

# Wild Purbeck 2012-2015



Wild Purbeck NIA has been supported by Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England

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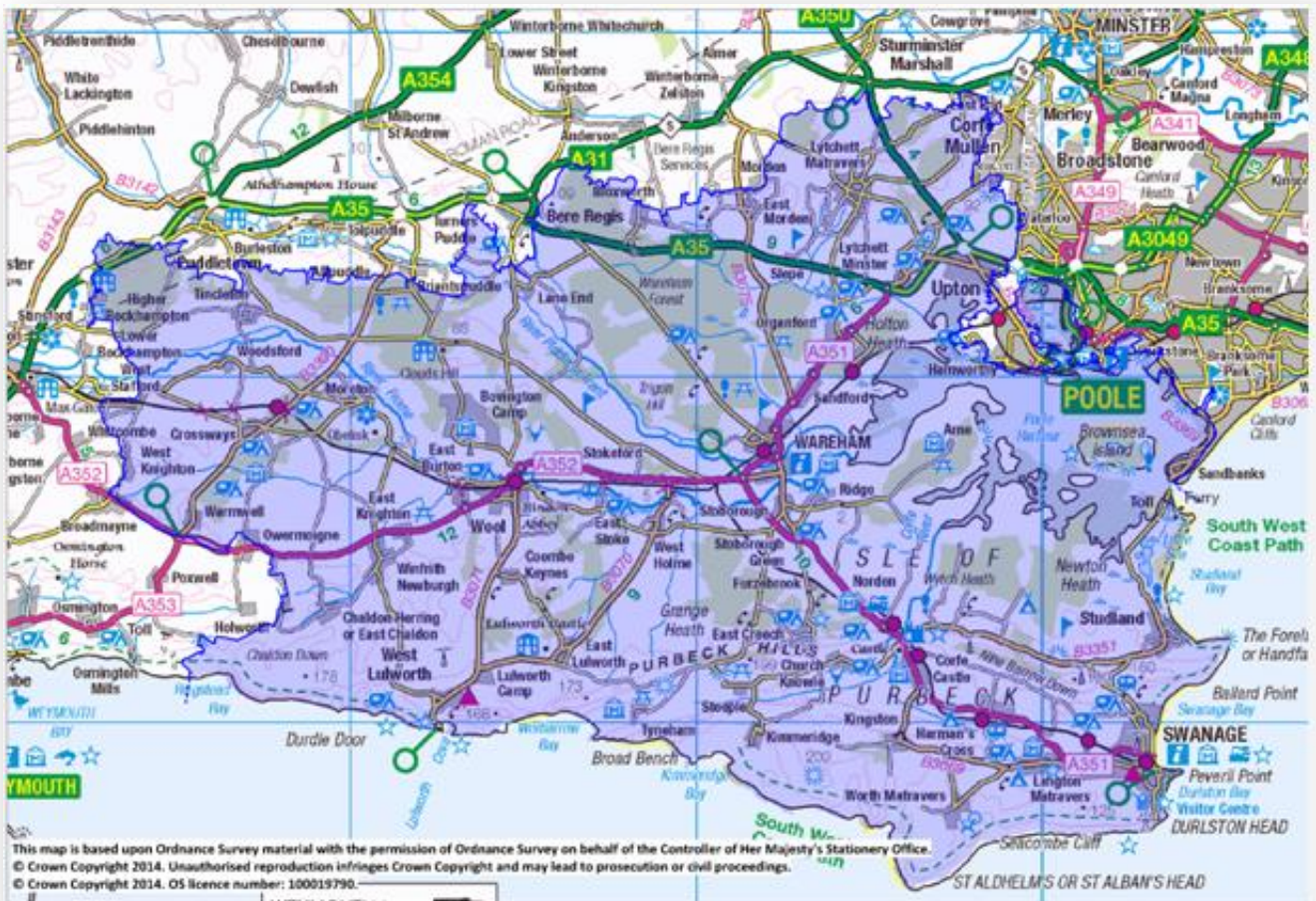
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# Introduction

## Nature Improvement Areas (NIA)

Nature Improvement Areas were established in 2012 by Defra to deliver a new approach for wildlife restoration and management, intended to achieve significant enhancements to ecological networks by improving existing wildlife sites, building ecological connections and restoring ecological processes. Delivering at a landscape-scale, these areas should connect with their local economies and communities and be Bigger, Better, More and Joined.

Wild Purbeck was one of 12 successful NIAs sharing a grant of £7.5 million to deliver a 3-year programme from April 2012 to March 2015. Wild Purbeck was awarded just over £924,000 together with partner funding delivered over £2 million of projects across Purbeck.



The Wild Purbeck NIA (shown in shaded area) covers an area of 45,971ha and is centred on the Isle of Purbeck in south Dorset which is an area of great existing wildlife importance with even greater potential: the area has long been considered as a wildlife hotspot with numerous conservation designations. It is an RSPB Futurescape and contains 2 Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes. It is also a landscape under great and growing pressure: large areas surrounding Poole Harbour are low-lying and vulnerable to sea level change and its outstanding natural beauty draws in over 2.5 million visitors annually.



## Overview

### *Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area (WPNIA)*

Wild Purbeck NIA is a very special area for wildlife, including the 10km square with the greatest diversity of plant species in the country. With internationally important heathlands, Poole Harbour, Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, valley wetlands and much more, the outstanding natural heritage is a huge asset and a key reason why people live in, work in and visit the area.

It is facing increasing pressures, however: sea level rise is likely to affect much of the area around Poole Harbour and up the river valleys, and the number of visitors to this area increase year-on-year.

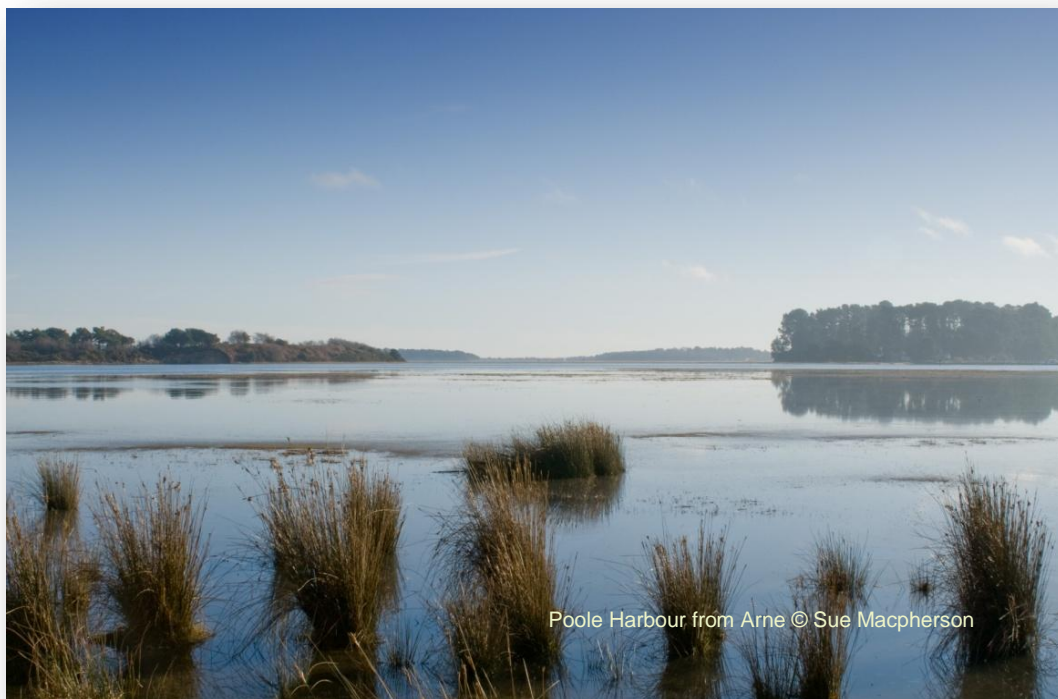
The Wild Purbeck NIA (WPNIA) partnership group is made up of a number of different organisations both supporting and delivering projects. This project is supported by Government through Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency (EA), Forestry Commission (FC) and Natural England (NE)

WPNIA has set the wheels in motion whereby 2020:

- the area's natural assets are richer and more resilient to changes
- there is more natural function in the landscape - for example rivers are re-connected with their flood plain and catchment
- plans are in place to enable people and wildlife to adapt to sea level rise around Poole Harbour
- the landscape contributes more strongly to the local economy, particularly around sustainable tourism and products from land and sea; those industries also contribute strongly to that landscape
- communities and businesses from both within and outside the area understand the importance their contributions make
- a landscape where the connections between the natural world and human activity are understood and celebrated.



Purbeck Ridge © M Simons DCC



Poole Harbour from Arne © Sue Macpherson

## **Project Themes**

The WPNIA aims and vision have been delivered through a programme of themes. Each theme has a number of sub- projects within it. A full list of projects can be found in the project achievement summary (p49); these were delivered under the following themes:

### ***Land management and advisory services***

- Joint land management support and advice to make the best of the land-based economy; building collaboration for creation, habitat management, restoration and join-up across the agricultural 'matrix'.

### ***Community at the centre***

- A 'community gateway' approach fostering dialogue with rural and urban communities within Purbeck and its neighbouring areas to build a shared understanding of important natural infrastructure and its management needs.

### ***Building resilience through strategic planning and research***

- Work under this theme informs the efforts of other projects. Collating best data (including spectacular old archives) for use in advisory / restoration services, climate-proofing adaptation plans and visitor management strategies.

### ***Developing the green economy***

- This builds and facilitates economic opportunities that in themselves conserve and enhance the landscape and wildlife potential of WPNIA eg through the promotion of local produce. This theme also includes the development of other income-generating strands which can resource future environmental management and enhancement.

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

- Carried out as part of the Nature Improvement Area process both through the NIA Monitoring & Evaluation Framework and environmental monitoring through partners.

### ***Partnership Working***

- The coordination and management of the partnership and joined up delivery forms the underlying ethos of WPNIA, resulting in a whole that is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Partnership integration reaped benefits in terms of information. While data sharing exists across the partnership, it is often the lack of awareness that such data exists which inhibits its wider use. The Wild Purbeck Partnership committed to sharing (as far as legally possible) data collected within the area through routine or one-off survey. Its individual bodies also committed to informing the wider partnership on planned data collection.

Some of the shared information included:

- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Landscape Permeability Mapping
- Environment Report for the Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area
- Visitor Management Strategy Report
- Climate Change Adaptation Report

- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: 'Making saleable wood fuel from heathland restoration arisings'
- Technical Feasibility Study for Heat only or Combined Heat & Power Solution
- River and wetland restoration strategy
- Fire Management Plan
- Veteran Trees Survey

### **Before and after felling: Heathland Restoration carried out at Arne Forestry**





## Project Summary's

### *Land Management Advisory Service, small grants fund and donor seed sites*

**NIA Funding** £83,813      **In Kind/Match** £24,661  
**Partners:** FWAGSW / DWT / Farmers / Local Landowners

#### **Summary & Outcomes**

Co-ordination of advisory effort, farmer liaison within Purbeck and providing training were the over-arching aims of this project. Several adviser forum meetings took place with the aim of co-ordinating work and avoiding duplication, along with a trial of a cross-organisation adviser reporting system. 70 on-farm advisory visits have been undertaken to 54 farmers over three years to advise on new and existing Higher Level Stewardship agreements (HLS) and provide land management advice benefitting the environment; 12 HLS applications were submitted, 25 HLS agreements revisited, and three amended.



This has increased the total area of unimproved land with low impact grazing established or maintained within the NIA by 380ha. In addition a further 354ha of land is in good management, supporting the management of the unimproved land by buffering and linking with low input permanent grassland, and creating arable habitats such as wild bird seed mixes and nectar flower mixtures. Management of this has been secured through Entry Level Stewardships (ELS), HLS and management agreements relating to capital grants.

A number of farmer workshops were held with 67 farmers from within WPNIA benefitting, along with others from outside the project area, providing an opportunity to work in partnership with other organisations.

These included: balancing grassland management for long and short turf invertebrates, (run jointly with Butterfly Conservation); a nutrient efficiency event promoting the reduction in nutrients affecting Poole Harbour; and a workshop encouraging undersowing of maize was held with Catchment Sensitive Farming.



A workshop on arable plants, farmland birds and pollinators was run jointly with Plantlife and Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE); and a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) information event with the Farm Advice Service. All events all were well-attended, with farmers coming to multiple events demonstrating that they found them worthwhile. A tour of nature reserves was offered to farmers to demonstrate implementation of Lawton principles and encouraging sharing of best practice which 9 farmers attended. Positive feedback was received about this.

Volunteers have carried out 8 arable plant and 10 farmland bird surveys, reporting good results of corn buntings breeding in the corn bunting nest mixes.

The majority of landowners and managers within WPNIA were contacted to highlight the opportunities that were on offer. This included the provision of 3 farmer newsletters and a leaflet outlining best practice gorse control methods, helping them to keep informed of the land management projects and wider achievements and opportunities of the WPNIA.



*Clearing Gorse (not for faint hearted) © FWAGSW*

Five demonstration sites have been sown with legume and herb rich leys to test these mixes against the rigours of day-to-day farm management and demonstrate them to other farmers. These provide a means of linking habitat across areas of intensive grassland, common in the vales of the WPNIA. Methods include over-sowing and complete re-seeding, and sites include part-field, whole-field, organic and conventional land.

Distribution of a small capital grants had been steady over the three years with a few landowners taking up the offer to help improve the wildlife and connectivity on their land. With changes on the grants system around woodland creation there had been less interest from landowners in the last year of the project and some of this funding was re-directed to the restoration of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats through the WPNIA capital grants.

## ***Donor seed sites.***

Towards the end of year 1, some underspend from another project was allocated to a small grants fund (one the original elements in the project which was later removed). This was administered by FWAG SW for small capital projects which were outside the remit of Agri-environment schemes.

One such project was to collate a register of seed donor sites for sward enhancement / heathland restoration projects. This has been developed as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based donor site register which is available to anyone looking to find a source of seed. Information available includes site size, type of grassland, accessibility, permission requirements, designations and any harvesting constraints, and contact details. The aim is to enable an easy match between donor and recipient sites.

## **Highlights and challenges**

Engagement by farmers with the WPNIA was slow to build, relying on a pro-active approach from the advisory service in the first year, a mix between pro-active and reactive work in year two with interest high the third year in terms of farmers approaching us for advice and capital grants.

Many of the HLS agreements are strategically linking areas such as sections of the Purbeck Ridge that have remained outside of agreement, a key achievement of the WPNIA enabling advisers to pro-actively approach farmers. There are still some sites which could not be brought in to agreement, and more to do.

Support for a new fence and water supply at a key calcareous grassland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was an example of how the WPNIA was able to facilitate the multiple organisations, landowner and capital money to support such projects. This SSSI remains in unfavourable condition in spite of an HLS agreement. The strategically placed fencing will now force cattle on to graze the SSSI.

The WPNIA has started to change the way that farm advisers work together across multiple themes i.e. linking biodiversity more closely to water quality. This needs to continue and will be challenged by the loss of NIA resources to fund this co-ordination and time to work together.

## **What next?**

The donor seed site will be maintained by FWAG SW and continue to be promoted to WPNIA partners.

A demonstration event is planned for 2015 on “Legume and Herb Rich Swards” and looking at how sites can be monitored using volunteers.

Partners will continue to explore options to enable volunteer farms surveys to be undertaken. This will provide feedback to farmers on the outcomes of their conservation work. Opportunities will also be examined for Countryside Stewardship to incentivise farmers not in HLS to bring high priority and unfavourable sites into agreements.

## ***Woodland Creation and Veteran Trees***

**NIA Funding** £11,996      **In Kind /Match** £9,426

**Partners:** FWAGSW / DWT / Local Landowners

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The overall aim of the woodland creation was to develop strategically sited new woodlands higher in the catchment to enhance water quality by placing wet woodland adjacent to the rivers or on steeply sloping arable land susceptible to erosion.

At the start of the project, information was sent out to landowners highlighting the additional grant available for woodland creation in the WPNIA. An application resulted on the boundary for 60ha of new woodland. In total, 92ha of woodland creation and 19ha of wet woodland were created between 2012/15. On-going support was given to successful England Woodland Grant Scheme applicants. Thinning and under planting with native broadleaves took place in 2ha of sycamore woodland within registered parkland, and a hedge was planted to link new woodland with nearby hedges.

Additional funding was made available to hold two training days to enable volunteers to carry out veteran tree surveys at four sites which had not previously been surveyed. Targeted lichen surveys were carried out on two sites identified as being of particular importance. One site in Purbeck is proposed for designation as an SSSI, based partly on its veteran tree interest.

### **Highlights and challenges**

When the England Woodland Grant Scheme was no longer available for woodland creation, interest in the woodland creation grants available reduced, so the final year budget was reallocated to the small capital grants scheme.

### **What next?**

New woodland planting in Wild Purbeck and Poole Harbour catchment will be focussed on two potential funding avenues:

- 1) The Catchment Based Approach, utilising funding made available through the Water Framework Directive and other sources
- 2) Through the new Countryside Stewardship grants. Both DWT and FWAG SW will be in a position to assist landowners interested in planting new woodlands and trees

The veteran tree data gathered through the Wild Purbeck initiative will be added to GIS and passed over to Dorset Environmental Records Centre for future management. DWT will endeavour to provide future support and training to local communities interested in surveying and protecting veteran trees.



*Classic Veteran Tree © Emma Tomlin*



## Arne Saline Lagoon

**NIA Funding** £18,893

**In Kind/Match:** £272,900

**Partners:** RSPB

### Summary & Outcomes

In December 2014, the RSPB purchased 28ha of disused clay quarry which Wild Purbeck had assisted in turning into a saline lagoon with associated heathland and ancient woodland habitat. The site fronts the shore of Poole Harbour and is situated at the north-east corner of RSPB Arne reserve. Saline lagoons are rare in England, and the acquisition will secure the long term future of this site.

As part of the project, Bournemouth University carried out a hydrological study of the site, recording tidal exchange volumes and salinity levels. Ecological monitoring has also been undertaken to record the establishment of species within the lagoon. This showed that the biomass of animals recorded in the sampled water columns compared favourably with those recorded in the lagoon at Brownsea.

The site includes saltmarsh, undisturbed beach with increasing roosts of oystercatcher and Shelduck with 5ha ancient woodland containing lichens and notable invertebrates, 7ha SPA/SAC heathland with breeding nightjar and a suite of butterfly and moth species including the BAP Priority Goat moth.



### Highlights and challenges

The site is a former ball clay quarry owned by Imerys.

The RSPB has worked with Imerys and Dorset County Council to complete its restoration and optimise its value as a nature reserve. RSPB has the first opportunity to purchase the site at market value – this was higher than originally anticipated due to the associated sporting rights. By securing a grant from Viridor Credits and match funding from the WPNIA, the RSPB was able to secure the purchase and long term future of the site.

### What next?

The monitoring and research already begun will be continued, and it is hoped the site will become more important for birds in the future, as well as supporting larger invertebrate populations for wading birds to feed on. Given the vulnerability of the Brownsea Island lagoon to sea level rise, the Arne saline lagoon could also become an important part of the climate change adaptation and planning strategy for Poole Harbour. It is also planned to use the site as a minerals restoration demonstration site.





## ***Wetland Restoration***

**NIA Funding** £72,500      **In Kind/Match:** £56,877  
**Partners:** DWT / FWAGSW

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The wetland work undertaken has included scoping and survey work, monitoring, farmer and landowner liaison work, practical restoration and habitat creation work. A part time post at FWAGSW has led the wetland creation work.

### **Highlights include:**

- The Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative Catchment Plan has been adopted
- Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Over 30 volunteers were recruited and trained to undertake winter surveys, resulting with over 7,000 bird sightings. These have been recorded on a GIS layer and information fed back to landowners.
- A Scoping report for the Corfe Valley, which has poor Water Framework Directive status. This identified habitat enhancement projects which are being followed up with landowners.
- Removal of rhododendron at a wet woodland and pond complex at East Holme, and scrub to restore a 3ha wetland site at West Knighton. Scrub clearance and fencing have enabled an SNCI rush pasture to be grazed, while seed has been harvested from a further site to use for reseeded a riparian site next year. A total of 15ha of wetland habitat has been restored. A successful £20,000 funding bid to SITAs “Enriching Nature” scheme enabled the creation of 6ha of new wetland features (including 9 ponds and scrapes) at Tadholl nature reserve to link two parts of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- Specialist advisory visits were made to 12 farmers. Two workshops were organised for land owners on watercourse management and sward enhancement on wet and floodplain grassland. Both were well attended.
- A ditch management plan was produced to deliver over 5km of ditch restoration and management over the next five years through a Higher Level Stewardship scheme.
- 22 ponds have been restored using volunteers or DWT apprentice help.
- 2.5ha wet woodland was created in the upper Frome catchment, to link and buffer existing wet woodland of high biodiversity.

### **Highlights and challenges**

During the course of the WPNIA work there has been increased integration with the Catchment Based Approach in Dorset. For this reason much of the work has been carried out strategically to assist with the implementation of the Catchment Partnership plan as well as the WPNIA.

There is now a strong local partnership to take this work on in the future. The key challenge will be to ensure government departments that support landscape restoration and catchment improvements work in a far more joined up way to support this local effort.

### **What next?**

Funding bids have been developed in partnership to assist with future wetland work in Purbeck. The outcome of this is expected post NIA funding.



## Large Grazing Unit

**Cost** £25,012      **In Kind/Match:** £651,076  
**Partners:** RSPB / NE / NT

### Summary & Outcomes

The aim was to connect the reserves at Arne and Hartland with adjacent privately owned heathland and woodland to establish a large grazing unit of 1,284ha, and a second unit 510ha of heath / forest mosaics at Rempstone.



At Rempstone, a main grazing unit of 280ha has been created to the west, with a smaller one the other side of Claywell of 62ha. This was completed in 2014 and is being grazed predominantly by White Park cattle. The cattle in the large unit seem to be moving well around the site though come back 'home' each night.

At Arne / Hartland, initial work went according to plan – local councillors were taken out on site and affected householders met individually. Preliminary and detailed designs were produced for cattle grids, and road safety assessments and noise reports carried out. Data were collected on traffic volumes and speeds. However, part way through the project, the privately owned site was put on the open market. It was not possible to proceed until the outcome of this was known.

At the end of 2014, the National Trust purchased the site, so the project is "live" again. Work is now under way to remove some of fencing. The remainder of the project will be financed by a local development through the planning system (s106 funding).

### Highlights and challenges

This project has seen a number of challenges. In addition to the private land being offered for sale (see above), there have been a number of issues relating to cattle movements and animal health, and cross-compliance concerns. These are being addressed through joint working between land agents for the National Trust, RSPB and Natural England.

The NIA funding for this project was limited, with the remainder expected to come from a section 106 agreement associated with planning applications from Perenco. This has taken much longer than envisaged, and has still not been completely resolved.



#### What next?

Once the Perenco section 106 agreement funding is released, progress on the large grazing unit will continue and should be completed within 12 months



## High Quality Heathland

**NIA Funding** £44,856

**In Kind/Match:** £49,721

**Partners:** FC

### Summary & Outcomes

This project aimed to restore 71 Ha of high quality heathland through increased management and aftercare. 26 Ha were cleared in the first year at Wareham and Affpuddle, and enhanced aftercare (including raking and Rhododendron clearance) carried out the following winter. Felling has been undertaken in Rempstone Forest during 2014, with enhanced aftercare over the winter of 2014/15.

### Highlights and challenges

The Purbeck Forest Design Plan and accompanying Environmental Statement was submitted to Forest Services, and work was delayed until the plan was finalised. This was remedied by increasing the area to be restored in year 3, enabling the project to meet its original targets. At Rempstone Forest, some areas had to be initially avoided due to the presence of nesting raptors, but these were worked at a later date.

### What next?

The FC, through its approved Forest Design Plans for its Dorset heathland forests, have committed to over 1000 hectares of further heathland restoration from existing plantations over the next 20 years.

This will see a major expansion of heathland at Rempstone Forest to extend the areas delivered under the NIA project.



## *Heathland Restoration*

**NIA Funding** £297,233

**Partners:** NE / Landowners

### **Summary and outcomes**

During the second year of the NIA programme, Wild Purbeck put forward a submission for additional funding, which was successful and made available an extra £297,000 for heathland restoration work. This was used for land management work including habitat creation and restoration, and improved management of existing sites. In total around 400 Ha of heathland restoration was undertaken, through scrub removal and fencing to allow grazing to be undertaken. 14,000 m of fencing was installed on a number of sites, many of which were designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Duddle Farm before and after with 0.8 hectares of Rhododendron removed and below the overall view of the site, this area cleared extends an existing cleared area of heathland that has been designated as a SNCI.



Work benefitted 12 landowners and included the following:

- Installation of cattle handling facilities at Woolbridge Heath and Cranesmoor Bog (Ministry of Defence sites) to enable more efficient grazing. Over 20ha of heathland restoration was carried out on these SAC / SSSI heathlands.
- Installation of 14,124 metres of fencing installed to allow around 300ha of heathland and a small section of acid grassland to be grazed.
- Installation of bridges, tracks, cattle handling corrals and cattle grids.
- Removal of 25ha of plantation trees to restore heathland at Morrish plantation, within the Arne peninsula.



- Scrub clearance at Creech Heath to remove dense gorse on an Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) site (see photos). This will be followed up by spraying of regrowth and selective thinning.



## Highlights and challenges

The biggest challenge was the timescale – information on the additional funding came through towards the end of November 2013, and the work had to be completed by the end of March. Getting firm quotes for the work to be undertaken in a short timescale, and ensuring the work was undertaken was a challenge, particularly as the weather in January and February of 2014 was extremely wet.



### What next?

Following the clearance of plantation trees at Morrishes, the land was included in a larger parcel put up for sale. The 96ha site, known as Slepe Heath, was purchased by the National Trust at the end of 2014, so its long term future is now secure. The National Trust will include this land within the large heathland grazing unit.

## *Predator Fencing*

**NIA Funding** £5,200

**In Kind/Match:** £9,095

**Partners:** RSPB

### **Summary and outcomes**

By establishing predator exclusion fencing, the project aimed to create a sanctuary for nesting lapwings to protect their eggs and chicks from ground predation. The fencing was undertaken on wetland grassland SSSI to benefit lapwing and redshank.

The project was funded using underspend from the end of the first year. The site chosen, like many others in the region, has lost its entire lapwing population. By protecting the site, it was hoped to encourage lapwings to return and breed, and contribute to the recovery of a locally and nationally threatened species. 2,000 metres of predator exclusion fences were installed during the winter of 2012/13. Solar panels and associated equipment were installed to provide power to the fence line.

### **What next?**

Breeding bird site surveys will continue and these will help to inform any further management needed. The aim is to encourage 15 pairs of breeding lapwings on the site within the next five years, and over 25 pairs by 2020.





## *Community Gateway & Community Grants*

**NIA Funding** £68,729      **In Kind/Match:** £56,113

**Partners:** DWT / Local Communities

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The Community Gateway work aimed to engage communities in a variety of nature conservation activities to build a shared vision of landscapes of the future and get involved in their local area. A key aim was to engage with all 40 parishes within the WPNIA during the three years of the project.



A Community Gateway Officer was appointed during the first year, and hosted by Dorset Wildlife Trust. An action plan was developed after assessing existing parish interest across the area. From then on, work focussed on a wide variety of organisations and groups across Purbeck, including schools, Rotary clubs, scout and guide groups, parish councils, libraries and gardeners clubs. Involvement has ranged from talks and activities to films and bioblitzes.

Two key events included “Wild About Wareham” and “Wild About Swanage” which each attracted over 500 people. 16 different local partner organisations provided environmental information and activities. “Wild About Brownsea” was attended by over 250 visitors.

The Community Gateway project has been incredibly successful at engaging a wide variety of audiences who are not generally engaged with conservation work or other Wild Purbeck projects. Further details on individual successes can be obtained from the Dorset Wildlife Trust, but the following give an indication of the breadth of coverage:

- 29 parishes have held 1 or more events to celebrate or enhance their surroundings
- 9 parishes are engaged in a series of on-going projects
- 6 community wildlife champions have been recruited
- 11 schools or preschool centres are now improving their grounds for wildlife
- 6 new community green spaces are being created within the NIA
- Over 4,120 people have been engaged in dialogue about landscape change

A small community grants scheme was also offered, to provide small amounts of funding to help with specific projects. Highlights of this included:

- Enabling Lulworth and Winfrith Primary school to redevelop their play areas to encourage wildlife and enhance learning about the natural environment
- Wareham Children's Centre working with families to develop a wildlife area in the Centre garden to improve children's observational and communication skills. This project involved a number of partners which reduced the overall cost of the scheme and resulted in considerable cross organisational benefits. Work included removing conifers to let in more light and developing the area as a nature discovery area.
- Equipment to enable Wareham cubs and scouts discover more about wildlife on their doorstep and carry out conservation work on the heaths
- Souls Moor Nature Reserve was funded to install interpretation signs depicting the wildlife interest on this new village nature reserve and the adjacent Bere Stream.
- Lytchett Matravers Pre-school were funded to develop their existing nature area to encourage more wildlife so that the children are able to learn more about how to care for their environment and wildlife.

### Highlights and challenges



The main highlight was that the response to the projects approaches was extremely enthusiastic – individuals care very much about their locale and the wildlife living there. People also had very clear ideas about what they would like to see happen in their areas. Young people under the age of 14 join any wildlife related activities with great gusto, while the 14-20 age group require a lot more motivation and need to be appealed to on their own terms. Projects involving one community group e.g. schools were straightforward to achieve, while some projects involving community spaces are still on-going, due to protracted negotiations with Parish Councils or landowners.

### What next?

The Community Gateway work will continue until the end of 2015, and is a priority to take forward into the next phase of Wild Purbeck.





## *Past Arts and Beaford Arts*

**Cost** £7,200      **In Kind/Match:** £56,500

**Partners:** AONB / Devon NIA / Beaford Arts

### **Summary and outcomes**

This aimed to engage audiences in a dialogue about landscape change through a series of events, workshops and guided walks. Additional funding was secured in the first year to appoint a project consultant to develop the programme of events.



*Swanage School recreating pictures from the Past*

Workshops with residence artists and primary schools took place during year 2, with 3D maps of local walks created by local children. Work with a secondary school looked at the changes in the landscape around Swanage and Durlston through taking new photos at the same sites as old photos and incorporating them into an exhibition held at Durlston Country Park.

Events and exhibitions took place during the spring of 2014 and were extremely successful at engaging a wide audience. The project has involved a wide variety of people who have not necessarily taken part in other Wild Purbeck projects.



