

Comments	AONB Response
<p>In Section 3.3, seventh bullet point, Development management, you inadvertently highlight one of the problems with the planning process with regard to AONBs: the roles of Natural England and the AONB Partnership are unclear with respect to each other. This was evident in the responses to the two Vearse Farm planning applications where there were several instances of you and Natural England passing the buck to each other, with neither fulfilling their proper responsibilities. It hardly mattered as both bodies capitulated to the LPA and the developer anyway.</p> <p>In response to the 2012 draft WDDC Local Plan Natural England and/or Dorset AONB (your comments are grouped together in the report) objected to the general premise by WDDC that major development in the AONB was necessary as follows:</p> <p>‘Disagree that ‘exceptional circumstances’ as defined in the NPPF can be triggered solely by a lack of suitable alternatives in the plan area. There is strong concern that the approach adopted would allow major development sites within the AONB which may not satisfy the tests set out within the NPPF paragraph 116.’</p> <p>You further stated that:</p> <p>‘The protection and enhancement of the natural environment cannot be achieved solely through the provision of mitigation, and compensatory off setting measures.’</p> <p>At some point, with regard to Vearse Farm, both these objections were dropped, a complete U-turn ! - perhaps you could explain that ?</p>	<p>This plan's policy framework should facilitate good planning</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.1 speaks of ‘bringing together’ the partners, but does not indicate what this implies in terms of practical programmatic action (as distinct from discussion round the Partnership table) – see my comment on chapter 1 above.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3. I suggest that your reference to the 25 Year Environment Plan should include specific reference to the Character Areas and the Designated Areas Review, both of which are specifically mentioned in the 25 Year Plan. ‘MMO’ should be given its full name.</p> <p>You might usefully add reference to the DLNP, LAGs and the FLAG.</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>
<p>Consider the notion of zoning</p>	<p>Action planning</p>
<p>I particularly noticed the statement at 3.1 that “the plan places a focus on how the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will be delivered; social and economic issues are covered in terms of their relationship to that primary purpose”. This seems to encapsulate the essential challenge which the AONB is working to meet. It also suggests to me that, apart from its important landscape and wildlife characteristics, the importance of Dorchester to the AONB is crucially based on its social and economic importance to West Dorset, both as this is now and with its potential for future development. This means that there are intrinsic links between the town and the AONB which would benefit from being explicitly acknowledged and explored.</p>	<p>Not relevant to this plan</p>
<p>As above, we think that the LAF should be added to the list of organisations in the third bullet point of 3.2.</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In delivery terms, the AONB team need to be automatically consulted on all planning applications, and their comments given more weight.</li> <li>• The AONB team needs a mechanism whereby Parishes and Towns can obtain their support and expertise in commenting on specific, individual applications.</li> </ul>	<p>Action planning</p>
<p>BTC would like to congratulate the AONB Partnership on securing £7.5m investment across the life of the last 5 year plan. BTC notes that the bulk of investment went to Wild Purbeck and the South Dorset Ridgeway projects. BTC encourages the AONB Partnership to seek similar investments in the west of the AONB area, particularly projects linked to public health and support for nature friendly farming still found in the parishes around Bridport, especially in the Brit Valley and the Marshwood Vale.</p>	<p>Action planning</p>
<p>We welcome the inclusion of Catchment Plans within section 3.3. We consider that it would be beneficial to name the plans involved (i.e. Poole Harbour Catchment Plan &amp; Stour Catchment Plan) to provide effective signposting.</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>
<p>3.2: We recommend including the full names of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Dorset Local Nature Partnership in this paragraph.</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>

<p>3.3: Bullet 2 could include mention of the management plan informing the development of the Local Natural Capital Plan as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan (the scale of this is yet to be determined and could be larger than Dorset but it would still be relevant). An additional bullet point could reference the development of the Local Industrial Strategy by the Dorset LEP</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>
<p>How does it relate to other plans.....etc Can I suggest 'hot links' for the electronic version of this document to those documents and policies that both support and inform it. I realise that this is potentially a tedious and resource hungry exercise but having access to such documents (where electronically available) would greatly assist readers in gaining a more complete understanding of context.</p>	<p>Links to be made in the online version of this plan</p>