



**Keep our County Beautiful  
for all to Enjoy**

# INTRODUCTION

A Dorset National Park is an exciting vision and, with your help, can become a reality. It would work in partnership to:

- Conserve and enhance Dorset's great landscapes and heritage.
- Make Dorset a global brand and destination.
- Work with communities for appropriate development and affordable homes for local people.
- Attract investment and support jobs and rural services.
- Help farmers, for example, to access funding and other support.

# THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR

In response to an initiative from Natural England (the relevant Government agency) a team submitted evidence supporting the case for a Dorset National Park. The proposal has passed an initial evaluation.



# THE FUTURE

We want Natural England to prioritise Dorset's National Park proposal and carry out a more detailed assessment as soon as possible. With your support, a National Park could become a reality in five to six years and benefit all of Dorset.

# SUPPORT

Many communities, business groups and individuals from across Dorset support the proposal and Dorset Councils are evaluating the opportunities it would offer.

# WHICH AREAS ARE INCLUDED?

The proposal to Natural England embraces the Dorset and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and what remains of Thomas Hardy's Egdon Heath between Dorchester and Wareham.

This proposal is just a starting point and, for example, the councils of Portland and Sturminster Newton (outside the AONB) have expressed their support and wish to be included.



# HOW WOULD NATIONAL PARK STATUS HELP DORSET?

## MAIN GOALS

National Parks have a responsibility to:

- **Conserve and enhance the environment.**
- **Promote recreation, health and well-being, and the enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of their area.**
- **Foster the economic and social well-being of their communities.**

## ENVIRONMENT

The Dorset landscapes and heritage are very special. They have been judged to be amongst the top 4 percent in the country<sup>1</sup>. The environment is Dorset's greatest economic asset<sup>2</sup> and we need to look after it. As the planning authority for its area, the National Park would have a statutory duty to look after our environment and heritage.

## DEVELOPMENT

Despite what some may think, National Parks are not against development. They have a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of their areas. They work in partnership with local communities and businesses to meet local needs. This includes housing and affordable homes.

The Dorset National Park would simplify the planning process and be a one-stop-shop for co-ordinated planning advice. It would work in partnership with other local authorities<sup>3</sup>.

## TOURISM

Tourism is Dorset's largest economic sector. The National Park brand would put Dorset on the world map. It would also encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more<sup>4</sup>.

A National Park would help develop a Dorset-wide marketing strategy and attract funding for sustainable transport. So we could all benefit.

## LANDOWNERS & FARMERS

A Dorset National Park can help farmers and landowners access funding and other support, and offer branding opportunities in tourism and other areas.

It would also encourage and support landscape-scale conservation and estate-wide planning.

## FUNDING

National Parks are core-funded by central Government and not by residents or local businesses. They also bid for additional funds which are reinvested with local communities, not-for-profit and commercial businesses, farmers and landowners.

The National Park could attract investment and promote skills. The whole community, including young people, can benefit.

For more detailed information or to get involved please visit [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com)



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Spread the word about the benefits a National Park would bring.
- Visit our website for up to date news and follow us on Facebook.
- Volunteer and join the growing team to help promote the National Park proposal.
- Ask your Parish or Town Council and local societies to lobby Natural England to evaluate the Dorset National Park proposal as soon as possible.

Together we can secure a great future for our communities, environment and economy.



# WE ♥ DORSET NATIONAL PARK

For more information or to get involved, please visit  
[www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com) or find us on **Facebook**

Thanks to Mike White, Rob Jayne and Phil Bardswell for the images of Pilsdon Pen, Golden Cap and The Hardy Monument.

All content correct at time of going to press (version1.1) - Notes:

1. RSA Report (November 2016) placed Purbeck, Weymouth & Portland in the top 4% of authorities with West Dorset not far behind.
2. Report for Dorset County Council (March 2016) valued our environment as worth around £1.5 billion per year.
3. The National Park planning team could be co-located with the shire unitary and could contract with it for the delivery of planning and other services.
4. See the evidence from the South Downs and Northumbria National Parks.
5. The independent report on the economic benefits of National Parks suggests a Dorset National Park could attract around £10m per year of core Government grants (similar to the South Downs National Park). The South Downs National Park has also secured over £25m of additional project funding in its first 5 years.