*Past Arts Village Modelling Project*

Exhibitions were attended by over 11,000 people and included:

- 6 exhibitions of past landscape art,
- 7 self guided walks,
- 17 talks and events,
- 4 artist led guided walks
- 3 in school artist workshops (attended by 62 primary school children).

In addition to the Past Arts work, an opportunity arose in the spring of 2014 to host workshops and a performance in Purbeck by Burn the Curtain, hands on Theatre Company based in the South West where audiences participate in the performance. Three school workshops attended by 92 young people contributed material to a performance of "The Bureau of Extraordinance Survey", which took place in April. An additional performance of a Beaford Arts production "The Common" took place at Harmon's Cross at the end of March 2015.

## Highlights and challenges

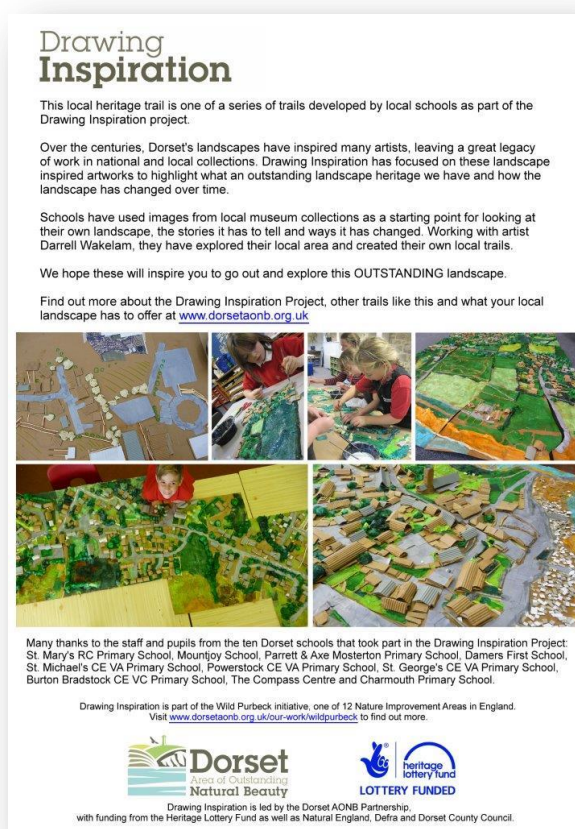
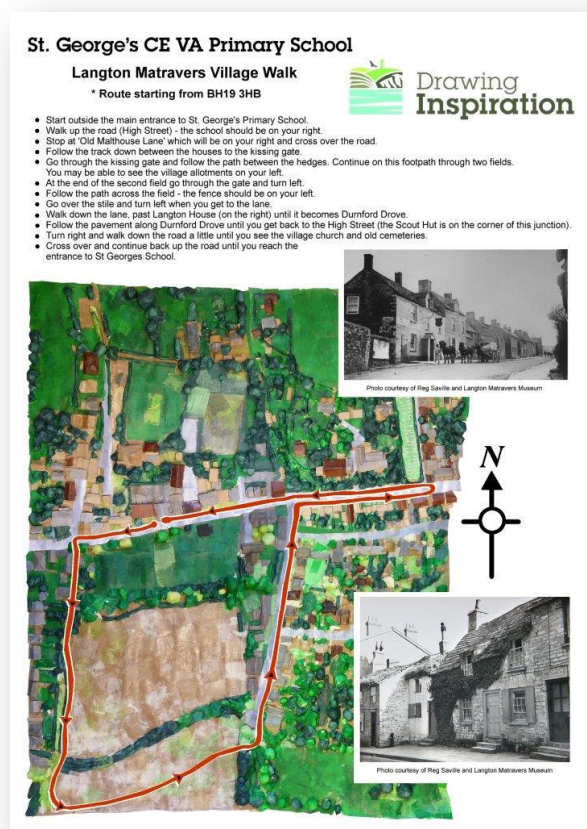
Throughout the project there have been many challenges that occurs with a multi faceted project, getting the right contact in the initial stages whether that be schools, artists or museums.

Translating interest in the project into active participation, particularly in terms of delivering activities and coordinating a large number of varied events over a wide geographic area set its own challenges.

The majority of events were very successful with high numbers of attendees with one of the most successful events was organised by a group of organisations who decided to work together. Holton Lee, Wareham Museum and Sandford Heritage Community Group organised two events, which enabled visitors to see a model of the old cordite factory (built by staff during WW2) undertake guided walks around the site as it is today and participate in artist led workshops. The two days attracted over 1200 visitors with numerous requests for the events to be repeated in the future.

## What next?

Drawing Inspiration is developing a school resource pack and further work around photography is in development for the future.





## *Schools Programme and Forest Schools*

**Cost** £25,800      **In Kind/Match:** £5,500  
**Partners:** Jurassic Coast

### **Summary and outcomes**

This aimed to inspire and encourage young people to value their landscape through forging strong links with the formal education sector. The Wild Purbeck Education Service was offered through the Jurassic Coast Team. Schools were offered two hour “twilight” (after school) sessions to enable teachers to learn about how nature, wildlife and geology could help to deliver the new Primary and Secondary National Curriculum.



This was attended by 55 teachers from 8 schools in Purbeck. Through the twilight sessions, work has been undertaken to ensure that the senior leadership are on board to develop a whole school ethos approach towards integrating nature and wildlife into curriculum planning. Feedback from schools attending was extremely positive.

During year 2, an opportunity arose to reallocate some WPNIA funding which enabled 4 schools to put forward teachers to receive Level 1 Forest School training. At Lulworth and Winfrith Primary School, the school was so impressed with the benefits of this training that they funded the teacher to qualify for Level 3 leader status. He attended the NIA Annual Forum in 2014 to showcase his work, and has visited the USA on an exchange.

### **Highlights and challenges**

Good links have been made between the schools programme and the Community Gateway, as well as the Past Arts project. The Forest School training was used as an NIA social and economic benefits case study.

### **What next?**

Wild Purbeck will be working with the Forest Schools teacher from Lulworth and Winfrith to set up twilight sessions with Purbeck schools on how Forest Schools ethos can be integrated into curriculum planning. There is also an opportunity to include wildlife and outdoor provision within a new school being built at Lulworth.



Forest School teacher training



## Landscape Permeability

**NIA Funding** £10,526      **In Kind/Match:** £16,275

**Partners:** FWAG / DAONB

### Summary & Outcomes

The aim of this research project was to identify existing high value habitat networks and prioritise their extension and enlargement through more permeable (i.e. semi-natural) land use. Landscape permeability is a measure of how easily an individual species can move through a landscape, so a hedgerow providing cover for mammals to move unseen by predators will have a higher permeability than a newly sown arable field. The implementation phase was planned to be delivered through the Wild Purbeck Land Managers Advisory Service.

During the first year, Environmental Systems were contracted to carry out a mapping project, culminating in the production of a report "Mapping landscape permeability within WPNIA to prioritise areas for targeted habitat creation and protection". Remote sensing was used to map different vegetation types and identify and map current land cover. This was analysed to assess the permeability of each habitat. Maps were produced which identified "core" areas of semi-natural habitat, plus potential areas, including buffer zones around core areas. Potential locations for new habitats were also identified.

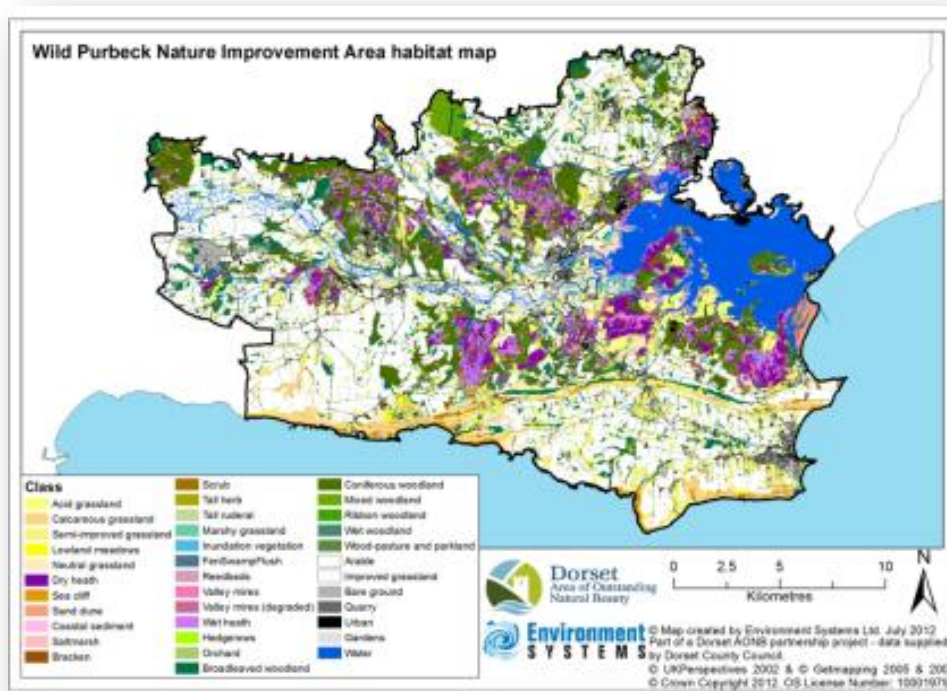
The data from the first stage was then used to pro-actively target holdings with advice on landscape restoration and creation. It was used to look for new opportunities and to compare with habitat restoration under way in HLS agreements. Opportunities for restoration / habitat creation were identified within the two landscape character areas covered by the Perenco section 106 agreement funding.

### Highlights and challenges

The analysis work revealed that HLS agreements have already taken many of the opportunities highlighted by the layer for grassland restoration and creation where it is practical to do so. Habitats such as woodland are less well advanced, but more difficult to implement as they require significant investment and can be in conflict with open habitats.

### What next?

Work will continue around using the permeability maps in conjunction with landowners. When the Perenco section 106 funding is available, there may be opportunities to implement restoration in line with the opportunities identified by the project.





## Fire Management Planning

**NIA Funding** £14,510

**In Kind/Match:** £7,228

**Partners:** FC

### Summary and outcomes

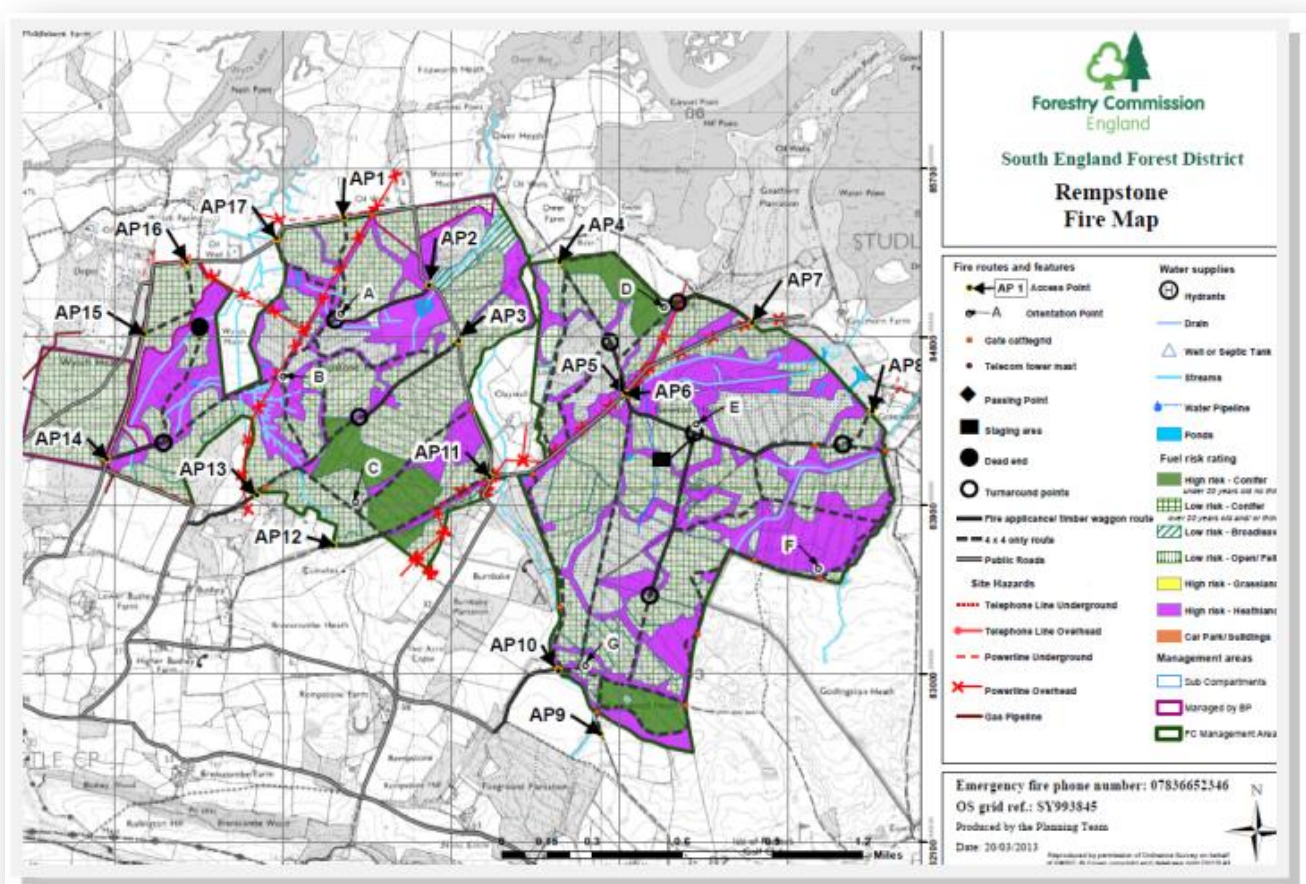
This project aimed to develop strategic planning to build in resilience regarding fire management, taking into account the fact that some Wild Purbeck habitats such as heath and forest are increasingly susceptible to wild fire and extensive damage.

The wildfire working group drew together partners from diverse organisations, from Dorset Fire Service and the Fire and Rescue Service to the Forestry Commission. Work focused around: fire mapping; producing guidance and an action plan; and training. Wildfire fire maps were produced in year 1 and adopted by Dorset Fire and Rescue Service.

In year 2, a feasibility study was carried out on ignition sources and related conditions for wildfires. This included the following:

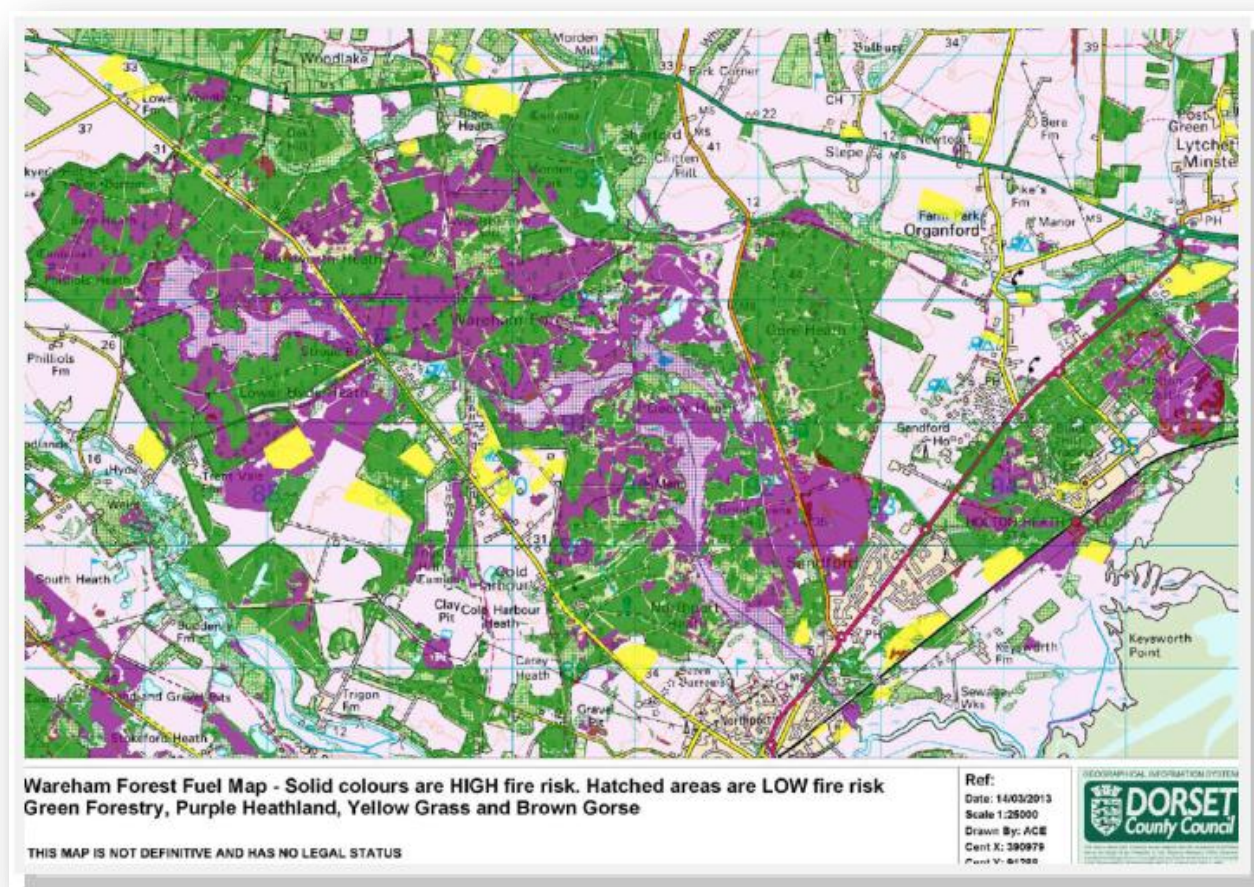
- Gathering evidence of historical accidental / unwanted ignitions
- Determining the climatic conditions and fuels that would support accidental ignitions
- Investigating the relationship between wildfire ignitions, fuel type and human activity within Wild Purbeck District Council Researching the potential changes to accidental ignition success as a result of predicted climate change

During year 2, the fire management plan was completed and training of 16 people took place. In the final year, links were made between the fire management plan group and the climate change project.



## Highlights and challenges

The main highlight of the project was the formation of a new partnership. This brought colleagues together from a variety of organisations and backgrounds and gave them a common focus and purpose. They realised that they had a shared problem that could best be resolved by cooperation and joint action.



Delivering structured wildfire training to the partnership was also very beneficial as the majority had never received any form of training. This all came to a successful conclusion during 'Exercise Erica' - a fire service led multi-agency response to a simulated wildfire.

The key challenge for the future will be finding a way to maintain the momentum. The Urban Heaths Partnership and the AONB team may be able to harness the existing enthusiasm and provide a sustainable future for the project, but lack of funding and ever changing staff are a genuine threat to future work.

## What next?

Further funding would enable recommendations highlighted in the Wild Purbeck NIA Fire Guidance and Action Plan to be delivered including a research project investigating wildlife ignitability and initial spread. Data gathered would aim to predict the potential fire behaviour that could be expected, including ease of igniting vegetation and rapidity of spread for different habitats. This could be used as a tool to avoid accidental wildfires or mitigate their dangers, for example through use of vegetation mosaics and access routes.



## Cyril Diver

**NIA Funding** £25,000

**In Kind/Match:** £382,442

**Partners:** NT

### Summary & Outcomes

Conserving the Cyril Diver archive containing information from a systematic survey of Studland in the 1930's was the aim of this project. Cyril Diver was the first Director General of the Nature Conservancy. During the first year, £54,000 was secured from the Neptune fund towards salary costs, and a project officer appointed.

During the three years, local volunteers have spent many days working with professional ecologists to resurvey the Studland peninsula, looking at everything from vascular plants to beetles, from lichens to sand lizards.

The document archive, herbarium and insect collection that Diver collated has been properly conserved and made available for use by researchers and the general public. Collections are now owned by the Hope Museum (zoological specimens), the Dorset Museum (Herbarium), and the National Trust (documents, photographs and artefacts). The project has also featured at the National Federation of Biological Recorders conference, through a presentation and field day in 2013.

An early analysis of the data indicated an alarming decline of Little Sea's specialist plantlife to a few marginal areas. Indications were that this was largely due to the effects of carp churning up the sediment. Carp have been removed by the ranger team, and it is hoped this will lead to a recovery of specialist aquatic plants.

The project has compared "then and now" plant species from the 1930's and last two years' surveys in all 92 compartments originally used by Cyril Diver.





A comparison of the two surveys has indicated that significant ecological change has occurred at Studland since the 1930's. Vegetation succession has been the main driving force, with open dunes becoming closed heaths, heaths becoming wooded, and dune slacks becoming colonised by marsh vegetation and wet woodland. New species from sika deer to New Zealand pigmy weed are also be having an impact.

The project has also supported two PhD studentships to look at interactions between plants and insects, and issues around volunteering in ecological recording and conservation. Bursaries have been offered to enable people to develop their ecological skills and assist with survey work at Studland, including lichens.

### **Highlights and challenges**

Without doubt, the highlight of the Cyril Diver project has been the huge input of many hours of dedicated survey work, data entry and archiving. Around 2,200 days of survey have been carried out, which has far exceeded original expectations. 8 placement students have completed 119 days of surveys.

The project has recorded over 2,500 species including 465 moth species (one of which only feeds on prickly saltwort and hadn't been recorded at Studland for 80 years). It was featured in an episode of Countrywise, and an article in British Wildlife.

### **What next?**

The challenge for the future is to maintain the momentum and enthusiasm generated, so that Purbeck becomes a beacon of excellence in biological recording and conservation. The two PhD studies that were carried out throughout this project will be used to inform a potential follow up from Cyril Diver and this project's legacy could be a methodology that can be used on other sites, perhaps even other organisations.



## *Climate Change Adaptation*

**NIA Funding** £7,793

**In Kind/Match:** £10,310

**Partners:** FC / RSPB / FWAGSW / DWT / FC / DERC / AONB

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The partnership proposed to establish a working group to agree indicators, protocols and baseline data for the Wild Purbeck NIA, and produce a technical document identifying anticipated climate change impacts and how their mitigation and adaptation could be facilitated through the partnership's work.

Two workshops have been organised for conservation practitioners during the three years of the project. The first covered heathlands and wetlands, whilst the second focused on woodland. Discussion focused on key impacts of climate change with regard to these habitats, and opportunities for mitigating measures. Guidance notes were produced on wetlands and heathlands and woodland for distribution primarily to those actively engaged in practical conservation management.

For farmers and landowners, guidance notes were produced on planning for climate change adaptation based on cultivated land and grazed land. These were in response to consultation with farmers, which indicated that they were frequently adapting farming practices to changes in weather patterns but were not consciously adapting for climate change. Promoting farm resilience planning aims to encourage farmers to plan for both droughts and floods, given uncertainties in future predictions and increased variability.

A climate change plan has been produced to underpin activity by the partnership into the future.

This contains a Wild Purbeck climate change scenario for the 2040's and an analysis of the predicted impacts of climate change on habitats and species in Purbeck. Recommendations for adaptation actions are outlined. A climate change monitoring plan has also been produced in consultation with the Dorset Environmental Records Centre. Priorities for promotion of the steps needed to adapt to future climate scenarios have also been agreed.

### **Highlights and challenges**

Whereas many of the other projects have been led by a dedicated project officer, this work has been progressed by a working group drawn from organisations with considerable time constraints. The speed of progress on developing the plan has therefore not been as fast as was originally hoped. However, on the positive side, it has meant that the work has become embedded into the work programmes of officers in a number of partner organisations, which should lead to better delivery in the longer term.

### **What next?**

The possibility of including the practical implementation of climate adaptation based on this programme into a future bid for EU LIFE or other funding will be explored.

The NIA group will continue to encourage implementation of climate change adaptation monitoring, and seek that the realities of climate change are built into future decision making and land management.

## ***Ladybird Spider Reintroduction***

**NIA Funding** £5,500

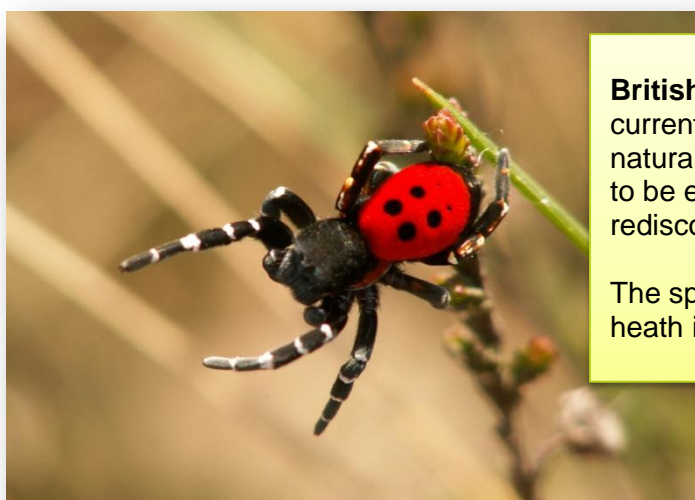
**In Kind/Match** £2,250

**Partners:** DWT

### **Summary and outcomes**

The ladybird spider occurs on a single known natural site in the British Isles, in Purbeck, on dry, sandy heath. The project aim was to establish the species on 12 sites in Purbeck over three years, managing their habitat as part of existing site management. The work fits with the objectives of the Wild Purbeck NIA as part of efforts to restore and create habitats at a landscape scale.

At each site, the work comprised re-introduction of the spider by a contractor, monitoring and micro management of the site. Ian Hughes is an independent consultant and ladybird spider specialist and breeder, who bred the species for release in Purbeck. The re-introductions were phased over three years, to ensure a diverse age structure and to give the best opportunity for the species to establish successfully.



**British ladybird spider** (*Eresus sandaliatus*) is currently thought to be restricted to a single known natural site in the British Isles. *Eresus* was thought to be extinct in Britain for over 70 years until its rediscovery in 1980.

The species is most likely to be found on dry, sandy heath in the east south, and south-west of Britain.

### **Highlights and challenges**

The chief cost of the project was the use of the specialist contractor and to prepare the micro habitat for best outcome. During the initiative we have taken the opportunity to train DWT staff and volunteers to ensure survey and future habitat work costs are kept to a minimum. The main challenge is to ensure the project is funded for the five years of introduction and that all 12 sites are surveyed and maintained.

### **What next?**

On completion of the re-introductions, there will be a follow up year of specialist survey and handover to local contacts. Local staff and volunteers are being trained to undertake future monitoring and management.



## Visitor Management Planning

**NIA Funding** £14,071      **In Kind/Match:** £6,279

**Partners:** RSPB / NT / FC

### Summary & Outcomes

The original aim was to produce a community guided visitor management strategy for WPNIA which identified opportunities for visitors and locals to appreciate the high quality biodiversity without detrimental impacts, and specifically look at three key sites: Arne / Middlebere / Hartland Moor; Greenlands; and Wareham Forest.

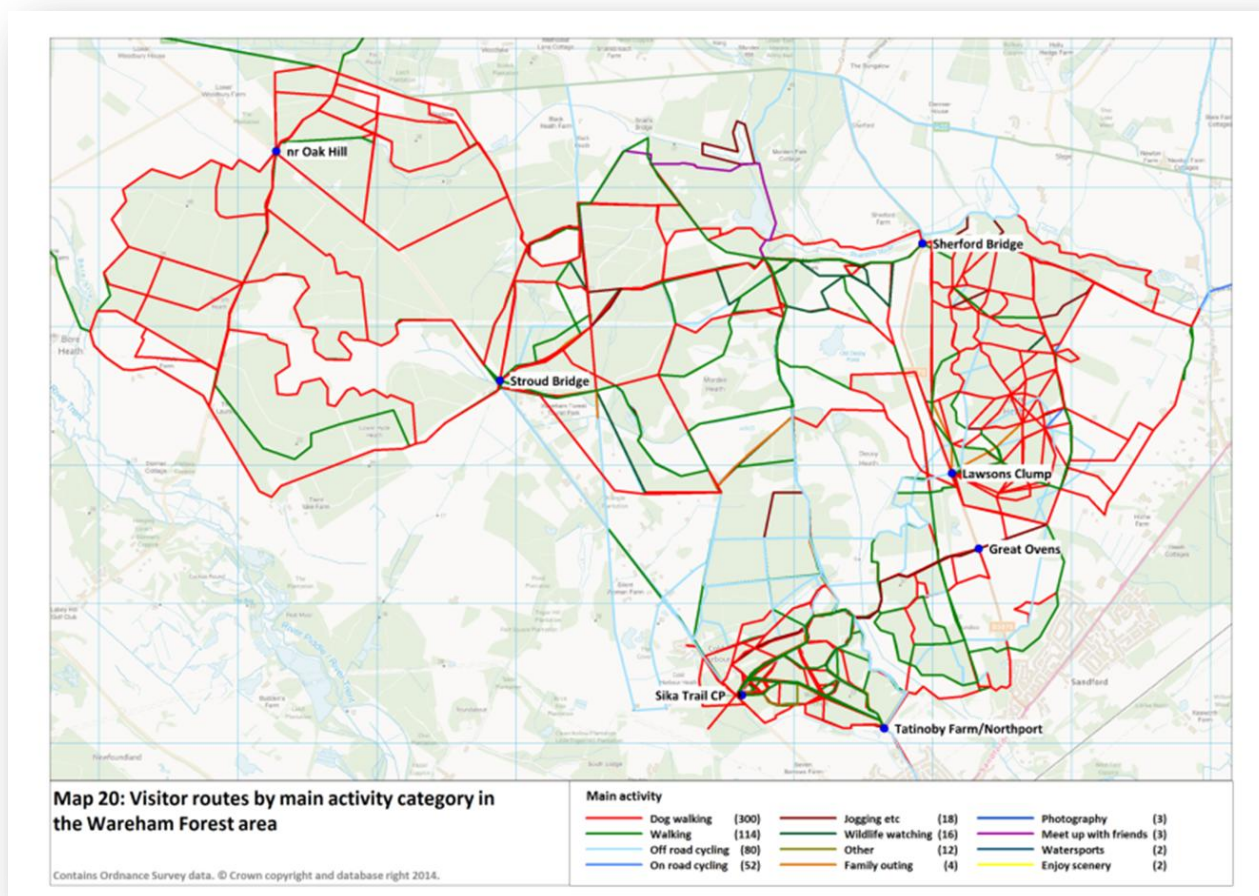
During year 1, methodology was agreed for the surveys. During the summer of 2013, surveys were undertaken at 21 sites in three key areas: Wareham Forest, Studland (excluding the beach area) and Arne / Hartland Moor. 676 questionnaires were completed over 672 hours. Surveys were carried out at each site for four days: on a weekday and weekend day during the school term (May – June) and during the summer holidays (late July / August). Car park surveys were undertaken at three different times of day, to ascertain the numbers of cars in all car parks around the area. GPS equipment was purchased to capture visitor route data.



The data collected was analysed by Footprint Ecology, and three reports produced:

- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: visitor survey analysis, providing an in depth report as to how the key sites are being used, and by which visitors
- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: case studies (of Wareham Forest, Greenlands Farm at Studland, and Arne / Hartland Moor), including a map showing different management recommendations for recreational provision in each area
- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: recommendations towards a visitor management strategy, including strategic recommendations about how visitor management in Purbeck can be approached to provide meaningful engagement with the natural environment while safeguarding vulnerable features and wildlife

## Highlights and challenges



The survey work was originally planned to be carried out by volunteers, to reduce the cost of the work. However, attracting sufficient numbers of volunteers proved challenging. Ironically this appeared to be partly due to the success of other Wild Purbeck projects such as the Cyril Diver project and Community Gateway in attracting volunteers! As a result, some survey time had to be bought in to fill in the gaps, which was not ideal.

There were also some delays due to staff changes, which resulted in the surveys being delayed by a year.

## What next?

The visitor management working group which included the National Trust, RSPB and Forestry Commission, is continuing to meet, and looking to implement key proposals contained in the report. Priority areas include a heathland hub project and a recreation forum.





## Conservation Products

**NIA Funding** £8,700      **In Kind/Match:** £  
**Partners:** DAONB /DF&D / Local Businesses

### Summary & Outcomes

The aim of this project was to develop a Wild Purbeck venison brand and help create food and drink business opportunities that contribute to the conservation and enhancement of WPNIA landscape and wildlife.

Work focused on supporting local community groups planning local food festivals with a venison theme. One of these was the Church Knowle food festival, which highlighted local produce and raised awareness of venison and its availability in Purbeck. The other was the Dorset food and venison festival, themed around venison and education around the impact of deer on habitats.

Dorset Food and Drink is attracting membership from hotels, restaurants and cafes as well as producers, and building links between the two. There are now 11 Purbeck based members of Dorset Food and Drink

### Highlights and challenges

The Dorset AONB investigated resourcing a venison burger / sausage van which would promote venison as a healthy product from a local landscape. However, there were issues regarding state aid so it was not possible to pursue this.

A highlight has been the number of people attending the Church Knowle food festival with over 1000 people attending

#### What next?

Future work may include the development of a joint bid to the Rural Development Programme, and linking organisations in a more coherent way to co-ordinate deer management plans and culling.

Equipment and training is being investigated to aid a more accurate estimation of current deer numbers.



Food demo @ Church Knowle © DF&D



## ***Biomass arisings (formerly woodfuel briquettes)***

**NIA Funding** £7,849

**In Kind/Match:** £1,520

**Partners:** DCC / FC / Alaska Environmental Contracting

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The original proposal was to purchase a wood compressor to make firewood briquettes from the woody arisings resulting from heathland management which are generally left on site. This can delay high quality heathland restoration for example through nutrient build up.

However, when the project started it became apparent that there were difficulties transforming the arisings into a workable product for example through removal of moisture. The emphasis changed, and an initial report “Making saleable wood fuel from heathland restoration arisings” was produced.

This estimated that around 600 tonnes of chipped material would be produced each year through on-going heathland maintenance management, with an additional 2,000 tonnes per annum produced between 2013 and 2020 resulting from heathland restoration. If converted to wood chip, this could potentially provide enough energy to heat around 630 houses.

The next stage was to draw up a costed bid for installing a combined heat and power woodchip boiler. This would enable wood chip from heathland arisings to produce electricity locally and gain feed in tariff. A further report was produced “Developing a cost-effective use for heathland management arisings in Purbeck and the New Forest”. This assessed the amount of heat or electricity that could be produced, and identified the associated costs. The report concluded that to be viable, a small sized electricity generating plant would be required.

### **Highlights and challenges**

It is perhaps no surprise that finding an energy-generating solution for woody biomass has been hard work, and that there is no small-scale power plant available now; and had something been available, the project would have used it.

The investigation has, however, got the partnership to a position where the minimum quantities of woody biomass that can be generated from the heaths are known, together with the likely electrical / thermal output that could be expected. As soon as small-scale plant is commercially viable, the partnership will be in a good position to install.

### **What next?**

An outline bid has been submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership for funding a small-scale generating plant on expectation that market-ready technology will be available soon.

There is an alternative under consideration by the Forestry Commission in partnership with Ecotricity, examining the potential for converting woody biomass mixed with green grass into biogas in an Anaerobic Digester. In Dorset, where there is insufficient green grass along forestry tracks to fuel AD plants, arisings from cutting road verges are being considered as a substitute, involving discussions with Dorset County Council and Alaska Environmental Contracting.

## *Community Supported Woodlands*

**NIA Funding** £4,813

**In Kind/Match** £5,590

**Partners:** NT

### **Summary & Outcomes**

Enabling a woodland to be taken on by a community group was the aim of this project. Langton Westwood was identified as the woodland to take forward, and a community meeting held in the first year which was well attended. The wood was included in the programme for “A week in the woods” run by the Small Woods Association, covering coppicing, hurdle and charcoal making and woodland crafts.

During the second year, a management plan was completed which included an assessment of the spirit of place and identification of higher level management options. Open days were held in the final year which included volunteer taster sessions in green woodwork and walks and activities exploring how the wood could be managed.



### **Highlights and challenges**

Challenges have resulted from the time taken to fully engage the community and from staff shortages.

### **What next**

Recent progress on the community supported woodland has been pretty good. The project now has a management plan that has the backing of the local community and in fact has been shaped by it. Volunteers have been out in recent weeks working the wood. 0.7ha of woodland has been coppiced for the first time in perhaps 50 years. The pace of this project has kept in line with local requirements. Over the next year and beyond the National Trust will continue to support, train and develop the voluntary group and establish a longer term work plan. The achievements of this project are not to be underestimated: this is a wood highly valued by local people, and achieving change in its care has involved careful and thorough engagement.”

## ***Future Funds***

**Cost** £2,000      **In Kind/Match:** £3,810  
**Partners:** DAONB / DCC

### **Summary and outcomes**

This project had a small amount of funding allocated to it, to investigate opportunities for accessing additional sources of funding through emerging income streams.

The funding enabled a significant input of time from the Dorset AONB team into developing a landscape compensation package tied to the Wytch Farm oilfield - Western Europe's largest terrestrial oilfield, in the WPNIA (and Dorset AONB) on the shores of Poole Harbour. During the second year of the WPNIA, a planning application was made to extend the operation of Wytch Farm for 25 years, thereby extending its existing landscape impact into the future.

Working with the planning authority and the oilfield operators, a fund of £1.7million was negotiated to deliver landscape character enhancements within the affected landscape character areas - notably enhancements to areas of grassland and heathland, trees, woodlands and hedgerows. This will enable continued effort on some of the Wild Purbeck NIA priority themes, and could provide useful match capital for future funding bids.

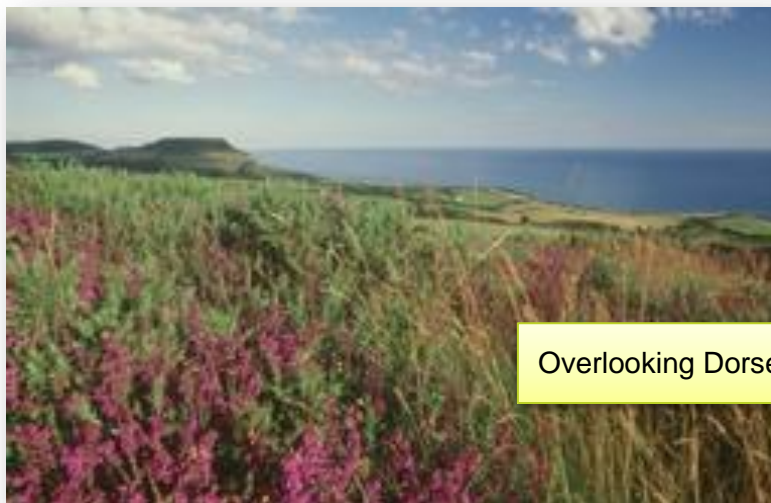
This principle has also been applied to the Navitus Bay offshore wind farm proposal and a similar landscape compensation package is being negotiated should the National Infrastructure Planning unit approve the project.

### **Highlights and challenges**

This significant resourcing achievement would not have been possible without the excellent support and understanding of both the minerals planning authority (Dorset County Council) and the oilfield operator (Perenco). However, while the landscape compensation aspect has been agreed by all signatories, other aspects of the wide-ranging Section 106 agreement have not. A successful agreement in spring/summer 2015 is anticipated...

### **What next?**

The Dorset AONB Team will help the planning authority manage and disburse this fund assuming it becomes available. While the fine detail of eligibility will have to be decided by a funding panel to be established, it is likely that significant continued NIA effort on the South Purbeck Heathland and Rempstone Wooded Pastures can be maintained.



Overlooking Dorset Heathland © DAONB



## Woodland Apprentice

**NIA Funding** £9,000      **In Kind/Match:** £8,110  
**Partners:** DWT / Small Wood Association

### Summary & Outcomes

During the first year of the NIA, the Dorset Opportunities Programme was closed. The funding originally allocated for this was transferred to the woodland apprentice scheme, which became the delivery mechanism for workplace opportunities, supported by additional funding from Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Small Woodlands Association. The project has worked with young people to encourage much needed new entrants into an industry which is truly sustainable, managing woods to benefit the local economy, biodiversity and people.

The woodland apprentices have learnt coppice and craftsman skills in Purbeck woods with local coppice worker Toby Hoad. The programme has also offered formal training including health and safety and first aid. Coppice regeneration work has commenced in a number of woods under the scheme, with training undertaken to enable wood craft products to be produced.

### Highlights and challenges

The woodland apprentice and coppice worker attended the RSPB's Forage Festival at Arne with "Fleur" to demonstrate horse logging methods which proved extremely popular. Two skill sharing days were also held at Brenscombe Wood. A further highlight has been getting woodlands managed that had been neglected for decades.

#### What next?

DWT and the Small Woods Association will continue to support the current Woodland Apprentice until October 2015. At this time the scheme will have two qualified woodland coppice workers both of whom will gain income from their products. In both cases the apprentices have produced high end wood crafts from coppice materials from Purbeck helping to maintain the management of two woodlands in the area. The partnership will review success at the end of October, but are keen to work on future schemes given appropriate funding.



## *Practitioner training*

**NIA Funding** £3,540

**Partners:** KMC

### **Summary and outcomes**

The aim of this project was assess the training needs of farmers where relating to the management of the WPNIA's high quality environment. During the first year, Kingston Maurward College undertook a training needs analysis to establish what training needs were required.

The information generated from this was used in the development of an accredited course: a Level 4 BASIS Foundation Award in Agronomy. This provided 7 delegates with 6 days of training on a variety of topics.

Delegates from Purbeck farms took up training on: managing crop and soil nutrition; and diseases, weeds and pests, with an emphasis on protecting people, animals and the Purbeck environment. All candidates passed the course through an independently marked exam, accruing CPD points on the BASIS register.

A broad spectrum of knowledge was covered both with practical field work and theoretically. This gave rise to the following comments from the delegates

- Now able to use the information at work and understand the how and why of what we do.
- Interesting, informative with good notes for further reference.
- Updated on the legislation
- Very relevant to the practising farmer in the NIA

### **What next?**

This course has encouraged these delegates to consider going on further to the next qualification which they probably might not have thought of doing had it not been for this foundation course through the WPNIA.



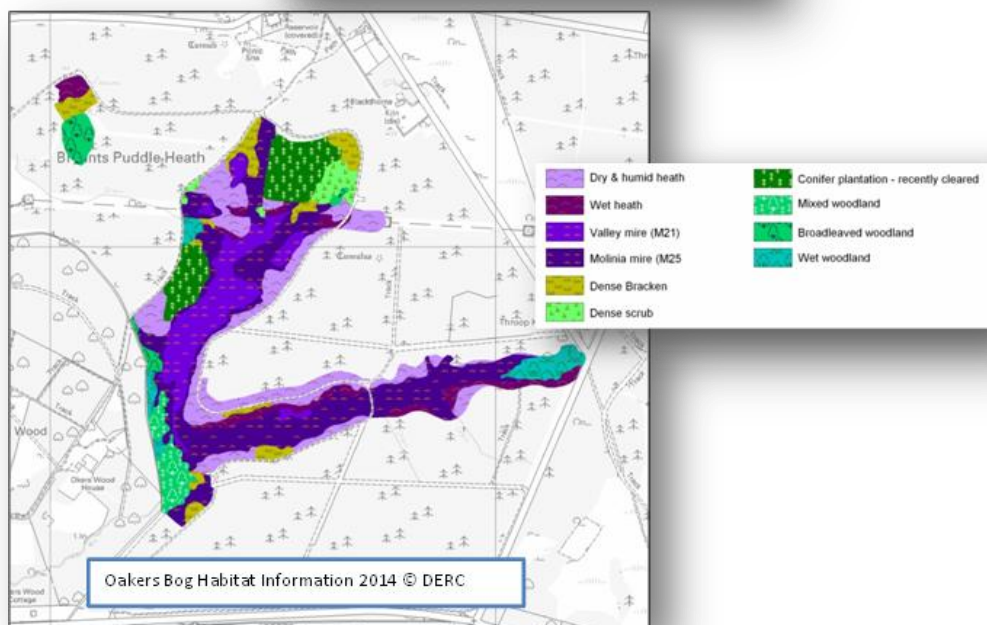
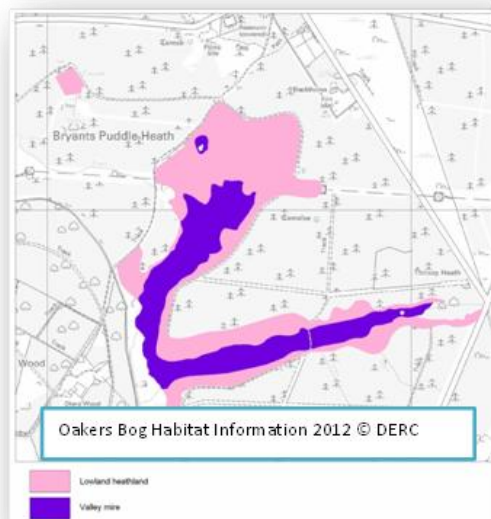


## Monitoring & Evaluation

**NIA Funding** £43,000      **In Kind/Match:** £33,486  
**Partners:** DWT / DERC / FWAGSW

### Summary & Outcomes

A biodiversity audit of the Wild Purbeck area was produced at the start of the project. This provided a baseline against which to assess future changes. The audit identified the known extent of priority habitats and species. Through this it was identified that further knowledge about the heathland resource was urgently needed, in particular the extent of habitats within designated sites. During the course of the last three years many of the key heathland sites have been surveyed and a new wet heathland inventory layer produced for the partner organisations. (as seen below)



A total of 100 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest within the Wild Purbeck NIA Project area have been surveyed during the 3 years of the project. SNCIs are Dorset's Local Wildlife Sites, they are non-statutory sites and their positive management relies on the good stewardship of the landowners and tenants responsible for them. The project has provided owners with survey information and



management ideas to help them in these choices, and where possible the project has helped to secure grant funding for management works.

Two of these are new sites; Duddle Heath, an area of heathland adjacent to the existing Black Heath SNCI which has been cleared of conifers through the NIA Heathland Restoration project and is being managed under an HLS agreement, and Broadmead Field near Worth Matravers, an area of semi-improved grassland with a good flora belonging to the National Trust.

Two sites have been deleted, in one case a heathland site which has deteriorated in quality over a number of years, and the other a small site near Swanage originally selected for supporting a population of the rare plant *Galingale*, but which has not been recorded there for a number of years, and could not be found during two consecutive surveys in 2013 and 2014.

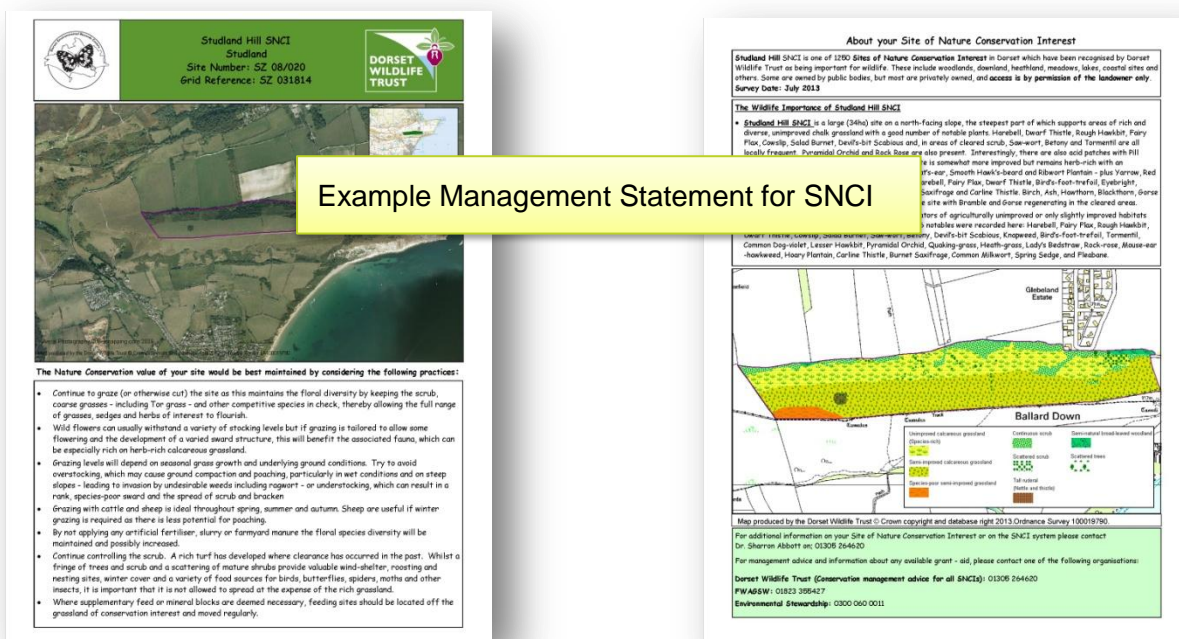
Of the remainder, 17 sites have been extended by varying amounts, but most have been confirmed with their original boundary, although 30% of those surveyed had either declined in habitat quality since the previous survey, or were thought to be declining now.

An SNCI survey of all the existing sites on the Lulworth Estate has been completed for the first time, thanks to their kind cooperation. All the SNCIs on the Purbeck ridge have been re-surveyed, with the exception of parts of two sites where permission for survey was not given. The majority of sites in the Corfe Valley have also been re-surveyed, along with parts of Wareham Forest where a number of open heathland areas have been added to the SNCIs, based on areas already cleared by the Forestry Commission, and where their Forest Design Plans show that they will continue to be managed as open habitat.

The owners of every site surveyed have received the results, in the form of a full species list and a Management Statement (shown below) which provides them with a map and aerial photo of the site, a description of its wildlife importance, and advice on best management practice to maintain the wildlife interest.

In the case of the deleted site near Winfrith, the owner later contacted Dorset Wildlife Trust asking that she would like to try to restore some of the interest of the site, and requested a full Management Plan, which was produced.

Volunteers have been engaged in a number of 'citizen science' species recording projects in the area, these include seashore surveys, wetland bird counts on the River Frome corridor, recording wildlife in gardens through 'Wildlife on your Doorstep' and of course the Cyril Diver project (detailed elsewhere in this report).



## *Coordination & Wild Purbeck Steering Group*

**NIA Funding** £111,428

**In Kind/Match:** £100,629

**Partners:** DAONB / NT / FC / DWT / RSPB / CLA / NFU / WW / EA / NE / KMC

### **Summary & Outcomes**

The project was led by the Dorset AONB who co-ordinated the initial bid and project managed the NIA. Dorset County Council was the accountable body and responsible for processing and claiming grant. There were two supporting staff, one full time and one part time. Regular partnership meetings took place every 2-3 months. This arrangement has proved effective for managing the expenditure of the NIA grant and ensuring co-ordination between partners.

Funding partners and signatories to the NIA included Dorset County Council, Natural England, the RSPB, National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West and Kingston Maurward College. Non funding partners included Wessex Water, the Environment Agency, National Farmers Union and CLA.

Over the three years Wild Purbeck NIA has been represented on a National level through NIA national Forums and Best Practice Events.

In February 2105 we were visited by Sir John Lawton (author of “Making Space for Nature”) and Andrew Sells (Chair of Natural England). Partners kindly stepped forward to highlight some of the work that has been carried out through the NIA though presentations and sites visit.



Monitoring and evaluation has been undertaken at a number of levels over the last three years:

1. Quarterly reports outlining regular progress have been submitted to Natural England, together with grant claims and project milestones.
2. Data regarding habitat restoration and management has been entered onto BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System). This and other information has been entered into an NIA online reporting tool, used by all 12 of the NIAs. The above information, together with case studies, has been used to produce annual monitoring reports for all the NIAs.
3. Specific monitoring has been carried out within Wild Purbeck as set out in the Business plan within sub projects such as:
  - Production of a state of Wild Purbeck report to establish an environmental baseline and evaluate data on a landscape scale. This was produced at the start of the project, and updated at the end of the three years;
  - Visitor Management Plan
  - Monitoring of key habitats – the heathland inventory has been completed and saved as a GIS layer;

- Target monitoring for key species including wetland bird surveys, and micro habitats including heathland track ways and coppiced woodlands.

## Highlights and challenges

- Over 13% of the population of Purbeck has been engaged in community, education or other NIA activity
- 124 Ha land has been purchased and safeguarded for the future
- 467 Ha of heathland restored or managed
- Over 20,000 hours volunteer time across the NIA
- The NIA has enabled partners to lever in funding they would otherwise not have been able to access.
- The opportunity to enthuse local people is there, providing you can engage with topics that interest them
- The importance of embedding NIA work within existing organisations to provide a long term legacy
- The need to be flexible and have worked up projects with different budgets, should unforeseen underspend occur in existing projects, or additional funding become available (as occurred in year 2)



## What next?

£1.7 million has been secured through a section 106 agreement for 2 character areas within Wild Purbeck. This will be used to provide continuity of staff and to fund / part match fund future projects. The partnership has agreed a work plan of future priority projects, and will continue to meet regularly.



## Financial Breakdown

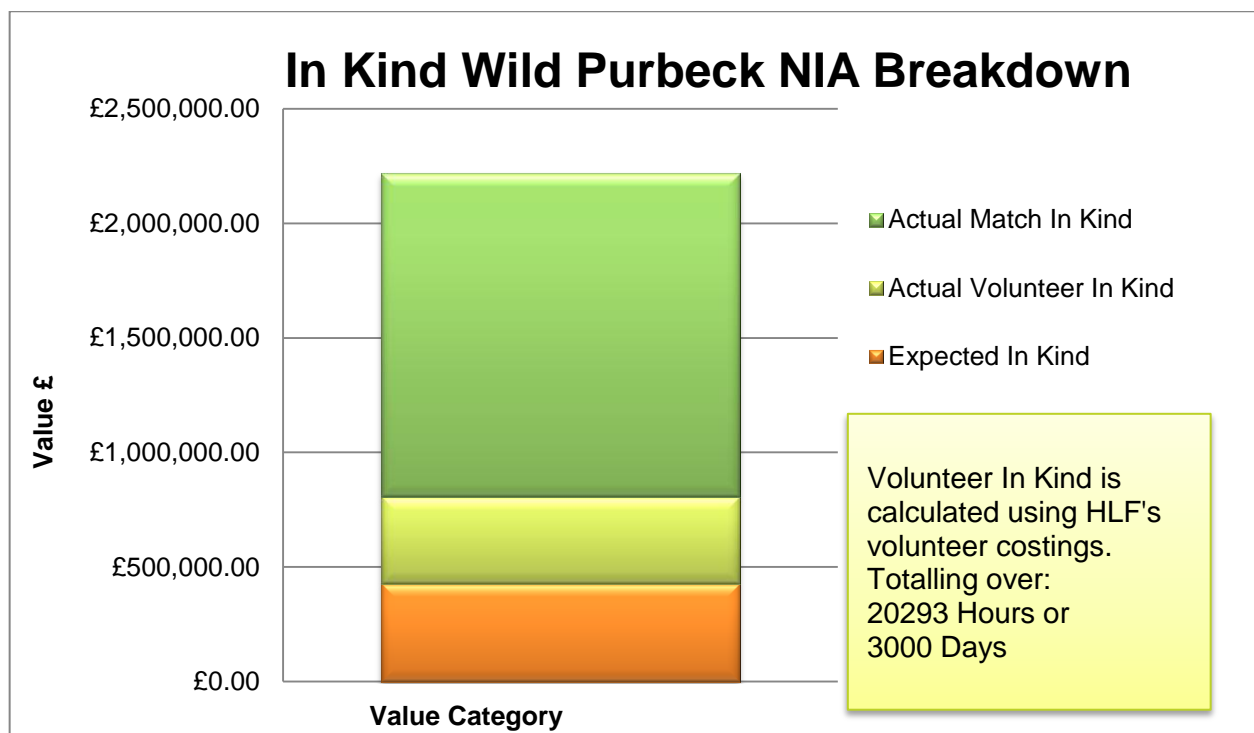
Across the three year delivery partners have worked to ensure “value for money” within the NIA partnership. This has resulted in cross partner working to achieve efficient and valued outcomes for this work.

### Financial Profile Addendum

Projects	Total NIA (£)	In Kind & Secure Funding (£)	Total Project amount (£)
Year ending 31 March 2013	£125,273	£140,722	£265,995
Year ending 31 March 2014	£549,043	£439,824	£988,867
Year ending 31 March 2015	£249,697	£1,258,942	£1,409,277
<b>Total</b>	<b>£924,013</b>	<b>£1,839,488</b>	<b>£2,763,501</b>

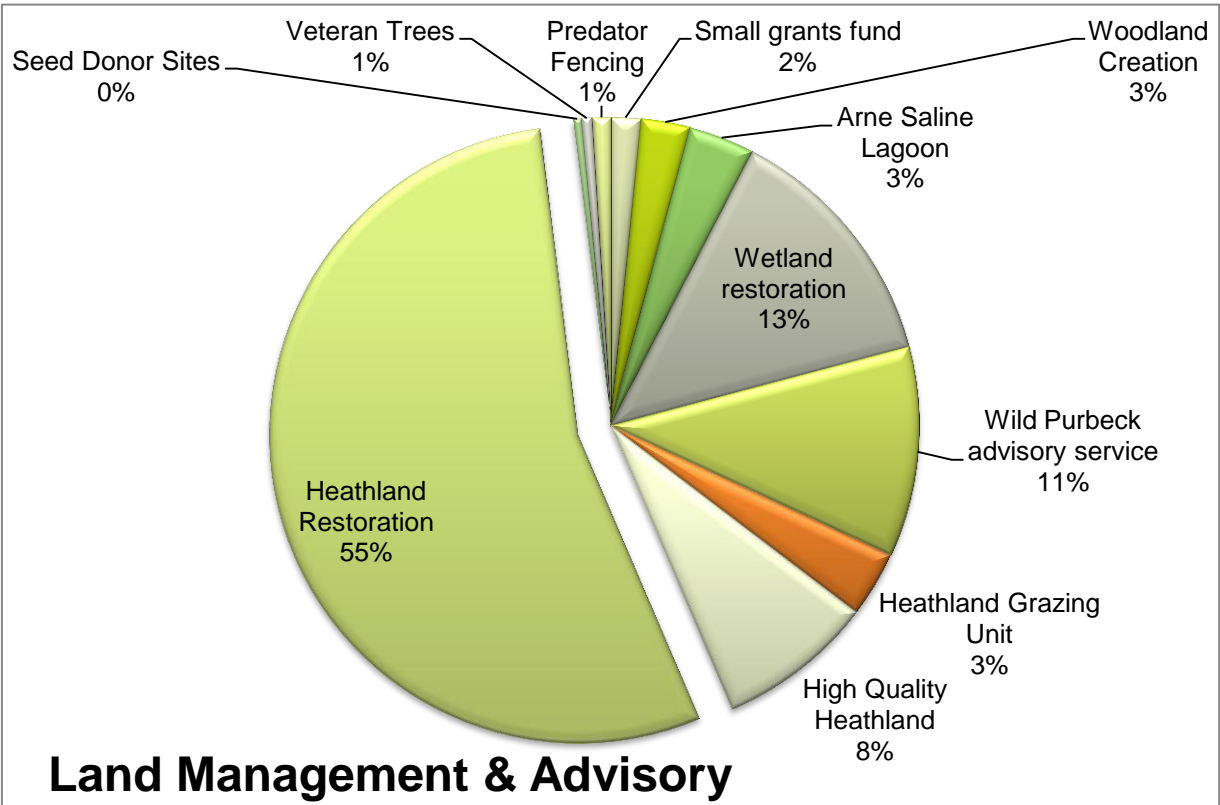
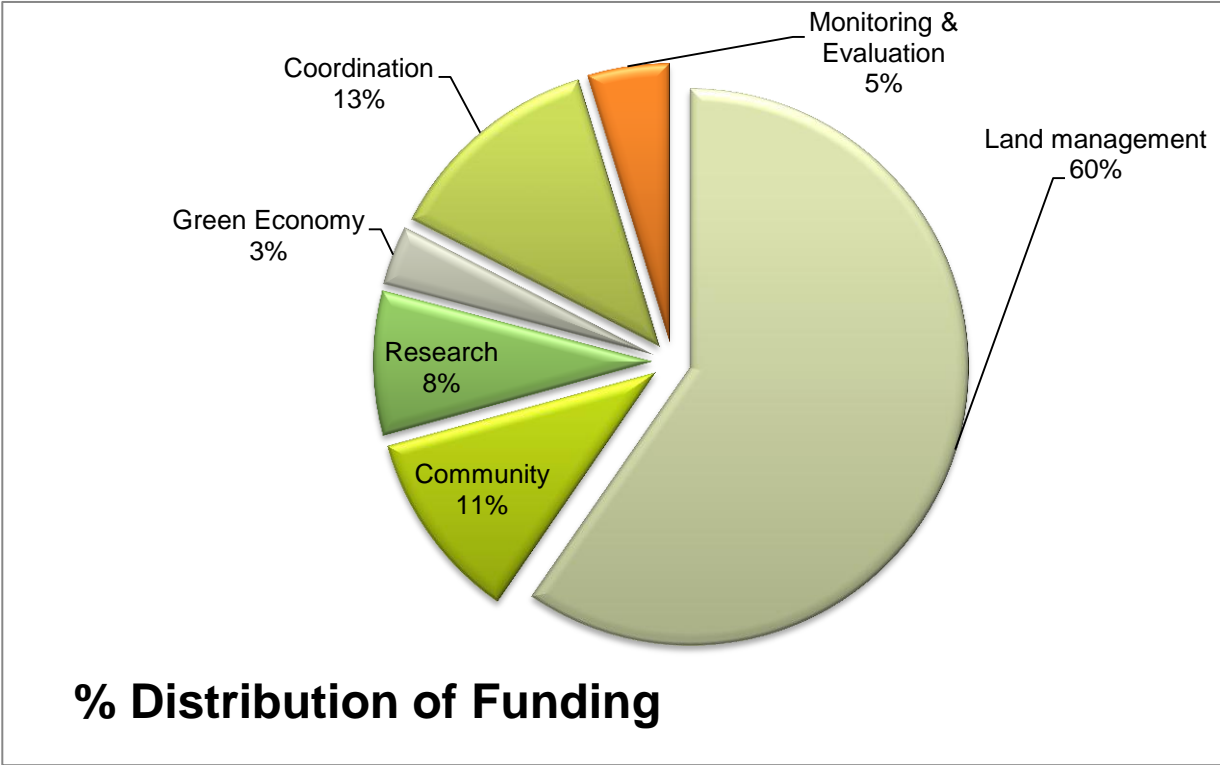
Wild Purbeck NIA has seen the mobilisation of large numbers of volunteers and has helped to secure additional funding plus in kind match funding from partners. Through the projects Wild Purbeck NIA has engaged with around 13% of the population resident in the Wild Purbeck area and with over 20,000 hours of volunteer time across the NIA totalling an additional £426,000 in kind value.

