

Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan
Questions from Terrence Kemmann-Lane, Examiner
17 August 2018

To: **North Dorset District Council and Pimperne Parish Council**

EQ1: The Examiner notes that Natural England seeks the inclusion of text, specifically in Policy MEN: Meeting Employment Needs, in the following part of its consultation response: *"The Dorset Biodiversity Protocol is recommended for all development sites over 0.1ha or where there is likely adverse impact to biodiversity, regardless of the proposed use. As such we recommend that Policy MEN is amended to reflect this requirement."*

It is not clear to Mr Kemmann-Lane how this recommendation might be put into effect if it is felt desirable to make this addition. It could, for instance, be added as iv. under the 'and in all cases' element of Policy MEN eg: "iv. In any development involving land over 0.1ha or where there is likely adverse impact to biodiversity, the Dorset Biodiversity Protocol should be followed".

Dorset County Council makes a similar point, but refers to the text on page 5 of the PNP – the final paragraph under the heading Vision and objectives.

Please comment on the desirability of making change(s) as suggested in the two representations, and if desirable whether it should be within policy MEN or on page 5, or both, and whether this wording is a satisfactory expression of what is required. Mr Kemmann-Lane notes that biodiversity mitigation is mentioned in each of the three housing allocations.

Response:

The need to include a specific was discussed and was not considered necessary particularly given that it already featured in the District Council's validation list requirements for Planning Permission for building or construction work (see top of pg 10 of <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning/submit-planning-application/pdfs/nddc/validation-checklist-nddc.pdf> - albeit that the validation list is now more than 2 years old). Instead mention of the need for biodiversity gains was made at the end of pg 5 (alongside flooding) which are both dealt with in national and local policies.

However, if the addition of a generic policy on the requirement for a biodiversity mitigation and enhancement plan is considered necessary

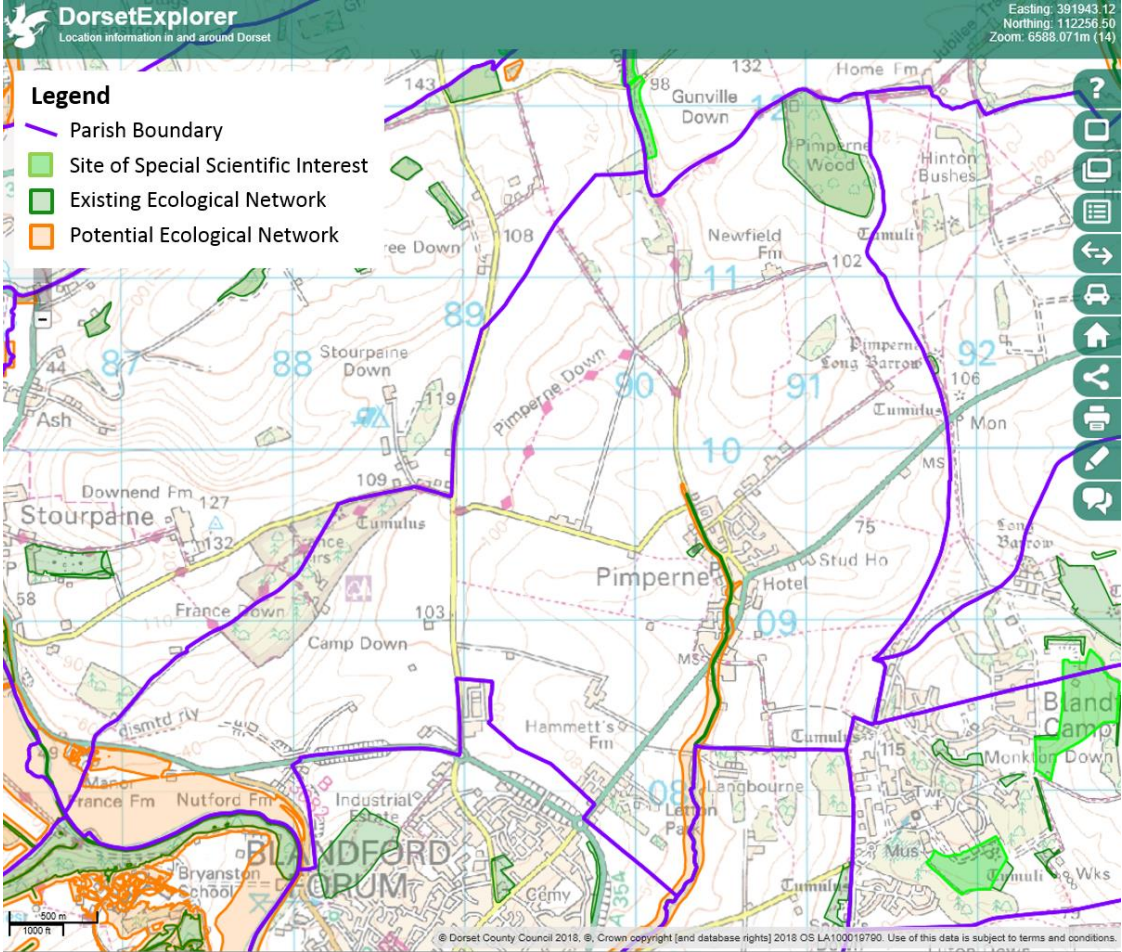
and/or useful, given that it is not a specific requirement at present in the Local Plan, it would be better to include this as a separate topic following Important local green spaces (and before Important buildings and other features of local character).

The following policy has been adapted from a similar policy that has just been approved at the examination of the Fontmell Magna NP, and could be used:

Local Wildlife Corridors and Protected Species

All new development should have due regard for the local ecological network (existing and potential) as identified on Map [ref No], and potential presence of protected species; taking into account national policy to provide net gains in biodiversity where possible. To achieve this, the potential adverse or beneficial impact of the development on these ecological networks should be fully evaluated, and presence of protected species checked. A Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan must be submitted with any Planning Application on sites over 1.0Ha or which are likely to give rise to an adverse impact on biodiversity.

The Map that would need to be inserted would be sourced from <https://explorer.geowessex.com/?layers=51,4310,14745,14746&basemap=26&x=389580.67&y=109840.64&epsg=27700&zoom=14> ie:



Reference in the supporting text could also be made to the findings of the SEA scoping with the addition of the info on the Barberry Carpet Moth (see following representation) – ie:

Handcocks Bottom SSSI lies just to the north of the plan area, and Blandford Camp SSSI lies to the east of Blandford Camp, approximately 1km from the parish boundary. Hod Hill SSSI lies approximately 3km to the west of the parish boundary. Sites of local nature conservation interest include Pimperne Wood SNCI (ancient woodland) on the northern border of the parish. There are also other ancient woodland and unimproved and semi-improved calcareous / chalk grasslands close to the parish boundary, including Pimperne Long Barrows. Environmental records indicate the potential presence of a range of protected species, including: bats; birds (such as Barn Owl, Hen Harrier and Merlin), butterflies and moths (such as the White-letter Hairstreak and Barberry Carpet moth) and badgers.

*The Barberry Carpet moth is a nationally scarce species and various nature conservation organisations are working to strengthen this particular species. As such, mitigation measures that include the planting of Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) are encouraged.*

In light of the above, a minor amendment is also suggested to Policy MEN to ensure that it is not read as over-riding this requirement

At end of first para on pg 18 (supporting text) amend to read "...the landscape, wildlife and traffic impacts of such development."

Amend final criteria (iii) of Policy MEN to read "would not harm the character and tranquillity of the AONB, and would not harm protected species or areas of wildlife interest without appropriate biodiversity enhancement and mitigation."

EQ2: In addition Natural England include the following:

"Localised biodiversity enhancement opportunities

The Neighbourhood Plan states that it does not cover all subjects and lists protection of wildlife as one of those already covered in the North Dorset Local Plan. In this case, we advise that there are specific, localised environmental objectives that the North Dorset Local Plan is unlikely to detail in its next iteration which would be better suited for inclusion in the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan.

*Natural England have identified a species (protected under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006, section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and is an ICUN Red Data Book species listed as Endangered), the Barberry Carpet moth, which is nationally scarce and has a stronghold in the area around Pimperne. Through various channels we and other nature conservation organisations are working to strengthen the remaining populations of this very rare species, which includes planting of Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). We would encourage you to consider this unique aspect of the biodiversity of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the potential for enhancement and expansion of the species through requirement or highlighting of the benefits of planting of Barberry in future developments within the plan area."*

On the face of it this may well be an appropriate addition to the NP since it deals with a matter that is specific to part of the NP area: **please comment on this and if thought desirable, provide suitable text and indicate where it should be placed in the NP.**

Response:

See above response which has been adjusted to include mention of this species and enhancement