

Response ID ANON-MW92-FHYP-6

Submitted to **Landscapes Review: Call for Evidence**

Submitted on **2018-12-18 12:13:37**

About you

1 Are you replying as a member of the public or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

2 If you are replying as a member of the public

What is your name?:

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We may also use this to contact you further.:

3 If you are replying on behalf of an organisation or organisations

Which organisation(s)?:

Dorset & East Devon National Park Team CIC

What is your name and position?:

Sandra Brown, Director

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We may also use this to contact you further.:

info@dorsetnationalpark.com

4 We would like to be able to use extracts from submissions in our final report. If you would not like them, potentially, to be made public, please tell us here.

Yes, I am content for you to use extracts of my response in the final report

5 We have obligations under freedom of information laws and there is more information below. For the purposes of these laws, would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you have answered yes, please give your reason:

Before anything else

6 We would love to know what makes National Parks and AONBs special to you

Upload :

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Not Answered

Part 1 - Opening thoughts

7 What do you think works overall about the present system of National Parks and AONBs in England? Add any points that apply specifically to only National Parks or AONBs

Please write your answer here:

England's National Parks (NP) include our most iconic landscapes. They should be better appreciated and celebrated as national assets which make a major contribution to our national life, health and well-being. The NP purposes and duty – focussed, brief and clear – set out their aims to work for the benefit of nature and people, for our environment and natural capital, communities and economy. Working in close partnership with councils and communities, voluntary societies, agencies, businesses, farmers and landowners, NPs can play a key role in ensuring that our environment, heritage, communities and economy are thriving, resilient, healthy and sustainable, and that our countryside and communities are living, working, prosperous and successful.

The Dorset and E Devon NP Team shares the view that NPs can do more for nature and people. Our National Park, working fully in partnership and beyond boundaries where appropriate, would help all stakeholders to do more to conserve and enhance our world-class environment and heritage, and to foster the well-being of our communities and rural economy. Our area is widely considered to be the outstanding candidate for NP designation, with its exceptional geodiversity, the World Heritage "Jurassic" Coast [which would more than double the extent of coastline in England's NPs,] internationally important and varied landscapes, the greatest biodiversity in Britain, and "gold standard" cultural heritage.

But we also face serious issues and challenges, including continuing environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, deteriorating water catchment quality and harbour ecology, as reports by the Dorset Local Nature Partnership and others show. Communities and the countryside face various pressures, including an over-reliance on seasonal employment, low wages, areas with the greatest disparity between average incomes and house prices, a shortage of housing which is genuinely affordable by local people - including young workers and families. Our area richly deserves but also needs a NP.

We hope that the Glover Review will set out a vision to rejuvenate and reinvigorate England's National Parks and we want to see a Dorset & E Devon NP play a key role in that re-invigoration. We see our NP working proactively through a range of interlocking and complementary partnerships: community/county; urban/rural, onshore/offshore, regional/national/international. Our NP at the heart of Southern England can promote landscape scale conservation, economic benefits and community well-being through partnering with other designated areas to the east and west and with the adjacent Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole conurbation which itself aspires to be the "green city by the sea". Our environment is our greatest economic asset and can be a driver for sustainable economic growth. Working through partnerships we can make a meaningful contribution to delivering the priorities of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Team's separate submission shows why Dorset & E Devon is the outstanding candidate for NP designation, how it would strengthen and enhance England's NP family and contribute to an invigorated vision for engaging our communities both locally and nationally. Our area deserves and needs to be England's next NP.

The Dorset & E Devon National Park Team's full submission is here: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>. This builds on the substantial evidence submitted in 2013 <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/evidence-2013> and 2014 <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/evidence-2014> and to subsequent reports and case studies on our website: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/blog>

8 What do you think does not work overall about the system and might be changed? Add any points that apply specifically to National Parks or AONBs

Please write your answer here:

Part 2 - Views

9 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in nature conservation and biodiversity?

Please write your answer here:

The landscapes that National Parks seek to conserve and enhance are shaped in great part by farming and, to a lesser extent, forestry practices. Their character, special qualities and the healthy functioning of the land are largely dependent on farm management and, for example in heath-lands, traditional forms of land management. The viability of farms as profitable and sustainable businesses is important to the future of our landscapes and wildlife. National Parks also have a vital role to play in conserving and enhancing habitats and wildlife. Evidence suggests that they need to do more to promote and enhance biodiversity and can do more given proposed changes in farm funding.

Dorset has the greatest biodiversity in Britain. For example, four out of five of the most biodiverse 10kms grid squares in Britain are in Dorset. But the area also faces serious issues and challenges, including continuing environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, deterioration of water catchment quality and harbour ecology, as reports by the Dorset Local Nature Partnership and others show. [For further information, see our submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>.]

The Dorset & E Devon NP Team welcomes the changes proposed to farming policy and funding and the expressions of interest by NPs in piloting new "public goods" agri-environment schemes. We strongly support the case for NPs to act as Managing Authority for new ELM farm funding schemes. Evidence including case studies from the South Downs NP shows how this NP's work with farmers and landowners has benefitted the countryside and wildlife, access and recreation, farming businesses, the rural economy and local communities. Farmers in around two thirds of the area of the South Downs are now involved in farm clusters, promoting landscape conservation with a range of environmental benefits, as well as financially benefitting the farmers concerned. The SDNP's Expression of Interest in piloting new farm funding aims to benefit the environment and biodiversity, as well as to reduce costs and improve revenues and viability for participating farmers. The proposal has the full support of the CLA and NFU. [See, for example, more information and further links here: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Farming-and-Land-Management> and here: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Farming-Case-Studies>].

Could they do more to enhance our wildlife and support the recovery of our natural habitats?:

10 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in shaping landscape and beauty, or protecting cultural heritage?

Please write your answer here:

NPs' roles in conserving and enhancing the environment and cultural heritage, and in promoting understanding and enjoyment of their area's special qualities, are vital to these flagship areas and landscapes. These key responsibilities can only be delivered effectively through whole-hearted and inclusive partnership working; the NP Partnership Management Plan should provide the cornerstone for this work.

With its exceptional geodiversity, the World Heritage "Jurassic" Coast [which would more than double the extent of coastline in England's NPs,] internationally important and varied landscapes, the greatest biodiversity in Britain, and "gold standard" cultural heritage [from a prehistoric ceremonial landscape as important as Stonehenge, through Iron Age hillforts including the largest in Western Europe, spectacular heritage sites like Corfe Castle, a fascinating agricultural, industrial, naval/military, ecclesiastical and cultural history, market towns and villages in the countryside loved by Thomas Hardy, to its vibrant modern cultural and artistic life] Dorset and East Devon deserve and need NP designation.

For more information, see our submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

11 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in working with farmers and land managers and how might this change as the current system of farm payments is reformed?

Please write your answer here:

The landscapes that National Parks seek to conserve and enhance are shaped in great part by farming and, to a lesser extent, forestry practices. Their character, special qualities and the healthy functioning of the land are largely dependent on farm management and, for example in heath-lands, traditional forms of land management. The viability of farms as profitable and sustainable businesses is important to the future of our landscapes and wildlife. National Parks also have a vital role to play in conserving and enhancing habitats and wildlife. Evidence suggests that they need to do more to promote and enhance biodiversity and can do more given proposed changes in farm funding.

Landowners and farmers are central to the health of Dorset and East Devon's living landscapes. The National Park should work in partnership with landowners, farmers and agribusinesses through a Land Managers Group (as in the South Downs) including to develop funding proposals which deliver a range of benefits. This should include agri-environment solutions suited to the character of the county, taking full account of farmers' expertise in order to support farm profitability and resilience, enhance income and reduce costs. It could support farm clusters to share expertise and bid for additional public benefit funding. Through policies that are sympathetic to farm diversification and the adaptation of farm and forestry buildings and through raising public awareness of the importance of farming, a NP should help the long-term viability of our agribusinesses.

The Dorset & E Devon National Park Team welcomes the changes proposed to farming policy and funding and the expressions of interest by NPs in piloting new "public goods" agri-environment schemes. We strongly support the case for NPs to act as Managing Authority for new ELM farm funding schemes. Evidence including case studies from the South Downs NP shows how this NP's work with farmers and landowners has benefitted the countryside and wildlife, access and recreation, farming businesses, the rural economy and local communities. Farmers in around two thirds of the area of the South Downs are now involved in farm clusters, promoting landscape conservation with a range of environmental benefits, as well as financially benefitting the farmers concerned. The SDNP's Expression of Interest in piloting new farm funding aims to benefit the environment and biodiversity, as well as to reduce costs and improve revenues and viability for participating farmers. The proposal has the full support of the CLA and NFU. See, for example, more information and further links here:

<https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Farming-and-Land-Management> and here:

<https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Farming-Case-Studies>

12 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in supporting and managing access and recreation?

Please write your answer here:

National Parks promote recreational opportunities, enjoyment and health, locally and nationally and should fully inclusively connect more people with the natural environment and enhance the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors.

National Parks, as part of their purposes and duties, work with others to help manage tourism pressures. For Purbeck District Council, when it undertook a detailed evaluation of the NP proposal, this was a clear benefit of NP designation. Currently stakeholders including PDC, the National Trust, Natural England and the RSPB, struggle with this issue and cannot effectively address it. Though local authorities can in principle undertake such work, they have no specific remit to do so, and their resources are under pressure from other priorities. NPs have both specific responsibilities enabling them to manage tourism pressures and the resources to work with partners to do so.

National Parks can develop sustainable tourism strategies. These can help to extend the visitor season, promote eco-, heritage and cultural tourism as well as interest in areas which are currently under-appreciated. They can work to support and promote sustainable transport working with train, bus and other operators for joined-up services that benefit rural communities as well as visitors.

NPs, as part of their remit to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities, encourage everyone, visitors and residents of all ages, to care for and respect the area. On the ground, the NP's ranger service is a vital resource for communities, businesses, farmers and land managers as well as a key contact with visitors, tourism providers and event organisers.

The Dorset & E Devon National Park should promote recreational opportunities, enjoyment and understanding both locally and nationally, fully inclusively connecting more people with the natural environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors.

The National Park should help develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This should benefit the whole area, extend the tourism season, promote eco, heritage and cultural tourism and visitor diversity, encourage increased visitor spending, widen the areas visited and lead to higher value tourism and increased skills in the tourism industry. This Strategy, plus the funding of a comprehensive ranger service, should help communities, landowners and others to manage the pressures which can arise from some tourism and recreational activities.

For more information, see our submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

13 What views do you have about the way National Park and AONB authorities affect people who live and work in their areas?

Please write your answer here:

The 25 Year Environment Plan welcomes the positive work that NPs do with and for their communities and rural economy and Ministers wish to see this strengthened. There is much evidence of how NPs benefit their communities and rural economies in various reports, including a new report by Cumulus Consultants on the economic benefits of a Dorset NP: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Economic-Benefits>.

There are many examples of how NPs work in a close and positive relationship and partnership with their communities. For example, the South Downs NP worked closely and productively with communities in preparing its NP Local Plan and facilitated over 50 Neighbourhood Plans. It works closely with communities to promote genuinely affordable homes for local people. In her invitation to partners to join the SDNPA in preparing the next NP Management Plan, the NPA Chair says: "The Partnership Management Plan is about conservation and enhancement not preservation. In setting priorities for the next five years we must do all we can to respond to both the opportunities and challenges that face this wonderful living, working landscape to keep it thriving. Everyone who cares for or benefits from the National Park has a role to play and we will be engaging with partners, communities and other stakeholders over the coming months to put together an

exciting future for the National Park.”

This illustrates the positive approach to NPs working in partnership with communities, councils and other local stakeholders to promote living, working, thriving, successful, resilient and sustainable communities and the rural economy. NPs can be key partners for Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships and help develop and deliver economic strategies appropriate to their areas. They could be funded by LEPs for this role. The Dorset & East Devon NP Team are open-minded about whether NPs’ socio-economic statutory duty should become a third purpose. What matters is that all NPs are encouraged and supported, including financially, in this important role. It could be helpful, for example, if the responsibilities and accountability of other organisations to work with NPs were strengthened – not simply to “have regard to” but to “work with and further” the NP in its Management Plan.

Balancing the needs of the environment with the development of a prosperous, thriving economy, a Dorset & E Devon National Park should work in partnership with others to develop and deliver a sustainable Rural Economic Strategy, to promote locally-based businesses, products and services, to attract and encourage further growth businesses and innovation and support investment in appropriate infrastructure including public transport.

For more information, see our submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

Are they properly supporting them and what could be done differently?:

14 What views do you have on the role National Park and AONB authorities play on housing and transport in their areas?

Please write your answer here:

The Dorset & E Devon National Park Team supports National Parks working closely and supportively in partnership with public authorities and communities, the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, as catalysts for a living, working, thriving, resilient and sustainable countryside and communities, and to respond proactively to local housing needs, including for much-needed genuinely affordable homes for local people.

For more information, see our submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

Part 3 - Current ways of working

15 What views do you have on the way they are governed individually at the moment? Is it effective or does it need to change, if so, how?

Please write your answer here:

16 What views do you have on whether they work collectively at the moment, for instance to share goals, encourage interest and involvement by the public and other organisations?

Please write your answer here:

England’s National Parks (NP) include our most iconic landscapes. They are national assets which should and do make a major contribution to our national life, health and well-being. We welcome the Glover Review and the opportunity it presents to ensure that England’s National Parks, individually and collectively, make the best possible contribution to helping our environment and wildlife, our communities and economy thrive in the C21st.

