

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 26th JUNE 2024** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Dorrington

Swanage Town Council (until 3.20 p.m.)

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Sutton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Mrs J Owens

Sustainable Swanage

Mr F Roberts

Swanage Landers

Mr D Skinner

Planet Purbeck

Also in attendance: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Ms G Percival

Assets & Compliance Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

There was one representative of the press present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Foster, Councillor Coward, Mr D Pratten (Beach Buddies), Ms T Churcher (National Trust), Mr B Bleese (Dorset Wildlife Trust) and Ms K Black (Durlston Country Park).

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

No declarations were made on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from the Meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 28th February 2024

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 28th February 2024, the Assets & Compliance Manager reported that a contract has been awarded for seaweed management and that the relevant plan had been implemented. It was noted that several signs have been displayed to inform the public of the new approach to seaweed on the beach.

4) Review of the Corporate Plan: Protecting the Natural Environment and addressing the Climate Crisis

The Town Clerk presented an overview of the process for reviewing the Corporate Plan for the period 2025-29, following the local elections last May. As a first step each of the Council's standing committees were being asked to review the relevant page within the existing plan to highlight any potential changes. Later in the year there would be a councillor workshop and public engagement, prior to a draft revised plan being brought before the Finance & Governance Committee. The importance of inviting contributions from each committee's outside representatives was highlighted.

Members briefly reviewed the 'Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis' section of the Corporate Plan, which included a commitment to supporting Sustainable Swanage and the various community projects that it had helped to establish. After a brief discussion, it was noted that the ongoing Rivers Project and the Motion for the Ocean declaration should be considered for inclusion in the revised Corporate Plan as priority projects.

5) Environment Action Plan – Review of progress to date and consideration of future approach

The VSBDM briefly introduced the current Environmental Action Plan (Version 11) which had evolved since its first iteration in 2020. As new actions were identified, the document had been updated in consultation with the relevant working party. It was noted that while solid progress had been made, with many actions now completed, others were still in progress. It was acknowledged that now would be an opportune time to start reviewing the content of the plan and to establish if there are any new actions which need to be included. It was suggested that a shorter list of targeted actions may provide the best way forward.

The Chairman noted that in the first instance the review would be undertaken by the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party, prior to a revised version being brought back before the Environment and Green Spaces Committee for consideration.

6) Sustainable Swanage - Update

The representative for Sustainable Swanage reported that the group had assisted in the setting up of multiple local community projects focusing on Energy Conservation, Active Travel and Repair and Reuse under the direction of Sarah Spurling, the highly dedicated project officer, who had now moved on to a new role. With the continued support of the Town Council, Sustainable Swanage had engaged Planet Purbeck to put in place a programme of events for the next 12 months. It was noted that one of the critical issues facing Sustainable Swanage is finding volunteers who have the time and are willing to co-ordinate and run new project groups. A brief progress update was given on the following work streams.

- i) Repair and Reuse group has been successful but would like to expand into electrical and mechanical upcycling. This would require finding individuals with the necessary skills or experience.
- ii) Healthy Homes group has assisted a lot of homeowners in Swanage with guidance on solar panel installations, insulation advice and signposting to other organisations that could help.
- iii) Improving our Water Quality – A public meeting in late 2023 had led to the creation of the Swan Brook Partnership which was now in the process of widening its scope to include the Ulwell water system. It was noted that a public meeting scheduled for November 2024 may fit in with the Motion for the Ocean declaration if it were to be adopted by the Town Council.
- iv) In the last year, Youth Climate Vision had worked with the Swanage School to assist in the planting of trees and developing designated areas in an ecologically friendly way. In the coming months they were planning to continue to work with local schools to establish what the expectations of local children are, regarding climate change and biodiversity.

- v) Greening & Biodiversity group has assisted with the planting of trees along Victoria Avenue and on Prospect Green. They had also developed information leaflets and a tree trail walk around Swanage.

It was noted that the Friends of the Downs were holding an Open Day on 29th June 2024 in support of the Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve. This would include guided walks, talks on the monitoring of wildlife and various other activities. This was being strongly supported by the Town Council's operations team and a number of other groups would also be in attendance, including Swanage Swift Group and Greengage Nursery.

7) **Motion for the Ocean – To consider draft declaration**

The Chairman presented a draft declaration for the Motion for the Ocean initiative which had been formulated by the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party. The model declaration had been amended to tailor it to Swanage and the challenges to ocean recovery in this area. If adopted, an action plan would be developed over a 12-month period and would benefit from the engagement of local stakeholders and their experience and knowledge.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the implications of some of the commitments contained in the draft declaration would need to be better understood prior to the adoption of the draft declaration being considered at the council meeting to be held on 22nd July. It was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Tomes and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That the draft Motion for the Ocean declaration be approved and adopted, subject to clarification being provided regarding the implications of some of the commitments set out therein, and that the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party be tasked with the development of a Motion for the Ocean action plan within twelve months.

8) **Swanage Town Council's Energy Footprint – To receive 2023 report**

The VSBDM presented the Energy Footprint Report for 2023, which also contained a comparison with data from 2022, when the analysis first commenced. The report detailed energy use, water use and waste generated by the Town Council over a 12-month period. It was noted that the data suggests that there was a 5 per cent reduction in carbon emissions year-on-year, but it was noted that there was a significant degree of uncertainty about this due to changes in billing and other factors. Looking towards the next 12 months, it was anticipated that a further reduction in energy usage will be seen as more of the actions contained within the Environmental Action Plan are implemented.

The Assets and Compliance Manager reported that the installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels on Council-owned buildings within the town is underway (Environment Policy Action Plan item 2.1) and that low-energy LED lighting would be installed by the end of July 2024. The upcoming replacement of a fossil fuel vehicle with another electric vehicle, which is due to be delivered imminently, was also noted.

9) **Swanage Town Council Greenspaces Strategy – Proposed format for review**

Further to Minute No. 7(a) of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 11th October 2023, the Assets and Compliance Manager presented a briefing note which set out the likely format for the Council's first Greenspaces Strategy. The document was designed to inform the budget setting process, ensure the Council's wider strategic plans and policies are embedded into the management of green spaces and provide a framework for their development enabling input by the public and wider stakeholders. Appendices will include management plans for specific locations. It was noted that a draft copy of the strategy would be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

10) To review Carbon Neutral 2030 target and measures to reduce the Council's energy use

The VSBDM reported on the works that are underway in response to the actions identified in the adopted Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Action Plan 2030: Council Buildings.

- Installation of low-energy LED lighting in Council buildings.
- Installation of Solar PV panels on the Council Operations Depot and Workshop and Beach Gardens Pavilion. Other potential sites had been discounted due to a number of factors including available roof space, prohibitive costs and planning restrictions due to buildings being located within conservation areas.
- An earmarked reserve has been formed to build up funds for the installation of heat pumps and contributions of £25k a year have been allocated in the budget so that this part of the strategy can potentially be implemented in 2029/30. It was noted that further investigation is required to identify the actual level of energy efficiency that will be delivered by heat pumps considering the age and construction of some Council buildings. If this was not feasible then the reserve could be allocated to other related projects.

Although considerable progress had been made towards reducing the Council's carbon footprint, attention was drawn to the fact that it is unlikely that the Council will reach its Carbon Neutral target by 2030 given some of the difficulties that would need to be overcome. However, it was agreed that the target should remain in place for the time being to concentrate efforts on exploring whether there are ways in which this objective could be met. It was agreed that the Town Council should review the actions taken by other local councils to identify if there were lessons that could be learned from their experiences.

11) Waste Management

a) Update on Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) Summer schedule

It was reported that the plans agreed with DWP for the summer period are being implemented and proceeding well: collections are taking place every day between 7am and 7pm with only a few exceptions. Additionally, regular road sweeping is now taking place in the town which has reduced the reliance on Town Council funded road sweeping requirements.

b) Update on activities from Beach Buddies

The VSBDM provided an update on behalf of the representative of Beach Buddies which highlighted that the group continues to be well supported by volunteers and receives co-operation from the council operatives and the visitor services team. Up to the end of May 2024, 20 beach cleans had been conducted with an average of 20 volunteers per clean who have removed a total of over 500kg of litter and debris. Additional cleans have been put in place to assist at community events such as the recent skatepark open day.

c) Update on activities from Swanage Landers

The representative of Swanage Landers provided an update on recent activities and confirmed that volunteers are being actively sought to take on certain leadership responsibilities. The importance of this voluntary work to the local environment was highlighted and the Chairman thanked all those engaged in litter clearance for their efforts on behalf of the local community.

Councillor Dorrington left the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

12) Review of representatives on the Committee

The Chairman invited those present to consider whether there were additional outside representatives who had specific areas of expertise that would be of benefit to the Environment and Green Spaces Committee who could be invited to attend future meetings to help deliver the Council's priorities. It was suggested that a representative from Purbeck Energy Group would be a valuable addition to the committee.

It was noted that a recommendation could be made to the Town Council to amend the Terms of Reference for the Environment and Green Spaces Committee to include any new groups invited in the list of outside representatives. Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Monkhouse, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That Purbeck Energy Group be added to the list of outside representatives in the Terms of Reference for the Environment & Green Spaces Committee.

13) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Rivers Project update

The VSBDM reported that Planet Purbeck had succeeded in securing a grant from Wessex Water to support a project officer for the Rivers Project.

b) Review and update Environmental Budget

The VSBDM reported that the environmental budget will be presented at the next Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting for review and discussion as part of budget setting for 2025/26.

14) Date of next meeting

Members considered the best time for future committee meetings and it was agreed that they should continue to be held at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

The Meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

Swanage Town Council

DRAFT Environment Policy Action Plan

Version 12

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas and, in the sections below, the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council have taken the approach of producing a short action plan with a small number of key actions that can be developed quickly. This is seen very much as an iterative action plan that can grow and develop as we better understand what is required to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. Completed actions are retained at the bottom of the document.

Recommendation

The Committee are asked to consider the various actions below and note progress to date. Green ones were identified by the Environment Action Working Party as new ones to be included.

Once approved by the Committee the Working Party will develop and implement the necessary actions.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
October 2024

1. Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers.	Not known	2023	Course undertaken.	ONGOING - The Visitor Services Manager will be undertaking a Carbon Literacy training course during October 2024 with a view to see if this should be rolled out to all councillors and staff. This action was delayed to ensure that new Councillors were able to be trained.	TIC1

2. Managing our built environment sustainably

We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Implement energy reduction measures.	Produce report which details various possible measures.	Not known	March 2024	Energy use reduction will be tracked by officers	COMPLETED - LED lights have now been installed across all council buildings. Solar panels have been installed at the depot and garage and will be installed at Beach Gardens Pavilion during October/ November. It is noted that there are now no more 'quick wins' with regards energy reduction measures	OPS1
2.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	Not Known	Oct 24	Reduction in water use as measured by water bills	ONGOING - Water use has been reduced significantly with the move away from annual bedding flowers and more drought resistant types. Officers will speak with other councils to see what is taking place elsewhere with water harvesting and Wessex Water.	OPS1

3.	Ensure all new Town Council constructions have sustainability embedded in their design.	Included in each specification.	Not known	Ongoing	All construction specifications will include sustainability.	ONGOING	TH1
4.	Review the Carbon Neutral target for 2030						

3. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Undertake a ‘biodiversity’ audit of all sites owned by the Town Council to assess their importance within the natural environment.	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	Not known	March 2024	A map demonstrating high, medium or low bio-diverse areas which might include proposals for improvements	The Council are undertaking a Greenspaces Strategy which will encompass this. A biodiversity audit was undertaken of King Georges Field during June 2024. Working Party will need to consider how to implement improvements to King Georges Field.	OPS1
2.	Identify two further sites to be enhanced by Sustainable Swanage	Work with Sustainable Swanage to develop plans	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed and work undertaken at sites	COMPLETED - Northbrook Copse and the former St Mark’s Playing Field identified for enhancement. For Northbrook Copse a management plan and enhanced information signage has been produced. For Herston Community Field, the National trust has been engaged.	OPS1
3.	Work with partners to implement actions identified within the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Identify areas within Strategy that can be developed.	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed	REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH ACTION BELOW– Need to develop Action Plan for Committee. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is included in the Purbeck Local Plan and will be reviewed during the current preparation of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	OPS1 / TIC 1

4.	Continue to plant trees according to the Swanage Tree Strategy and Policy (approved November 2022) generally with 30 planted each year.	Areas identified and trees planted.	Not known	On-going	Number of trees planted.	ONGOING – For past 3 years at least 30 new trees planted per annum to continue. During 2022, Tree Strategy and Policy were approved by Full Council. Site specific Beach Gardens Tree Strategy also produced in 2023.	OPS1
5.	Work with partners to implement environment actions identified within the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.						
6.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme						
7.	Undertake an audit of the Council's hedges						
8.	Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan						
9.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of the Swanage bathing beach						
10.	Work with partners to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow and engage with Wessex Water regarding a long-term solution to this issue.						
11.	Support the Swanage Streams Partnership to improve the water quality						

of the three streams in the parish.							
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4. Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice

We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Support Dorset Waste Services to increase the household recycling rate across Swanage.	Support the education teams at DWS, including about composting and food waste.	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from DWS.	ONGOING - Work with Sustainable Swanage and other groups to promote household recycling. (FareShare and Community Pantry)	TIC1
2.	Recommend that all new constructions in Swanage are built according to sustainable criteria.	Include recommendation in all responses.	None	Ongoing	Increase in new builds built according to sustainable criteria.	ONGOING - May be included in the Design Code in the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan	TH2
3.	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage and other partners to deliver community based environmental improvements.	Through the implementation of a 'Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan'	£20,000 per annum	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered through Sustainable Swanage or directly by the Town Council	ONGOING - Costs included in 2023-24 budget with agreement to fund this role for 2 years. Committee to consider budget for 2025-26.	TIC1

5. Protecting local infrastructure

By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure to retain a vibrant and sustainable town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to increase the number of charging facilities in STC car parks.	Consider options and bring a report to Committee.	Not known	July 2023	Chargers installed.	ONGOING - STC is working with Dorset Council to deliver the Charging Ahead scheme in three car parks in Swanage – hopefully will be in place by summer 2025	TIC1
2.	Support businesses in their efforts to be more sustainable	Working with Sustainable Swanage to provide information and support to businesses	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from businesses.	REMOVE - All new leases between Swanage Town Council and its business partners include a section on environmental considerations. Sustainable Swanage works with businesses to identify effective ways to provide support. With the change of emphasis of Sustainable Swanage, this is no longer a reasonable expectation.	TIC1
3.	Support, where possible, the establishment of a community bus in Swanage.	Review options around a community bus for Swanage	Not yet known	Ongoing	Options exist around improving the route of the Durlston Bus but a community bus serving the whole community could take some time to develop.	REMOVE – This has been the subject of much discussion over the years, but at the current time there does not seem to be a viable solution available. Therefore, this will be removed and subsumed within the ‘sustainable transport’ action below	TIC1
4.	Campaign to ensure essential services are retained in Swanage in accordance with the Swanage Local Plan, to minimise travel requirements.	By working with SPDT Dorset Council, P-TAG, and other relevant organisations, such as DCCG, and supporting community initiatives to maintain services.	None	Ongoing	By recording and reviewing the actions undertaken and reporting to Full Council.	ONGOING – Working in partnership with SPDT on developing the Chapel Lane community services. Working with other groups such as Wellbeing Swanage and will be included within the draft Neighbourhood Plan.	TH1

