



Urban Heaths Partnership

Heathland Mitigation Delivery Report

April 2017 – March 2018



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1. Introduction

The Local Planning Authorities continue to take a partnership approach to heathland mitigation. The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015 -2020 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been adopted by the individual Local Planning Authorities (LPA) across South East Dorset.

The Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP) delivers heathland mitigation on behalf of its 14 partners as listed below:

- ◆ Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- ◆ Borough of Poole
- ◆ Bournemouth Borough Council
- ◆ Christchurch Borough Council
- ◆ East Dorset District Council
- ◆ Dorset County Council
- ◆ Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
- ◆ Dorset Police
- ◆ Dorset Wildlife Trust
- ◆ Natural England
- ