

Wild Purbeck

NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREA

Autumn 2013

Well we are now half way through the NIA and projects are picking up pace. This last quarter from July to September has once again seen a record number of volunteer hours clocked up with over 8000 hours since the start, taking the overall added value of the project to over £430,000 so far. Planned over the next quarter are walks, talks, events and more volunteer opportunities. Other news for the NIA is that new funding has been secured for two capital grant pots, one for land managers and farmers and one for community projects. For more information please contact Julie.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk



Volunteer Surveyors for the National Trust Cyril Diver Project

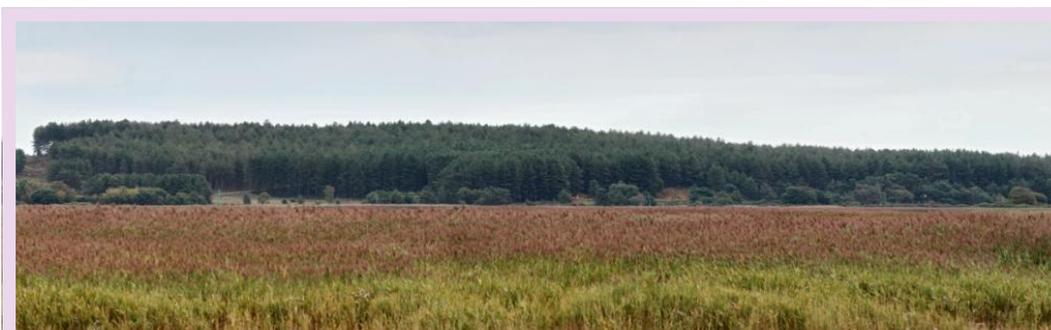
Land Management & Advisory Services

Farm advisory visits have continued delivering a range of topics including Nitrate Vulnerable Zone compliance & Stewardship Scheme implementation. A grassland management workshop was held with guest speakers from Butterfly Conservation and Lulworth estate with 11 local farmers attending. FWAGSW has produced a bi-annual NIA Farmers newsletter filled with advice and useful information. Wetland work over the last quarter has delivered advice on pond restoration, wetland enhancement and ditch creation. Some projects will be helped by the new

Farm Habitat Grants that has been secured through the NIA. This fund can provide capital grants for farmers and landowners that contribute to the aims of the NIA, funds are limited and applications are assessed on a case by case basis. Work on 4 ponds has been carried out by volunteers and Dorset Wildlife Trust apprentice including silt and tree removal, to help improve the habitats of some key Great Created Newt ponds. Invertebrate surveys have also been carried out by volunteers with more surveys planned to start October. The Purbeck Forest design Plan and Environmental Statement is now available

on the public register, it can be found on the Forestry Commission website. Forest Design Plans present the long term vision and objectives for an area of forest known as a 'Forest Block'. They are used to set the direction of forest/ woodland management for more than 250,000 hectares of land across England. Restoring heathland is part of a national drive by Government, and is line with their Open Habitats policy which is about supporting diverse landscapes that are resilient to climate change and that are important to people and wildlife

View from Swineham Point © Tony Gill



What's On

30th October - Dorset Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Workshop - Sandford Community Hall

23rd November - Art exhibition "Growth" Dursilton Courtry Park

For more details please contact Julie Turner
julie.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Did you know?

- There are 12 Nature Improvement Areas across Britain covering over 500 thousand hectares or in another way; over 700 thousand football pitches, 46 thousand hectares are in Wild Purbeck
- October/November is the peak of the Sika deer rutting season. But please always make sure you stay a safe distance away when watching.
- Don't forget that winter is a good time to get out to see large flocks of birds like starling murmurations so make sure you take your binoculars with you.
- British summer times ends on the 31st October .



Community at the Centre

Dorset Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Competition awards attracted over 100 people from Purbeck, enjoying a talk and delicious supper. Other **Community Gateway** events lead by DWT have included a "Creepy Capers" in Wareham and moth and bat surveys. Lots of you have also received "Wildlife on Your Doorstep" packs and have been very busy recording wildlife in your gardens. Purbeck residents have been given the chance of becoming "Wildlife Champions" offering a range of training to allow people to learn more about conservation and inspire them to take action forward to help wildlife in their own patch. More information on this can be found on the Dorset Wildlife website. The **Past Arts** project is progressing well and an initial planning workshop has taken place at

Swanage secondary school with a further day enjoyed by students who spent time taking photos around Swanage and Durlston for an exhibition later in the year. Primary schools will be devising 3D maps of local walks, together with a downloadable walk. Spring 2014 will see exhibitions at Durlston, Studland, Corfe and Swanage. The **Wild Purbeck Education Service** has been delivering free "Twilight" sessions for teachers which defines the key aspects of the NIA, its relation to local geology, nature and wildlife, helping to guide teachers as to how this content can be used to deliver the new Primary curriculum. Positive feedback on these sessions has already been received with The Head teacher at Wool Primary School saying "Very informative, useful guide to resources, good mix of activity and input. Very pleasant presenter with good knowledge".



Students from Swanage School recapturing pictures of Durlston.

Since the late eighteenth century more than 80% of the UK's heathland has been lost.

Building Resilience through Research & Planning

The **Cyril Diver** project has continued to attract large amounts of volunteer input helping to reach the over 8000 hours so far for the NIA. The archive has now been securely stored and photographs scanned and saved, many of which have been located to allow them to be re photographed to analyse for change. Over the coming months work will start analyzing these early results and the Diver archive will be delved into, building up a picture of how Studland has changed since the 30s. Face to face surveys for the **Visitor Management Plan** have now finished and a total of 676 questionnaires were completed, many of these captured peoples routes on maps. This data

will now be used to develop a Visitor Management Strategy that will help us to maintain the quality of the natural environment whilst inspiring visitors, offering different types of experience that reflects visitor needs in and around sites. The **Climate Change Adaptation** project has now started with three overall objectives, building knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts, sharing this knowledge and experiences on a practical implementation level and ensure ongoing monitoring of direct and indirect impacts of climate change and human responses to these in the conservation programmes. These will be delivered by engaging the land management communities and understanding how best we can help them adapt in a manner commensurate with natures need.



Looking over the heather to Old Harry © Mark Simons

Green Economy

The Woodland Apprentice Fiona de Wert has been working in Brenscombe Wood, and learning new coppice and craftsman skills in Purbeck with local coppice worker Toby Hoad. Practical work of felling a conifer stand for broadleaved replanting in Brenscombe Wood has been carried out. A coppice

regeneration programme in selected woods has now commenced and will involve volunteer work parties assisted by the apprentice. There is a Venison & Food Festival planned next spring highlighting the benefits of eating a locally source food and how to go about cooking it, dates and venues will be announced here in the near future.

"To date there has been over 8000 volunteer hours spent on Wild Purbeck Projects"

The Wild Purbeck Partnership comprises of Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Country Land and Business Association, Dorset County Council, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Forestry Commission, Jurassic World Heritage Team, Kingston Maurward College, National Farmers Union, Natural England, National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Woodland Trust. This project has been supported by Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England



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