



A Partnership to Benefit Everyone



## AT A GLANCE

**The Government wants to create new National Parks.**

A Dorset National Park can help all of Dorset:

- Address the challenges of climate, nature and health and deliver a successful, greener future for our communities and economy.
- Increase local community involvement and democratic accountability.
- Attract additional resources, investment and jobs.
- Build the homes local communities need and can afford.
- Support farmers to secure new farm funding and diversify their income.
- Support the health and well-being of all who live and work in this very special part of England.

**A Dorset National Park, run by local people and working in partnership with the Dorset Council, local communities, business organisations, farmers and others, would benefit all of Dorset and the nation.**



## HOW WILL WE BENEFIT?

The National Park will attract additional funding, investment and jobs. It will work with partners to benefit our communities and economy as well as our environment and heritage.

## WHO PAYS?

Core funding comes directly from central government and National Parks work with partners to secure other extra resources.

## THE CURRENT POSITION

The Government is committed to create new National Parks. The Prime Minister confirmed that commitment when he launched the Government's plan for a green economic recovery in November 2020. Natural England aim to resume their evaluation of the proposal.

## SUPPORT

Many communities, societies, business groups and individuals support the proposal. Independent research has identified the many benefits a National Park would bring to all of Dorset. These reports are on the website. [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com)

## WHAT IS THE PROPOSED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK?

The Dorset National Park Team and Dorset CPRE want as much of rural Dorset as meets Natural England's designation criteria to be included in the National Park. The National Park could be the first to have an offshore role helping to coordinate activities off-shore as well as on-shore for everyone's benefit.



## HOW WOULD NATIONAL PARK STATUS HELP DORSET AND EAST DEVON?

National Parks have a responsibility to:

- **Conserve and enhance the natural environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage.**
- **Promote recreation, health, and the enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the area.**
- **Foster the economic and social wellbeing of communities.**

## IT WILL LOOK AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

Dorset landscapes and heritage are very special and embrace Britain's only UNESCO World Heritage site designated for its natural environment. This environment is also Dorset's greatest economic asset<sup>1</sup> and the National Park would have a duty to look after and promote our environment and heritage and the wellbeing of local communities.

## IT WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT IN THE RIGHT PLACES

The National Park would work with communities, councils and businesses to meet local needs, including business premises, housing and affordable homes for local people including young families. National Park Local Plans support thriving local communities and reflect neighbourhood plans. A Dorset National Park would enable all of rural Dorset to set its own housing targets. It would work in partnership with the Dorset Council and communities to develop and deliver a shared Local Plan<sup>2</sup>. It would increase the number of elected local councillors from the 25% on the current Board of the Dorset AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to 75% on the National Park Authority and give parish and town councils a direct say for the first time in decisions on a joint Local Plan and on development proposals.

## IT WILL BOOST THE RURAL ECONOMY

Evidence and research suggest that a National Park would boost the rural economy and attract investment and jobs. The National Park would help promote Dorset products and services and encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more<sup>3</sup>. It would help develop a Dorset wide marketing strategy, manage tourism pressures and help develop sustainable policies for transport, tourism, energy and the green/blue economy of the future.

## IT WILL HELP FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

A National Park would help farmers and landowners access new Environmental Land Management funding and other support and help them diversify and thrive<sup>4</sup>.

## IT WILL BRING NEW AND EXTRA FUNDING

National Parks are separately funded by Government and not by local residents or businesses. They also work with partners to secure extra funds which are invested in the local economy, in partnership with communities, not-for-profit and commercial businesses, farmers and landowners.

A National Park will be an asset and a close partner for the Dorset Council and complement their work. It would bring additional resources and free up some council funding to help support local services and communities.

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



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Spread the word about the benefits a National Park would bring.
- Visit the website and sign up for news and follow us on Facebook.
- Volunteer and join the team to help promote the National Park proposal.
- Encourage your Parish or Town Council and local societies to have a short presentation about the opportunities a National Park would offer.
- With your support, a National Park can become a reality.

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

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

**WE ♥  
DORSET  
NATIONAL PARK**

### Notes:

1. Report by Ash Futures on Dorset's Environment Economy for Dorset County Council (March 2016).
2. The National Park Authority could partner with the Dorset Council and partly pay for the joint development and delivery of a shared Local Plan. It could contract for the delivery of various services. The Dorset Council would remain the lead local authority for all rural Dorset with responsibilities for e.g. social care, education and highways.
3. A Bournemouth University study concluded that a Dorset National Park could boost the local economy by several million pounds a year.
4. The South Downs National Park Local Plan has a specific aim to improve the financial viability of farmers and help them diversify.

All content correct at time of going to press.