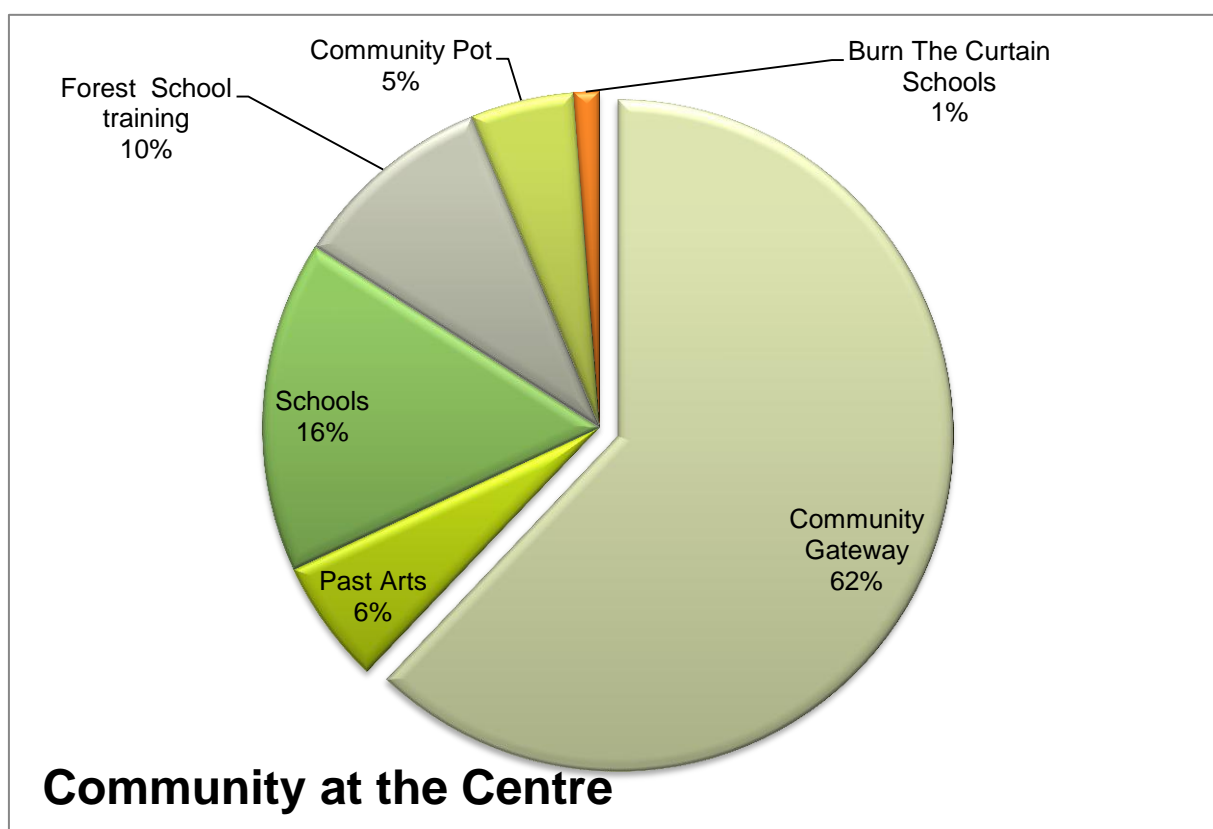
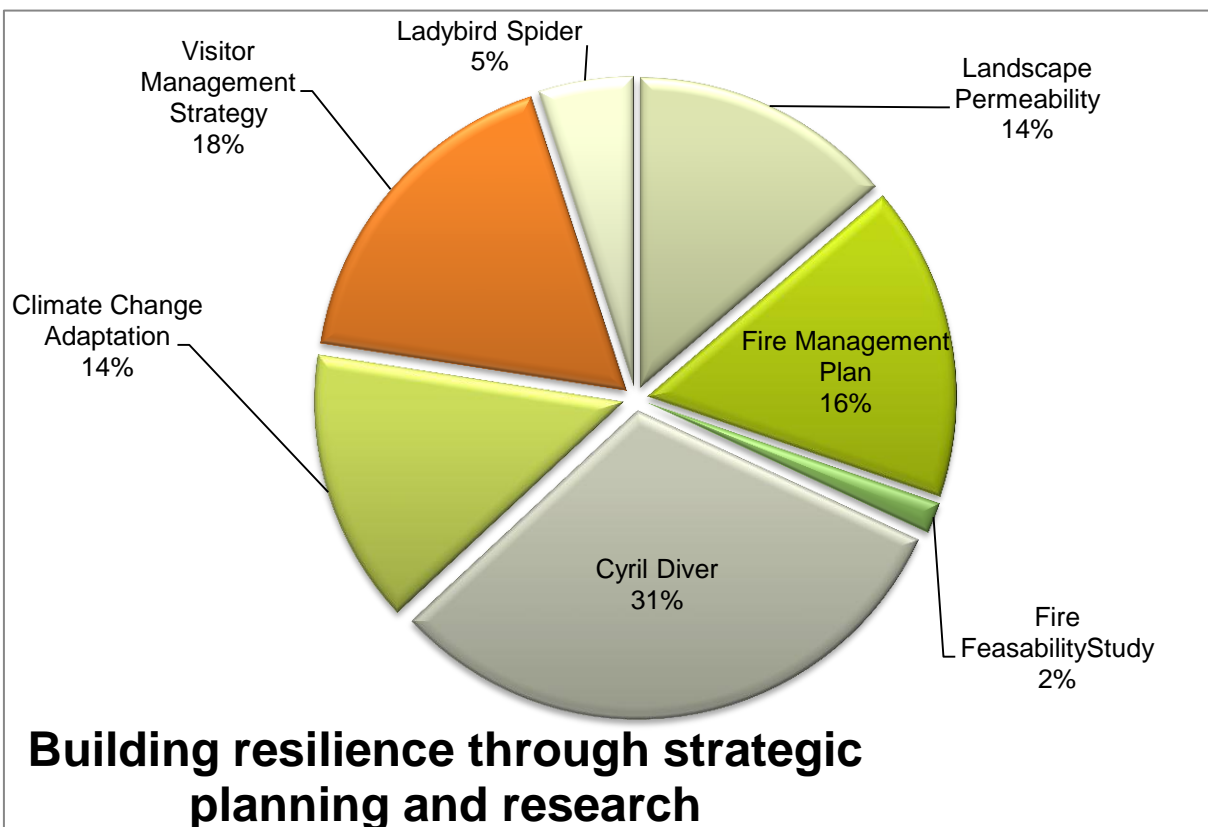
NIA funding alone has inputted over £400,000 in capital spend, helping to deliver, 124ha land purchased and safeguarded for the future and 467ha of heathland restored or managed. The Wild Purbeck Partnership has enabled partner organisations to lever in funding they would otherwise not have been able to access.



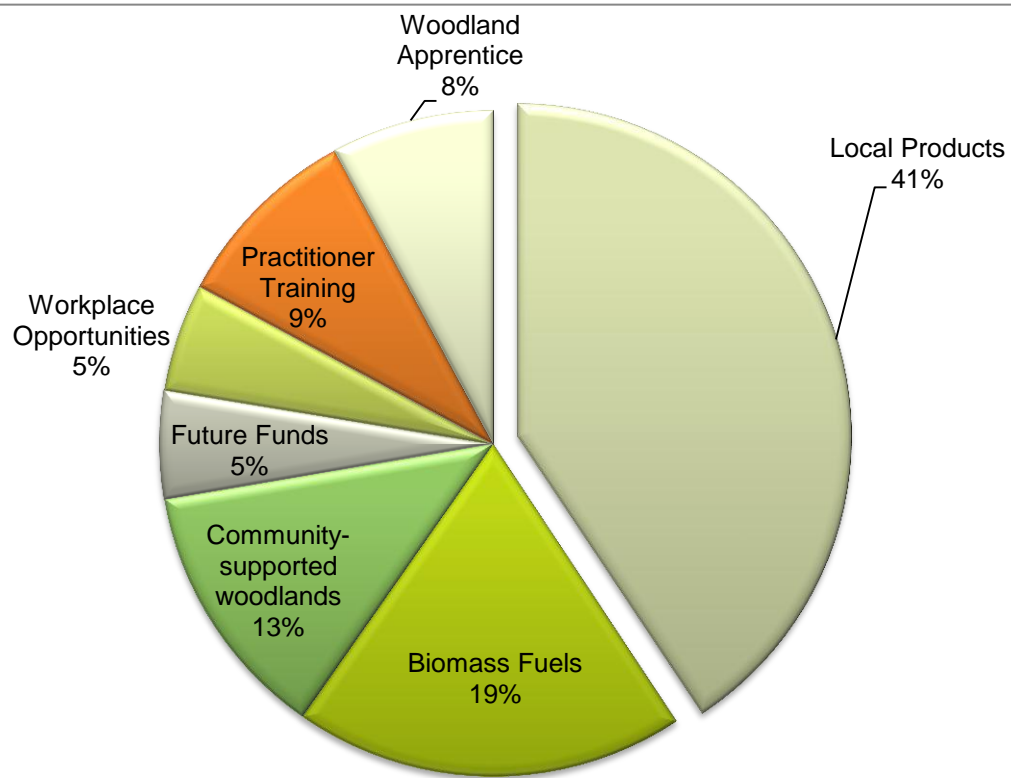
*Graphical Financial Breakdown*

The following graphs show the percentages of funding and its allocation. Many of the projects have multi partners delivering in partnership; it would be disproportional to show allocation to individual partner organisations so projects under themes & projects have been used.









## Developing the green economy

## Wild Purbeck NIA Project Achievements Summary

### Theme 1: Land Management and Advisory Services

Project	Aims / Actions	Achieved
<b>LMAS1:</b> Large extensive grazing unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To introduce livestock grazing into large blocks of heathland:</li> <li>Arne/Hartland/private owned heathland and woodland – total 1,284Ha</li> <li>Heath/forest mosaics at Rempstone – total 510Ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Road Safety Assessment</li> <li>Speed Survey on Arne Road</li> <li>Pre-scheme noise readings</li> <li>Services investigation- included in prelim design</li> <li>Preliminary Designs in place</li> <li>Removal of fences @ Arne/Slepe Heath</li> <li>Grazing @ Rempstone 510ha</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS2:</b> High quality heathland restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create 71 Ha of high quality heathland through brash removal, fencing, ditch/drain blocking to maintain water levels in wet/humid heath, spraying back unwanted growth of scrub and /or bracken. Includes an enhanced level of aftercare to ensure high quality heathland is the outcome.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71 hectares High Quality Restoration Complete.</li> <li>Forest Design Plan approved</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS2*</b> Additional heathland restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase habitat resource by restoring/creating features using appropriate management.</li> <li>To maintain/enhance the extent of habitat and improve its condition through appropriate management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£297,650 additional funding allocated</li> <li>12 landowners received funding</li> <li>396.3 hectares Heathland restored/managed</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS3:</b> Wetland creation / water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct wetland restoration work (15 ponds and scrapes restored, 6000m ditch management, 15Ha wet meadow creation)</li> <li>Delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives on Frome and Piddle</li> <li>1 ecosystem services plan for Frome and Piddle</li> <li>To record new wetland bird records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional £20k funding secured</li> <li>22 ponds/scrapes restored &amp; created</li> <li>9 hectares wetland restored &amp; 15 hectares pond and wet woodland restoration completed</li> <li>Corfe Valley Scoping Report completed</li> <li>7000 new wetland bird records</li> <li>River and wetland restoration strategy</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ditch Management Plan</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS3a*:</b> Predator fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To install 2,000m predator exclusion fencing to create a sanctuary for nesting lapwings to protect their eggs and chicks from ground predation. The fencing, on wet grassland SSSI, will also benefit redshank.</li> <li>• To aim for 5 pairs of breeding lapwings on the site within 5 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predator fencing installed</li> <li>• 25 hectares lapwing nesting habitat protected</li> <li>• On-going monitoring continuing</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS4:</b> Woodland Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop strategically sited new woodland higher in the catchment to enhance water quality by placing wet woodland adjacent to the rivers (15Ha) or on steeply sloping arable land susceptible to erosion.</li> <li>• 120Ha new woodland to offset the loss of woodland area due to heathland re-creation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 hectares new wet woodland created</li> <li>• 88.75 hectares new woodland created/managed</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS4*</b> Veteran Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To carry out survey work on potential and known veteran trees using a combination of volunteers and professional surveyors.</li> <li>• Training made available for volunteers in Veteran Tree identification &amp; recording</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veteran tree database updated &amp; gaps identified</li> <li>• 8 volunteer trained in surveying veteran trees</li> <li>• 2 targeted lichen studies carried out</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS5:</b> Wild Purbeck Land Management Advisory Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To co-ordinate advisory effort in the area, ensure a tactical approach to farmer liaison and provide adviser training on the research and targeting undertaken elsewhere in the NIA programme. Includes:</li> <li>• New jointly branded advisory service integrating Catchment Sensitive Farming, Soils for Profit, flood storage, public access, specialist habitat / historic land management. Contact with 60 farmers 1:1 and 60 groups.</li> <li>• Innovative wide scale enhancement of biodiversity (WEBs) work to buffer and link habitats on the intensive grasslands that will remain a necessary element of the Wild Purbeck landscape. 4 trial sites</li> <li>• Revisit 20 HLS agreement to maximise outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 56 Farmer contact 1:1 (initial visits)</li> <li>• 78 Farmer Contact 1:1 (follow up visits)</li> <li>• 67 Farmer contact (group work)</li> <li>• 31 HLS agreements re-visited/amended</li> <li>• 12 new HLS agreement submitted</li> <li>• 4 Farmer newsletter</li> <li>• 10 Farmland bird surveys completed</li> <li>• 8 Arable plant surveys completed</li> <li>• 6 Soil/Scrub Management Plans Prepared</li> <li>• 8.75 hectares Enhanced intensive grass ley trial sites</li> <li>• Farmer/Landowner workshops organised</li> <li>• WPNIA advice and capital grants have secured creation, restoration and maintenance of 900ha of species-rich</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing the transition as CSS agreements expire</li> <li>Link with Purbeck Conservation Products project</li> </ul>	grassland and broad-leaved woodland on private farmland. This include the maintained or introduction of low impact grazing
<b>LMAS5*</b> Seed Donor Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collate a register of donor sites for sward enhancement / heathland restoration projects.</li> <li>Information to be collected and recorded on GIS layer</li> <li>Register will be available to anyone looking to find a source of seed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIS based donor site register developed</li> <li>Sites mapped enabling easy match up between donor and recipient sites.</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS6:</b> Saline lagoon creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restore the ball clay pit at the north-east corner of RSPB Arne Nature Reserve to create a new saline lagoon.</li> <li>To include construct floating islands, provide new viewing facilities and monitor effectiveness for key species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 hectares Saline Lagoon created</li> <li>28 ha Habitat including Saline Lagoon secured</li> <li>Management Plan in development</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS7:</b> Capital Pot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a small capital pot to offer land managers for specific capital works which benefit biodiversity and the aims of the NIA.</li> <li>To be spent through the land management advisory network and linked to HLS schemes but for capital works that could not be funded through HLS. Examples include gorse /scrub control / fencing.</li> <li>To enable long term management to be established, and link in to our “land management and advisory services” theme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£21,957 distributed for Small Capital grants</li> <li>1.1 ha of woodland planting directly funded by NIA capital funds</li> <li>28.8 ha of gorse and scrub management work to restore species-rich calcareous grassland including fencing and water supply to enable better grazing of SSSI calcareous grassland</li> <li>4 deer exclosures created to demonstrate deer grazing impact</li> <li>1 bridge installed to enable grazing of Floodplain grazing marsh SSSI</li> <li>1 traditional orchard restored</li> <li>4 scrapes created (recorded on wetlands targets)</li> </ul>
<b>LMAS8*</b> Ladybird Spider Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish the species on 12 sites in Purbeck, and manage their habitat as part of existing site management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional 2 sites chosen for reintroduction taking total to 12</li> <li>Site specific management advice &amp; staff training delivered.</li> <li>Volunteers trained &amp; best practice handbook produced.</li> </ul>

## Theme 2: Community at the Centre

Project	Aims / Actions	Achieved
<b>COMM1:</b> Community Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parishes to be contacted in a co-ordinated manner to assess wildlife and environmental issues of importance.</li> <li>Engagement through a number of interconnecting community groups. Involving: 40 parishes, 12 community wildlife champions, 10 volunteer working groups.</li> <li>2000 people engaged in dialogue about landscape change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 parishes contacted with</li> <li>29 parishes taking part in events/activities</li> <li>7 Community wildlife champions</li> <li>4120 People engaged in dialogue about landscape change</li> <li>6 Local greenspace initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>COMM1*</b> Community Pot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fund will provide small capital grants for a range of projects that contribute toward the Wild Purbeck NIA objectives of:</li> <li>Benefits to urban areas and communities</li> <li>Inspiration of people through an enhanced experience of the outside world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£5000 Community Pot distributed</li> <li>Wildlife Sensory garden area funded</li> <li>Equipment for cubs “Global Conservation on our Doorstep” project</li> <li>Interpretation for Bere Regis Souls Moor Nature Reserve</li> <li>Lulworth &amp; Winfrith Primary School wildlife development programme</li> <li>Wareham Learning Garden Project</li> </ul>
<b>COMM2:</b> Past Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To engage audiences in a dialogue about how landscapes change (past and future).</li> <li>An artist will develop and support the project, curate exhibitions, lead 5 guided walks, develop self-guided walks and 3 artist residences at Swanage Middle School.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Exhibitions of past landscape art</li> <li>5 Self-guided walks with interpretation material</li> <li>19 Past Arts Talks/Walks &amp; Events</li> <li>3 In school artists workshops</li> <li>11,000 people attending events</li> </ul>
<b>COMM3:</b> Schools programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To inspire and encourage young people to value their landscape forging strong links with the formal education sector in Purbeck.</li> <li>To include teacher training and preparation of specific materials. Links with 10 schools, 900 children involved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific education materials developed</li> <li>8 Schools linked</li> <li>55 Teachers &amp; project staff trained</li> <li>971 young people engaged</li> </ul>
<b>COMM3*</b> Forest Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To fund 4 schools initially through Level 1 of Forest School training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 schools received Level 1 forest schools training</li> <li>6 teachers &amp; project staff trained</li> </ul>

Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools Trained in Forest Schools</li> <li>Teachers Trained In Forest Schools</li> <li>Young People Engaged in Forest Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 supported by school to Level 3</li> <li>617 young people engaged in Forest schools</li> </ul>
<b>COMM4*</b> Wareham Children's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restore the outdoor area at Wareham Children's Centre to enhance nature discovery in an early years setting. To involve local user families in the design and implementation of the area, and help meet government key objectives to help children engage with the natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor garden space created</li> <li>coordinated the tree removal, community engagement and creation of wildlife habitats</li> <li>events &amp; activities organised</li> </ul>
<b>Pilot Project*</b> Beaford Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To host Devon NIA project "Burn the Curtain" performance company to deliver 1 performance of "The Bureau of Extraordinance Survey" in Purbeck an interactive performance connecting communities with their local area.</li> <li>Additional assistance delivering three school workshops in two areas in Purbeck. Wool and Langton Matravers</li> <li>Host "The Common" performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 school workshops</li> <li>1 performance</li> <li>92 young people engaged with.</li> <li>Cross NIA working</li> <li>25 attending "the common" performance</li> </ul>

### Theme 3: Building Resilience through Strategic Planning and Research

Project	Aims / Actions	Achieved
<b>RES1:</b> Landscape Permeability Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake research to identify existing high value habitat networks and prioritise their extension and enlargement with more permeable (semi-natural) landuse.</li> <li>Includes Aerial Photography and GIS interpretation followed by prioritisation of actions. Implementation will feature work with land managers, one-to-one visits, training workshops and discussion groups.</li> <li>To increase ecological network connectivity by 15%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIS output of existing land-use and ecological networks</li> <li>2 training workshops held</li> <li>Wild Purbeck Network report</li> <li>On-going integration of permeability in landowner liaison advice.</li> </ul>
<b>RES2:</b> Climate Change Adaptation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a monitoring group to agree indicators, protocols and baseline data for the Wild Purbeck NIA and provide training for volunteers.</li> <li>To produce an agreed monitoring framework based on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Adaptation Plan in draft</li> <li>2 Farmer/Landowner discussion forums delivered</li> <li>2 Workshop for climate change practitioners with 58 conservation professionals attending</li> <li>Report on recommendations for climate change</li> </ul>



	species, habitats and human response that will allow the partnership to act in the face of evidence of specific climate change impacts.	monitoring produce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned public awareness activities planned</li> </ul>
<b>RES3:</b> Cyril Diver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve the Cyril Diver archive and translate it into modern, accessible records.</li> <li>Run a bursary to train new experts in difficult taxonomic groups.</li> <li>Resurvey Studland in key taxonomic groups, analyse data and communicate results.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archive completed, collections now owned by Hope Museum (zoological specimens), Dorset Museum (Herbarium), and National Trust (documents, photographs and artefacts)</li> <li>5 Bursary's awarded, 2 PhD's</li> <li>2617 Volunteer days of survey</li> <li>25,000 new biological records for around 2500 species,</li> </ul>
<b>RES4:</b> Fire Management Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review, expand and update fire management and control maps for use by Dorset Fire and Rescue and land managers for the NIA.</li> <li>Identify risk-reduction actions; update guidance on fire risk assessment and management.</li> <li>Develop a complete fire management mapping system and integrated training and advice to engage land managers and Dorset Fire and Rescue to implement the action plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps completed (awaiting adoption)</li> <li>Draft Wildfire Management Plan</li> <li>Wildfire training delivered 16 attendees</li> <li>Draft action plan</li> </ul>
<b>RES4*</b> Fire Feasibility Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine the potential for accidental/unwanted wildfire ignitions within Wild Purbeck.</li> <li>To gather evidence of historic accidental/unwanted ignitions</li> <li>To determine the climatic conditions and fuels that will support accidental ignitions</li> <li>To investigate the relationship between wildfire ignitions, fuel type and human activity within the WPNIA</li> <li>To research the potential changes to accidental/unwanted ignition success as a result of predicted climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ignition feasibility report completed.</li> <li>PhD Project outlined for funding</li> </ul>
<b>RES5:</b> Visitor management planning tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To produce a community guided visitor management strategy for the entire Wild Purbeck area.</li> <li>Identify positive opportunities for visitors and locals to appreciate the high quality biodiversity without detrimental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>672 face to face questionnaires completed</li> <li>Visitor Management Survey Analysis report complete</li> <li>Case study report complete</li> <li>Visitor Management Proposals complete</li> </ul>

	impacts. Provide information on recreational opportunities at three key sites: Arne / Middlebere / Hartland Moor, Greenlands and Wareham Forest / Gore Heath.	
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#### Theme 4: Developing the green economy, income streams and skills

Project	Aims / Actions	Achieved
<b>GE1:</b> Purbeck Conservation Produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold a local food “summit” of producers and outlets of local produce, to define the desired tasks. These may include promoting and developing the existing Dorset Food &amp; Drink scheme, promoting a “Purbeck breakfast” with the area’s B&amp;Bs and showcasing products that make a difference to the landscape.</li> <li>Develop a Wild Purbeck venison brand to increase the volume of venison sold locally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Venison themed food events supported. 4800 visitors attending</li> <li>Working with Purbeck producers to develop a series of events such as tastings, food celebration, and farm tours etc. for Dorset Food Week (25th October - 3rd November). We have recruited 2 volunteers to start pulling Food Week together</li> <li>Purbeck-based members of Dorset Food &amp; Drink now number 11</li> </ul>
<b>GE2:</b> Heathland Arisings Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To utilise small diameter arisings from heathland restoration.</li> <li>To develop a business plan for marketing heathland arisings as woodfuel include working locally to look at resolving local constraints, and building contacts with wider initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making heathland management arisings saleable report completed</li> <li>Technical Feasibility Study for Heat only or Combined Heat &amp; Power Solution in progress</li> </ul>
<b>GE3:</b> Community supported woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable at least one woodland in Wild Purbeck to be taken on by a shareholding community group</li> <li>Pilot with Langton Westwood, to include: a brokerage service between woodland owners, managers and community groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Woodlands management plan in place</li> <li>Spirit of Place report completed</li> <li>Volunteer/Open events involving demonstrations of green woodworking, charcoal making and horse drawn timber extraction.</li> </ul>
<b>GE4:</b> Future funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a mechanism for small scale development to contribute to offsetting, and work alongside offsetting and mitigation measures agreed for larger scale developments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations continue: To compensate for the impacts of the work, Perenco has agreed in principle a proposed compensation package of £1.7 million towards local countryside projects in the surrounding areas.</li> </ul>
<b>GE5:</b> Woodland Apprentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue the delivery of a successful project that has now become recognised as a Wild Purbeck Scheme and has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Woodland apprentice schemes delivered/in progress</li> <li>Further additional apprentice place offered</li> </ul>

Scheme*	<p>become part of the delivery of the work placement project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking with additional funds from Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Small Woodlands Association.</li> <li>• To work with young people to encourage much needed new entrants into an industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous training days including work with Community Supported woodlands</li> <li>• Coppicing program developed and delivered</li> <li>• Public demonstrations including green woodworking skills, horse extraction, coppicing</li> </ul>
<b>GE6:</b> Practitioner training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess the training needs of farmers where related to the management of the NIA's high quality environment.</li> <li>• To provide bespoke day courses free of charge to recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level Four foundation award in Agronomy launched with 7 delegates attending.</li> <li>• Delegates from the Purbeck Farms taking intensive training on managing a) crop and soil nutrition b) diseases weeds and pests with particular reference to plant protection chemicals and fertiliser products. The course culminates in an exam and enables them to go forward onto other courses such as the BASIS certificate and FACTS should they so wish to do.</li> </ul>

### Monitoring and evaluation

Project	Aims / Actions	Achieved
Wild Purbeck NIA Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish a monitoring group and produce baseline key habitats data.</li> <li>• To produce a web-based State of Wild Purbeck biodiversity audit.</li> <li>• Undertake local Wildlife Site monitoring and condition assessments.</li> <li>• Carry out data management (processing data into GIS, Recorder and NBN).</li> <li>• Undertake species monitoring for key target groups</li> <li>• Undertake monitoring on the River Frome (bird surveys and water levels).</li> <li>• Continuously evaluate and review risks associated with project delivery.</li> <li>• Engage communities, skilled groups and individuals in monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Purbeck report completed</li> <li>• 83 SNCI Wild Purbeck project area had been re-surveyed and assessed</li> <li>• Management Statements for all the sites surveyed and assessed were completed and provided to the site owners/managers</li> <li>• In first year of monitoring 13 were assessed as being in a good condition, 25 as 'fair' and 2 were in a poor condition</li> <li>• Sixteen SNCIs in the Wild Purbeck NIA are woodland sites</li> <li>• All but two sites were confirmed SNCI status with one new site was surveyed and selected as an SNCI</li> </ul>



## Forest Schools Case Study

### Case study objectives

To offer schools a chance to learn about how nature, wildlife and geology could help to deliver the new Primary and Secondary National Curriculum



(Credit: James Rich)

### Activities

The project provides free 'twilight training sessions', which teach teachers about the local geology and its links to the area's natural environment

The sessions also explain how this technical knowledge can be used to deliver the curriculum content against key target indicators for achievement in the classroom

The NIA provided funding for teachers to undertake Level 1 of Forest School training. This is an accredited level of training concerned with outdoor learning

*"Very useful session prompting us to review our topic cycle."*

## Wild Purbeck

### Getting Wild about Purbeck in Your School



(Credit: James Rich)

*"This has a huge impact not only in raising levels of knowledge and aspiration in teachers but also showcasing future careers and applications of science in the real world to children"*

The training is intended to provide the teachers and students with a greater understanding of the natural world and, in particular, why their local environment should be conserved

Through working with Wild Purbeck NIA partners, teachers and children are coming into contact with experts that work in nature and wildlife management

### Role of the NIA

The NIA and its partners are providing the schools with advice and assistance to develop their outdoor spaces into wildlife habitats. For example, Dorset Wildlife Trust and RSPB are helping schools design and construct 'bug hotels' and hides

### What worked well?

The free twilight training have been extremely successful as schools have been taking advantage of advice on the changes to the curriculum

Providing funding to help teachers reach level 1 of Forest School is considered to have been well received by the four participating schools

For example schools have placed further investment into their nominated teacher, which will mean that they will have a fully qualified leader who is able to lead Forest School activities at other schools

### Challenges?

Coordinating the materials and providing the training to the teachers took a significant amount of time

It also took time to consult with other partners (such as Dorset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB) to research and develop content that was relevant and specific to the wildlife and nature of Purbeck

*Case study contact: Julie Turner*

## Key to Partners & Terms

AONB	Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BC	Butterfly Conservation
CLBA	Country Land and Business Association
DCC	Dorset County Council
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forest Commission
FWAG SW	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West
KMC	Kingston Maurward College
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers Union
NT	National Trust
PDC	Purbeck District Council
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WT	Woodland Trust
WW	Wessex Water

SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan (Species & Habitat)
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CFE	Campaign for the Farmed Environment
GIS	Geographic Information System
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
ha	Hectares
CPD	Continuing Professional Development