6. Supporting Sustainable Tourism

We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Enhance the beach 'toy bank' to include a provision at the Ocean Bay end of the beach.	Identify a solution and implement it.	Not known	July 2023	Enhanced Toy Bank in place.	ONGOING - Beach Toy Bank currently successful at the Information Centre. Will engage with North Beach partners in 2025.	TIC1
2.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	£0	November 2023	Report to Tourism Committee.	ONGOING - This has been built into the Marketing Strategy that the Marketing Working Group are developing and includes the launch of the new Visit Swanage website.	TIC1
3.	Promote sustainable transport and walking in and around the town to reduce the need for visitors to use cars.	Look at alternative forms of transport and promote these on website and digital media.	-	Ongoing	Customer feedback and uptake.	ONGOING – This will be done through the support of PTAG and the current discussions on a Purbeck tourism strategy.	TIC1
4.	Enhance electric facilities on event fields and the market site to eliminate the requirement for fossil fuelled generators.	Report produced detailing costs of upgrades to sites.	Not known	Ongoing	Upgrades undertaken	ONGOING - Two electric points installed and in use at the market site. Further work required for PAG and Sandpit Field – to be included in the Phase 2 Seafront Development.	OPS1
5.	Improve cycle routes with a particular focus on cycle racks						

Completed Actions 2023-24							
1.	Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines.	Equipment asset list to be reviewed and options for change considered.	Not known	March 2023	Review undertaken.	DONE - Officers to produce asset list of machines, including power source, during 2022/23 and take report to Committee at the end of 2023.	OPS1
2.	Develop an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council's business which includes tracking carbon use.	System to be set up and managed by officers.	None	March 2023	System set up.	DONE: The Council publishes annually usage for the following: gas, electricity, waste tonnages, petrol, diesel, and water.	OPS1
3.	Develop a system to monitor the Council's waste streams and undertake review.	Identify waste streams and review options for reduction.	Not known	June 2023	Waste tonnages monitored through Management System.	DONE – Linked to 2 above.	OPS1
4.	Reduce the amount of paper documents printed by the Town Council	Review printing volumes and work towards reducing, beginning with introduction of councillor laptops.	Total not known. Budget for Councillor s' laptops agreed.	June 2023	Monitor through Environment Management System	DONE – Laptops have now been procured and training provided to Councillors. Printed copies of Council reports are no longer issued to Councillors.	TH1
6.	Move to a fully renewable energy contract for the electric supply to the Town Council	Reviewing green options and undertaking a procurement exercise.	-	October 2023	New contract set up.	DONE – Fully renewable energy contract is now in place – Sep 2023.	TH3
2.	Consider options for renewable energy on the Town Council estate.	Undertake research and produce report.	Not known	March 2024	Report produced detailing relevant options.	DONE: Solar Panels are being procured.	OPS1 / TIC1
1.	Review options to reduce or eliminate pesticide/herbicide use.	Current use will be reviewed and	Not known	March 2023	By monitoring amount used.	DONE - Report provided to February Committee detailing current use and explanation of some available alternatives. Committee agreed to	OPS1

		alternatives considered.				continue current approach and review in the future	
2.	Reduce quantity of bedding plants and develop more drought resistant plantings.	Planting more drought resistant plants.	Not known	June 2023	Reduction in water use and more hardy plants	DONE - Trial of more drought-resistant plantings is ongoing.	OPS1

Completed Actions 2022-23

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date	
1.5	Make climate impact a determinant in all grant giving.	Add section to grant application form.	None	31 st March 2021	Revised application form	Full Council	COMPLETE – Criteria now included within application form.	NIKI
2.1	Undertake an energy audit of all Town Council buildings and identify ways to reduce energy consumption.	Review options to procure a consultancy to undertake this work.	£2,000	31 st March 2021	A report will be produced once complete	Operations	COMPLETE - A report was procured which provided a range of options for the installation of LED bulbs and solar panels across the Council's estate. This will be incorporated in further work being undertaken by the Council in 2022-23.	CULVIN
3.5	Develop The Downs as a Local Nature Reserve.	Continue to work with Sustainable Swanage to deliver this.	Not yet known	31 st March 2023	Nature Reserve established	Operations	COMPLETE - Customer survey released in January. Sustainable Swanage Open Meeting in early 2021. A Management Plan is complete.	OPS1
5.1	Support a Rights of Way survey to encourage walking in the area	Identify solution and work with partners or other stakeholders	£250	Summer 2021	Survey completed with areas for improvement identified. STC will present findings to Dorset Council for implementation, if necessary	Operations	COMPLETE – Survey complete, Rights of Way Open Meeting on 21 st June 2022 – setting up volunteer hub to undertake grading of ROWs.	TIC1

6.3	All events held on Town Council land to be single use plastic free	No single use plastic will be permitted	£0	Nov 2021	No single use plastic in use	Tourism	COMPLETE - 1 st November 2021 - Full Council confirmed that all events should now be single use plastic free	TIC1
6.5	Enhance the supply of free drinking water solutions across the town	Produce signage for current drinking water taps to make them more obvious and consider if any further are required	Budgeted in 2020-21	31 st March 2021	Signage implemented	Tourism	COMPLETE - Signs have been added to all drinking water taps to make them more visible. A water refill station has been installed on the seafront; part funded by a grant from 'Sea Changers.'	TIC1 / OPS1
6.6	Work with event organisers to ensure that sustainability is embedded into their events	All event applications to detail what positive and negative impacts their events will have on the local environment	£0	Immediate	Event application form updated	Tourism	COMPLETE - All events during 2021 were required to complete an 'Environmental Impact Assessment'. These will be reviewed at year end and a report produced	TIC 1

Swanage Bay Water Quality – Proposals for improving information to the public

1. Why should we improve the information to the public with regards water quality

Since 2020, there has been an exponential growth in open water swimming, throughout the year. In turn there has been a far greater interest in sea water quality. There is a great deal of information available with regards the water quality in Swanage Bay, but in many ways, this has created confusion to water users.

The Town Council has recently declared a ‘Motion for the Ocean’ and is developing an action plan to help support ocean recovery in Swanage Bay. A key part of this is to engage with water users to help them better understand what the current situation might be.

In addition, the Town Council undertook an informal survey of views at the Planet Purbeck Festival on 21st September 2024 by asking how it might improve Swanage Bay. A reasonable number of responses related to providing more information about water quality, with a particular emphasis on providing information during the winter season (October to April). Currently the Environment Agency only provides advice against swimming during the summer bathing season.

2. Current information provided to the public by the Town Council

2.1 The summer bathing season

The Swanage ‘bathing beach’ runs from the Mowlem to the Ulwell Stream. This is also the area which is designated as the Blue Flag Award beach. As a designated ‘bathing beach,’ weekly testing of the water quality is undertaken from May to September by the Environment Agency (EA). Results can be found here: [Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#) and are also presented in the window of the Swanage Information Centre. Results show that water quality is consistently classed as ‘excellent.’

Each day during the bathing season, the Town Council receives an automatic email from the Environment Agency stating what advice should be provided for bathing in Swanage Bay. During the 2024 season this stated on eight days that advice should be provided against bathing due to the potential risk of poor water quality. When this occurs the Town Council places plastic notices on each of the entrances to the council operated beach for 24 hours. These ‘advice against bathing’ forecasts are an AI driven risk forecast model which takes into account the weather forecast and the potential that the sea in Swanage Bay might be affected by poor water quality. It is not linked to the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), as many other beaches have a similar EA risk forecast but do not have any CSOs. By looking at the data in Appendix 1, it can be seen that the EA risk forecasts were received eight times during the summer compared to only two occasions when the Ulwell Stream CSO was utilised. Water quality is affected by heavy rain which washes pollutants into the sea from roads, farms and urban areas. CSOs tend to be used only during the heaviest periods of rain.

The public can see these Environment Agency risk forecasts on their website [Bathing water quality \(data.gov.uk\)](#) which is updated daily during the summer bathing season.

In addition, the public can see information about any CSOs that might have been operated by Wessex Water on their website [Coast and rivers watch map | Wessex Water](#). This includes comprehensive and up to date information about the Ulwell Stream and three other CSOs that affect Swanage Bay water quality (Herston, Marine Parade and Marine Parade Tunnel).

Other people choose to use similar websites such as Surfers Against Sewage; these all use the same base data.

The winter season

During the winter season, the EA does not undertake water quality testing, so it is not possible for the Town Council to pass on advice regarding the use of the sea for bathing, using this process. Sea users are encouraged to review the information on the live data on the Wessex Water or similar websites before entering the water. The Town Council does receive email notifications of any releases from the Ulwell Stream CSO (see Appendix 1) although the public can also obtain email notifications and see all relevant information online.

Appendix 1 shows the Ulwell Stream CSO data and the EA risk forecasts for both summer and winter periods.

3. Proposals

3.1 Install Centrally located noticeboard

It is proposed that a single centrally located noticeboard is installed outside the Swanage Information Centre to be called 'Swanage Bay Water Quality.' The Town Council currently have an obsolete A2 double sided board which could be re-used, at a cost of £1,000 to amend the header board. This will enable the display of key water quality information in a single point. There is currently insufficient budget to procure items, although as the noticeboard is already owned by the Council, this could be installed reasonably quickly.

3.2 Fix signs along the beach

These will refer sea users to looking at online information before entering the sea and to check the centrally located noticeboard. This will mean that the Town Council will no longer place plastic notices on the beach entrances when advice against bathing is received. It is often the case that these signs are placed out by staff during a storm and it can be a health and safety risk. It is assumed that it will cost £500 to install appropriate signage along the seafront.

3.3 Engage with the swimming community

An engagement with the local sea swimmers should be undertaken to help them better understand water quality issues in Swanage Bay. It is likely to take the form of a joint meeting with Wessex Water and engagement through the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan. There is no cost to this.

3.4 Provide daily updates on the water quality noticeboard

A number of options exist to provide enhanced information to the public using the proposed noticeboard. These are as follows:

Option	Summer	Benefits	Dis-benefits
1	Provide daily update based on EA risk forecast	<p>Simple for staff to manage</p> <p>Provides advice regarding the risk to water quality.</p>	As the EA risk forecast assumes there will be an impact of road, farm and urban run-off on water quality as well as CSOs, these signs will almost always lead to advice against bathing on occasions when the CSOs are not in operation.
2	Provide daily update based on Wessex Water alert from Ulwell Stream	<p>This is clear for the public to understand as the perception is that water quality is only affected by the use of CSOs.</p> <p>Using this approach would lead to significantly less occasions to issue advice against bathing.</p> <p>Staff would likely be able to put up information earlier than if using the EA forecast approach.</p>	<p>This does not protect the public from the risk posed by other potential pollution sources such as farm, road and urban run-off.</p> <p>Criteria would need to be established for staff to know when to put up notices.</p> <p>Staff only have detailed data for the Ulwell Stream and to be comprehensive, data would also be required for the other 3 CSOs in the bay.</p>

Option	Winter	Benefits	Dis-benefits
1	Signpost all users to online data	Easy for staff to manage	Will require signage on beach and engagement with winter sea users.
2	Provide daily update based on Wessex Water alert from Ulwell Stream	<p>As for summer above.</p> <p>There are a relatively large number of releases from the Ulwell CSO in the winter and this approach would provide advice to people who were unable or unwilling to use online resources.</p>	<p>As for summer above but does not include the EA risk forecasts as they are not available in the winter.</p> <p>There are a relatively large number of releases from the Ulwell CSO in the winter, so this would be more challenging for staff to manage and clear criteria would be required. The Information Centre is closed over the Christmas period.</p> <p>Customers could rely on the advice and not look online. The Information Centre staff would need to have a realistic time to have placed this on the board – assume 10.00am.</p>

4. More information

Further information about Swanage Bay water quality can be found using the following links:

Swanage Town Council document - [Water Quality for Swanage - updated January 2024.pdf](#)

Wessex Water - [Coast and rivers watch map | Wessex Water](#)

Environment Agency - [Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

Surfers Against Sewage - [Sewage pollution alerts - Surfers Against Sewage \(sas.org.uk\)](#)

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 To consider and approve the proposals identified in section 3.1 , 3.2 and 3.3 above and if necessary recommend that a budget of £1,500 be allocated for 2025-26.
- 5.2 To consider the options presented in the tables in section 3.4 and approve a summer and winter approach

Culvin Milmer

Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2024

**Appendix 1:
Swanage Bay Ulwell Stream releases and EA risk forecasts received 2022 to 2024**

Swanage Beach - Data 2022 to end September 2024 for Ulwell Stream releases and EA risk forecasts received

Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast	Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast	Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast
W	07/04/2022	02:27:47	02:37:12	10	-	W	16/01/2023	02:15:20	07:17:14	302	-	W	04/01/2024	14:18:03	16:51:06	153	-
												W	04/01/2024	21:01:25	22:39:10	98	-
												W	18/02/2024	00:44:40	10:50:40	606	-
												W	21/02/2024	12:47:48	17:14:59	267	-
												W	22/02/2024	13:24:25	16:29:54	185	-
S	15/05/2022	23:39:24	23:58:59	19	15/05/2022 16/05/2022	S					06/05/2023 23/07/2023	S	02/05/2024	03:52:41	04:35:54	43	02/05/2024
S	05/06/2022	15.01.50	15:07:07	6		S	17/09/2023	09:46:08	09:58:09	12	17/09/2023	S					14/05/2024
S	17/08/2022	14.17.04	14:38:00	21		S	17/09/2023	10:44:15	10:53:48	9		S					09/07/2024
S	17/08/2022	17.34.55	17:42:27	8		S	17/09/2023	22:48:35	22:58:40	10	18/09/2023	S					24/08/2024
S	05/09/2022	18:50:52	19:20:06	30		S	20/09/2023	18:12:51	18:33:21	21		S	05/09/2024	15:58:09	17:43:27	105	06/09/2024
S	05/09/2022	19:32:39	20:06:00	34	06/09/2022 08/09/2022 09/09/2022 14/09/2022	S	20/09/2023	18:46:09	19:11:31	25	21/09/2023	S					08/09/2024
												S					26/09/2024
												S					30/09/2024
W	21/10/2022	15:00:20	15:15:02	15	-	W	18/10/2023	15:19:38	15:34:00	15	-						
W	21/10/2022	15:32:09	15:39:36	7	-	W	18/10/2023	15:43:00	17:26:46	103	-						
W	23/10/2022	14:31:21	14:41:38	10	-	W	24/10/2023	18:55:53	19:32:40	37	-						
W	03/11/2022	09:28:20	09:40:50	12	-	W	24/10/2023	19:38:57	20:13:57	35	-						
W	16/11/2022	18:37:40	19:57:05	80	-	W	25/10/2023	05:15:24	07:51:28	156	-						
W	16/11/2022	20:00:40	22:11:51	113	-	W	28/10/2023	16:46:50	16:56:33	10	-						
W	18/12/2022	16:01:15	18:14:11	133	-	W	28/10/2023	19:37:28	23:46:02	249	-						
						W	29/10/2023	00:51:49	02:04:48	73	-						
						W	31/10/2023	00:29:09	00:44:37	15	-						
						W	31/10/2023	21:32:56	23:36:37	124	-						
						W	01/11/2023	23:41:49	23:50:48	9	-						
						W	02/11/2023	00:11:37	11:10:41	659	-						
						W	02/11/2023	11:40:30	15:09:08	209	-						
						W	04/11/2023	07:50:35	07:58:53	8	-						
						W	16/11/2023	07:26:23	11:26:20	240	-						
						W	04/12/2023	21:48:10	00:00:59	132	-						
						W	07/12/2023	15:31:51	19:01:51	210	-						
						W	09/12/2023	07:19:49	11:10:33	231	-						
Totals						Totals						Totals					
	Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast		Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast		Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast
Summer	118	6	4		6	Summer	77	5	2		5	Summer	148	2	2		8
Winter	380	8	6			Winter	2817	19	14			Winter					
Total	498	14	10		6	Total	2894	24	16		5	Total	148	2	2		8

Appendix 2: Current water quality signs on Swanage Beach



Swanage Town Council

Swanage Central Beach and Water Quality

The beach between Ocean Bay and the Mowlem is designated as 'bathing water' by the Environment Agency.

During the bathing season from 1st May to 30th September, the Environment Agency undertakes weekly sampling of the water at this beach.
Results are consistently classed as 'excellent'.

Swanage Town Council | 01929 423636 | admin@swanage.gov.uk

For more information and to see the results of the weekly sampling please scan this QR code		To see if any water quality alerts are currently live, please scan this QR code	
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Swanage Town Council

Swanage Central Beach and Water Quality

The beach between Ocean Bay and the Mowlem is designated as 'bathing water' by the Environment Agency.

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For more information and to see the results of the weekly sampling please scan this QR code		To see if any water quality alerts are currently live, please scan this QR code	
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The Ulwell Stream and Water Quality

The stream that runs across the beach at this location is also a 'storm overflow'.
After heavy rain there is a risk of diluted sewage exiting this stream.
You are advised not to swim or play in it.

To see if any water quality alerts are currently live, please scan the QR code above.

Swanage Town Council | 01929 423636 | admin@swanage.gov.uk

Swanage Streams Partnership – To consider provision of funding community engagement work.

In the Town Council’s Environmental Community Engagement Budget for 2024-25, an amount of £7,000 was set aside to support the Swanage Streams Partnership. The original proposal for this partnership was considered at the 21st February 2024 Environment and Greenspaces Committee and can be seen here ([21 February 2024-supporting papers Redacted.pdf](#) page 26).

Appendix 1 below provides an overview of the partnership and how it fits into the work of the National Trust, ‘Swanbrook wetlands Natural Flood Management (NFM) project’.

Appendix 2 provides detail about how the community engagement might be implemented.

The Partnership is due to be launched to the public as part of the Sustainable Swanage community event on 26th November at 7.00pm.

A budget of £6,000 has been requested by the National Trust, from the Environmental Community Engagement Budget for 2024-25 to implement and oversee the community engagement elements of the Swanage Streams Partnership.

This work will be undertaken by Planet Purbeck. The National Trust will report regularly to the committee, alongside the delivery partner, regarding progress on the partnership.

It is recommended that this is deferred to Full Council on 18th November 2024 for final approval.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
October 2024



Swanage Streams Partnership and the Swanbrook Wetlands Natural Flood Management project

Swanage Streams Partnership

Following a public meeting in September 2023, the Swanage Streams Partnership formed to develop a programme of action to improve the condition of the Swan brook and other local streams, and to involve the local community in the process. This informal partnership includes Swanage Town

Council, Dorset National Landscape, National Trust, Planet Purbeck and Litter Free Dorset. The partnership has produced a catchment assessment report, led by the Dorset National Landscape team.

Swanbrook wetlands Natural Flood Management (NFM) project

In parallel with this, the National Trust has secured £324K DEFRA funding, via the Environment Agency, for a series of Natural Flood Management interventions on six sites across three of its farm tenancies (Godlingston Manor Farm, Spyway Farm and Westwood Farm). These involve physical works to restore natural hydrology in the upper Swan catchment: this will slow the flow of water into Swanage, reducing flood risk and protecting the existing flood defences; the projects will also benefit biodiversity by cleaning water, creating small new wetland areas and improving habitat quality. Work will begin in early 2025 and continue until March 2027. The project also includes a strong research and monitoring element, involving the University of Exeter.

The NFM project will bring about measurable improvements to the Swan brook, but it will not solve all the problems: it should be seen as a first phase of restoration work. It is up to the Swanage Streams Partnership to develop further projects that will ensure the Swan continues to improve. One output of the NFM project is to scope and develop further river and wetland restoration projects within the catchment, for delivery in future phases.

The importance of local communities

Critical to the success of the NFM project, and to the longer term aims of the Swanage Streams Partnership, is the engagement of local people. Strong local support for river restoration helps secure funding, helps hold water companies and landowners to account, and gives a mandate for change. By raising awareness of issues and good practice, local people can also engage in the solutions - whether through the way they manage their own gardens, driveways and patios, through volunteering on river restoration projects, as citizen scientists or as community advocates for healthy rivers. Engaging people also brings multiple health and wellbeing benefits associated with connecting people with their local natural environment.

The NFM project led by National Trust will provide many opportunities for engagement through volunteering and citizen science, and these will grow through the life of the project, and the project includes an engagement budget of £7000 spread between 2025-6 and 2026-7 to deliver events, training and volunteering activities. By itself it will not, however, enable widespread outreach in the community.

What does Swanage Town Council add to this?

If Swanage Town Council are able to contribute £6,000 in 2024-25, they would become partners in a £330,000 NFM project, that is engaging local people in delivering measurable improvements to the local environment. Under the guidance of the NT, it will enable Planet Purbeck to provide the vital link between the partnership, the project and local people, building that sense of community ownership rather than just being a National Trust project done by NT staff and volunteers.

With a series of talks, events and other activities between November 24 and March 2025 they will raise awareness and interest in local streams and rivers, the issues affecting them and the projects to restore them. By linking with the NFM project, there will be a legacy to this investment: people will be able to be part of the positive change that is about to happen.

Planet Purbeck proposal

Purbeck Swan Brook Natural Flood Management (NFM)- Community Engagement Summary from STC Funds

Contents

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2. Target audiences	5
3. Aims & Outputs.....	5
4. Planet Purbeck (PP) led Community Engagement Programme:	6
5. Communication channels.....	8
6. Costs and breakdowns	8

1. Introduction

This one page summarises how the proposed STC £6,000 for FY24-25 is proposed to be used for the above project.

The proposed STC funds will be integrated with funds the NT have received from the Environment Agency for the Swan Brook NFM initiative.

The Swanage Streams Partnership (SSP) aims to improve the condition of the Swanbrook River and nearby source-to-sea streams at Ulwell and Durlston. Issues affecting river health have been recognised, including land use, drainage, degraded channel morphology, pollution and elevated levels of sediment and nutrients and intense rainfall management.

The SSP will help to focus efforts of citizens & the community, landowners, environmental NGOs, and statutory agencies towards shared goals - whether increasing understanding or delivering restoration. Data and progress will be shared, and opportunities to involve the wider community explored. Community led activities will aim to encourage an appreciation of the Swan Brook; to promote a better understanding of the issues facing the condition of the catchment; and to involve the community in creating solutions to improve it through group and “at-home initiatives.”

A key partner for this engagement and communication activity will be Planet Purbeck.

The community engagement programme aims to achieve the following benefits:

1. Engage and inform key stakeholders of the landscape vision for healthier rivers, and of project plans & progress - Inspire support and beneficial actions on neighbouring land.
2. Raise awareness of local people – People in Swanage will know more about local rivers and what causes flooding.

3. More people will make behavioural changes in reducing their negative impacts upon rivers (e.g. not tarmacking their drive).
4. More people will get actively involved in looking after their rivers through volunteering and citizen science.
5. Schoolkids will know more about their rivers – engaged through the NT Purbeck “CYP” (Children & Young People) programme.
6. Local people will help develop a legacy by planning new NFM measures elsewhere.
7. Local people will be empowered in leadership roles in their community – a legacy of people involved in the Swanage streams partnership.

These funds will be used for a focussed period of raising awareness of the Swanbrook NFM project and issues facing the Swanbrook catchment.

2. Target audiences

Category	Segmentation category	Segment label
1. Individuals & families in Purbeck	Under 21s	Primary school
		Senior / secondary school
		Youth groups e.g. Scouts/Guides
	Adults	Living in Purbeck
		Working in Purbeck
		Target Citizen Scientists & Volunteers
		Local community groups
2. Public spaces	Local councils	Swanage
		Langton Matravers & Acton
		Harmans Cross
		North Instow
3. Neighbouring land	Land managers in Purbeck	Local landowners & estates
		Tenant farmers (NT tenants)
		Other land-owning orgs (e.g. Quarry)
4. Local authorities	Environment Agency	Including reservoir asset performance, geomorphology, fisheries and biodiversity teams
	Dorset Council	Footpaths team
	Natural England	Countryside Stewardship agreement advisors
	FWAG	Farming advisors

3. Aims & Outputs

Community engagement aims will be achieved through the following strategies and outputs:

Engagement aims	Engagement strategy	Outputs	KPI / cost (Oct24-Mar25)
Inspire support and beneficial actions on neighbouring and public land.	Build ownership & shared goals through involvement in Swanage Streams Partnership & project strategy.	Direct engagement with key influencers e.g. meetings, regular updates and opportunity to input.	Quarterly SSP stakeholder meetings. Quarterly updates communicated by email. Targeted meetings as required.

Raise awareness of local people – People in Swanage will know more about local rivers and what causes flooding.	Using a variety of channels to inform on river condition, issues, restoration strategies & best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivering face to face events / talks / site visits for the Swanage public and existing interest groups within the catchment. - Online webinars. - Short films created & shared. - Articles written & shared for local publications. - Educational materials produced & disseminated. 	<p>7 events. 250 people engaged.</p> <p>3 articles or videos produced for Purbeck / Swanage.</p> <p>1000 leaflets printed</p>
More people will make behavioural changes in reducing their negative impacts upon rivers.	Signposting to self-led action opportunities (e.g. slow the flow in your garden, not tarmacking your drive, reducing water usage).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desirable actions included in all the above communication opportunities. - Practical event to demonstrate self-led actions. - Practical group activities e.g. invasive plant removal and litter picking. 	<p>Included in above targets.</p> <p>~</p> <p>~</p>
More people will get actively involved in looking after their rivers.	Encourage participation and involvement through organised volunteering and citizen science opportunities.	Train & coordinate volunteers in citizen science water monitoring e.g. morph & Riverfly (NT to manage).	~ (surveys initially completed by project staff).
School aged children will know more about their local rivers.	Themed content delivered through the National Trust Purbeck “CYP” (Children & Young People) programme.	Sessions, activities and materials based around the “Watery Wildlife Resource Pack”	Adaptation of educational resources for Swanage Streams & Purbeck.
Local people will help to develop a legacy for the NFM project	Invite information about further opportunities for river restoration initiatives e.g. pond creation & natural flood management.	Record of NFM opportunities identified by the public & reported to the Swanage Streams Partnership.	Feedback gathered and held by the Swanage Streams Partnership.
Local people will help to develop a legacy for the NFM project	Local people will be empowered in leadership roles in their community – working directly with the Swanage Streams partnership.	Recruit and work with volunteers to further disseminate advocacy/education, and to lead groups of willing people in river restoration activities.	~

4. Planet Purbeck (PP) led Community Engagement Programme:

Planet Purbeck will be contracted to deliver elements of the community engagement programme.

The focus of the PP led engagement activities will be for adult residents of the catchment area. An engagement plan for this programme has been produced, including audience segmentation, proposed communication & engagement channels and scheduled targets. The proposed high level engagement plan for this period is:

Year	2024			2025		
Month	October	November	December	January	February	March
Event	Pre-event communications	1. Sustainable Swanage Water event (26 th)	Post-event communications			
			2. End of year summary & 2025 plans communication -multi-media			
				Pre-event communications	3. Swan Brook 2025 plans Promotion & engagement event	Post-event communications
						4. April Citizen Science Training event, Pre-event communications

5. Communication channels

The plan involves using multiple methods of communication and engagement, using the following high-level channel categories:

1. physical face-to-face events
2. electronic communications – emails, PP website,
3. content development for partners e.g. STC, NT etc
4. physical paper communications – flyers, posters, leaflets, articles in newspapers

All of these with a single, consistent branding or look and feel.

