

Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

Factor	Example sub-factor	Example indicator	Comments	References
Access to high quality landscapes	Opportunities to enjoy outstanding natural beauty	Good access (physically and/or visually) to areas that satisfy the natural beauty criterion (see Natural Beauty criterion)	<p>In the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park, people of all ages, abilities, interests and means are assured of exceptional recreational opportunities and experiences, of landscape, natural and cultural features, including unique and outstanding natural beauty, geology, geomorphology, biodiversity, arts, heritage, countryside and communities.</p> <p>The Dorset and East Devon National Park, comprising the Dorset and East Devon AONBs, together with an additional area of fine Dorset lowland heath (between Dorchester and Wareham and bounded by the A35 in the south and the A31 in the north), offers outstanding potential for leadership within the National Park family through its combination of wide diversity and exceptional quality of fine landscape recreational experiences.</p> <p>The proposed National Park area provides excellent access, physically and visually, to an exceptionally wide range of high quality landscape recreational experiences and activities. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastline of the proposed National Park, extending 95 miles from Exmouth, through the East Devon and Dorset AONBs, to Poole Harbour, has been designated by UNESCO as the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, popularly known as the Jurassic Coast. This is 	[Please see final section]

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			<p>Britain's only natural WHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dorset AONB is much more than one fine landscape – it is a collection of landscapes of outstanding natural beauty, reflecting the extraordinary geological diversity of the AONB, and thousands of years of human interaction with the environment. The Dorset AONB encompasses 14 distinct types of fine landscape, each with its own unique character [see July 2013 Dorset & East Devon National Park Evidence submission for detail]. The Dorset AONB's biodiversity, world-renowned and unparalleled in a UK context, reflects the diversity of the underlying geology and landscapes, and is part of the area's high interest and attraction. • The East Devon AONB is similarly diverse, in its geology, landscapes and biodiversity. • In both AONBs and in the additional Dorset heathland, there is a high level of visible cultural and historical interest, from the earliest prehistoric times to the present day. <p>Access to the area's fine landscapes, both coastal and inland, is good or very good across the whole proposed National Park area.</p> <p>The South West Coast Path National Trail [part of the E9 European route] runs continuously along the Jurassic Coast, offering good, manageable walking, fabulous</p>	
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			<p>views, high biodiversity and cultural interest, throughout its full length.</p> <p>In inland areas, access is also very good in both physical and visual terms, with many regionally important trails [eg the East Devon Way, Dorset Ridgeway, and Purbeck Way trails] and a rich rights of way network across the National Park area.</p> <p>Significant parts of the proposed National Park consist of heathland or grassland which has been designated in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for Open Access to all members of the public.</p> <p>The area's excellence, in landscape terms and for public access, is reflected in its selection, following competition with other areas, to host the Long Distance Walkers' Association's annual 100 miles walk, for the first time in the events' 42 years history, in May 2016.</p> <p>National Cycle Network Route 2, and many regionally and locally designated cycling routes [eg the Purbeck Cycle Way and the Lawrence of Arabia Ride] use the area's quiet and attractive lanes.</p> <p>NCN Route 2, which, when complete, will link Cornwall with Kent, crosses the proposed National Park through East Devon and Dorset, and links the Dorset and East Devon National Park with the National Parks to the east and west.</p> <p>The openness of the area's extensive ridges and chalk</p>	
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			down-land, and of the coastal scenery, makes for breath-taking views which encompass vast distances – in space and time.	
	Opportunities to enjoy relative tranquillity and relative wildness	Good access (physically and/or visually) to areas that offer an experience of tranquillity or wildness (see Natural Beauty criterion)	<p>Access is good or very good, physically and visually, to extensive areas that offer an experience of tranquillity or wildness.</p> <p>The proposed National Park area offers, within Southern England, an experience of astonishing wildness, attributable to many factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic, challenging, unpeopled Jurassic Coastal scenery [see also below] • Extensive ridges with over 60 Iron Age hill forts and 1,000 Bronze Age barrows within the NP • The rough, wild, untamed aspect of the lowland heaths. Over 80% of England’s lowland heaths have been lost; what remains is largely in Dorset and would be included, and protected, in the National Park. The heaths, with very poor acidic soils, were first cleared by man 3500 years ago in the Bronze Age. They have remained in essentially the same state ever since, and are presently maintained by Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, the National Trust and others. <p>John Dower, who produced the 1945 report proposing British National Parks, spoke of “relative wildness.” In a UK context, this is very appropriate. The English National Parks are not wildernesses but cultural landscapes, shaped by man. The Dorset and East Devon National Park would offer an experience of remarkable relative wildness, within easy access of tens of millions of people.</p>	

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			<p>Though residents of the nearby conurbation of Poole and Bournemouth, and of sizeable towns like Bristol, Southampton, Exeter, Plymouth, Taunton, Winchester, Basingstoke and Reading, would have ready access to the National Park, the area has no motorways, and the good and improving provision of public transport encourages sustainable travel.</p> <p>The unspoilt and “natural” character of most of the Dorset and East Devon AONBs and the Dorset lowland heaths is underlined by their extraordinary biodiversity, which is of international significance and recognised by a large number of nature designations throughout the proposed National Park area. One 10kms grid square near Wareham in Purbeck contains more different species than any other 10kms grid square in the UK. The Dorset lowland heaths are the only area in the country to have all six British reptile species. Dorset has more species of moths [890 have been recorded] than any other county.</p> <p>The whole area scores highly on factors which, in surveys eg by CPRE [the “CPRE Tranquillity maps”], are considered to contribute to a sense of tranquillity, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing a natural landscape, with natural-looking woodland containing deciduous trees • Seeing stars at night • Absence of human sounds 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing wildlife and birdsong • Peace and quiet • Hearing running water. <p>Detractors from tranquillity within the proposed National Park area are relatively few and are limited in their effect.</p> <p>Night time visibility is generally excellent across most of the National Park area. The area of additional Dorset heathland, like much of the proposed National Park area, is a potential candidate area for Dark Skies Status because of the minimal light pollution in the area. Visitors and residents are amazed by the clearness of the night skies and the stars. There are astronomy observatories around the proposed National Park area, in both Dorset and East Devon [see July 2013 evidence.]</p>	
Natural or cultural heritage features or cultural associations	Presence of a range of natural or cultural heritage features or cultural associations	Presence of natural features which enrich the experience of the landscape or contribute to understanding of special qualities or sense of place	<p>The proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park possesses an exceptional range and quality of natural features which enrich the experience of the landscape and contribute to the understanding and appreciation of special qualities and a sense of place.</p> <p>Such natural features - far too numerous to do justice to here - include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost the entire coastline of the proposed National Park, extending 95 miles from Exmouth, through the East Devon and Dorset AONBs, to 	

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			<p>Poole Harbour, is designated as the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Coast, Usually known as the Jurassic Coast, this is Britain’s only natural World Heritage Site [WHS]. The Jurassic Coast, readily walkable and viewable throughout its length from the South West Coast Path [European route E9], is famous for such dramatic natural, geological and geomorphological features as: the Ladram Bay Triassic red sandstone pinnacles; the striking white chalk of Beer Head and Caves; the glowing mass of Golden Cap, the highest point along this coast-line; Chesil Beach [a 25kms long shingle bank behind which is the Fleet lagoon with exceptional biodiversity;] the Durdle Door natural marine arch with dramatic strata; Worbarrow Tout and other “touts” [prominent rocky outcrops and headlands which often served historically as defensive lookouts, the meaning of “tout”]; Lulworth Cove [a near circular harbour, almost enclosed by rocks] and the Devil’s Chimney; the Fossil Forest near Lulworth [where a forest of large fossilized trees is clearly visible from the land and from the sea;] Old Harry Rocks Cretaceous chalk pinnacles; Poole harbour [the second largest natural harbour in the world after Sydney harbour, Australia,] with several islands including Brownsea Island, exceptional for its bird life, red squirrels etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dorset Ridgeways: the North, West and 	
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			<p>South chalk ridge escarpments form dramatic back-drops to, and give views of, much of the surrounding AONB. Undeveloped and open in character, this landscape type, with its steep sides, supports chalk grasslands and hanging woodlands of birch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steep-sided Purbeck Ridges form an inland arc from the Jurassic coast at Flowers Barrow Iron Age hill fort, to re-join the Jurassic Coast near to Old Harry rocks. The ridge cuts off from inland Dorset the “Isle” of Purbeck, which is accessed by roads which wind through gaps in the ridge, most dramatically where the ruins of Corfe Castle stand prominently on a natural mound bounded by two rivers. To the south, the ridge looks towards the glorious Jurassic coast, and the rolling landscapes and scattered woodlands of the clay valleys behind the coast. To the north, the ridge overlooks the MoD’s Lulworth training ranges, where old tanks lie abandoned on the wild heath. To the east lies the dramatic expanse of the South Purbeck heaths, and beyond these, the wide expanse of Poole harbour with its wooded islands and inlets. • The Dorset lowland heaths: the wild, rough and challenging appearance of the lowland heaths is well described in the writings of Thomas Hardy. These internationally important habitats comprise a complex and diverse mosaic of open dry heath and wet heath and mire, and lightly wooded scrubby heath. Over 80% of English lowland heath has been lost and what remains is largely in Dorset. To the South Purbeck lowland heaths within the AONB, the National Park proposal adds 	
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			<p>Thomas Hardy's Egdon Heath, an additional area of fine lowland heath between Dorchester and Wareham. The resulting heath-land area would represent an outstanding resource, in landscape, biodiversity and recreational terms. It would make a significant contribution to the National Park's potential to represent a "Green Bridge" for the south of England, a link between the South Downs and New Forest National Parks to the east and the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks to the west.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Devon AONB's landscapes offer exceptional diversity within their 100 square miles. These include coastal landscapes, from Lyme Regis in Dorset to Exmouth, Devon, of lush, highly coloured scenery, as Devon Triassic red sandstone meets the sea in a coastline of sheer high cliffs, steep wooded coombs and coves, its line startlingly broken by the white chalk of Beer Head. Inland, the landscape rises to high, flat and surprisingly remote plateaux, often topped by heath-land commons, with hilly country in the north. The plateau is incised by the north-south flowing rivers Axe, Sid and Otter which wind to the sea through quiet, hedge-bordered meadows. The AONB's estuaries, heaths and cliff-top grasslands are important natural habitats, and the "Undercliffs", the internationally renowned and spectacular landslips covering 8 kms between Axmouth and Lyme Regis, are a NNR of great geological and wildlife interest. 	
		<p>Presence of cultural features or cultural associations which</p>	<p>The proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park possesses an exceptional range and quality of cultural</p>	

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		<p>enrich the experience of the landscape or contribute to understanding of special qualities or sense of place</p>	<p>features and associations which enrich the experience of the landscape and contribute to the understanding of special qualities and sense of place.</p> <p>The cultural features and associations of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park, and its archaeology and built heritage, have been the subject of separate evidence notes for NE [D&ED NP 8 ESN Cultural Heritage and Activities, and D&ED NP 9 ESN Archaeology and Built Heritage, both July 2013.] Some of the key features and associations include the following:</p> <p>The area's many scheduled ancient monuments contribute to a sense of man's deep-rooted presence across the proposed National Park, while the area's unspoilt, nature-rich tranquillity and relative wildness convey a sense of man's harmonious coexistence with nature here. Visitors also love the small hamlets and villages, the old houses, farms and farm buildings [many thatched throughout the area, or roofed with large, flat stones from small, local stone quarries in Purbeck], the elegant yet relaxed market towns and bustling markets, and the charming pubs, restaurants and tea-rooms serving high quality local food and drink, which the area offers. Family-owned estates feature here, eg the Lulworth, Smedmore, Moreton, Encombe, Devon Clinton and numerous other estates in the proposed NP area.</p> <p>Specific cultural associations and attractions to which visitors are drawn include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology: The history of Britain and Southern 	
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			<p>England from the earliest times is evidenced and easily read in Dorset and East Devon's landscapes, villages and towns. Particularly noteworthy features, unique and distinctive to the area, are the prehistoric ceremonial landscapes of the Dorset Ridgeways, with the longest Neolithic cursus in Europe and over 1000 Bronze Age barrows, the concentration of Iron Age hill forts in Dorset and East Devon [over 60 in the proposed National Park area, including Maiden Castle, one of the largest Iron Age hill forts in Western Europe], and good evidence of the Roman period, including several Roman sites around Dorchester, that at Hinton St Mary yielding Britain's earliest Christian mosaic from the C4th, which may return to Dorset from the British Museum. So-called celtic field systems and extensive medieval strip lynchets are very evident in the landscape around Worth Matravers in the Isle of Purbeck. Visitors can also enjoy the history of a strong and specific industrial heritage, based on fine local building stones (in Purbeck and Portland particularly,) rope-making (in Bridport), the wool trade (in Axminster and elsewhere,) lace-making (in Honiton,) and, around Dorchester, "Dorset buttons".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purbeck "marble", highly prized in the medieval period, was used to decorate churches and cathedrals throughout England. In the C20th, 	
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			<p>sculptress Mary Spencer-Watson lived at C16th Downshay Manor from whose land, in the C12th, significant quantities of Purbeck “marble” were quarried and gifted for the building of Salisbury Cathedral.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famous artists who have delighted in living and working in the landscapes of the proposed National Park include: JMW Turner, John Constable [both of whose pictures of the area are in the collections of the Tate and V&A,] Francis Newbury and his pupil Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Bloomsbury set of artists including Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland, Alfred Palmer, and Augustus John. The East Devon landscapes inspired the Camden Group of artists, including Robert Polhill Bevan. • Many excellent museums tell the story of these landscapes and communities, including those of Dorchester and Axminster, and the Jurassic Coast Partnership museums, including Sidmouth, Lyme Regis, Bridport, Portland, and Swanage. • Lyme Regis: birthplace of Mary Anning, contemporary of Charles Darwin, who became internationally renowned as a fossil collector and expert. • Thomas Hardy’s birth-place cottage [a tiny woodland cottage where TH lived as a boy with 3 generations of his family; now NT.] • Thomas Hardy’s adult home, Max Gate on the outskirts of Dorchester [built by Hardy, an architect by profession, and maintained as a Victorian/Edwardian home, with Hardy’s furniture 	
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			<p>and possessions; now NT.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardy’s monument: high on the South Dorset ridgeway, with spectacular views over the Jurassic Coast, the monument is dedicated to Admiral “Kiss me” Hardy [who held Admiral Lord Nelson as he lay dying at the battle of Trafalgar.] • Clouds Hill: the secluded cottage in the woods where T E Lawrence [author, archaeologist, and WW1 hero Lawrence of Arabia] sought solitude, kept as he knew it after his death in 1936 [now NT.] • Moreton village and church: after his death in 1936 in a motor cycle accident, while returning from Bovington camp along the heath roads, T E Lawrence was buried in nearby Moreton cemetery in a funeral attended by Churchill and other military and political figures. Moreton church, badly damaged in an air raid in WW11, was restored in the early 1950s; its breathtakingly beautiful engraved glass windows are perhaps the greatest achievement of the glass engraver Laurence Whistler. There are further windows by Whistler in St Catherine’s Church by the Sea, near Ringstead. • Bovington Tank Museum: the army has used the wild heath-land of Dorset to train men since the mid C19th and to test tanks since their development in WW1. T E Lawrence was posted to the adjacent Bovington Camp. The Tank Museum is one of the UK’s foremost military museums. • Army ranges and Tyneham village: “the village that died for England.” Requisitioned at a week’s 	
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			<p>notice by the War Department in 1942, Tyneham village and its secluded rural setting behind the Jurassic Coast became deserted, and remain today within the MoD's Purbeck ranges. A heritage trust, supported by the MoD, now manages the ruins of the village, and, in the restored church and school, tells the story of the community. From the C16th until 1942, the village was owned by the Bond family [motto "The world is not enough"], which inspired Ian Fleming, who attended school in Purbeck, to create the character of James Bond. The MoD, which continues to hold operational land in the Dorset and East Devon AONBs, has contributed to shaping, conserving and interpreting the landscapes of the proposed National Park, and is part of the area's cultural heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radar history and D Day landings: the top secret development of radar at Worth Matravers in Purbeck, Dorset, along with Bletchley Park's code-breaking work, gave Britain a decisive advantage in WW11. Brilliant young scientists, including future Astronomer Royal Sir Bernard Lovell, worked at the Worth Matravers Telecommunications and Radar Establishment. • Fort Henry: from Fort Henry, a WW11 concrete fortification above Studland beach, Dorset, Winston Churchill, King George VI, and President Eisenhower watched preparations for the Normandy D Day landings. • Fine houses and country estates, eg Athelhampton House and gardens, Lulworth Castle and estate, Smedmore House and gardens, Kingston Lacy house, gardens and estate, 	
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			<p>Kingston Maurward house and estate now an agricultural college, Durlston Castle and park, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbotsbury village, medieval tithe barn, swannery, and St Catherine’s hill and chapel: a stunning cluster of honey coloured stone buildings and thatch, with a range of attractions. • Corfe Castle and village: the medieval royal castle, prominent on a large, natural mound bounded by two rivers, occupies a strategic gap in the Purbeck ridge. Bought by the Bankes family in 1637, it was captured by Cromwell’s army in 1643 and “slighted” [blown up to put it beyond military use, but not destroyed], creating the dramatic ruins we see today. After the Restoration in 1660, the Bankes family built a fine country house at Kingston Lacy, adjacent to Badbury Rings Iron Age hill-fort. In the 1980s, the entire Bankes estate became the National Trust’s largest ever legacy and acquisition, and all three properties can be visited and enjoyed today. • Wareham: one of the Saxon burghs which King Alfred the Great commanded to be built in 680 to defend Wessex against the Danes, Wareham has England’s most complete Saxon defences [high earth banks surround the attractive market town on 3 sides, the fourth side being the River Frome which made Wareham, in early medieval times, one of the principal trading ports on the south coast of England.] • Bere Regis village and church: the church richly ornamented in the 1490s by local boy made good, Cardinal Morton, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Henry V11 and origin of the expression “Morton’s 	
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			<p>Fork.” The church contains the memorials of the Turberville family, immortalised in Thomas Hardy’s novel “Tess of the D’Urbervilles.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolpuddle village where the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum commemorates six farm workers who were deported to Australia in the 1830s for illegal “association” before being pardoned and allowed to return to England. • Briantspuddle, a medieval village enhanced in the early C20th by delightful thatched cottages and a model farm built by the first Baron Debenham. <p>Man’s roots in the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park go very deep. From the dawn of human settlement, people have chosen these fine landscapes, with their diverse geology and ecosystems, as places to live and work. Recent excavations at Worth Matravers in Purbeck, Dorset, found C7thBC Neolithic people living here and trading fine artefacts and raw materials with Continental contacts.</p> <p>Throughout the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park, both countryside and communities offer experiences which are unashamedly lovely in every sense: from wild, lonely heaths and dramatic, exposed coastline, through wide open downs, ridges and plateaux, lush pastures and wooded valleys, to picture-postcard pretty countryside, and villages, hamlets, seaside and market towns with an atmosphere which is generous, warm and authentically vernacular.</p>	
	Landmarks and other	Presence of recognised or	The area of the proposed National Park includes many	

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	features	valued landmarks or other features of interest which enrich the experience of the landscape or contribute to understanding of special qualities or sense of place	<p>recognised and valued landmarks and other features of interest which enrich the experience of the landscape and contribute to understanding the special qualities and sense of place. A selection of these includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire World Heritage-designated Jurassic Coast, and, along its 95 miles, the landmark sites including Ladram Bay red sandstone pinnacles, the Axmouth undercliffs [a spectacular 8kms landslip and NNR,] Beer Head and Caves, Golden Cap, Lyme Regis bay and Cobb, Chesil bank and Beach, Portland isle and harbour, the Fossil Forest, Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Devil's Chimney, Worbarrow Tout and Bay, Flowers Barrow, Hounstout, St Aldhelm's Head and extensive medieval strip lynchets in nearby Worth Matravers, the cliff quarries of Winspit, Seacombe and Dancing Ledge, Durlston Castle, Old Harry rock pinnacles, Studland Bay and Heaths, Brownsea Island and Poole Harbour • Maiden Castle: one of the largest Iron Age hill forts in Western Europe. • Corfe castle: medieval royal castle, prominent on a large, natural mound bounded by two rivers, occupies a strategic gap in the Purbeck ridge. Bought by the Bankes family in 1637, it was captured by Cromwell's army in 1643 and "slighted" [blown up to put it beyond military use, but not destroyed], creating today's dramatic ruins. • Hardy's monument: high on the South Dorset ridgeway, with spectacular views over the Jurassic Coast, the monument is dedicated to Admiral "Kiss me" Hardy. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesil Beach and the Fleet lagoon: an attractive, accessible and remarkable geomorphological landmark, and an important wildlife site, in the 1940s this was where Barnes Wallis tested the bouncing bombs before the “Dambusters” raid. • Brownsea Island: a landmark site near the entrance to Poole harbour, famous for its birdlife and red squirrels, Brownsea Island was the birthplace of the scouting movement and home of the first scout camps held by Baden Powell. 	
Good recreation provision	High quantity of appropriate recreation provision	Presence of extensive network of rights of way or extent of open access land over much of the area	<p>The Dorset and East Devon AONBs, and the additional area of Dorset lowland heath which is suggested for inclusion in the Dorset & East Devon National Park, offer an extensive network of rights of way over most parts of the area.</p> <p>Access to the MoD’s ranges, including along the relevant section of the SW Coast Path, is restricted at certain times for operational reasons. Full access to RoW within the ranges area is provided throughout the main school holiday periods and on all but a few weekends of the year. The open dates for the ranges are widely advertised.</p> <p>In addition to the rights of way network, significant provision has been made under the CROW Act 2000 for open access land. Such provision includes permanent access to certain National Nature Reserves, including the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs on the Dorset/Devon border and the Durlston Country Park near Swanage, as part of Natural England’s four year programme to open access to 81 of its sites.</p>	

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Diversity of good quality provision for quiet enjoyment	Opportunities to enjoy a range of high quality landscape experiences	<p>The Dorset and East Devon AONBs, including the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, the Ridgeways and lowland heaths, and the additional area of Dorset lowland heath which is suggested for inclusion in the Dorset & East Devon National Park, offer an outstanding range of good quality provision for quiet enjoyment, and opportunities to enjoy a very wide range of exceptionally high quality landscape experiences.</p> <p>See other sections for further information.</p>	
	Opportunities to enjoy a range of different provision for quiet recreation activity	<p>The proposed National Park area, with its diverse geology, landscapes, and biodiversity, and its rich heritage, offers an exceptionally wide range of different provision for quiet recreational activities.</p> <p>The ever-widening range of activities available in the area includes the following:</p> <p>Walking for recreation, health and well-being</p> <p>Walking is widely recognized by public health experts as a “best buy” activity – offering outstanding physical and mental health benefits and good value for all members of the public and the NHS alike. According to Britain’s most comprehensive survey of sport and recreation participation, 9.1million adults in England, or 22% of the population, regularly walk recreationally for at least 30 minutes each week. This is almost twice the number of people who swim (5.6million,</p>	

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			<p>13.4%), more than twice the number that go to the gym (4.5million, 10.7%) and nearly three times the number that cycle (3.5million, 8.5%).</p> <p>More people aged between 25 and 55 walk recreationally than those in other age groups. Walking is more likely to be maintained later in life than sport – sports participation drops from 16% in the 35-54 age group to 7.6% in over 55s.</p> <p>The physical benefits of outdoor exercise are well-established. Studies also show that the benefits of getting out of doors go well beyond physical health. A University of Glasgow study [the results of which are to be published in the British Medical Journal] supports the widely held view that both health and a sense of wellbeing are enhanced by participation in active leisure activities. Research for the National Trust for Scotland [“Natural Childhood”, 2014] shows that children who experience an outdoors environment demonstrate improvements in learning and behaviour.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreational Opportunities</p> <p>The opportunities in the Dorset and East Devon National Park area are almost limitless. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abseiling on the Jurassic Coast near St Aldhelm’s 	
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			<p>Head and elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites: such as Maiden Castle, one of some 60 Iron Age hill forts in the NP area • Arts festivals, open air craft and sculpture activities and displays, such as the annual Purbeck Art Weeks • Ball sports such as rugby, football, cricket, bowls and croquet • Bird watching (for example at the Arne and Radipole RSPB reserves, Brownsea Island and other DWT reserves, and many other places across the National Park area) • Botanical gardens (such as Abbotsbury and Compton Acres) and garden centres • Cycling on the area's many local, regional and national cycling routes and trails. National Cycle Network Route No 2 crosses the whole National Park area from east to west, and will link the Dorset and East Devon National Park with the South Downs and New Forest National Parks to the east and the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks to the west. • Coast guard and lifeboats including RNLI's educational activities • Canoeing, kayaking and sea-rowing. The glass-bottomed canoes for hire at Dorset Wildlife Trust's Kimmeridge centre enable the extraordinary 	
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			<p>marine life of the Kimmeridge shale ledges to be seen, and are especially popular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnivals, classic car and steam shows • Diving to study under-water ecology and ship-wrecks at appropriate locations along the Jurassic Coast • Farm education visits showing, amongst other things, where our food comes from • Farmers markets, and food producers including Blue Vinney cheese, Dorset Knob biscuits, Purbeck Ice Cream, Chococo Chocolate and Dorchester Chocolate producers • Fishing, on rivers and coast • Fossil collecting on the Jurassic Coast, especially around Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Fossil Festivals are held at Lyme Regis, Worth Matravers and elsewhere every year • Gardens to visit, for example at the area's many historic houses, and under the National Gardens Scheme • Geology: enjoy the uniquely diverse geology and geomorphology of the Jurassic coast and inland landscapes, including the quarry visits and stone museums in Purbeck and Portland • Guided nature walks, offered by Dorset and Devon Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, Butterfly Conservation and 	
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			<p>partner groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage interests: the area offers a very wide range of possibilities, from its large number of prehistoric sites [eg over 60 Iron Age hill forts and 1000 Bronze Age barrows], to WW11 and recent military history, historic houses and gardens, imposing castles, and industrial, tramway and railway history • Kayak/canoeing • Kitesurfing • Monkey World and rescue centre in Wool, Dorset • Museums offering guided walks and outdoor activities, including the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester, Swanage Museum, Langton Matravers Museum, and Lyme Regis Museum • Music: a wide variety of Music Festivals to suit all tastes, and regular classical and other concerts by local, national and international artists, including performances by the Dorset Chamber Orchestra and the Dorset County Orchestra • National Trust open air properties and activities, throughout the National Park area • Nature reserves, including Dorset Wildlife Trust's 42 reserves and several discovery centres, and Devon Wildlife Trust's many reserves, across the National Park area. Devon Wildlife Trust's Jurassic Discovery Centre is due to open in East Devon in 	
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Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

			<p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orienteering • Painting and drawing • Paintballing • Pony trekking and horse riding • Rock climbing • Rowing: the 33 rowing clubs within 30 miles of Poole Harbour, Bridport's gig rowing and Swanage's sea rowing clubs illustrate the growing popularity of these sports • Sailing, including at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, which has flourished since being the site for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games • Scout, Sea-Scout and Guide Camps • Swannery at Abbotsbury, near the remains of the priory established in 1040 • Swimming, snorkelling (especially at Kimmeridge Marine reserve) • Tennis • Walking: hugely popular in this accessible and walker-friendly area, and the most popular outdoor activity in the proposed National Park. The area offers opportunities for walks for all ages and 	
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Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

			<p>abilities, and at all distances, and walks combined with a wide range of other interests such as geology, exploring the area's rich heritage, wild flowers and bird watching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windsurfing, for example in Poole Harbour. <p>Indoor Recreational Opportunities</p> <p>See also the sections above on cultural features and associations for some of the many examples of indoor recreation and activities available in the Dorset and East Devon National Park area, including Arts, Music, Literature and Folk Festivals, concerts, art galleries and museums (featuring, for example, the stone industry, nature conservation, fossils and dinosaurs, lace making, rope making, pottery, shipwrecks, smuggling, heritage railways and tramways, tanks, radar,) National Trust properties, historic houses, historic churches, quarry visits and stone working.</p>	
Accessibility	Accessibility to centres of population	Transport links to centres of population	<p>The proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park area is readily accessible to many centres of population and millions of people. Transport links are good, and good provision for public and affordable forms of transport particularly encourages visitors and residents to use sustainable transport to and within the area.</p> <p>There is evidence that the area provides opportunities for holidays and outdoor recreation for everyone, including people of modest means, with opportunities for camping, and many residential centres provided by the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) and other bodies.</p>	

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			<p>Situated near the centre of Southern England, with train and coach services linking the area with the South East, South West, Midlands and North, the proposed National Park is accessible to people from centres of population throughout the UK. This is reflected in visitor patterns, and surveys [eg by Bournemouth University Market Research Group] indicating that visitors come from all parts of the UK, as well as from the Continent [taking advantage of flights to local airports and ferry services to Poole and Weymouth.]</p> <p>The Poole/Bournemouth conurbation, the largest non-industrial conurbation in the UK, is situated to the east of Poole harbour and is effectively both a gateway to the proposed National Park and a source of huge demand for its attractions and services. A hub for digital and financial service businesses, with two universities and many schools and colleges, the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation has an active young population as well as being attractive to families and more senior residents.</p> <p>The wide range of recreational provision and activities in the proposed National Park area reflects the diversity of its many constituencies, users and supporters. The Dorset & East Devon National Park would offer an exceptional experience of quiet recreation in outstanding landscapes, to people of all ages, abilities, interests and means.</p>	
		<p>Availability of sustainable transport options providing links to centres of population</p>	<p>Good provision for public forms of transport particularly encourages visitors and residents to use sustainable transport to and within the area. Travel to the proposed National Park area by rail and coach is accessible and affordable from all parts of the UK.</p>	

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			<p>There are train stations at Poole, Holton Heath, Wareham, Wool, Moreton, Dorchester, Upwey, Weymouth, Yeovil, Crewkerne, Honiton, Axminster, Exmouth and Exeter.</p> <p>The year 2015 will see the completion of a multi-year project to re-connect the heritage rail line from Swanage with the main-line to London at Wareham, for regular services. The Swanage Heritage Railway has been operated by dedicated volunteers all the year round for the past 35 years since 1979, after closure of the line in 1972 ended the main-line connection.</p> <p>There is a regular coastal bus service, the X53, which runs along the World Heritage Coast and through the National Park from east to west, linking Poole in Dorset with Exeter in Devon, as well as many bus services which link large towns to smaller towns and villages.</p> <p>There are national coach services which link the main towns in Dorset and East Devon with the main cities in the Midlands, North and West, and with London Victoria.</p> <p>A large number of cycle routes, nationally designated and local, of varied length and grade, make use of the many minor and quiet roads of Dorset and East Devon, and of bridleways and tracks.</p> <p>The area's rich network of footpaths and bridleways reflects the deep history of Dorset and East Devon. The South West Coast Path National Trail, also part of the European E9 Footpath, runs through Dorset and East Devon along the Heritage Coast.</p> <p>The area's well-developed public transport services – to receive a significant boost in 2015 with the re-connection</p>	
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			of the Swanage Heritage Railway, via Wareham, with main line services to London and throughout the UK – together with its potential for cycling and walking, present a major opportunity for a Dorset and East Devon National Park to become a beacon of sustainability, promoting and demonstrating the potential for sustainable transport, sustainable tourism and recreation and sustainable energy utilisation in this important south coast holiday area.	
Potential for enhancement	Potential for appropriate enhancement of enjoyment and understanding	Possible plans to improve provision for access to or quiet enjoyment of the landscape so as to provide opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities, by new provision or improved management of existing	<p>The proposed National Park area offers an important resource and growing opportunity to improve provision for quiet enjoyment of the area's outstanding landscapes, for open-air recreation and for the enjoyment and understanding of the area's special qualities, by new provision or improved management of existing provision and facilities.</p> <p>The proposed National Park creates scope for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more coherent and coordinated strategic promotion of the area's exciting recreational potential, and • improved management in the interests of responsible interaction between recreational use, the landscape and habitats • achieving broadly-based economic and social benefits, for visitors and local communities, and • ensuring that strategies and plans for improved access and increased recreational provision are designed and implemented with sensitivity to 	

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			<p>nature and the environment.</p> <p>The area has the potential to offer many and varied activities, so that there is something for every age, ability, interest and income. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dorset and East Devon coast and inland countryside, including Dorset's heaths, offer residents and visitors the opportunity for physical and spiritual recreation in an environment which is both wild and beautiful, and which is easily accessible from major population centres across Southern England and beyond. • The area's accessibility to many population centres, including the large and expanding Bournemouth-Pool conurbation to the east, offers great potential for the National Park to make significant contributions, formal and informal, to the health, wellbeing, and lifelong learning of generations of residents and visitors, and to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understanding and enjoyment by the public of the area's special qualities, including its outstanding landscapes and biodiversity ○ public engagement with nature, and public understanding of ecological connectivity and climate change issues ○ understanding of and support for the National Park's critical significance as a "green bridge" for southern England, promoting and facilitating landscape-scale conservation, and providing a link between the South Downs and 	
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			<p>New Forest National Parks to east and the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks to the west</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understanding of farming and appreciation of good, local food production. Many farms in the suggested NP area provide high quality local produce such as organic milk and milk products. Farmers and producers organise many local events in village halls, local markets and elsewhere to celebrate and sell high quality local foods, in addition to an annual Dorset-wide food fair. Locally sourced farm products which are widely available for sale include milk, cheese, ice cream, honey, fish, meat and cured meats, eggs, bakery products, vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, cider, and ○ a wide range of public benefits associated with a healthy natural environment. ● An expanding range of outdoor activities and a developing active recreation business sector, across the area, offer the potential for economic, social, educational and health benefits, on a national and community level. The Dorset Coast Forum's Project Valmer has researched the economic value of some of the coastal recreational activities around Poole Harbour. The findings include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nearly half of respondents were local people, but non-local people are willing to travel to this area rather than visit/use sites nearer their 	
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Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

