough Council would like to thank the children of Bournemouth Schools and Play Schemes for providing the illustrations used in this publication.

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Illustration by
Kirsty McCormack (age 9)
Walpole Tidal Play Scheme



BOURNEMOUTH REFERENCE

BOURNEMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

Declaration of Commitment

"Bournemouth Borough Council recognises that it occupies a unique position in the town with a special responsibility to act wisely and think of the long term implications of its actions on the environment.

Furthermore, it is the Council's intention to facilitate and contribute to the development of a Local Agenda 21 strategy for Bournemouth in partnership with all sections of the community. To achieve this we will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of all natural resources and minimise the undesirable environmental impact of our own activities and those of others.

The Council will review all its services and management systems to ensure good environmental practice and compliance with regulatory requirements and that they are consistent with the maintenance and improvement of the town's existing environment and quality of life.

By pursuing a sustainable development strategy we shall help ensure that the economy of Bournemouth meets today's needs without spoiling the environment for our children's children."

To meet this commitment the Council has set down the following aims and objectives under each of the key environmental issues for Bournemouth. An environmental strategy involving action plans with clear targets will be developed and reviewed annually. The key issues are:-

	Page
Coastal Management and the Marine Environment	4
Energy Efficiency	6
Environmental Awareness, Health Promotion and Local Agenda 21	8
Environmental Protection	10
Parks and Open Spaces	12
Planning and the Built Environment	14
Public Health	16
Purchasing	18
Recycling and Waste Minimisation	20
Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development ..	22
Transport	24
Urban Countryside	26



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environmental awareness, health promotion and local agenda 21



The Council recognises that for there to be a sustainable development strategy in its area and in order for people to make informed decisions on lifestyle, they need information on the implications that their actions will have for themselves as well as for the local and global environment. Therefore the Council will continue working in partnership with others to develop local policies for sustainable development which will include to:

Promote environmental awareness and understanding.

Encourage the public to protect their environment and, in doing so, their own health.

Work closely with schools and interested groups to encourage participation in environmental themes.

Build on existing links with Bournemouth University and the Bournemouth and Poole Colleges of Art and Further Education.

Set up schemes encouraging the business community to play a part in caring for the environment.

Promote adoption of a healthy lifestyle and actively participate in the Health of the Nation initiative.

Encourage participation of residents and voluntary organisations in matters affecting the environment.

*Illustration by Darren Daley (age 11)
Bethany C.E. Junior School*

8

progress report:

The Flats Over Shops Scheme is improving the environment by bringing into use unoccupied properties.

The GP Referral Scheme at the Littledown Centre now has over 600 "cases" registered in order to promote health through improved fitness. This scheme is one of the largest of its kind in the area.

The Housing Division are always looking towards new technology and the latest information available to produce environmentally friendly specifications.

Responsible dog ownership is promoted by the Council to make sure owners are aware of their obligations.

The BT Environment Week is supported each year, when a programme of environmental events is arranged.



The Heartbeat Award Scheme encourages caterers to help fight Coronary Heart Disease.

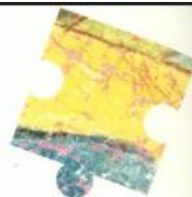
Many national campaigns are supported in line with Health of the Nation targets.

The Authority has won a "Green Apple Award" for its efforts and initiatives to protect and enhance the environment.

The Russell-Cotes "Art in the Home" scheme allows the community to share in our artistic and cultural heritage.

9

environmental protection



The Council recognises the importance of protecting the air, water and land from pollution and of minimising the impact of noise. It will continue to:

Closely monitor the state of the local atmospheric, terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments and produce "state of the environment" reports.

Seek to control pollution of the environment through its statutory powers.

Support national and local initiatives in pollution and waste prevention to improve environmental quality and environmental health.

Require Environmental Assessments to be submitted as part of an application for planning permission for certain major development proposals, as defined by statutory instrument.

Encourage development proposals to incorporate appropriate measures to minimise pollution of the air, water, land or increased noise and vibration.

Foster strong working relationships with the Environment Agency and other organisations with similar aims.

Seek to ensure that discharges from existing Storm Water Overflows are kept to a minimum and comply with the appropriate European Community Directives.

Press the Government for guidelines and standards which promote improved environmental health and environmental quality.

Make environmental information available to the public, through its statutory duty and through public educational initiatives.

Minimise the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides and seek alternative solutions wherever practicable.

