

# Dorset National Park Newsletter

## July 2018

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2018.

The Government's Review of Designated Landscapes, chaired by Julian Glover, is now underway. We welcome this important development and look forward to working with the Glover Panel, DEFRA and Natural England. The Review will report in 2019. There will never be a better time to secure the 21st century National Park we need to ensure a living, working, thriving, successful and sustainable future for Dorset's communities and economy, as well as to enhance our exceptional environment and biodiversity.

The shadow Dorset Council is now in operation. We look forward to working with the Council and other stakeholders to secure a National Park which will be an asset and bring benefits to all of Dorset. Together we have the opportunity in the context of the Glover Review to help shape a 21st century National Park that meets the needs of Dorset. Other areas in the country are not slow in advancing their cause as they see the benefits. Dorset must not lose the initiative.

June and July saw three important press features. In June, Dorset Life's 50th anniversary number proclaimed Dorset: time for a National Park, and Why we need a Dorset National Park and need it soon. July's Dorset Life followed this with an article about the Dorset National Park by one of our patrons and supporter, Prof Michael Dower. The Times featured a new report by the Mammals Society and Sussex University, announcing that 4 of the 5 best areas for biodiversity in Britain are in Dorset. If you missed any of these features, do go to our website news page and read them there.



Image © Mark Bauer

Please help spread the word about the great opportunities a National Park offers our communities and businesses (including farmers, landowners and all those in the tourism sector) as well as for conserving and enhancing our environment, biodiversity and heritage - Dorset's greatest economic assets. Dorset is the outstanding NP candidate with its unparalleled diversity of geology, landscape and wildlife and "gold standard" heritage and, with its World Heritage Coast stretching over 90 miles, would be the first English NP with a significant coastline and a possible offshore role. Working in close partnership with the Dorset Council and others, and through the joint development of policies and plans, a National Park would invest in Dorset's future and add real value to our communities, economy, environment and natural capital.

### Glover Review of Designated Landscapes – a great opportunity for Dorset

In June, the government announced details of the Review of Designated Landscapes to be led by Julian Glover. The National Park Team welcomes this important development and looks forward to working with Julian Glover and the Panel, DEFRA and Natural England and to welcoming the Panel to Dorset. The Review, DEFRA says, will not weaken the roles or geographic scope of existing designated landscapes; it will consider how they can do even more to enhance biodiversity and improve natural capital, help more people to be in touch with nature with its associated well-being gains, support communities and those who live and work in the Parks, and grow the rural economy. A Dorset NP will be considered as part of this review.

We hope that communities, councils, other organisations and stakeholders across Dorset will want to seize the

opportunity presented by the Glover review, engage in discussion and proactively shape and secure a 21st century National Park which will be an asset and advantage for all of Dorset.

In the last newsletter we welcomed the government's recognition, in the 25 Year Environment Plan, of the excellent work National Parks do for their communities and economy as well as the environment. As the Plan said: "As planning authorities, National Parks can shape the way development is used to contribute to [the] enhancement" of their communities, economy and environment.

The Glover Review aims to report in 2019, the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

## Dorset National Park Team Welcomes the Dorset Council

We look forward to a positive and productive working relationship with the shadow Dorset Council's councillors and officers. The announcement of the government's Glover Review offers the Dorset Council the timely opportunity to secure a National Park which will be an asset and close partner in a smooth working relationship and bring economic benefits to all of Dorset. We believe this is the kind of C21st National Park that other key stakeholders and the government would also want.

A useful C21st model is the South Downs National Park which has seen increased economic activity, proactive planning (including the development of housing for local people) and secured over £100million additional income in its first 5-6 years, as well as assisting landowners, farmers and others to conserve and enhance the area's environment, heritage and natural capital.

The Dorset National Park and Dorset Council would work together with no duplication, sharing a planning team and developing their Local Plans in partnership and at the same time. The National Park would contract with the Dorset Council for planning work and pay for this and other services, thus freeing up Dorset Council funds for other priorities. The South Downs NP shows what can be achieved through partnership working. Their Local Plan was developed with a wide range of partners and builds on some 50 Neighbourhood Plans which were developed with assistance from the National Park.

The National Park would work for rural Dorset, boost the economy, attract investment, jobs and skills. It could develop a Dorset-wide tourism strategy, put Dorset on the international tourism map, extend the season and raise awareness of Dorset's attractions including those that are inland and less well-known. Where currently councils and other organisations struggle to deal with tourism pressures in some areas, a National Park would have a duty and resources to work with others to manage such pressures as well as adding value to our tourism offer. The South Downs attracted significant funding for investment in sustainable transport.