			<p>home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each respondent spent around £800 each year in connection with coastal activities. ○ Most respondents rated the environment as more important than facilities or costs. ○ A decrease in wildlife or water quality would have a negative impact on visitors' perceptions. ○ These findings suggest that both local people and visitors value the area's environment, and consider the environment to be the prime consideration in a decision to use this area for recreation and in their overall visitor experience. They do not want the environment of the area to be damaged. ○ These findings could be used by a National Park to help them improve the visitor experience, while managing and conserving the fragile coastline, and helping local people and visitors to a greater understanding and appreciation of the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natural England has researched and published value for money evidence for investing in the environment. In "Microeconomic evidence for the benefits of investing in the environment," NE documents evidence of such benefits across a wide range of themes including: economic growth, health, social cohesion, and resilience to climate change. [Natural 	
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			<p>England, July 2014.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good public transport gives access to the area for visitors by train, coach, and bus from all parts of the UK – SW, W, Midlands, NE, NW, E and SE. Approval for the reconnection of the Swanage Heritage Railway to the main-line at Wareham in 2015, linking Purbeck to London and all parts of UK, will expand direct rail access to Dorset and the Jurassic Coast. • Dorset and East Devon include a long section of the South West Coast Path national trail [also part of the E9 European route], as well as long-distance walking routes along the magnificent Dorset Ridgeways, the Purbeck Way, Hardy Way, East Devon Way, Wareham Forest Way, and many local and community routes. • The Dorset and East Devon Coast provides opportunities for on-shore and off-shore activities. On shore activities include studying the Jurassic Coast's famous fossils and watching today's biodiversity, eg birds, butterflies and reptiles, as well as walking and active recreation. Off-shore activities include kayak/canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, and diving to see the Jurassic Coast's important under-water environments. • Nationally designated and local cycling routes [eg National Cycle Network Route 2, the Purbeck Cycle Way, and the Lawrence of Arabia Ride] cross the National Park area and offer exceptional scope for on road and off-road cycling experience and events. • Dorset's minor roads, its trails and tracks, offer scope 	
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			<p>for the promotion of recreational and “adventure” events, on foot and by bicycle. An example of such an event is the Long Distance Walkers’ Association’s annual 100 miles cross-country event, with 500 participating walkers plus families and friends, which in 2016, for the first time, will take place in Dorset. A National Park, with a duty to promote the enjoyment and understanding of the area, would be better placed than the AONBs to promote and facilitate such events within a balanced framework which ensures sensitivity to environmental considerations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2012 Olympic Games showcased the Dorset coast as an outstanding venue for sailing and water sports. Approval in principle for the designation of a National Park would give great impetus to securing the Games “legacy,” and achieving the best return on the very substantial national and local investment in the Games. <hr/> <p>References for all sections include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset AONB: various • Dorset CC AONB landscape assessment • Dorset CC Landscape Character Assessment (non-AONB) • East Devon AONB: various • Jurassic Coast.org 	
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Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination of the Dorset and East Devon Coast for inclusion in the World Heritage List; Dorset County Council, Devon County Council, Dorset Coast Forum, 2000 • Denys Brunsden: The Official Guide to the Jurassic Coast: Dorset and East Devon's World Heritage Coast (Walk Through Time Guide), 2003 • Dorset CPRE: various • Dorset Wildlife Trust: various • DWT, information and presentations provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tony Bates [President] ○ Nigel Webb [Chair] • DWT Magazine, Winter, 2007: John Wright, Tadnoll and Winfrith Heath Nature Reserves • Dorset Environmental Records Centre • English Heritage • Hutchins, Revd John, The History of Dorset, 1774 [2nd edition, extended, 1860] • Local history publications, eg relating to the area before and during WW1, and during and after WW11. • Ministry of Defence: Public access to Purbeck Ranges; Information on Tyneham village • Natural England: Microeconomic evidence for the 	
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			<p>benefits of investing in the environment, July 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England: Winfrith Heath/Tadnoll SSSI notification, updated 1996 • National Trust: various publications, eg on: Thomas Hardy [see also below;] Clouds Hill [T E Lawrence;] Corfe Castle; Studland; the Purbeck Estate Management Plan • National Trust for Scotland: Scotland in Trust, 2014 • Tranquillity surveys and assessments, CPRE. • Swanage Museum archive of artists associated with Dorset: Robert Field, David Haysom • On Thomas Hardy, various, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J B Bullen, Thomas Hardy, the World of his Novels, Francis Lincoln, 2013 ○ Michael Millgate, Thomas Hardy: A Biography, 1982 ○ J Hillis Miller, Thomas Hardy: Distance and Desire, London, OUP, 1970 ○ Andrew Enstice, Thomas Hardy: Landscapes of the Mind, London, Macmillan, 1979 ○ Tokuko Kitawaki, Journal of Kyoto Seika University, No 23 ○ National Trust publications, including: Hardy's Cottage; 	
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			<p>Max Gate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton parish church: The Rex Whistler windows • Sustrans: National Cycle Network • SW Research Council: Dorset Visitors Survey, 2009, carried out by The Market Research Group, Bournemouth University for SW Research Council's "Volume and Value of Tourism 1990 – 2009" <p>Activities and attractions, including the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbotsbury Swannery and Sub-tropical Gardens • Bovington Tank Museum • Britain's Finest.co • Bridport Rowing • British Horse Society • British Rowing • Churches Conservation Trust • Cyclists Touring Club • Devon Wildlife Trust • Dorset AONB 	
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Recreation opportunity evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park*

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset County Council • Dorset Cycling Network • Dorset Visitors Survey 2009 • Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset Local Nature Partnership • East Devon AONB • East Devon Hub • Go Get Adventure (Devon) • Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site • Long Distance Walkers Association • National Trust • Ramblers Association • RSPB • RNLI • Swanage Heritage Railway • Tyneham “lost” village • Weymouth and Portland visitor guide 	
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