

Matter G: Economy

Consultee ID	Name/Organisation
	Dorset & East Devon National Park Team



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The proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park A Briefing Note for the Planning Inquiry on the Purbeck Local Plan

A Dorset National Park was on the first official list of prospective National Parks for England, published in the government-commissioned Dower report in 1945. Other National Parks have since gone ahead, most recently the South Downs NP, which became operational in 2011. In 2012 Natural England launched a review of designated areas and the proposal submitted by a cross county National Park Team in 2013 reflected that proposed in 1945, ie the area suggested was that which became the Dorset AONB, plus what remains of Thomas Hardy's "Egdon Heath." The National Park Team added the area of the East Devon AONB so as to include the full extent of the Dorset & East Devon World Heritage "Jurassic" Coast, which became a World Heritage Site in 2000.

Following the Government's 25-year Environment Plan, in May 2018 the then Secretary of State, Michael Gove, established a Review of Designated Landscapes, chaired by Julian Glover. The wide-ranging terms of reference include considering whether new designated landscapes should be proposed. Dorset & E Devon is considered by many to be the outstanding candidate to be England's next National Park. The Glover Review panel is expected to submit its report to Ministers in September. It will then be for Ministers to consider their response.

There is no firm proposed boundary for the potential National Park. It has always been the case that the suggested NP area would be subject to detailed assessment by Natural England and to full consultation with councils, communities and all stakeholders, as part of any designation process. The Dorset CPRE, which supports the National Park proposal, suggested in their submission to the Glover Review, that, subject to Natural England's detailed assessment, as much of rural Dorset as meets the designation criteria should be included in the National Park. Dorset CPRE published a report which began a process of assembling evidence for the quality of rural Dorset's landscape, biodiversity, heritage, etc: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/The-case-for-rural-Dorset>

The National Park Team sees the proposed National Park as a close, supportive partner for the Dorset Council, communities and other stakeholders, bringing additional resources and working on a shared agenda. A National Park would help ensure a thriving, successful, healthy and sustainable future for Dorset's communities, economy, environment, biodiversity and heritage.

The National Park website has a wealth of information, including the Summer 2019 Newsletter: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/Summer-2019> and the evidence submitted in 2013 and 2014 to Natural England and in 2018 to the Glover Review: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/the-case>

Dorset & E Devon National Park Team, August 2019

Appendix to previous document



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21st September 2019

Glover Landscapes Review: Report recommends assessment of Dorset for National Park designation.

- The Dorset & East Devon National Park Team welcomes the Glover Review's recognition that the area "contains some of the greatest concentrations of biodiversity in Britain and opportunities for enjoyment. It includes the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site". The spectacular World Heritage Coast would double the extent of coastline which is currently under-represented in English National Parks. The area has a "gold standard" heritage and offers an unrivalled range of recreational opportunities.
- We welcome the Review's conclusion that "the Cotswolds and the Dorset proposals are strong candidates alongside the Chilterns to be considered for National Park status. We suggest Natural England and ministers consider the case for each."
- We consider Dorset & East Devon is the outstanding candidate to be England's next National Park. This is shown by the wide-ranging evidence provided to Natural England since 2013 and then to the Glover Review by the National Park Team and the proposal's many partners and supporters. The Team looks forward to Natural England's further assessment and consideration of the case for National Park designation. We encourage Natural England to begin this work as soon as possible.
- We welcome the Review's emphasis on the vital contributions which National Parks can make to thriving and sustainable communities and rural economies, and to health and wellbeing for residents and visitors. And we support the Review's call for Designated Landscapes to play a vital role in Nature Recovery Networks and in the response to climate change. We support their call for national funding for this vital work to be sustained and increased.
- The proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park should be central to a new and exciting vision for the area's environment, biodiversity and heritage - which are our greatest economic assets - and for communities, businesses and all who live and work in and visit the area.
- In the 70th anniversary year of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, we look forward to continuing to work with councils and other stakeholders, and with Natural England and DEFRA, to bring to fruition this long-overdue National Park.

The full report can be read at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833163/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf