

# NATURE MAP PAPER

## CONTENTS

1. South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)
2. South West Nature Map
3. Purbeck Nature Map
4. RSPB Opportunity Mapping,
5. RSPB Extent and Potential (HEaP) Analysis
6. Grassland Restoration
7. Hardy's Egdon Heath Project ("Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage")
8. Environmental Stewardship Schemes ("Agri-Environment Schemes")
9. Rempstone Integrated Management Plan
10. Urban Heaths Life Project
11. Keystone Project
12. Forest Design Plans
13. Minerals Planning (Puddletown Rd)
14. Southern Damselfly Project
15. Upton Heath Estate and Woods Regeneration Scheme

## APPENDICES

1. *PURBECK NATURE MAP*
2. *RSPB REPORT ON OPPORTUNITY MAPPING*
3. *RSPB PROJECT MAPS*
4. *AONB REPORT: GRASSLAND RESTORATION*
5. *MAP OF EDGON HEATH PROJECT*
6. *MAP OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIPS SCHEMES*
7. *MAP OF REMPSTONE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN*
8. *MAPS OF KEYSTONE PROJECTS*
9. *SUMMARIES OF KEYSTONE PROJECTS*

## 1. SOUTH WEST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS)

Chapter 7 states that "Local authorities should use Nature Map and work with interested local stakeholders including local biodiversity partnerships and local record centres to map local opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in LDDs ...". It also states: "It is important that targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats are met, taking an ecosystem approach, including opportunities for linking and buffering habitats and making them more coherent units. Local authorities should use the development process positively to achieve these outcomes and should promote beneficial management of priority habitats and species found in their areas. This should result in more resilient habitat units across the region". It also states that provision for the maintenance, restoration

and enhancement of habitats and species should be a significant component in the provision of 'green infrastructure'.

These policy requirements are then expressed in RSS Policy ENV4, which states:

The distinctive habitats and species of the South West will be maintained and enhanced in line with national targets and the South West Regional Biodiversity Action Plan. Local authorities should identify 'strategic nature areas' in LDDs, taking into account the distribution of habitats and species found more locally, and protecting these sites and features from harmful development. Priority will be given to meeting targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats and species focusing on the strategic nature areas identified on the South West Nature Map. Proposals which provide opportunities for the beneficial management of these strategic nature areas should be supported, including linking habitats to create more coherent units which are more resilient to climate change.

## **2. SOUTH WEST NATURE MAP**

South West Nature Map identifies the best areas in our region to conserve, create and connect wildlife habitats at a landscape scale.

There is significant effort underway throughout the region to conserve our biodiversity, but major challenges lie ahead if we are to stop further losses, re-establish lost wildlife and enable it to adapt to the pressures of climate change. The South West Nature Map shows the best areas to maintain and expand (through restoration and/or re-creation) terrestrial wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. It is important to stress that land outside of the Nature Map areas also contains wildlife sites and species that are important in their own right. There are many different tools and mechanisms in place that contribute to their conservation, and Nature Map is a significant addition to the wider strategy for biodiversity conservation in the region.

Nature Map was produced by the South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership. It selects landscape scale blocks of land, known as Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), to improve habitat networks and to sustain wildlife within them. This was achieved through regional consultation using the best available biodiversity data, local expert knowledge and the South West Wildlife Trust's Rebuilding Biodiversity methodology. SNAs will contain a mosaic of habitats, building on existing core areas and co-existing with other land uses, such as agriculture and recreation. The principal rivers are also included on the Nature Map as important linear features for biodiversity.

We expect the map to be used by the region's decision-makers, organisations and businesses to;

1. identify where most of the major biodiversity concentrations are found and where targets to maintain, restore and re-create wildlife might best be met;
2. formulate sustainable choices for development, e.g. through Local Development Frameworks and the Regional Spatial Strategy;
3. assist in targeting the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme;
4. develop partnerships and projects for biodiversity in the region;
5. provide a focus for projects that will help biodiversity to adapt to climate change.

The South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership will use Nature Map to promote biodiversity conservation in the region, but success depends upon partners from all sectors creating the rich and fertile grounds in which biodiversity can flourish. Re-establishing biodiversity in the areas identified by Nature Map will require:

- excellent support from nature conservation organisations to enable land owners and managers to take up the Nature Map challenge;
- a shift in emphasis from a site based approach towards the wider landscape scale;
- a strategic approach to forward planning and development control, in order to link, buffer and re-create wildlife habitats;
- a focus on biodiversity outcomes, rather than detailed prescriptions for how these are delivered,
- blending the assets, skills, and imagination of different sectors to create effective local delivery partnerships;
- sustained resources from Government, the private sector and voluntary bodies.

If we follow these principles, Nature Map will make a significant contribution to sustainable development in the South West.

### **3. PURBECK NATURE MAP**

#### **(Appendix 1: Purbeck Nature Map)**

The following areas comprise the Purbeck area of the Nature Map. Each area is referred to as a Strategic Nature Area (SNA). The Nature Map is not statutory and is not designed to prevent development, but rather than look at positive opportunities for enhancement.

## Purbeck Nature Map by Strategic Nature Area

<b>Nature Area Name</b>	<b>Main Habitat</b>	<b>Other Habitats</b>
1.Purbeck Limestone	Limestone Grassland	Chalk Grassland
2.Corfe Valley	Woodland, Acid Grassland, Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	-
3.Purbeck Ridge	Chalk Grassland	Limestone Grassland, Woodland, Acid Grassland
4.Lulworth Chalk	Chalk Grassland	Limestone Grassland, Arable
5.Povington Meadows	Neutral Grassland	Purple Moor Grass, Woodland
6.Lulworth Woodlands	Woodland	Arable
7. Purbeck Heaths	Lowland Heath	Acid Grassland, Mire, Woodland
8.River Frome	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Fen, Wet Woodland, River Corridor
9.Winfrith –Warmwell	Lowland Heath	Mire
10. Puddletown Road	Lowland Heath	Mire, Wet Woodland
11. River Piddle	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Wet Woodland, Fen, River Corridor
12.Poole Harbour Fringe	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Reedbed
13. Wareham Forest	Lowland Heath	Acid Grassland, Mire, Woodland
14. Upton Heath	Lowland Heath	Mire, Acid Grassland
15. Lytchett Matravers	Woodland	Neutral Grassland, Purple Moor Grass, Rush Pasture

## Projects by area

<b>Nature Area Name</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Relevant document</b>
1.Purbeck Limestone	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper: Keystone Project
	Grasslands Project	Nature Map Paper
2.Corfe Valley	Grasslands Project	Nature Map Paper
3.Purbeck Ridge	Keystone Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
4.Lulworth Chalk	Grasslands Project	Nature Map Paper
5.Povington Meadows	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Grasslands Project	Nature Map Paper
6.Lulworth Woodlands	Forest Design Plans	Nature Map Paper
7. Purbeck Heaths	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	Rempstone Integrated Management Plan	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Forest Design Plans	Nature Map Paper
8.River Frome	Keystone Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Catchment Sensitive Farming Project	Water Paper
	Water Level Management Plan	Water Paper
9.Winfrith –Warmwell	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Galston Bog HLS (ESS)	Nature Map Paper
10. Puddletown Road	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	Minerals Planning	Nature Map Paper
	Forest Design Plans	Nature Map Paper

	MOD	Part of SSSI PSA targets, aiming to improve habitat for Ladybird Spider, Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard (See "Projects by theme")
11. River Piddle	Catchment Sensitive Farming Project	Nature Map Paper (Projects by theme)
12. Poole Harbour Fringe	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Wareham Tide Banks Strategy	Water Paper
13. Wareham Forest	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
	Forest Design Plans	Nature Map Paper
14. Upton Heath	Hardy's Egdon Heath Project	Nature Map Paper
	Urban Heaths Life Project	Nature Map Paper
	SSSI Management Project	Nature Map Paper
15. Lytchett Matravers		

