

Comments	AONB Response
<p>We support the key concepts that underpin the AONB management plan, in particular, we support the core principle of ecosystem services as an effective framework to ensure that the benefits we derive from the natural environment (ecosystem services) are safeguarded and enhanced.</p> <p>We support the plans adoption of the ‘landscape’ approach – a clear understanding of the landscape character of Burton Bradstock and it’s relationship to the coast and the Bride Valley should be used to guide local activity and ensure that planning decisions and management practices conserve and enhance the distinct character and quality of the local landscapes we enjoy and which have been recognised by the AONB designation</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.3 should include cross reference to the Landscape Character Areas which need the different actions.</p>	<p>Amendments made</p>
<p>There seems to be an assumption that tourism can keep increasing both at peak season time and throughout the year without any adverse effects. Already there are hot spots in the AONB and severe congestion bordering on grid lock on certain locations e.g. Studland peninsular, Lulworth Cove. An evaluation of capacity would be helpful so as to inform decision makers concerned with balancing access and excess.</p> <p>Tourism reliance is problematic in that the net benefits of tourist expenditure may leak out of the area if the recipients of tourism income spend their money beyond the immediate area. Such leakages deserve to be studied and policies such as inward and local trading enhanced so as to build on current initiatives.</p> <p>Natural capital is a difficult concept to realise and rests outside conventional thinking on capital. It may be better expressed as land including the attributes of land.</p> <p>Access management needs to grasp the notion of zoning so as to limit the impact of the human footprint on environmentally sensitive areas. Contrived access based on notions of creating an additional experience is changing the natural attractions of the area by a process of Disneyfication e.g. Corfe Castle, Arne, Studland Knoll Beach. Major charities such as the National Trust and the RSPB are being driven by visitor numbers and as such are suffering from mission drift away from their original purposes as they move enthusiastically into the tourist market place. Such movements detracts from the natural attractions of the area of the AONB.</p>	<p>This plan's policy framework should facilitate good planning</p>
<p>re 5.3 • The concept of ELC seems very significant in that it includes open countryside and urban areas. In the present context this concept seems vital to underpin planning in and around the town.</p>	<p>Not relevant to this plan</p>
<p>• “Landscape character goes beyond landscape and scenic beauty – it is about the interaction of people and place over time, encompassing a suite of perceptual and aesthetic qualities and historical, cultural, ecological and economic aspects”. From a small amount of volunteering at Hardy’s Cottage, I have noticed how comments from a wide range of visitors reflect awareness of that landscape’s character as part of their experience of visiting, e.g. it often focuses for them memories of similar environments within their own family’s history in parts of the country which no longer offer access to elements of nineteenth century life within a setting which so readily allows that period to be imagined. The benefits to such visitors cannot fail to be diverse and enriching and that, of course, affects the way they feel about the whole area, including the town of Dorchester which they can see meant a great deal to Hardy and is still a repository of so much that he drew on in his work and that records his time there. Other comments sometimes bring out clear awareness of the landscape richness here in comparison to other places, e.g. one visitor compared her pleasure at seeing the cottage and its setting to her disappointment at an earlier visit to Stonehenge. There, she was shocked by the damage and impoverishment to the landscape around the monument and her disappointment was not mitigated by her very favourable impression of the Visitors’ Centre</p>	<p>Not relevant to this plan</p>
<p>• Another key concept for reviewing Dorchester within its broader landscape must be the importance of biodiversity networks for a functioning ecological network (at 6.2). Dorchester still has agricultural land all around it, so there is in consequence an apparently permeable boundary between the town and its countryside. This clearly affects wildlife and plant life (e.g. hedgehogs throughout the town, and particularly in the recreation ground of the former Fordington Farm development; a large number of bats in the town centre; an occasional hare on Poundbury Great Field; a rookery outside the new WDDC offices; chalk-loving wildflowers on Poundbury Hill Fort, etc.). If proposals for a large area of new housing north of the town are accepted, a large breach will be made in this interconnectedness of town and countryside. Small strips of nature reserve in the water meadows between the town and the band of new housing would be narrow corridors for wildlife, trees and plants, with inevitably reduced biodiversity networks, both across the town and between the nature reserve and the agricultural land beyond the new housing areas. This would presumably have a negative impact on the ability of Dorchester and its surrounding area, as well as on the wider AONB area, to tolerate the environmental change which is underway and inevitably increasing.</p>	<p>Not relevant to this plan</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re the historic and built environment: the comments made (6.3.3) seem very accurate but also apply to Dorchester itself as much as to its surroundings, e.g. Maiden Castle does not exist in isolation, but has intrinsic links with earthworks such as Maumbury Rings and Poundbury Hill Fort, through their construction and the ways in which they were reused by the Romans as they created and adapted Durnovaria 	Not relevant to this plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re the strengthening of “the sense of place” (6.3.3) which is so important to the whole area as well as to Dorchester residents and visitors, the special significance of the water meadows should be highlighted. The AONB map shows only one other such area: the Stour Valley Pasture. Although the Dorchester water meadows are no longer flooded as before, the remains of hatches and drainage channels indicate what was done (with some explanatory boards also provided). The current control of seasonal changes in water levels in the rivers and streams there also shows that there is still a need to manage the water supply in particular ways in relation to landscape use 	Not relevant to this plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re 6.4 and 6.4.1 in relation to the “cultural landscape and natural beauty”: the resources in Dorchester e.g. its townscape (which includes so many features which have inspired artists and writers) as well as the Dorset County Museum, have increasing potential to help West Dorset residents and visitors alike to appreciate the “rich legacy of cultural associations” referred to here, particularly if the resources of the town and the whole AONB area become linked more explicitly. The reopening of the enhanced Dorset Museum in 2020 seems likely to be very helpful in underpinning this kind of approach 	Not relevant to this plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its fourth edition, the key concepts are well refined, so the focus can shift towards delivery and implementation monitoring of the key goals. • This Parish is concerned that replacement or replication of the European Landscape Convention may require additional unanticipated budget and resources. • A post April / May 2019 review should be produced for information and clarity. 	Action planning
<p>BTC supports the plan’s aim to contribute to the UN sustainable development goals, and from these we would encourage a particular focus on food poverty which is a concern locally.</p> <p>BTC supports the key concepts that underpin the AONB management plan, in particular, we support the core principle of ecosystem services as an effective framework to ensure that the benefits we derive from the natural environment (ecosystem services) are safeguarded and enhanced.</p> <p>BTC supports the plan’s adoption of the ‘landscape’ approach – a clear understanding of landscape character of the Bridport Area should be used to guide local activity and ensure that planning decisions and management practices conserve and enhance the distinct character and quality of the local landscapes we enjoy and which have been recognised by the AONB designation.</p>	Support