The environment is Dorset's greatest economic asset and a National Park would conserve, enhance and invest in our natural capital. Although Dorset's biodiversity is exceptional in some areas, such as our internationally

important heath-land landscapes, some areas have seen serious decline, for example in bird and insect life.

A National Park would help rural Dorset to thrive. Farmers in the South Downs National Park benefited from the Park helping to secure over 20% of regional agri-environment funding, despite farming only 6% of the relevant land area. The SDNP achieved this by taking the initiative, in partnership with a high percentage of National Park farmers, to respond to funding opportunities for landscape-scale conservation. The expected move, post Brexit, to a "public benefit" approach to farm funding will create further opportunities and advantages for National Park farmers. Some National Parks, including the South Downs, are currently piloting trust-based systems of post-Brexit farm funding and other investment support, in full partnership with their local NFUs. With a National Park, Dorset farmers could benefit from similar schemes.



The Glover Review is Dorset's opportunity pro-actively to shape the C21st National Park which will benefit all of Dorset. Dorset needs to be on the front foot, and we look forward to engaging in constructive discussion to achieve this outcome. Together with the Dorset Council and other key partners we can all help shape and secure the 21st century National Park that Dorset needs.

### New Case Studies feature on National Park website

Go to News on the National Park website to see fascinating new articles and case studies written by experts in their different fields. Starting with Dorset archaeologist Dr Lilian Ladle's article about Dorset's outstanding heritage from the earliest human settlement to medieval times, the series continues with Dorset's surprising reputation as a centre for climbing, Dorset's Thomas Hardy Heritage and an article on Purbeck's internationally important heathland. More articles cover the translocation of young ospreys to Poole Harbour in the hope that these will return to breed, plus future articles on our heritage. These case studies also form part of our growing evidence for the further evaluation of the Dorset National Park proposal in the context of the Glover Review.



## Dorset Life ... "Why we need a National Park"

In June, Dorset Life's 50th anniversary number proclaimed "Dorset: time for a National Park." The editor, in a Dorset Life Opinion under the heading "Why we need a Dorset National Park and need it soon" concluded "... almost irrespective of the detail, a Dorset National Park would be good for Dorset."



Image © Dorset Life

July's Dorset Life followed this with an article about the Dorset National Park by one of our patrons, Prof Michael Dower. Prof Dower, a resident of Beaminster, noted his family's close involvement in the proposals of the 1940s to designate parts of Dorset as a NP. (His full article is [Here](#).) He continues.....

"Since then, the Dorset Coast has received World Heritage status; the high quality of the county's landscape and heritage is widely acknowledged; and Natural England (the relevant Government agency) has short-listed Dorset for consideration as a National Park.

I know from personal experience, as Director of the Peak National Park and then as Director General of the Countryside Commission, the high value which National Park status can have for the environment, the community and the economy of a designated area. The Dorset AONB Partnership has pursued many excellent projects, with finance from many sources and assisted by many organisations - so why would it be good to upgrade the designation to that of National Park?

A National Park would have powers and resources beyond those of an AONB. As the planning authority, it would work in partnership to conserve and enhance the county's scenic, natural and historic heritage, which is our greatest economic asset, and promote enjoyment and understanding of this heritage, recreation, health and well-being. It would manage tourism pressures, extend the season and bring the benefits of tourism to all parts of the county. It would foster the economic and social well-being of communities and support developments that reflect local need, including truly affordable homes for local families.

A National Park would be an asset and close partner for the new Dorset Council and the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. National Parks are funded by central Government and so are not a call on local households or businesses. The South Downs National Park attracted over £100 million additional funding in its first 5-6 years. Its landowners and farmers secured over twice the amount of agri-environment funding that might have been expected. National Parks are now piloting post-Brexit funding packages for farming and rural development, in partnership with local farmers and enterprises.

I have no doubt that a Dorset National Park could have a positive social, economic and environmental impact, parallel to that now being realised by the South Downs National Park. I wholeheartedly support the proposal and would encourage all readers to find out more by visiting [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com) "

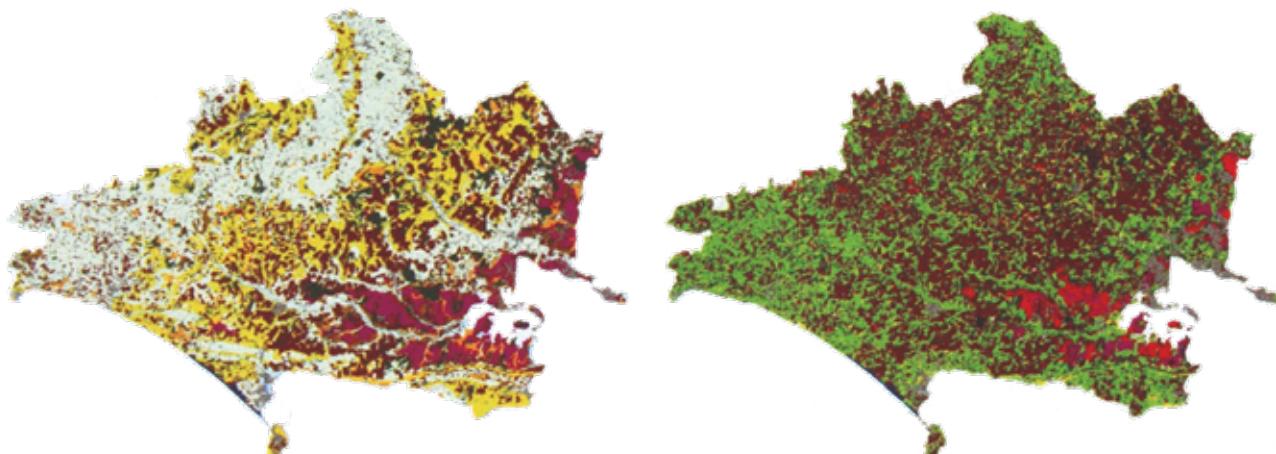
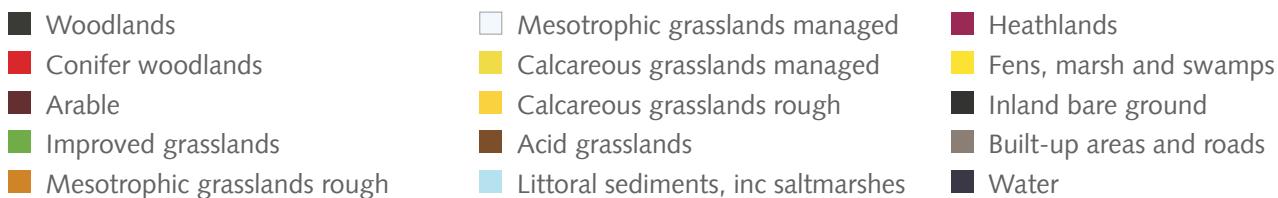


## The Times ... "UK's little square of loveliness"

On 16 June, The Times featured a new report by the Mammals Society and Sussex University commissioned by Natural England. Against the background of declining biodiversity across the country, this announced that 4 of the 5 best 10 km grid squares for biodiversity in Britain are in Dorset. A National Park would help conserve and look after such precious areas. It would work with partners, Dorset councils and communities, farmers and landowners, businesses and other organisations,

to enhance and invest in improving the environment and biodiversity of rural Dorset which, in many areas, have declined over several decades and continue to do so. A Dorset National Park, working with partners and bringing additional resources, can help to reverse this decline in our natural capital, in line with the aims of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Natural England's strategy "Conservation 21" and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

### Land Use Change 1930s to 2000



Maps from D.A.P. Hoofman, J.M. Bullock / Biological Conservation 145 (2012) 30-38

Thank you for your interest in the Dorset National Park. Please spread the word about the great opportunities and benefits a National Park can offer our communities, economy, businesses and environment and all who care about our wonderful county.

Please circulate this Newsletter to friends and colleagues and invite them to visit the website: [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com) for much more information, including News, publications and FAQs, and to join the growing National Park Facebook Group.

It's also easy to sign up for National Park News emails at: [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com)

A 21st Century National Park for Dorset

For more information, visit [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com)

Contact us at: [info@dorsetnationalpark.com](mailto:info@dorsetnationalpark.com)

Dorset National Park: Safeguarding landscapes and heritage, Promoting tourism, Attracting investment and jobs, Truly affordable housing, Agri-environment funding

The National Park Team is a Community Interest Company [CIC] and you can support us with time, contacts, knowledge and funding.