### Projects by theme

Project	Details
Environmental Stewardship Scheme	Details in Nature Map Paper
Purbeck Bat Project	Research stage, but will lead on to strategic management for bats such as restoring one quarry at a time in order of priority, starting in 2007.
Southern Damselfly Species Action Plan Project	Details in Nature Map Paper
Ladybird Spider Species Recovery Project	Led by Natural England
Purbeck Mason Wasp Species Recovery Project	Led by Natural England and RSPB on Purbeck Heaths, Puddletown Rd, and Wareham Forest
Forest Design Plans	Details in Nature Map Paper
Dorset Heathland Project	This is an ongoing project of 19 years by RSPB to manage heathland in a cost-effective way on behalf of landowners.
RIMP	Details in Nature Map Paper
HEaP	Details in Nature Map Paper
Catchment Sensitive Farming	Details in Water Paper
Water Level Management Plan	Details in Water Paper - River Frome SSSI WLMP will be agreed by December 2006 and will highlight impacts on the SSSI in relation to water levels.

## 4. RSPB OPPORTUNITY MAPPING

### (Appendix 2: RSPB Report on Opportunity Mapping)

A pilot study covering East Dorset, Purbeck and Christchurch was undertaken by RSPB in November 2004. The details are also set out in PPS9 Good Practice Guide page 28. The report sets out why the project was undertaken and includes recommendations. The study began with local BAP targets, followed by a selection procedure based on scale (large offered more opportunities), ease of re-creation and then the opportunity. Page 14 states that much of Purbeck District lies within the Dorset Heaths Nature Area, with the most suitable

heathland soils in Purbeck being “naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils”, and “freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils”. It states (page 14) “there is scope for the re-creation of significant new areas, in particular to join existing sites and reverse historic fragmentation”.

Recommendations include:

- Habitat re-creation opportunities to be identified on the Proposals Map in the LDF  
in support of this
- Identification of where habitat re-creation as environmental planning gain or mitigation or compensation is likely to be most appropriate

## **5. RSPB HEATHLAND EXTENT & POTENTIAL ANALYSIS**

### **(Appendix 3: RSPB Project Map)**

The RSPB has been developing a project to predict the extent of heathland re-creation that would be required to move red and amber listed heathland birds (of high and medium conservation concern respectively) to green status, and where geographically this could be most effectively undertaken. The project data is now being used to inform UKBAP targets review and guide local and regional heathland conservation projects. The data continues to be defined and will soon be published on the RSPB website and in a stand alone document. One potential target use is for developing habitat potential maps in LDFs. The project has mapped all existing heathland from aerial photographs (due to the limitations with existing inventory datasets). It then identified the potential to re-create heathland to expand and link heathland patches from suitable land uses (forestry, 2<sup>nd</sup> woodland, low grade agriculture and mineral sites) without significant negative impact on local economies and culture. The heathland potential has been zoned to test for a) potential extent and defragmentation and b) potential benefits to heathland birds. This data could be used as a refinement of heathland expansion opportunities within relevant SNAs in Purbeck.

Draft HEaP maps for Purbeck include the existing heathland resource, scope for restoring or re-creating heathland to link existing fragments within 250m of each other (and/or expanding existing patch size to greater than 25ha), and within 500m of each other (and/or expanding existing patch size to greater than 100ha).

The Heathland Extent and Potential (HEaP) dataset has been developed by remote analysis of aerial photographs and hand-plotted over a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey base map to cover the whole of England. Although the method used has been ground-truthed by random sampling (of ca 100 heathland patches), there can be no guarantee of accuracy. The data contains no information on land-ownership, and none is inferred in predicting heathland potential. This data set is not intended, in itself, to be used to plan heathland re-

creation. Instead, it is intended to provide a guide to broad potential in a geographical area, which should be then refined through detailed local surveys.

## **6. GRASSLAND RESTORATION**

### **(Appendix 4: Grassland Restoration: AONB Report)**

The following text is taken from an information sheet produced by the AONB:

There has been an estimated 80% loss of grasslands within Dorset. Remaining patches of grassland are small and fragmented – reducing their capacity to sustain viable wildlife populations and limiting their contribution to landscape character and public enjoyment.

An aim within Dorset's Local Area Agreement is as follows: To restore and reconnect Dorset's wildlife and heritage- rich grassland landscapes by increasing the area of suitable land in positive management for grassland creation, enhancement and conservation. There is no policy in PDLP to re-create grasslands. However, historical data will be used to create an opportunities map. This will highlight areas where re-creation of grassland could be undertaken to reconnect fragmented blocks of habitat. The principle of habitat restoration is supported in PPS9 and BP Guide (see Chapter 1).

## **7. HARDY'S EGDON HEATH PROJECT (TOMORROW'S HEATHLAND HERITAGE)**

### **(Appendix 5: Map of Edgon Heath Project)**

Although part of the national Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage, locally this project is known as Hardy's Egdon Heath Project. This almost completed project is the largest heathland restoration project of its kind in the UK. Under the financial support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, it involved 13 partner organisations working on 75 heathland sites across Dorset. The following text was provided by English Nature.

The Project aimed to contribute to a significant percentage of the national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) objectives, keeping the historical aspect of the heaths in mind, whilst increasing the level of community involvement and improving access to the sites for greater public appreciation.

The six main objectives for the Project were:

*Contribute to the achievement of biodiversity action plan targets associated with four priority habitats and sixteen priority species, and government obligations*

The Dorset heathlands are one of the most important areas for nature conservation in England, and are of international significance because they support heathland habitats and species important at a European level. In 1998 the Dorset Heathlands were classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA) because of the European ornithological importance of the area. In the same year the area was also listed as a Ramsar site because of its international wet heathland interest. More recently, the Dorset Heaths have attained Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status under the EU Habitats Directive.

*Restore and secure the future management of 7000ha of lowland heathland through a programme including the removal of over 1000ha of scrub, and by enclosing 1500ha of heathland in restorative grazing schemes*

A major programme of scrub and tree clearance, using proven techniques and reliable contractors, will help to restore the open nature of the heaths. The introduction, and extension to existing heathland grazing schemes, will aim to restore vegetation structure and diversity, and introduce a traditional management system for sustainable maintenance of the heaths into the future.

*Reduce fragmentation of heathland by re-creating 94ha of lowland heathland from established woodland*

An element of heathland re-creation is essential to reduce heathland fragmentation. The Project included re-creation of several links across forestry plantations to create a continuity of heathland within these forest areas.

*Secure populations of many typical and scarce species, including a number of key BAP species*

In addition to the species listed in the BAP which occur in the Dorset Heaths Natural Area, there is an even greater number of species that occur in the heathland habitats which will benefit from the generic management that is proposed.

*Increase local community support, involvement and appreciation of this natural heritage by enhancing local community access to selected heritage sites*

As lowland heathland is one of the top heritage aspects in Dorset, culturally, environmentally, and aesthetically, it is very important that the community understands and has an enhanced appreciation of this part of their local heritage, and the measures needed to restore and retain it.

*Restore the original setting of heathland ancient monuments*

The Dorset Heathlands have outstandingly rich archaeological heritage; Bronze Age tumuli are particularly abundant. Fortunately there should be rarely any conflict between proposed nature conservation management and preservation of this heritage. Indeed, the clearance of trees and scrub restores the original setting of these monuments as well as helping their conservation since tree roots will damage the archaeological interest. Creating a more open landscape

through the clearance of blocks of conifer trees, and minimizing fencing by creating large grazing blocks helps to create this historic landscape.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ("AGRI-ENVIRONMENT") SCHEMES**

### **(Appendix 6: Map of Environmental Stewardship Schemes)**

Defra funds both the old Countryside Stewardship Schemes and the new Environmental Stewardship Schemes. The former are 10-year agreements which pay farmers to improve the natural beauty and diversity of the countryside. There are currently 77 Countryside Stewardship Schemes in Purbeck.

This scheme has now been replaced by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, taking forward Defra's two previous schemes – Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship. Environmental Stewardship has three parts: Entry Level Stewardship is open to all farmers, Organic Entry Level Stewardship is open to organic farmers, while Higher Level Stewardship provides more resources in exchange for more significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas.

## **9. REMPSTONE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **(Appendix 7: Map of Rempstone Integrated Management Plan)**

A partnership of the Rempstone Estate, the Forestry Commission (who lease over 600 hectares of the Estate) and RSPB have been working on a joint management plan for the Estate and a vision for its future. The broad concepts of change have been built around further opportunities for heathland re-creation, new opportunities for informal public access (walking, cycling and horse riding) and potential non motorised links from Norden to Studland. These ideas have been presented widely to many local stakeholders and there is general support for the broad changes. The partnership have been negotiating the necessary changes to existing lease arrangements and working together to draw up more detailed plans for the phased changes. Ultimately some elements of these plans may need planning approval, and the deforestation plans will require an Environmental Impact Assessment under the Forestry Regulations. These next steps should occur through the late summer autumn period

The Rempstone Estate has been looking at options for long-term land use change on its land at Rempstone. In seeking a new direction for the site, the Estate has sought to develop an integrated plan for the site to ensure that any

proposals for change take proper account of relevant legal and policy requirements and the aspirations of local people.

The site extends from the Corfe river on the western boundary, to Newton and Kingswood Heaths on the eastern boundary with-Godlingston Heath. It includes all land north of the B3351 Corfe-Studland road as far as the Poole Harbour foreshore.

The site lies within an area of outstanding historic and natural beauty, and attracts increasing numbers of visitors. The Estate and its tenants, including Forest Enterprise and BP, now have a range of statutory responsibilities to protect and enhance the interest of designated features such as the AONB landscape, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation features, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the definitive footpath and bridleway network. In addition, significant parts of the site are now managed through Countryside Stewardship and similar voluntary schemes.

Forest Enterprise have a long term lease on approximately 610 hectares of land, incorporating most of Wytch, Rempstone, Newton and Kingswood Heaths, planted with conifers in the late 1940s early 1950s. As a major long-term stakeholder in the site, FE are committed to seeking greater social and environmental benefits from management of Purbeck Forest.

The Rempstone Integrated Management Plan, drawn up by the RSPB, proposes the re-establishment of 400ha of heathland reconnecting Godlingston Heath with Hartland Moor, creating the largest block of continuous heathland in the UK outside the New Forest. Informal recreational opportunities will be developed around existing tracks through a series of way-marked routes.

This project demonstrates the value of restructuring FE land holdings to deliver Government BAP targets and wider amenity objectives in partnership.

## **10. URBAN HEATHS LIFE PROJECT**

The following text is taken from “Dorset For You” website:

Where 30% of Dorset's heathlands are situated in and around the urban areas of south east Dorset with nearly half a million people living nearby, these heathlands experience urban pressures such as fires, trampling and disturbance as a result of being used for recreation by this substantial human population.

In response to these urban pressures a local initiative, the Urban Heaths Partnership, made up of 10 partner organisations including the local councils, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Herpetological Conservation Trust, English Nature, Dorset Police and Dorset Fire and Rescue Service was set up. They

successfully applied for £1.2 million funding from the European Union LIFE-Nature fund which was matched by the members of the partnership. A four- year project, the Urban Heaths LIFE Project, was then launched in July 2001 to work on 49 separate urban heathland sites in south east Dorset.

The project has been successful in its aims to address urban pressures on the heaths by providing extra wardening, new fire fighting equipment for Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, a Heathland and Wildlife Protection Officer in Dorset Police and delivering an education programme within the local community and its schools.

It is expected that changed public attitude towards heathlands and an increased awareness and support for the heaths amongst local people, including school children, will have led to a reduction in the levels of each direct threat to the heaths, especially from deliberately set fires. In Purbeck, Upton Heath, Sandford and Great Ovens were part of this project.

## **11. PURBECK KEYSTONE PROJECT**

**(Appendix 8: Map of Keystone Projects  
Appendix 9: Summary of Keystone Projects)**

The Purbeck Keystone Project (previously known as 'Carving a Foundation for the Isle of Purbeck') has very clear objectives that are grouped under three main headings: Natural Landscape, Cultural Landscape and Outdoor Learning. The Keystone Project seeks to support farming practices that encourage biodiversity and maintain the increasingly rare habitats found in Purbeck.

Natural Landscape projects include:

- Frome Valley water level management infrastructure and plan
- Purbeck Ridge scrub clearance grants
- Introducing conservation grazing herds to enhance biodiversity
- Promote conservation farm management via the Purbeck Products Cooperative label and farm apprenticeships
- Utilise new and exiting volunteer networks to survey and assess the Purbeck biodiversity and the impact of conservation works

## **12. FOREST DESIGN PLANS**

The Forest Design Plans for the Purbeck DC area are approved until 2013.

Forest Design Plans are used by Forest Enterprise to guide the medium to long term management of the forest estate. The Forest Design Plans explain both

how the woodlands are to be managed and why a particular management direction has been taken.

The woodlands covered in Purbeck District Council area are - Wareham Forest and Gore Heath, Rempstone and Newton Heath Forests, Moreton and Affpuddle Forests, Lulworth Woodlands, Hethfelton Forest and Gallows Hill.

The Purbeck Heaths Forest Design Plans have been compiled within the context of the English Forest Strategy and the process has included an extensive consultation exercise involving statutory bodies, local interest groups and local communities.

The Purbeck Heaths Forest Design Plans have emerged from an extensive consultation exercise. Representatives from a range of statutory bodies and local groups were invited to meetings designed to aid the consultation process.

#### Forest Design Plan Objectives for the Purbeck Heaths Forests

1. To develop woodlands that provide opportunities for informal and formal public recreation, especially in areas on the urban fringe aiming to divert pressure away from more sensitive habitats.

2. To develop woodlands that are more attractive and are sympathetic to their landscape context by:

- Increasing the diversity of age structure through phased felling and replanting shaped in a way that is consistent with the scale and topography of the landform.
- Encouraging natural regeneration of existing conifer species or broadleaves native to the site type where appropriate
- Encouraging the transformation of some conifer plantations to mixed conifer and broadleaf woodlands by accepting natural regeneration of native broadleaves.
- Retaining some areas beyond their usual felling age to become large, old trees.
- Introducing a network of permanent and temporary open space that enhances the visual diversity of the woodlands.
- Maintaining a continuous cover of woodlands where it is a prominent and sympathetic part of the landscape and especially where it screens urban areas.

3. To sustain and protect existing habitats of nature conservation interest by:

- Maintaining designated habitats in improving or favourable condition.
- Restoring native broadleaf woodland on sites of ancient woodland.

- Developing a network of habitat links to reduce the vulnerability of fragmented sites.
- Increasing the length of edge habitat by ride edge and streamside enhancement and by developing a mosaic of woodland types and open space.
- Providing a succession of temporary open spaces suitable for key heathland bird species.
- Providing buffers of non-plantation woodland adjacent to important non-plantation habitats.
- Protecting any veteran tree and retaining standing or fallen deadwood where not a hazard to the public.

4. To provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.

5. To protect all ancient monuments and any features of woodland and cultural heritage.

6. To achieve an appropriate balance of objectives through consultation with local communities and representatives of organisation involved with the nature conservation, public recreation and timber industry.

### **13. MINERALS PLANNING (PUDDLETOWN ROAD)**

The following table lists future plans for restoration of quarries in the Puddletown area:

<b>Quarry Name</b>	<b>Restore to heathland?</b>	<b>When</b>
Hyde Pit	Yes	Phased restoration until 2018 (approx)
Binnegar	Partial heathland restoration & agriculture/forestry	5 – 10 years
Gallows Hill Processing Plant	Yes	2030 (approx)
Masters South	Yes	Phased restoration until 2012 (approx)
Masters North	Yes	Phased restoration until 2010 (approx)
Hines	Yes	Current planning application is for sand extraction and restoration by approx 2018
Great Plantation (proposed site in Minerals Local Plan)	Yes	Unknown

### **14. SOUTHERN DAMSELFLY PROJECT**

The following is taken from a briefing note by the Environment Agency who are leading on the project

The Southern Damselfly is a nationally rare and globally scarce species. Since 1960 its distribution in UK has declined by 30% making it a target for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. In the UK the species is now restricted to just seven areas in southern England and Wales. In Dorset, the species is found in six sites; the Blue Pool area, Creech Heath, Povington Heath, East and West Corfe Common and Hartland Moor.

Southern Damselfly appears to be smaller than other male blue damselflies because of the greater amount of black on its abdomen. The southern damselfly seldom shares its habitat with other blue damselflies, and a distinctive 'mercury' sign on the second abdominal segment is a useful guide to identification.

Southern Damselfly has very specific habitat requirements. They need base-rich valley mires within wet heathland, and slow-flowing, well vegetated streams or 'runnels' with a fairly constant water temperature. The fact that these conditions are not commonly found, added to the general loss and neglect of heathland that has occurred has contributed to a decline in Southern Damselfly. In Dorset, the invasion of scrub into the heathland through lack of management is contributing to a reduction in available habitat.

As part of the Dorset Biodiversity Partnership, the Southern Damselfly Group are taking action to conserve the species. Work so far has included annual surveys for the species and habitat restoration, with the assistance of landowners. The group has also commissioned the Dorset Environmental Records Centre to survey historic Southern Damselfly sites and potential areas for the future expansion of this important species.

## **15. UPTON HEATH ESTATE & WOODS REGENERATION SCHEME**

This is a community driven project to address the recreational needs of the residents of eastern Upton by addressing a range of community safety, regeneration and highway issues in the locality. The site is within 200 metres of the Upton Heath SAC and enhancement of recreational opportunities here will provide a significant mitigation of inappropriate uses of the easily accessible SAC.

This project's stated aim is to improve the quality of life of local people through creating a sustainable, manageable, secure regeneration of the public spaces in and around Upton Heath Estate and Upton Woods by:-

- reducing the impact of leisure activities on sensitive locations, in particular the Upton Heath SAC

- promoting walking and cycling through helping enable an improved network and linkages to existing routes and attractions
- reduce crime and disorder
- increase fun and enjoyment
- improve health through activity
- increase understanding of social responsibilities, the environment and health
- put people first not cars
- providing for the needs of young people
- securing better use and sustainable management of Upton Woods
- helping enable enhanced or new leisure facilities close to communities

The project is at the feasibility stage but has been subject to considerable consultation with local residents who support the objectives and a priority issue in the evolving Upton Parish Plan. The inclusion of Upton Woods and linear routes between Upton Heath and Upton Country Park as well as the open spaces on the Upton Heath Estate provide scope to create a major focus for recreational activity and better access through and to the area. It is envisaged that the final project design will include a network of woodland trails, robust play equipment and possibly BMX tracks in the woodland area and secure children's play spaces and a community facility within the housing estate. The woodland tracks and facilities will be designed to be attractive to all age groups and have a significant role in moving informal play and short walk activity away from Upton Heath accessed by an existing pedestrian bridge over the adjoining Upton bypass to this site and to Upton Country Park through improved linkages.