6. Costs and breakdowns

This has been split in 2 ways:

Firstly, by comms channel

Output	Cost (Oct 2024 – Mar 2025)
1. Electronic comms materials	£1,000
2. Paper comms materials e.g. articles/posters/flyers/publications	£2,000
3. Events / talks / site visits	£3,000
TOTAL	£6000

Secondly by time/materials:

Time or Materials	Purpose	Cost (Oct 2024 – Mar 2025)
Time (PP team)	Coordination / Design / Preparation / Reviews / Approval	1 hr/working day over 6 months = £3,000
Room hire	Event hire	£500
Electronic & paper materials production and dissemination	Documentation production – leaflets, flyers, posters etc.	£2,500
	TOTAL	£6,000

Appendix 1: Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan 2024-25

No.	Project	Detail	Budget	Progress to date	Forecast spend
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings	5-6 sessions, including one on repairs to support the Swanage Repair Café. Assumes that the programme of events will be available from June/July.	£3,000	Successful programme of events ongoing	£3,000
2.	Support the Sustainable Swanage website and social media pages	Based on weekly social media posts and updating the webpages as required to an agreed standard Sustainable Swanage - WELCOME TO SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE	£1,500	Not yet started	£1,500
3.	Improving water quality – Freshwater and ocean	Includes support for the ‘Swanage Rivers Partnership’ and the proposed Motion for the Ocean action plan. The ‘Swanage Rivers Partnership’ is currently considering a co-ordinator role to be funded by a number of different organisations. Further information should be available at a later date. The Environment Committee will need to consider any potential funding of such a role and therefore this £7,000 has been set aside to potentially support this and/or the Motion for the Ocean work. It is currently assumed that the Motion for Ocean Action Plan will be developed during the summer of 2024.	£7,000	On agenda	£6,000
4.	Undertake greenspaces review of King George’s Field and Forres Field	To be led by the Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing Working Party and funding found from additional sources. £1,000 to be set aside to undertake a biodiversity audit of site in first half of 2024/24 to support the work on the Greenspaces Strategy.	£1,000	On agenda	£850

5.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event 6 th May etc. This budget to be delegated to the officer responsible with advice from the Environment Action Plan Working Party.	£4,500	The Environment Action Plan Working Party have recommended that a marine bio audit of Swanage Bay is undertaken to better understand the baseline of what currently resides in the bay. This could lead to seafront presentation displays to be produced in 2025-26. In addition, items such as venue hire for events/equipment for the Sustainable Swanage events is included here	£3,000
6.	Set up a Tree Warden scheme in Swanage		Internal resources	Ongoing	-
7.	Undertake a 'dog poo' publicity campaign in the town to encourage people to dispose of this in a suitable manner.	Unfortunately, Litter Free Dorset are now unable to undertake this project. Officers are seeking alternative ways to deliver a campaign for the autumn.	£3,000	No further work at current time	-
8.	Repair Café – develop individuals to take this on and ensure it is independent (all set up now but does not yet have a lead).	No direct support but include a public meeting within the Sustainable Swanage open meetings programme.	-	Being developed with internal resources	-
9.	Work with local businesses, waste collection partners and local councils to reduce the impact of waste on the seafront environment.	No further work on this action – consider next year.	-	No further work at current time	-
	Total - £20,000		£20,000		£14,350



PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL SURVEY
KING GEORGE'S FIELD AND FORRES FIELD
SWANAGE

OCTOBER 2024

ON BEHALF OF SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL



The Old
The Old Squash Court,
Rempstone Hall,
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Authorisation

	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	SW	22.10.2024
Report reviewed and authorised by	WD	22.10.2024

The contents of this report were correct at the time of the last survey visit. The report is provided for the sole use of the named client and is confidential.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This preliminary ecological survey was carried out by LC Ecological Services Limited and undertaken to inform Swanage Town Council of the ecological baseline information for a biodiversity audit and to make recommendations for potential management or enhancement measures to increase biodiversity at King George's Field and Forrest Field, Swanage (approximate central Ordnance Survey grid reference: SZ 02442 79041).
2. The preliminary ecological survey comprised a baseline habitat survey and a general species survey, giving a snapshot of species recorded on site at the time of the survey. It also includes an assessment of the site's potential to support any legally protected, notable, and invasive species.
3. The main playing fields comprised modified grassland, however, a number of other habitats were recorded within the site. These included neutral grassland communities, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, other broadleaved woodland, bramble scrub, blackthorn scrub, willow scrub, bracken, other wetland, river and stream habitat, tall ruderal habitat, introduced shrub, developed land; sealed surface, line of trees, individual trees, and a wet ditch.
4. Species recorded on site during the walkover survey included a disused badger sett, breeding bird species, some of conservation concern, and common invertebrates.
5. The site also has the potential to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats, great crested newt, hedgehog, otter and water vole, and widespread reptile and amphibian species.
6. Recommendations for potential management or enhancement measures to increase biodiversity have been made in section 5.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This preliminary ecological survey was carried out by LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES) and undertaken to inform Swanage Town Council of the ecological baseline information for a biodiversity audit and to make recommendations for potential management or enhancement measures to increase biodiversity at King George's Field and Forrest Field, Swanage (approximate central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference: SZ 02442 79041).

The preliminary ecological survey comprised a baseline habitat survey and a general species survey, giving a snapshot of species recorded on site at the time of the survey. It also includes an assessment of the site's potential to support any legally protected, notable, and invasive species. The survey is, in part, based upon Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) guidelines (CIEEM, 2017).

Section 2 of the report provides some background information on legislative requirements and relevant policy. Section 3 details the methodologies adopted for the various ecological surveys that were conducted and section 4 provides an account of the survey results. Section 5 provides information on the relevance of the results and makes recommendations and potential enhancement measures to increase biodiversity on site.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Legislation

The following legislation may be of relevance. Full details of statutory obligations with respect to biodiversity and the planning system can be found in DCLG Circular 06/2005.

- **Internationally Designated Sites:** Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017* and Ramsar sites are protected under the *Ramsar Convention (1971)*.
- **Nationally Designated Sites:** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are protected under section 28 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)*.
- **Badgers:** *Protection of Badgers Act 1992*.
- **Bats:** all species of British bats and their roosts are fully protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)* and the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017*.
- **Birds:** all birds, their nests, eggs, and young are protected by the *WCA 1981 (as amended)*.
- **Mammals:** *Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996*.
- **Reptiles:** the adder (*Viper berus*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) receive protection under the *WCA 1981 (as amended)*.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendments) Regulations 2017:

This transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into domestic law. The Regulations provide protection for several species including:

- All species of bat
- Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)
- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

This legislation makes it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or injure individuals of these species listed on Schedule 2 and damage or destroy their breeding site or place of shelter. It is also illegal to deliberately disturb these species in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect: (i) the ability of any significant group of the species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or (ii) the local distribution or abundance of the species¹.

¹ The *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendments) Regulations 2017* consolidated the numerous amendments that were made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. Of particular relevance are amendments made in August 2007 and January 2009 which increased the threshold of illegal levels of disturbance to European Protected Species (EPS). An offence is only committed if the deliberate disturbance would result in significant impacts to the EPS population. However, it should be noted that activities that cause

This legal protection means that where development has the potential to impact on bats, or other species of national interest², the results of a protected species survey must be submitted with a planning application.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are also protected under this legislation, by the creation of a National Site Network (NSN) on land and at sea following the 2019 Regulations. These are a network of sites designated for supporting habitats or species of high nature conservation importance in the European context. Any activity that has a detrimental effect on these NSN sites is made an offence under the Regulations. Where a development is likely to have a significant impact on an NSN, the Regulations require a rigorous assessment of the impacts, known as an Appropriate Assessment.

- **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments):**

Protected fauna and flora are listed under Schedules 1, 5 & 8 of the Act. Species likely to be of relevance include:

- All species of **bat**. It is an offence to disturb any bat intentionally or recklessly whilst it is occupying a roost or to obstruct access intentionally or recklessly to a bat roost.
- All species of British **reptile** (in particular grass snake, common lizard, adder and slow worm. It is illegal to kill or injure these species.
- **Great crested newt**. It is illegal to obstruct access to any structure or place which great crested newts use for shelter or protection or to disturb any great crested newt while it is using such a place.
- **Water vole**. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to water vole burrows or disturb them whilst in a burrow.

This Act also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built). In addition, it is an offence to disturb any nesting bird listed on Schedule 1 or their young.

Schedule 9 of the Act lists those species for which it is an offence to cause their spread. Schedule 9 species that are most likely to be encountered are Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These are a network of sites identified as being of national nature conservation importance and hence afforded legal protection.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are also protected under the Act (section 35 (1)) and established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are nature reserves which are considered to be of national importance by the relevant statutory bodies i.e. Natural England, Natural Resources Wales.

low levels of disturbance to these species continue to constitute an offence under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (see below).

² Species of wild fauna and flora as listed in Annex II, IV or V to the Habitats Directive.

- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006:**

This Act enforces a duty on the planning authority and local council to conserve biodiversity (section 40). Additionally, section 41 encourages the local councils to be aware of the species and habitats of 'principal importance' and to act accordingly to protect and manage these habitats and species.

- **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:**

This Act strengthens nature conservation and wildlife protection. It places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity, provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes, and improves protection and management of SSSIs.

- **The Protection of Badgers Act 1992:**

This Act makes it an offence to wilfully take, injure or kill a badger (*Meles meles*); cruelly mistreat a badger; interfere with badger setts. A licence is required for work which may damage or disturb a sett.

- **Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996:**

This Act provides protection for all wild animals from intentional acts of cruelty.

- **Hedgerow Regulations 1997:**

These Regulations establish a set of criteria for assessing the importance of hedgerows. Where a hedgerow is deemed to be 'important' its removal is prohibited without consent from the local Planning Authority.

2.2 Policy

The following policy is of relevance to the proposed works:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):**

This sets out the Government's vision for biodiversity in England with the broad aim that planning, construction, development and regeneration should maintain and enhance, restore, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. NPPF (2023) includes sections on legally protected species and sites (see section 2.1).

- **Local Sites (including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), and Biological Notification Sites (BNSs)/Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)):**

These are a network of sites designated for their nature conservation importance in a local context. Where such development is permitted, the local planning authority will use conditions and/or planning obligations to minimise the damage and to provide compensatory and site management measures where appropriate.

- **Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs):**

BAPs set out policy for protecting and restoring priority species and habitats as part of the UK's response as signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity. BAPs operate at both a national and local level with priority species and habitats identified at a national level and a series of Local BAPs that identify ecological features of particular importance to a particular area of the country. The requirement to consider and contribute towards BAP targets was strengthened through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk study

Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) provided records of protected, notable, and invasive species and details on any non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within a two-kilometre radius of the site. The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was used to provide any information relating to statutory designated sites within a five-kilometre radius of the proposed development.

3.2 Field study

3.2.1 Habitats and vegetation

The UK Habitats Classification methodology 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023) was adopted whereby habitats are mapped using colour codes, whilst also following Preliminary Ecological Appraisal guidelines (CIEEM, 2017). A detailed walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 12th June 2024 by experienced ecologist Stuart Woodley, directly searching for legally protected and invasive species of plant and categorising any habitats of ecological value that were encountered. A general description of the vegetation was also noted, listing species encountered and scoring their abundance using the DAFOR scale shown below, whilst recording plant species using the nomenclature according to Stace (2019):

- D Dominant
- A Abundant
- F Frequent
- O Occasional
- R Rare
- L Local (used as a prefix to any of the above)

3.3 General species survey

Badger

A direct search was undertaken for signs of badger. Signs of badger may include setts, dung pits, latrines, paths or hairs on fences and vegetation. Any setts encountered were classified according to the number of entrances and the extent of their use as per criteria set out by Harris, Cresswell, and Jefferies (1989).

Birds

Any birds encountered during the walkover survey were identified either visually or from their vocalisations. A note of species and their behaviour was made. Probable and confirmed breeding territories were able to be determined, based on criteria set out in Bibby *et al.* 2000.

Invertebrates

Invertebrate species were recorded on site based on a number of standard field techniques including hand searching, sweep netting, and visual recording. Given the preliminary type of the assessment a full sampling methodology, carried out over a number of months, was not carried out. However, the techniques used were able to target a number of taxa including aculeate hymenoptera (bees, wasps, and ants), diptera (especially hoverflies), hemiptera (true bugs), and araneae (spiders) as key groups of invertebrates likely to be exploiting any available resources.

The habitat was also assessed for its potential to support invertebrates, based on Dobson (2010). The methodology assesses key habitats such as semi-natural broadleaved woodland, species-rich grassland, and wetland, and reviews important features and microhabitats within them, such as decaying timber, flower-rich nectar sources, level of management, components of wetland habitat, structure of habitat patchwork, still air habitats, connectivity, and bare ground.

3.4 Protected and notable species assessment

Habitats and features were assessed for their potential to support both protected and notable species

Bats

Foraging/commuting and roosting habitat

The habitat on the site was assessed for the quality of potential foraging and commuting habitat, as well as roosting opportunities for the local bat populations. Bats navigate using linear features in the landscape, such as hedgerows and these can be important features for local roosts. The site itself may also provide important foraging habitat and support local bat roosts. Annex II species of bat may use the site for foraging and commuting. The potential commuting and foraging habitats will be assessed using the criteria outlined in Bat Conservation Trust's good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

The site was not systematically surveyed for features in trees that would support roosting bats, however, a brief assessment of the site's potential to support roosting bats will be made, based on habitat and any features present based on any ad hoc observations.

Great crested newts

Suitable breeding ponds are essential to support populations of great crested newt, although they only spend a relatively short period of the year in the ponds during the spring for breeding. The remainder of the year is spent in suitable terrestrial habitat such as tall grassland and woodland. During the winter the great crested newt hibernates, often amongst the roots of trees and scrub or in places such as rubble piles, amongst foundations of buildings, or under fallen trees and logs. Great crested newts are known to forage up to at

least 500 metres from their breeding sites and suitable habitats that fall within 500 metres must be considered even in situations where the breeding site itself will not be affected. Any ponds within a 500-metre radius will therefore be identified during this survey and habitats within and immediately adjacent to the site were assessed in terms of their suitability as terrestrial habitat.

Hazel dormouse

The habitats on the site were assessed for their potential to support hazel dormice, which are found in habitats such as woodlands, scrub and hedgerows with good connectivity and suitable food plants. Satellite imagery was used to assess the connectivity of any suitable habitat present on the site to other areas of woodland and hedgerow networks.

Hedgehog

The habitats on the site were assessed for their potential to support hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). Hedgehogs occur in a broad range of habitats including hedgerows, gardens, woodlands, and parks and are known to range widely over connected habitats.

Otter and water vole

The habitats on the site were assessed for their potential to support both otter and water vole, which are found in riparian habitats.

Reptiles

Reptiles are widespread in habitats that provide both cover in the form of scrub or tall vegetation, and basking areas such as areas of hardstanding or short grassland communities. Piles of debris or rubble also provide excellent cover and hibernation sites for reptiles. The site was assessed for its potential to support reptile species.

Other species

A number of other species that could utilise the site include the common and widespread amphibians, such as common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*), smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), and palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*).

Limitations

Whilst every effort was made to record all vascular plant species present, it is inevitable that some species will have been overlooked, especially in areas of dense impenetrable vegetation. Some species may have been missed from parts of the site due to the timing of the survey.

No species-specific surveys following known guidelines and methodologies were implemented. The general species survey is only a brief snapshot in time on the day of the survey visit, and as such, a number of species (such as reptiles or invertebrates) will have been missed. However, an assessment of the site to hold such species has been given.

There were no other survey limitations during this preliminary assessment.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desk study

4.1.1. Statutory and non-statutory sites

Table 1 below lists statutory sites designated for nature conservation location within five kilometres of the site and non-statutory designated sites within two kilometres of the site.

Table 1: Statutory designated sites within five kilometres and non-statutory designated sites within a two-kilometre radius of the site.