The Dorset and E Devon National Park Team shares the view that NPs can do more. The Team hopes that the Glover Review will set out a vision to reinvigorate England’s National Parks family and we want to see a Dorset & E Devon NP play a key role in that process. We see our NP working proactively through a range of interlocking and complementary partnerships: community/county; urban/rural, onshore/offshore, regional/national/international. Our NP at the heart of Southern England can promote landscape scale conservation, economic benefits and community well-being through partnering with other designated areas to the east and west and with the adjacent Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole conurbation which itself aspires to be the “green city by the sea”. Working through partnerships, including with other Designated Landscapes, our National Park can make a significant contribution to delivering the priorities of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Team’s separate submission shows why Dorset & E Devon would strengthen and enhance England’s NP family and contribute to an invigorated vision for engaging our communities both locally and nationally.

For more information, see the Team’s submission at Question 20: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

17 What views do you have on their efforts to involve people from all parts of society, to encourage volunteering and improve health and well-being?

Please write your answer here:

National Parks promote recreational opportunities, enjoyment and health, locally and nationally connecting more people with the natural environment and our cultural heritage and enhancing the health and well-being of local people and visitors. This needs to be a fully inclusive approach.

One of Dorset’s strengths is its ready accessibility by public transport from all parts of Britain, including conurbations near and not-so-near. In a proud tradition going back some 200 years Dorset & E Devon are popular destinations offering a warm, welcoming and inclusive experience. The area’s popularity as a venue for Duke of Edinburgh award groups from all areas is one example of its attraction for young people from wide-ranging backgrounds. Our area can build on this track record to enhance the experience and benefits, including for health and well-being, of recreation, including volunteering, for communities and for visitors from all parts of society.

There is strong evidence for the benefits for mental and physical health linked with time spent in natural surroundings and in cultural activities. Dorset Local Nature Partnership (LNP) wants to see a physically and mentally healthy Dorset community which makes the most of its natural environment for exercise and well-being. The LNP would like to see investment in both the development of naturally healthy activities and in the natural environments where these are based to support preventative and remedial health and well-being interventions in Dorset. A Dorset NP would be an active partner in this agenda.

For more information on Dorset's wide ranging recreational opportunities and potential, see: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

18 What views do you have on the way they are funded and how this might change?

Please write your answer here:

National Parks must be adequately resourced by central government for the vital job they do, including working in partnership with their communities and other stakeholders including farmers and land managers, businesses and voluntary societies.

Our answers to other questions point to the potential for strengthened roles and additional sources of funding for NPs in two areas:

At Q11 we welcome the changes proposed to farming policy and funding and the expressions of interest by NPs in piloting new "public goods" agri-environment schemes. We strongly support the case for NPs to act as Managing Authority for new ELM farm funding schemes. Evidence, including on our website, shows how a NP's work with farmers and landowners has benefitted the countryside and wildlife, access and recreation, farming businesses, the rural economy and local communities. NPs should be both encouraged and financially supported to undertake this role, and to work in partnership with farmers and landowners to develop and deliver new "public goods" farm funding schemes, within the new national framework, which are locally appropriate for their areas.

At Q 13 we say: NPs can be key partners for Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships and help develop and deliver economic strategies appropriate to their areas. A NP, as a responsible local authority as well as partner of the LEP and LNP, could work with rural communities and businesses, assess bids and channel funding, and be resourced for these roles by the LEP.

19 What views do you have on the process of designation - which means the way boundaries are defined and changed?

Please write your answer here:

The review is a welcome opportunity to consider how the designation processes can be adapted so that areas, their communities and visitors can benefit more speedily from new designations. Processes for prioritising and pursuing new designations should be more collaborative – engaging with local councils, communities and other stakeholders – as well as clear, consistent and efficient.

20 What views do you have on whether areas should be given new designations? For instance, the creation of new National Parks or AONBs, or new types of designations for marine areas, urban landscapes or those near built-up areas.

Please write your answer here:

The proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park is widely considered an outstanding candidate for National Park designation, with a strongly-evidenced case, including independent reports and case studies which are all available on the NP website. A Dorset National Park was proposed in the first official reports on prospective National Parks in 1945/47. It is long overdue and has widespread support.

The National Park, working with partners including councils and communities, voluntary societies, farmers, land managers and businesses would make a vital contribution to ensuring that our environment, heritage, communities and economy are thriving, resilient, healthy and sustainable, and that our countryside and communities are living, working, prosperous and successful.

We urge the Glover Review to support the proposal and to recommend Natural England undertake a full assessment at the earliest opportunity.

See the full submission here: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/glover>

21 Are there lessons that might be learnt from the way designated landscapes work in other parts of the United Kingdom, or abroad?

Please write your answer here:

Part 4 - Closing thoughts

22 Do you think the terms currently used are the right ones? Would you suggest an alternative title for AONBs, for instance and if so what?

Please write your answer here:

23 The review has been asked to consider how designated landscapes work with other designations such as National Trails, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Do you have any thoughts on how these relationships work and whether they could be improved?

Please write your answer here:

24 Do you have any other points you would like to make that are not covered above?

Please write your answer here: