

Comments
Just to state that I am fully supportive of the creation of a Dorset National Park as the next step up from the AONB. I have been involved from the outset having created numerous documents about our industrial heritage to assist the process.
Charminster Parish Council had the topic on the agenda at its September meeting: it decided to make no comment as it felt that the AONB was not relevant to its work. My view was more negative: I felt the document was elitist, largely descriptive and the management policies were so general in nature that they are more a wish list rather than policies
I can understand that by clearly defining planning standards that will be used by Dorset Council planners in the future you will meet AONB's planning responsibilities, and in general I do not disagree with most of them. But the publishing and agreement on these planning standards can never be considered to be a management plan. They are simply the background within which the management plan should operate. So the team should really get the debate going on the degree and nature of the problems within the AONB area, and work with partners to address these problems. This would be the management plan: it is something that at the AONB could work to deliver: starting from a known series of positions it would be possible to measure the degree of success in the subsequent years.
A plan needs to have objectives, ways of achieving these objectives and ways of measuring the degree of success. I see none of these. You have a document that is real waffle, where AONB management cannot do anything other than succeed. This is wrong. So the team should really get the debate going on the degree and nature of the problems within the AONB area, and work with partners to address these problems. This would be the management plan: it is something that at the AONB could work to deliver: starting from a known series of positions it would be possible to measure the degree of success in the subsequent years
Well done on shortening the plan, which I think will mean it is used more widely by partners and stakeholders.
The Woodland Trust is pleased to have a partnership agreement in place with AONBs and we welcome the opportunity to continue working with you in Dorset to address some of the challenges to fragmentation and connectivity that are outlined in the Management Plan and to deliver on some of the solutions such as woodland creation