Site name	Conservation status	Distance from site (km)	Level of value	Habitat description
St. Alban’s Head to Durlston Head	SAC ³	0.55km south (at the nearest point)	International	St Albans Head to Durlston Head, with Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs, form a single unit of cliffed coastline some 40 km in length. The cliffs are formed of hard limestones, with chalk at the eastern end, interspersed with slumped sections of soft cliff of sand and clays. The cliffs support species-rich calcareous grassland with species that are rare in the UK, such as wild cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>oleracea</i>), early spider orchid (<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>) and Nottingham catchfly (<i>Silene nutans</i>). The site is also designated for long-standing populations of early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>), and for populations of greater horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>).
Isle of Porland to Studland Cliffs	SAC	1.18km southeast (at the nearest point)	International	Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs, including the detached peninsula of Portland, with St. Albans Head to Durlston Head, forms a single unit of cliffed coastline some 40 kilometres in length. The cliffs support species-rich calcareous grassland with species that are rare in the UK, such as wild cabbage, early spider orchid and Nottingham catchfly. This site on the Dorset coast, together with St Albans Head to Durlston Head, supports important long-standing populations of early gentian, numbering several thousands of plants in floristically rich calcareous grassland.
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) Studland	SAC	2.94km north	International	Habitats include northern Atlantic wet heaths with (<i>Erica tetralix</i>), European dry heaths, depressions on peat substrates of <i>Rhynchosporion</i> , <i>Molinia</i>

³ SAC: Special Area of Conservation

Site name	Conservation status	Distance from site (km)	Level of value	Habitat description
Dunes				meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils, calcareous fens, Alkaline fens, and old acidophilous oak woods with (<i>Quercus robur</i>) on sandy plains. The site supports southern damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercurial</i>) and great crested newt.
Dorset Heathlands	SPA ⁴	2.94km north	International	Qualifies for breeding Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>), nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) and woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) and overwintering hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) and merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>).
	Ramsar	2.94km north	National	The heathland contains numerous examples of dry heath, wet heath and acid valley mire, these sites include a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce species, especially invertebrates, reptiles and birds. Other habitats on these sites include woodland, grassland, pools, salt marshes and reed swamp.
Townsend	SSSI ⁵	0.47km south (at the nearest point)	National	Townsend SSSI supports calcareous grassland and scrub. The area was formerly quarried for Purbeck stone and the underground galleries and associated quarry entrances provide important winter roosting sites for bats, including the rare greater horseshoe bat.
Purbeck Ridge (East)	SSSI	0.77km northeast	National	Purbeck Ridge (East) supports extensive areas of high-quality chalk downland with important invertebrate and lower plant communities, scrub, and ancient broadleaf woodland. Acid grassland and chalk heath are present on localised drift, sands and clay. Species present on site include chalk hill blue (<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>), the Nationally Scarce grey bush-cricket (<i>Platycleis albopunctata</i>) and dingy skipper (<i>Erynnis tages</i>).
Belle Vue Quarry	SSSI	1.03km southwest	National	Belle Vue Quarry comprises a steep shaft, 28 metres deep, leading to two remaining tunnels, totalling some 200 metres in length. It is one of the series of Purbeck quarries used as hibernation sites by the Dorset colony of greater horseshoe bat, one of the rarest of British bats.
South Dorset	SSSI	1.18km	National	This stretch of coastline combines

⁴ SPA: Special Protection Area⁵ SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

Site name	Conservation status	Distance from site (km)	Level of value	Habitat description
Coast		southeast		internationally important geological interest, the habitats present along the cliff tops are woodland, grassland, chalk downland, hedgerows, and scrub. Among the many scarce and localised plants and animals of the chalk and limestone are the largest national populations of two rare species - early spider orchid and Lulworth skipper butterfly (<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>).
Studland and Godlingstone Heaths	SSSI	2.94km north	National	The site comprises 5 kilometres of sandy beaches. Primarily heathland site with some bogs, scrub, and woodland. The site boasts sand dunes and freshwater ponds. All six British reptiles are present on site.
Durlston	NNR ⁶	1.12km north	National	Based on the Purbeck clifftops the site consists coastal limestone downland, sea cliffs, hay meadows, hedgerows, and woodland.
Purbeck Heaths	NNR	2.73km north	National	Purbeck Heaths NNR combines 3 existing NNRS at Stoborough Heath, Hartland Moor, and Studland and Godlingston Heath. The NNR is a mosaic of lowland wet and dry heath, valley mires, acid grassland and woodland, coastal sand dunes, lakes and saltmarsh. It supports numerous protected and rare species such as Dartford warbler, nightjar, six species of native reptiles, rare plants such as yellow centaury (<i>Cicendia filiformis</i>) and pale dog violet (<i>Viola lactea</i>), lesser butterfly orchid (<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>), southern damselfly, ladybird spider (<i>Eresus sandaliatus</i>) and the heathland specialist Purbeck mason wasp (<i>Pseudepipona herrichii</i>). It also supports wading birds such as avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) and spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>).
Peveril Point and the Downs	LNR ⁷	0.88km southeast	Regional	Comprises habitat such as grassland, woodland, and coastal scrub.
Victoria Meadows	SNCI ⁸	Adjacent to the site to the west	Local	A small area of marshy grassland.

⁶ NNR: National Nature Reserve

⁷ LNR: Local Nature Reserve

⁸ SNCI: Site of Nature Conservation Interest

Site name	Conservation status	Distance from site (km)	Level of value	Habitat description
Swanage Orchard	LCNR ⁹	0.06km north	Local	Community orchard project
Townsend	DWT ¹⁰ Reserve	0.58km south	Local	An area of limestone grassland, rich in wildflowers and butterflies, and set high above Swanage Bay on the site of old limestone quarries.
Herston	SNCI	0.81km south	Local	Limestone grassland with a varied flora.
Durlston Country Park	SNCI	0.97km south	Local	Chalk and limestone grassland.
Northbrook Road Playing Fields SANG	LCNR	0.97km north	Local	Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space.
Litchfield Copse	SNCI	1.22km west	Local	Semi-natural deciduous woodland.
Great Linnings Copse	SNCI	1.26km northwest	Local	Semi-natural deciduous woodland.
Marsh Copse	SNCI	1.37km northwest	Local	Small damp oak-dominated woodland.
Godlingston Wood	SNCI	1.40km northwest	Local	Ancient woodland with numerous springs and flushes.
Leeson Wood and Serrell's Copse	SNCI	1.41km west	Local	Semi-natural deciduous woodland.
California Farm	SNCI	1.61km south	Local	Rank grassland plus an area of short turf with chalk grassland species.
Yards Brake	SNCI	1.69km west	Local	Semi-natural and plantation woodland with a rich flora.
Quince Hill Wood	SNCI	1.92km west	Local	Deciduous woodland with a rich ground flora.

4.1.2. Protected and notable species records

Records were provided by DERC (Reference: LCES - 24273). A full copy of the data search can be provided on request however a summary is provided below:

Amphibians and reptiles

DERC provided 35 records of great crested newt, and three records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*) within two kilometres of the site. There were over 100 hundred records of reptiles within two kilometres of the site, including slow worm, grass snake, adder, and common lizard.

Birds

⁹ Local Community Nature Reserve

¹⁰ DWT: Dorset Wildlife Trust

155 Records of protected and notable bird species were provided including grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), swift (*Apus apus*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), and barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

Higher plants

DERC returned records of a number of protected and vulnerable higher plants, including green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis morio*), southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), and field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*).

Invertebrates

DERC returned records of a number of protected and notable invertebrate species, including the lepidoptera small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*), and wall (*Lasiommata megera*), as well as stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), and black oil-beetle (*Meloe proscarabaeus*).

Mammals

Fourteen species of bat were returned including greater horseshoe, barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), Bechstein's (*Myotis bechsteinii*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and grey long-eared (*Plecotus austriacus*) were provided.

DERC returned four records of otter (*Lutra lutra*), four of water vole, sixty-one records of badger, one record of polecat (*Mustela putorius*), four records of harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*), and four records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). No records of hazel dormouse were returned.

These records of protected and notable species in the vicinity of the site increase the likelihood of them being present where suitable habitat is identified in the field survey.

4.2 Field survey

4.2.1 Site location and description

The site is located in Swanage, to the north-west of town centre, adjacent to the main throughfare (A351) in and out of the town. The site comprises recreational playing fields used for football and cricket, a children's play park area, a skate park, and includes a number of other habitats which mainly occur along the site boundaries including neutral grassland, scrub, and woodland. The site is bounded by a golf course to the west, and car parking and a cemetery to the east.

4.2.2 Vegetation

Descriptions of the habitats recorded on-site during the UK Habitat Classification survey on 12th June 2024 are provided below. No non-native invasive species were recorded on site.

The accompanying UK Habitat Classification map, provided as appendix I, depicts the habitats encountered with target notes.

Modified grassland g4 (target notes T1, T2 & T3)

A small area of the playing field adjacent to the skate park (to the south) (target note T1), comprises a heavily managed (through mowing), modified grassland (amenity grassland) area, together with a number of early colonising species, with an approximate sward height of two centimetres at the time of the survey. Species included grasses such as dominant perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), and frequent cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), and rough meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), with herbaceous species included locally abundant creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), frequent daisy (*Bellis perennis*), locally frequent selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), occasional ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and rare occurrences of shepherd's-purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), scarlet pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*), and wall speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*).

The main area of modified grassland is the area known as King George's Field (target note T2), this lies in the southern half of the site. It is heavily managed through mowing and had an approximate sward height of two centimetres at the time of the survey. This area is regularly used as football pitches. The modified grassland here, included dominant perennial rye-grass, abundant rough meadow-grass, locally frequent false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), locally occasional creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and rare occurrences of cock's-foot, and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Herbaceous species included locally abundant white clover (*Trifolium repens*), frequent creeping buttercup, and occasional greater plantain (*Plantago major*).

The playing field in the northern half of the site, known as Forres Field (target note T3) also comprised modified grassland, which was well managed, with an approximate sward height of two centimetres at the time of the survey. This included dominant perennial rye-grass, and occasional rough meadow-grass, with noticeably fewer herbaceous species, rare to locally dominant white clover, rare to occasional greater plantain, and rare occurrences of ribwort plantain and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).

Arrhenatherum neutral grassland g3c5 (target note T13 & T17)

An area of *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland was recorded in the west of the site, adjacent to scrub which borders the site with the neighbouring golf course. A further smaller area of this grassland community was recorded in the north of the site adjacent to the path which enters the site off Victoria Avenue (A351). This grassland habitat was dominated by false oat-grass, with occasional Yorkshire-fog, rare to occasional bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), and rare occurrences of hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*).

Neutral grassland g3 (target note T14)

A small parcel of damp neutral grassland is located in the west of the site, adjacent to the golf course, where it abuts the *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland to its west, and reed and willow scrub to the north. This grassland was significantly more species-rich with rare to locally frequent occurrence of southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*). Other species included occasional grass species: false oat-grass, and annual meadow-grass, and herbaceous species included locally dominant willowherb species (*Epilobium* sp.), locally abundant horsetail species (*Equisetum* sp.), occasional square-stalked St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*), locally occasional cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and rare occurrences of creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*).

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland w1f (target note T6)

Two small areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland were recorded in the south east and the south west of the site. The canopies of these woodlands included pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with an understorey comprising blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), and small-leaved elm (*Ulmus minor*). Ground flora for these woodland parcels included locally dominant common ivy (*Hedera helix*), rare to locally dominant common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and frequent cow parsley, cleavers, and hogweed, the south west parcel included occasional bluebell species (*Hyacinthoides* sp.), which wasn't able to be identified to species level, given the time of the year of the survey.

Other broadleaved woodland w1g (Target note T15)

In the west of the site, centrally, other broadleaved woodland was recorded. This comprised a canopy of locally abundant white willow (*Salix alba*) (including a large ancient specimen), field maple, grey willow (*Salix cinerea*) and lime (*Tilia × europaea*). An understory of hazel, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder, and osier (*Salix viminalis*) was present, with a ground layer of locally dominant willowherb species, and common nettle, locally abundant cow parsley, frequent hogweed, and rare occurrences of garlic mustard, and wild teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*).

Bramble scrub h3d (target notes T8 & T18)

Three parcels of parcels of bramble scrub were recorded on site, with two parcels in the south west of the site (target note T8), and a further one located in the north of the site (target note

T18). This habitat was dominated by bramble, with rare occurrences of hawthorn, bindweed species (*Calystegia* sp.), and dog-rose (*Rosa canina*).

Blackthorn scrub h3a (target note T9)

A small patch of blackthorn scrub was located in the southwest of the site. The habitat comprised dominant blackthorn, with locally abundant bramble, and common nettle, and locally occasional common reed (*Phragmites australis*), with rare occurrences of false oat-grass, Yorkshire-fog, cock's-foot, hogweed, cleavers, hazel, corky-fruited water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), creeping buttercup, and a small sycamore tree.

Willow scrub h2j (target note 12)

An area of willow scrub was located in the west of the site (but towards the centre) adjacent to the other broadleaved woodland. It was dominated by goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

Bracken (target note T10)

This habitat comprised dominant bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and rare occurrences of pedunculate oak sapling, cleavers, willowherb species, and bramble.

Other wetland f2f (target note T11 & T21)

Two areas of other wetland, comprising abundant common reed were located in the north west of the site (target note 11), and centrally (target note T21).

Other species recorded in the northwest parcel included rare to locally dominant bracken, locally occasional horsetail species, with rare occurrence of false oat-grass, common mouse-ear, common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), bindweed species, cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog, hogweed, blackthorn, and common nettle. The central parcel included locally abundant hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), with rare occurrences of rough meadow-grass, annual meadow-grass, bindweed species, common nettle, greater pond sedge (*Carex riparia*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), and willowherb species.

Other rivers and streams r2b (target note T22)

The Swanbrook River is located along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, and the survey included the river margins and associated vegetation. Species included locally dominant bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), locally abundant false oat-grass, locally frequent willowherb species, and hemlock water-dropwort, locally occasional pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), occasional bramble, and rare occurrences of common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), marsh woundwort (*Stachys palustris*), and comfrey species (*Symphytum* sp.).

Tall ruderal (target notes T7, T16, T19, and T20)

An area of tall ruderal vegetation was recorded in the south west of the site adjacent to lowland mixed deciduous woodland (target note T7). Further areas of tall ruderal were located in the north, adjacent to Swanbrook River and the playing field (target notes T16, T19, T20). This habitat was dominated by common nettle, with locally dominant cock's-foot,

and in the north adjacent to the stream, greater pond sedge, locally abundant willowherb species, locally frequent comfrey species, rare to locally abundant creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) occasional false oat-grass, Yorkshire-fog, hogweed, cleavers, locally occasional bramble, and rare occurrences of common ivy, bindweed species, creeping buttercup, rough meadow-grass, nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), and hedge mustard.

Introduced shrub

Areas of planted ornamental shrub were recorded adjacent to the play park and skate park.

Developed land; sealed surface

This habitat comprised the skate park, areas of the play park, and any areas of tarmac hardstanding.

Line of trees (target notes T4, T23, T24 & T25)

A row of sixty-nine poplar (*Populus* sp.) trees running east to west adjacent to railway was recorded in the south of the site (target note T4). A row of trees located in the south east of the site, adjacent to the Swanbrook River included weeping willow (*Salix × sepulcralis* agg.), and alder. A row of ten lime trees (*Tilia × europaea*) was recorded centrally, running east to west. A row of trees, located north of the site, included white willow, goat willow, alder, and lime.

Individual trees

A number of individual trees were located Along the Swanbrook River and included sycamore, grey willow, goat willow, and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

Standing open water and canals r1 (wet ditch) with tall ruderal (target note T5)

A wet ditch as recorded running adjacent to railway embankment in the south of the site. It was dominated by cow parsley. Other species recorded included locally dominant willowherb species, frequent hogweed, locally frequent pendulous sedge, occasional bindweed species, and rare occurrences of red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), creeping thistle, herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), meadow buttercup, and butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*).

Spoil pile (target note T26)

A spoil pile is located centrally within the site.

Grass cuttings (target note T27)

A large pile of grass cuttings is located centrally within the site.

4.2.2 General species survey

Badger

Evidence of a disused badger sett was recorded on site. An old (not recently used) subsidiary sett was recorded within the lowland mixed deciduous woodland in the southwest of the site, with at least three sett entrances recorded. It appears that the holes have not been used for some time, with no recent spoil, bedding, or any footprints recorded. No evidence of foraging signs, or latrines was recorded on site. Badger is known from the local area, and the site holds potential for the species.

Breeding birds

Twenty bird species were recorded on site during the survey. A number of these species are listed as species of conservation concern as defined by (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021) and were recorded as holding territory on site. See table 2, below.

Table 2: Bird species recorded on site.

Species	Scientific name	National status	County breeding status (if applicable)	Notes
Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding visitor	Briefly heard singing within reeds (at grid ref SZ 02479 79058).
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red List BoCC	-	Flew over site.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green List BoCC	Very common increasing breeding resident	Probable territory on site.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List BoCC	-	
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green List BoCC	-	
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List BoCC	-	
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green List BoCC	Very common breeding resident	With recently fledged young.
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List BoCC	-	
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green List BoCC	Very common breeding resident	Probable territory on site.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green List BoCC		
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding resident	Probable territory on site.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red List BoCC, S41 species	-	Flew over site.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List BoCC, S41 species	-	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus</i>	Green List	Very common	Probable territory on site.

Species	Scientific name	National status	County breeding status (if applicable)	Notes
	<i>collybita</i>	BoCC	breeding summer visitor	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List BoCC, S41 species	Common breeding resident	Probable territory on site.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List BoCC, S41 species	Widespread but declining breeding resident	With recently fledged young.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding visitor	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List BoCC	Common breeding resident	Multiple probable territories on site.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green List BoCC	Very common breeding resident	Confirmed breeding / Nest on site.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List BoCC, S41 species	Common breeding resident	Probable territory adjacent to site.

Invertebrates

A very limited number of invertebrate species were recorded on site, even of the most common and readily identifiable taxa (e.g. lepidoptera). Based on criteria set out by Dobson (2010), the site was assessed as holding very low value for invertebrates. The unmanaged neutral grassland provides some low value, as do the lowland mixed deciduous woodland parcels. The Swanbrook River may provide value for aquatic and semi-aquatic invertebrates but was not systematically surveyed.

None of species present recorded on site were protected, or notable species, see table 3 below.

Table 3: Invertebrate species recorded on site.

Species	Scientific name	Order	Conservation status	Notes
Wolf spider species	<i>Pardosa</i> sp.	Araneae		
Nursery web spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>	Araneae		
10-spot ladybird	<i>Adalia decempunctata</i>	Coleoptera		
Flea beetle species	<i>Chrysomelidae</i>	Coleoptera		
7-spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Coleoptera		
Harlequin ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Coleoptera		
Thick-legged flower beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>	Coleoptera		
Common red soldier beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Coleoptera		
16 spot ladybird	<i>Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata</i>	Coleoptera		
Robber fly species	<i>Asilidae</i>	Diptera		
Common drone fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Diptera		
Black bean aphid	<i>Aphis fabae</i>	Hemiptera		

Species	Scientific name	Order	Conservation status	Notes
Mining bee species	<i>Andrena</i> sp.	Hymenoptera		
Honey bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Hymenoptera		
Red-tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Hymenoptera		
Willow redgall sawfly	<i>Euura proxima</i>	Hymenoptera		Gall on osier
Yellow meadow ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>	Hymenoptera		
Black ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>	Hymenoptera		
Yellow shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	Lepidoptera		
Water-dropwort brown	<i>Depressaria daucella</i>	Lepidoptera		Larvae on hemlock water-dropwort
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Lepidoptera		
Banded demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Odonata		
Lipped snail species	<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	Pulmonata		

Other species

Other species recorded on site on the walkover survey not included in the above habitat or species sections include: the common and widespread lichens *Diploicia* sp., *Physcias* sp., and *Ramalina farinacea* and widespread mammals' grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), and mole (*Talpa europaea*).

4.2.3 Protected species assessment

Bats

Foraging/commuting and roosting habitat

The site is considered to be of moderate suitability for commuting and foraging bats (Collins, 2023). The site comprises suitable foraging and commuting habitat for a range of bat species, with woodland, scrub, unmanaged grassland, treelines, and the Swanbrook River all of which are likely to be utilised. The site is slightly isolated by urban expansion, but the wider landscape provides high value foraging, commuting and roosting opportunities for bats.

The woodland habitats and trees were not systematically surveyed for their suitability to support bat roosting features, however, the likelihood of trees on site to provide a number of roosting opportunities for bats is high, due to the presence of a number of large and mature deciduous trees.

Great crested newt

This species requires both an aquatic habitat for breeding along with suitable terrestrial habitat for foraging and hibernation. There are no ponds on site which could potentially provide suitable breeding habitat for great crested newts, and the nearest waterbodies which could provide potential breeding sites for the species are located over 500 metres away.

Habitats, such as woodland and scrub, within the site provide suitable terrestrial habitat for this species.

Hazel dormouse

The scrub, tree lines, and woodland provide suitable habitat for the hazel dormouse, however, the site is isolated and lacks suitable connected habitat to the wider landscape. The species has not been recorded within two kilometres of the site.

Hedgehog

The scrub, woodland, and grassland all provide suitable habitat for hedgehog, allowing the species to range across the site and allowing the species to connect to other potentially suitable habitat within the wider landscape.

Otter and water vole

The riparian habitat of the Swanbrook River provides foraging and breeding habitat for water vole and provides some foraging habitat for otter. Both species are known from the local area

Reptiles

The habitats on site are considered to be suitable to support foraging, and hibernating common reptile species, particularly the grassland margins and scrub and woodland edge interface, where grassland management is limited. It is considered that the site is of local ecological value for the widespread reptile species.

Other species

The habitats on site hold some potential for the common and widespread amphibians.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Habitats

The majority of the existing habitat on site comprises heavily managed modified grassland, which currently provides very limited value for species. However, the margins around the site boundaries already provide habitat which species will currently utilise. The site is considered to contain potential supporting habitat for a range of species such as badger, bats, breeding birds, great crested newt, hedgehog, invertebrates, otter and water vole, and widespread reptiles and amphibians.

The site is situated within a 'Higher Potential Network' which means that it has the greatest potential to be managed or enhanced for biodiversity. Therefore, the site could become a valuable connection in the landscape in the future. An adaptive management and enhancement plan should be drawn up which would incorporate specific details, timings of works, and targeted outcomes. Ongoing monitoring of the site would be advised in order to assess the success (or failure) of such management. Proposed recommendations for site management and enhancement are outlined below:

Modified grassland

Modified grassland (i.e. the playing fields) forms the majority of the habitat on site. In order to increase the site's biodiversity, a good solution would be if part of part of this habitat be utilised within any management and enhancement plan. Grassland parcels within the southwest of the site (currently neutral grassland, but previously modified grassland) have already increased their biodiversity value just through minimal management.

Target areas

A similar regime should be conducted across the site. This can be achieved through leaving a grassland buffer zone around the site boundaries (or between 5 and 10 metres), and by increasing the area adjacent to the existing neutral grassland parcels.

Cutting/mowing regime

A rotational cutting/mowing regime (using drum or disc mower) should be employed, whereby only part of the grassland is cut every year. Cutting should be carried out in late summer, once species are in seed. Grass cuttings from the neutral grassland areas should be collected and can act as a seed source, or "green hay", to be spread on any 'receptor area' or area of modified grassland you plan to use, on the same day. To start with the grassland should be cut on a monthly basis between May and August. This prevents grass dominance. The grassland should then be cut in spring and then again in autumn each year. The inclusion of yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) seeding at 1g/m² would also aid in limiting grasses. A mosaic of open bare patches within the grassland structure would improve the habitat by enabling areas to be utilised by reptiles and invertebrates. If, in the future, an area of grassland is large enough, then cattle grazing would be recommended, instead of mowing.

Wildflower seed mix

Native species-rich grassland from a wildflower seed mix (e.g. Emorsgate seed mixtures) could be sown into the modified grassland which would increase the area's favourability especially to pollinating invertebrates.

Ground preparation

The enhancement area will be cut to ground level on a monthly basis between May and August. This will weaken dominant grasses and persistent tall ruderal species that will otherwise become dominant. In August the ground will then be harrowed to prepare bare ground for seeding. At least a 50% area of bare ground will be created through this methodology prior to seeding.

Seeding

In August a mix of Emorsgate EM3F will be sown at 1.5g/m² along with yellow-rattle seed at 1g/m². This is to ensure there will be sustained suppression of grass species during sward development. It is advised this is broadcast sown in a mixture with 50% sand to aid in propagation.

After cutting or wildflower seeding, the following management prescriptions should be followed:

First Year Management

After sowing continue mowing or grazing as needed aiming to keep the grass short (30-50mm). Continue mowing/grazing through winter and early spring as needed. Stop mowing/grazing in April and leave until July/August at which time you manage the sowing as you would established grassland as described below.

With the exception of yellow-rattle, most of the sown meadow species are perennial and will be slow to germinate, grow and flower, particularly against the competition from established grasses.

Management Once Established

Established grassland can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine its character. The best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn, and possibly spring, mowing or grazing.

Meadow grassland is not cut or grazed from spring through to late July/August to give sown species an opportunity to flower. After flowering in July or August take a 'hay cut': cut back with a scythe, petrol strimmer or tractor mower to c 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site. Mow or graze the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to c 50mm and again in spring if needed.

Scrub and tall ruderal habitats

Scrub and tall ruderal habitat will be managed in a rotation, with the aim of retaining all vegetational classes. Cutting should occur in small areas, avoiding sequential patches. This will increase the diversity of the scrub structure, whilst preventing excessive encroachment into grassland areas, in order to maintain no greater than a 1:5 scrub/tall ruderal:grassland ratio. One fifth of the scrub and tall ruderal habitats will be cut every third year

River and riparian habitat

Given that Swanbrook River is part of the town's flood alleviation scheme, potential habitat enhancement or management may need to be reviewed by a third party, or government agency. An area north of the river appears to be specifically managed for the scheme, and as such may not be available to enhance. Planting trees such as alder, or willows (*Salix* spp.) on the northern side of the Swanbrook River or enhancing this area with the incorporation of sections of riparian scrub planting (comprising an area of willow planting). Tree and riparian scrub planting will provide an additional long-term and high value habitat feature on the site which will very likely benefit a range of wild fauna, including invertebrates, bats, birds reptiles and small mammals, as well as strengthening the site's general landscape connectivity. In terms of biodiversity this would be advantageous, however, this may not be a workable option.

Where the river heads south through the channelled section, it could be maintained and enhanced in the long term via annual management of the water fringe / bankside macrophytic vegetation, comprising a late summer (late-August / early-September) cut to ground / water level and thorough removal of all arisings, together with collection and removal of algae accumulations within the channel using a long-handled net. This management will improve the long-term condition and botanical diversity of the macrophytic and riparian vegetation growing within and on the bankside of the drainage channel. This measure should also help to improve the water quality with the drainage channel and provide benefits to any fauna that may utilise it, such as fish, invertebrates, and birds.

Pond creation

There is potential on site to create a pond. The area of reeds (located centrally) is highly likely to be an area where the water table is highest, making it a sensible area for pond construction. Other potential areas could be used but may require scoping out prior to any works. The pond itself will increase habitat for wide range of invertebrates which will provide a rich source of food to a wide range of fauna, resulting in a positive impact. The pond creation will benefit many species including the widespread amphibians, such as common frog, common toad, the smaller newt species (*Lissotriton* spp.) as well as grass snake. It also has the potential to be used for breeding great crested newt, which although no records of the species are known within 500 metres, they are within the local Purbeck area, with the nearest known populations under 2 kilometres away. The site already contains terrestrial habitat suitable for great crested newt.

Tree planting

Native tree planting could be used within site. Areas on the existing modified grassland would be suitable for planting. Native species such as pedunculate oak, field maple, field

elm, bird cherry (*Prunus padus*), small-leaved lime, crab apple, rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), and alder, should be used.

Hedgerow planting

If the site requires partitioning off for any reason (e.g. to separate and/or protect newly enhanced habitat etc.), the use of native species-rich hedgerow planting should be contemplated. Species included in any hedgerow planting would include hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle (*Euonymus europaea*), field maple, dog-rose, elder, crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). LCES can provide further details about planting and management, if this type of habitat creation is required.

5.2 Species

Further species-specific surveys would be recommended to achieve a robust biodiversity baseline on which further management and enhancements would be based. Surveys for reptiles and hazel dormouse could be carried out relatively quickly and cheaply, but would require survey "aids", such as artificial refugia (in the case of reptiles), and nest tubes (in the case of hazel dormouse). Surveys could be carried out by the community.

Bats and Birds

Introducing a number of bat and bird boxes to the site would greatly increase the potential for biodiversity by providing additional roosting and nesting provisions.

Example (or similar) boxes include:

- Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box within the woodland and trees on mature (or older) trees.
- Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Boxes within the existing woodland and trees, installed on mature (or older) trees.
- 2F Schwegler Bat Box (General Purpose) Bat Boxes within the woodland and trees on mature (or older) trees
- Large Multi Chamber WoodStone Bat Boxes within the woodland and trees on mature (or older) trees.

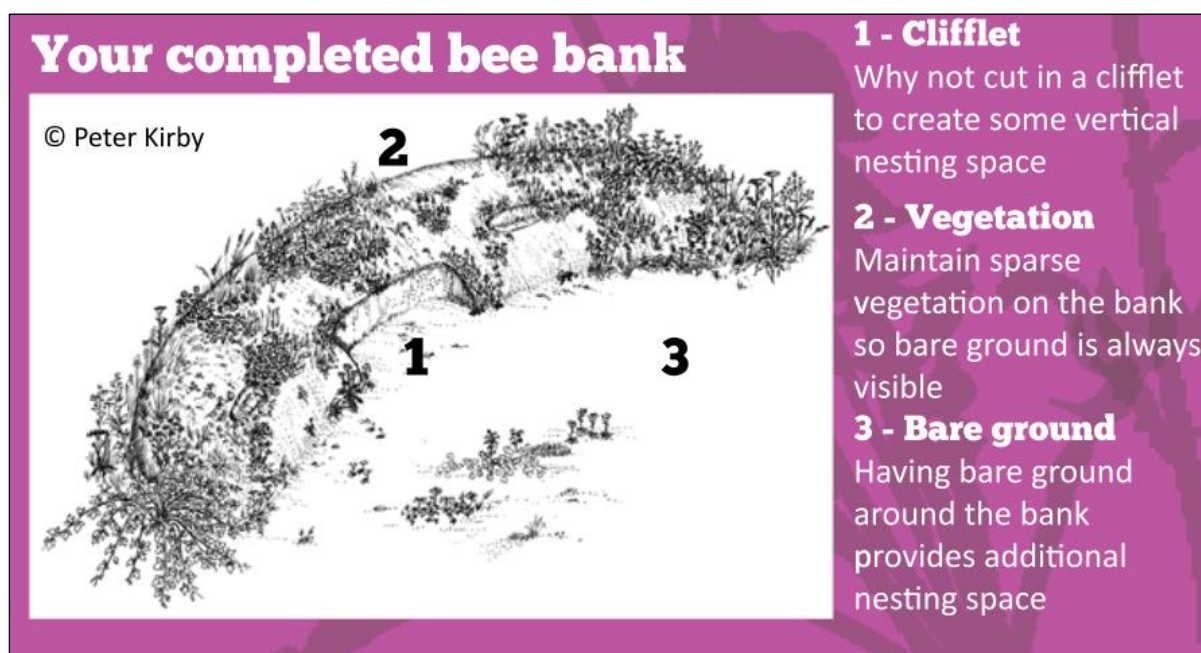
Bat and bird boxes are available from these suppliers: <https://www.nhbs.com/> or <https://www.wildcare.co.uk/>

Invertebrates

Pyramid loggeries could be placed on site, along boundary margins and near to woodland. Creating a pyramid loggery involves burying multiple wooden logs on end, up to 1 metre below the earth's surface, thus providing a pyramid shape which will be utilised as invertebrate larval habitat, for species such as stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*).

A bee bank (specifically for solitary mining bees) could be constructed. The bee bank would face south or southeast. Nectar sources would be required nearby. See figure 1, below:

Figure 1: Example design of bee bank (from Buglife)



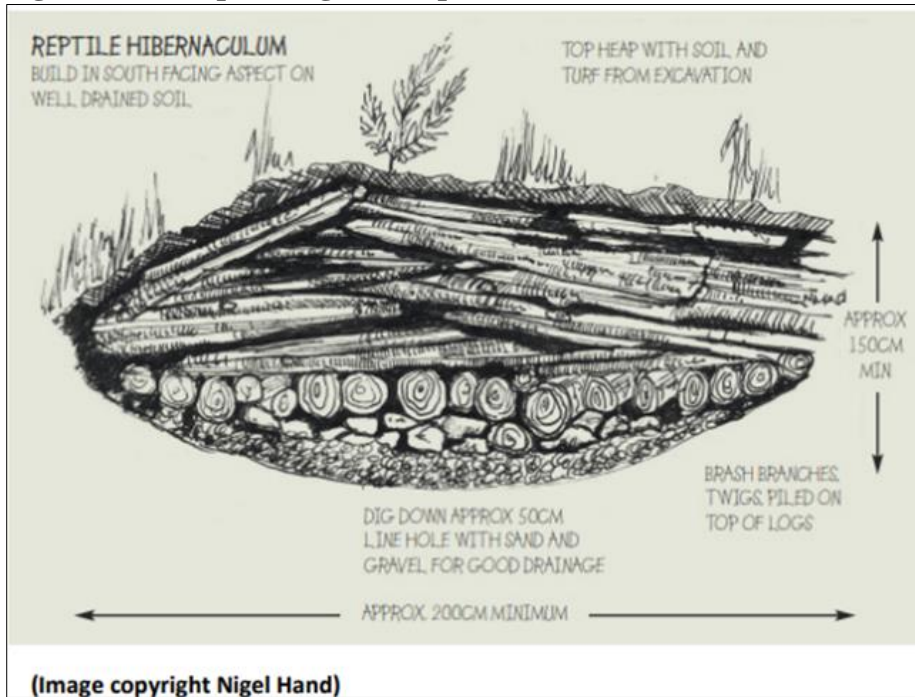
Reptiles

The existing spoil and grass cutting piles located centrally in the site will currently provide hibernation and shelter features for reptile and amphibians. Ideally, these are to be left in situ. If they are required to be removed, then this should be done during summer months, when reptiles are no longer in hibernation.

Log and brash piles create hibernation, shelter, foraging, and basking habitats for reptiles. Logs used will be from any broadleaved tree species with a minimum thickness of 15 centimetres.

Specific reptile hibernacula should be placed across the site. They will provide hibernation and shelter for reptiles and amphibians (as well as small mammals). An example design for hibernaculum has been included in figure 2 below (Julian and Hand, 2018).

Figure 2: Example design for reptile hibernaculum.



Any recommend habitat management works will seek to increase the sites biodiversity value, whilst also complying with the applicable wildlife laws, refer to section 2.

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Swanage Town Council

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APPENDIX I Habitat map



APPENDIX II Photographs



Photo 1: King George's Field, view looking west.



Photo 2: Forres Field, view looking east.



Photo 3: Line of poplar trees near to southern boundary of site, view looking west.



Photo 4: Tall ruderal vegetation with wet ditch, southern boundary adjacent to railway, view looking west.



Photo 5: Small parcel of lowland mixed deciduous woodland in the southeast of the site.



Photo 6: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland on the southwest boundary of the site.



Photo 7: King George's Field - managed modified grassland on the left, and unmanged neutral grassland on right, view looking west.



Photo 8: Neutral grassland, view looking north



Photo 9: Other broadleaved woodland in west, centrally. View looking south.



Photo 10: Other broadleaved woodland, view looking east



Photo 11: Other wetland habitat located centrally within the site, view looking west.



Photo 12: Line of trees running centrally in the site, adjacent to skate park, view looking west



Photo 9: Swanbrook River running along the northern boundary of the site, from the northern bank, view looking east.



Photo 10: Channelled part of the Swanbrook River, along the eastern boundary of the site, adjacent to the car park and skate park, view looking south.



Photo 11: Channelled part of the Swanbrook River, along the eastern boundary of the site, adjacent to the car park, close up view.



Photo 12: Swanbrook River, along eastern boundary towards the south of the site, view looking south (toilet block to left)



Photo 13: Skate park, view looking south.



Photo 14: Spoil pile, located centrally on site.



Photo 14: Disused badger sett, located in woodland in the southwest of the site.



Photo 15: Southern marsh orchid. Located within the unmanaged, damper neutral grassland section in the west of the site.

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan and links with the Environment and Green Spaces Committee

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - Environment Task Team (ETT)

The Town Council is currently in the process of developing the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) and, following an assessment/review of existing Swanage Local Plan (SLP) policies, the SNP Steering Group (constituted as a Sub-committee of the Council's Planning and Consultation Committee), and two task teams, have been set up to take forward SLP updates/modifications for inclusion in the new SNP, and also explore potential new ideas. Membership of the Group comprises six councillor members of the Planning and Consultation Committee, and six other residents of the parish of Swanage.

A 'Development Task Team' is focussing on housing/community services, and the town centre/economic development, whilst an 'Environment Task Team' is focussing on conservation/heritage and the environment (protection of green infrastructure, local green spaces, and townscape character), reporting back to the Steering Group regarding tasks undertaken, findings, and any recommendations. The SLP will only remain in place until the new Dorset Council Local Plan has been adopted (anticipated in 2027).

Two of the tasks that have been set for the ETT are to undertake a review of green spaces/potential new green spaces which should be protected, and a review of the existing Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy (SGIS), which at present is a Supplemental Planning Document to the SLP. The review of the SGIS is in early stages, and updates from Sustainable Swanage on works completed to date/in progress have been used to inform this project. The review will include exploring possible opportunities for further 'greening' – e.g. footpaths, planting of additional trees, and green corridors. A 'call for greenspace' to the local community/groups has already been undertaken.

Following advice received from Dorset Council (DC) that the SGIS should be reviewed, once the review has been finalised DC has recommended that public consultation is undertaken on the final draft document, and that the Town Council considers adopting it as a standalone policy document (which will then be referred to as a 'companion document' in the SNP). It is therefore anticipated that the SNP Steering Group and the Town Council will work closely together regarding this project.

Please find as an Appendix to this note a copy of the ETT project briefing prepared by the planning consultants (ONeill Homer) who have been engaged to provide advice and guidance and assist the Group in taking the SNP project forward.

Further information on the SLP and the SGIS can be found via the following link:

[Swanage adopted local plan - Dorset Council](#)

In the near future a short digital public survey will be undertaken to inform both the draft Green Spaces Strategy and the Environment Task Team. The survey will seek to understand resident views on Swanage Greenspaces, how they access and use them, what they value most and if they have any suggestions on how they may be improved.

For information

Nicola Clark, Planning and Community Engagement Manager – October 2024

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan and links with the Environment and Green Spaces Committee

SWANAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - TASK TEAM ACTIONS

Environment Task Team

Goal

To provide reports to the Project Steering Group on policy ideas to include in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to green infrastructure, climate change, walking and cycling and local heritage.

SNP5: Townscape Character

- Consider either securing a [Locality Design Coding Technical Support Package](#) or using consultancy [Create Streets](#) (see Chesham NP/NDO example) to prepare the design code and site plans
- Brief the consultants and comment on their draft report(s)
- Draw up a candidate list of buildings and structures of local architectural and historic interest on what might qualify and the information needed to support the case using the [Dorset Council guidance](#) and the [Dorset Historic Environment Record](#) data.
- Map and photograph each candidate and note of ownership if possible
- Finalise list by describing what it is about the building that is of local heritage value (and should therefore be taken into account in future planning proposals) and write to each owner (where known) to invite comments on the possibility of their building being identified in the SNP (explaining the implications and stressing this is not the same as 'listed building' status)
- Receive and publish the final Design Code report
- Review and finalise list in a single heritage asset report

SNP6: Green Infrastructure

- Review the [Swanage GI Strategy](#) to identify any need to update its mapping and data and opportunities for local nature recovery, using [Magic Map](#) for example and contacting the [Dorset Wildlife Trust](#)
- Relate the updated mapping and data to any other land that other DTT/ETT actions are identifying (e.g. brownfield, town centre) to identify if and how that land may contribute to improving green infrastructure
- Identify opportunities to increase street tree planting either on single or groups of streets or as part of wider public realm improvements
- Review the [Urban Green Factor](#) policy and guidance of the London Plan to decide if this approach is desired in the plan area and to what extent, if any, the factor needs to be modified to suit the area
- Pull all this information and analysis together into a single report with policy ideas

SNP7: Local Green Spaces

- Draw up a list of candidate spaces using the [Locality guide](#)
- Map and photograph each candidate and note ownership if possible
- Finalise list by describing what it is about each space that is special and write to each owner (where known) to invite comments on the possibility of their land being identified in the SNP
- Review and finalise list in a single report

Appendix to Item 10

Team Number & Member Attributes

- Between 6 – 8 members able to meet via Zoom etc for an hour or so each month
- A professional interest or experience in environmental issues (climate change etc)
- An interest or expertise in mapping and analysing geographical data
- A good knowledge of the neighbourhood area and its environmental features
- An interest or expertise in research and analysis
- An interest or expertise in the English planning system

Weed control on highways

Dorset Council undertake surface dressing on highways as a preventative treatment to prolong the life of roads. This is an essential part of the road maintenance strategy alongside patching and resurfacing.

For the 2024 season this service was outsourced by Dorset Council and undertaken by a third-party contractor. A map showing the surface spraying routes is attached to this paper.

In 2024 the Town Council were advised that this service was undertaken in Swanage on the 5th, 6th and 8th July. Unfortunately, and in large part due to weather conditions on and around those dates the treatment was in large part unsuccessful. As a result of this, weeds were noticeable along kerb lines and on pavements in many roads within the town. This matter was raised directly with Dorset Council and in September 2024 all routes were re-treated with much greater success.

In the interim period the Council received complaints about the weed growth and the resulting appearance. The Town Council attended and treated the weed growth in some areas mechanically and also via sealed surface spraying undertaken by qualified operatives.

Every year the Town Council commits resources to sealed surface spraying and mechanical weed removal on roads and footpaths that are not within the Council's ownership or management. This is largely undertaken in areas of high footfall and completed to improve the appearance of the town and surrounds.

In order to allocate resource appropriately in forthcoming years it would be extremely helpful to understand the Town Council's perspective on this service and whether:

- The Town Council should withdraw from sealed surface spraying on land not within their ownership, noting the impact on the appearance of the Town that this may have.
- The Town Council should continue with the current position, that is to provide a supplementary weed control service to that provided by Dorset Council, targeting high footfall locations whilst noting that resources may be diverted to essential works on Town Council owned or managed land.

If there is an ambition to expand this service by the Town Council it should be noted that given the competing priorities in the main growing season it is unlikely this could be provided easily without recourse to additional resource.

For decision

To consider continuing with the current position with regards to sealed surface spraying, that is to provide a supplementary weed control service to that provided by Dorset Council, or to withdraw from sealed surface spraying on land not within the ownership of the Council.

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2024



Grave Bottom

Round Down

Ulwell

Godlingston Wood

Godlingston Manor Cottages

Herston Yards Farm

Alderbury Barn

Herston Halt

St Mark's Church of England Primary School

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Purbeck View School

Swanne

Swanne

Townsend

Durleston

California Farm

Swanne Bay

Durleston Bay

Brickyard Lane

Darkie Lane

Washpond Lane

Township Road

Broad Road

Peveril Point Road

Southcliffe Road

Side Of Wright Road

a) Dorset Council Waste Services – Summer service review and 2025 proposals

Dorset Council provided a resorts waste service to Swanage from 29th March to 8th September 2024. This involved several (circa 4) collections a day, 7 days a week. Waste was deposited within a large, covered skip provided by Dorset Council and located in the King’s Road depot that was swapped twice each week. Dorset Council operatives worked to 7pm each day, ensuring that a final collection could be completed at circa 6.15pm.

Additional bins were also provided on the seafront in advance of Swanage Carnival to handle waste associated with the increase of visitor numbers at that time.

There was also an increase in the frequency of visits by the Mechanical Road Sweeper (MRS) over the season which reduced the number of additional sweeps provided directly by Swanage Town Council.

Both Swanage Town and Dorset Council’s officers felt the season went well and that the respective teams communicated and worked together successfully. Dorset Waste Services have advised that their proposal for the 2025 season is to deliver the same service as that provided in 2024.

In respect of street cleansing, following a review of this service by Dorset Waste Services, a decision has been made not to directly replace the previous street cleansing service but have advised that arrangements have been made for Swanage to ensure a regular cleansing presence and are aiming for MRS attendance in the town twice each month.

For information

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2024

b) Update on activities from Beach Buddies
Beach Buddies Report October 2024

The Beach Buddies have carried out 50 beach cleans this year to date and removed 915kg of litter and debris. The average number of volunteers attending on Sunday mornings has been 15.

The average weight of litter and debris per beach clean for the last 5 years has been.

2020 16.0kg

2021 19.0kg

2022 19.4kg

2023 16.2kg

2024 18.3 kg

Cigarette butts are the most numerous items of litter found each year.

1. Current year: Environmental Improvement Engagement Plan 2024-25 budget

A budget of £20,000 was approved for 2024-25. It is forecast that £14,350 of this will be spent by the end of the year. See Appendix 1 for a progress report.

2. Next year: Proposed 2025-26 Budget

The table below provides a list of recommended one off expenditure for 2025-26. The items shaded grey/blue are seen as essential to meet the Council’s safety and regulatory obligations; those items shaded pink constitute routine/planned maintenance of assets.

	Proposed Budget	Budget	Detail
1.	Environmental Projects	£15,000	Budget to support the various projects identified in the Environmental Action Plan and Motion for the Ocean Action Plan.
2.	Environmental Engagement – Support to Sustainable Swanage	£5,000	Budget to support 5-6 community events across the year, led by Sustainable Swanage. To include support for website management and social media.
3.	Spa ground monitoring	£17,000	To provide 12 months ground movement and water level monitoring.
4.	Risk monitoring at Spa	£5,000	To provide risk inspections and advice regarding ground stability.
5.	Water quality noticeboard and signage	£1,500	Improvements to the proposed water quality noticeboard and associated signs on the seafront.
6.	Re-surfacing and re-kerbing – Recreation Ground	£6,000	Repairs to area of footpath and edging adjacent to seafront steps
	Total	£49,500	

3. 2025-26 contribution to reserve

For the last few years, a contribution of £25,000 towards an ‘Environmental Projects Reserve’ has been made on an annual basis. At the end 2024-25, this is forecast to be £57,900. This was originally set aside to fund energy improvements to enable the Council to meet its stated carbon neutral target for 2030. This target now needs to be reviewed as to whether this remains possible given that the main energy efficiency and generation improvements with regards LEDs and solar panel installations are now complete, and a significant gap remains.

4. Decisions required

- 4.1 Note the forecast spend for the current year 2024-25.
- 4.2 Review the proposed budget for 2025-26 and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 11th December 2024.
- 4.3 Consider continuation of the £25,000 contribution to the Environmental Projects Reserve and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 11th December 2024..

Appendix 1: Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan 2024-25

No.	Project	Detail	Budget	Progress to date	Forecast spend
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings	5-6 sessions, including one on repairs to support the Swanage Repair Café. Assumes that the programme of events will be available from June/July.	£3,000	Successful programme of events ongoing	£3,000
2.	Support the Sustainable Swanage website and social media pages	Based on weekly social media posts and updating the webpages as required to an agreed standard Sustainable Swanage - WELCOME TO SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE	£1,500	Not yet started	£1,500
3.	Improving water quality – Freshwater and ocean	Includes support for the ‘Swanage Rivers Partnership’ and the proposed Motion for the Ocean action plan. The ‘Swanage Rivers Partnership’ is currently considering a co-ordinator role to be funded by a number of different organisations. Further information should be available at a later date. The Environment Committee will need to consider any potential funding of such a role and therefore this £7,000 has been set aside to potentially support this and/or the Motion for the Ocean work. It is currently assumed that the Motion for Ocean Action Plan will be developed during the summer of 2024.	£7,000	On agenda	£6,000
4.	Undertake greenspaces review of King George’s Field and Forres Field	To be led by the Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing Working Party and funding found from additional sources. £1,000 to be set aside to undertake a biodiversity audit of site in first half of 2024/24 to support the work on the Greenspaces Strategy.	£1,000	On agenda	£850

5.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event 6 th May etc. This budget to be delegated to the officer responsible with advice from the Environment Action Plan Working Party.	£4,500	The Environment Action Plan Working Party have recommended that a marine bio audit of Swanage Bay is undertaken to better understand the baseline of what currently resides in the bay. This could lead to seafront presentation displays to be produced in 2025-26. In addition, items such as venue hire for events/equipment for the Sustainable Swanage events is included here	£3,000
6.	Set up a Tree Warden scheme in Swanage		Internal resources	Ongoing	-
7.	Undertake a 'dog poo' publicity campaign in the town to encourage people to dispose of this in a suitable manner.	Unfortunately, Litter Free Dorset are now unable to undertake this project. Officers are seeking alternative ways to deliver a campaign for the autumn.	£3,000	No further work at current time	-
8.	Repair Café – develop individuals to take this on and ensure it is independent (all set up now but doesn't yet have a lead).	No direct support but include a public meeting within the Sustainable Swanage open meetings programme.	-	Being developed with internal resources	-
9.	Work with local businesses, waste collection partners and local councils to reduce the impact of waste on the seafront environment.	No further work on this action – consider next year.	-	No further work at current time	-
	Total - £20,000		£20,000		£14,350

Environment and Green Spaces Committee Meeting – Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Stakeholder Consultation - Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas - New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 - Invitation to comment – further to discussions at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 7th October 2024

EXTRACT FROM:

Minutes of the Meeting of the **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024** at **7.00 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Lejeune

Swanage Town Council

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Vile

Swanage Town Council

Also in attendance: -

Miss N Clark

Planning and Community Engagement Manager

There were two members of the public present at the meeting.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Foster and Tomes.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

Consultation

5) To note receipt of the following consultation document, and to determine the Council's preferred method of response, if any:

- a) **Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas – New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 – Invitation to comment**

It was reported that the Wessex Marine Team, Natural England, had provided an update on the publication of Marine Conservation Advice packages for September 2024, and comments, feedback or suggestions were being invited from stakeholders for the relevant Marine Protected Areas. These updates included the South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), and the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the closing date for responses to the consultation was 19th December 2024, and comments were made that it may also be prudent for the Council's Environment and Green Spaces Committee, and Beach Management Advisory Committee, to review the consultation documents and provide any feedback on the proposals to the Planning and Consultation Committee to assist in the formulation of the Council's response to Natural England. The next meetings of these Committees were being held on 23rd October, and 13th November, respectively.

Further comments were raised regarding the potential impact the packages could have on tourism and recreation, and local fishing activities, and that it would be important to ensure that any interested parties had been made aware of the consultation, including the Fishermen's Association, Swanage Angling Club, Dorset Coast Forum, and Litter Free Dorset. Details of the consultation would therefore be circulated to the Council Committees and local stakeholders accordingly. The Committees would be asked to report back to the Planning and Consultation Committee in time for its meeting scheduled for 2nd December 2024.

Consultation details

Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas - New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 – Invitation to comment

From: SM-NE-WessexMarine (NE) <WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk>

Sent: 30 September 2024 15:49

Subject: Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 Invitation to Comment

Good afternoon

Marine Conservation Advice packages – September 2024 publication

I am emailing you to provide an update on the publication of Marine Conservation Advice packages for September 2024 and offer you the opportunity to send comments/feedback, or suggest new information, for the relevant Marine Protected Area(s). Please send your comments to the Wessex Marine mailbox (WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk) between **Monday 30th of September – Thursday 19th of December 2024 inclusive**.

We will review all comments and respond after the 'invitation to comment' period has passed.

Summary of the September 2024 updates

On the 23rd of September, Natural England's Marine Conservation Advice published:

- New draft advice for 1 Marine Protected Area (MPA)
- Draft advice formalised for 2 MPAs
- Updates to 12 formal advice packages and updates to 3 draft advice packages.

Please see this summarised in our infographic (as attached below). The updates to existing packages in this publication round are reflected in the most recent 'September 2024 publication updates' document, available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#).

Where to find marine conservation advice packages

The packages listed in this email can be accessed via the [Marine Protected Areas: conservation advice packages collection](#) on .GOV.UK, alongside previously published advice. Packages are split among sea regions, as detailed below. You can also navigate directly to the packages by using the [search tool on Designated Sites View](#) or via the [Interactive Map](#).

1. Updates to existing packages

Updates have been made to the package listed below. Details of updates can be found in the 'September 2024 publication updates' document, available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#). Purbeck Coast MCZ is a formal package with draft updates.

Eastern Channel - Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone (UKMCZ0066)

2. Webpage updates and edits to supporting documents found on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#)

A new '[Marine advice and evidence](#)' landing page on Designated Sites View (DSV) has been published. This page is designed to provide an overview of the marine resources that are available on DSV, directing users to available tools and guidance.

We hope that this will make DSV more intuitive for new users. The page can be accessed through the 'Marine advice & evidence' button on the top ribbon.

We would welcome any additional comments you have on the full range of guidance and supporting materials that are available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#). Which ones do you consider to be useful? How can they be improved?

3. Condition Assessment

Since the previous MPA Conservation Advice package updates in March 2024 (up to the 23rd of September 2024), condition assessments have been published for the following sites and can be viewed from the relevant site pages within Designated Sites View:

South Dorset MCZ (UKMCZ0022)

We very much look forward to your feedback. Please send your comments to the Wessex Marine mailbox by Thursday 19th of December 2024: WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk

You are receiving this email because you are on the Marine Conservation Advice mailing list for 'MCA Invitation to Comment'. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please email WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk to be removed from our mailing list.

Kind regards

Wessex Marine Team
Wessex Area Team
Natural England



www.gov.uk/natural-england

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-building-partnerships-for-natures-recovery>

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New and updated Marine Conservation Advice Packages

September 2024

NATURAL ENGLAND

Total number of packages on 'Designated Sites View' webpage:

- 146 Formal
- 11 Draft

September 2024:

- 1 new draft
- 3 drafts updated
- 12 formal updated
- 2 formalising

Key:

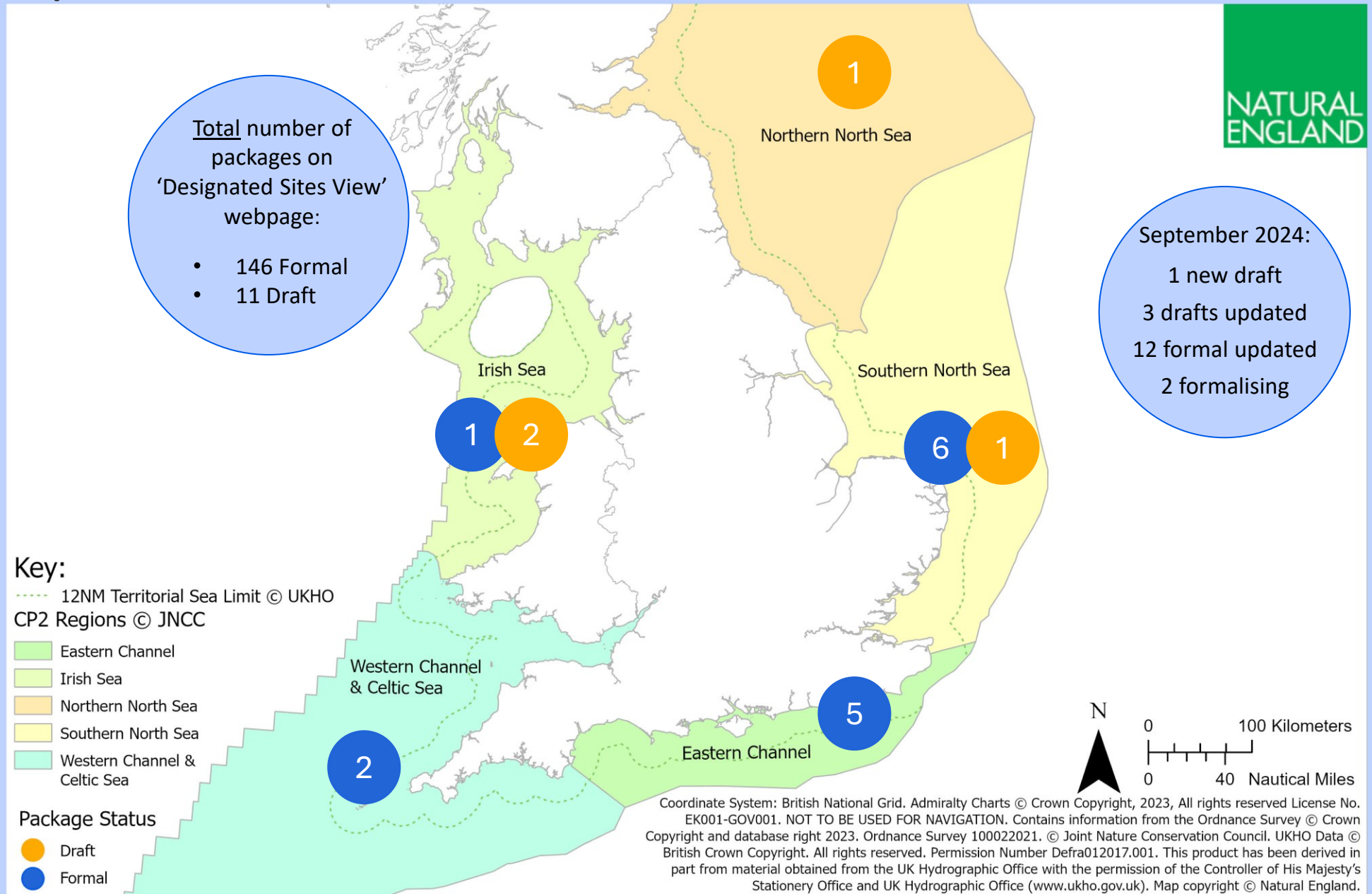
--- 12NM Territorial Sea Limit © UKHO

CP2 Regions © JNCC

- Eastern Channel
- Irish Sea
- Northern North Sea
- Southern North Sea
- Western Channel & Celtic Sea

Package Status

- Draft
- Formal



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