*Illustration by
Tamsin McIntosh (age 11)
Bethany C.E. Junior School*

10



progress report:

Excessively smoky commercial vehicles can be reported to a special Council answering machine service in operation 24 hours a day.

Statutory nuisances are dealt with by the Environmental Health Division under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990. These include noise, smoke, odour, fumes and dust.

Air quality is examined. This includes a nitrous oxides monitoring programme.

Bathing water quality is ensured as part of the resort's EC Blue Flag applications.

Radiation levels in the environment are recorded as extensive sampling is undertaken in the town, as part of a larger survey.

Water courses are regularly sampled.

Monitoring of landfill sites for landfill gas continues.

A daily pollen level forecast is given during the grass pollen season to help hayfever sufferers.

11

parks and open spaces



The Council recognises the importance of maintaining and developing parks and open spaces for both residents and visitors in terms of their aesthetic values, cultural purposes and sporting activities. With this in mind, the Council will continue to:

Encourage community involvement in appreciating and caring for our parks and open spaces.

Investigate ways of maintaining the land which are as environmentally sympathetic as practicable.

Keep parks, open spaces and children's play facilities clean and safe to use and encourage users to do likewise.

Maintain a healthy proportion of tree cover, ensuring succession for future generations.

progress report:

Sustainability and Public Involvement are Key Features of the Town's Leisure Strategy.

It is proposed to change the way the "short mown grass" areas are maintained. This will lead to a wider diversity of wildlife and habitation, increased public usage and appreciation and possible financial benefits.

A programme for all play areas to be fenced off is underway and dog waste bins are in place.

Management plans have been drawn up to ensure that care and replacement of trees is an ongoing process.

*Illustration by Nicola Griffiths-Hayles (age 7) and Molly McCann (age 5)
Walpole Road Play Scheme*

12



13

public health



The Council recognises that a person's most fundamental need is good health whether physical, mental or social. Health is influenced by environmental factors. The Council will continue to:

Secure the health, safety and welfare of people working in and visiting all commercial premises for which the Council is responsible.

Ensure that a high standard of hygiene and food quality control is secured and maintained in premises where food is manufactured, prepared, sold or consumed.

Prevent or minimise the spread of disease and infection.

Ensure that all measures are taken to bring up to a standard of fitness all dwellings in the private sector which may be unfit for human habitation.

Ensure that action is taken to bring tenanted dwellings up to a good state of repair.

Ensure that all houses in multiple occupation are fit for habitation and comply with Council standards.

Ensure that harmful pollutants are reduced or eliminated to maintain a high standard of environmental quality.

progress report:

Routine Health and Safety inspections of premises under Council jurisdiction are regularly carried out.

Routine inspections of food premises are regularly carried out.

Suspected food poisoning cases, food and food premises complaints are promptly investigated.

Training courses leading to nationally approved qualifications in food hygiene and health and safety are run for local businesses on a regular basis.

The HMO Team has carried out a House Condition Survey of private sector housing stock.

The Dog Wardens uphold the Dog byelaws in Bournemouth and deal with dangerous dogs.

Water samples are regularly taken from the town's swimming pools and jacuzzis.

*Illustration by Julianne Lee (age 5)
Corpus Christi R.C.V.A. Primary School*



urban countryside

The Council recognises the importance of maintaining and developing the urban countryside for the mutual benefit of residents, visitors and wildlife. With this in mind, the Council will continue to:

Encourage community participation in the maintaining and management of the urban countryside.

Draw up Management Plans for individual sites, taking particular account of the status of the land, e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monument, Local Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Encourage the use of the urban countryside as an educational resource.

Seek to protect the remaining fragments of heathland.

Investigate ways of maintaining the land which are as environmentally sympathetic as practicable.



*Illustration by Carly Moors (age 10)
and Louisa Castell (age 10)
Winton Primary School*

26

progress report:

A waterlogged area adjoining the town's famed pleasure gardens is being replanted using native wild flowers which will attract a variety of insects, and a boardwalk constructed to allow public access.

A programme recreating lost heathland is underway.

Management of part of the local nature reserve has been given over to Galloway cattle whose grazing is more sympathetic to the fragile environment and wildlife population.

Wildlife "WATCH" Groups are encouraging children to take an active interest in their environment. The local groups have carried out a number of conservation projects.

A five year management plan for the Stour Valley has been adopted by the Council and the Riverside area now has Local Nature Reserve status.



27

..Thanks for reading ...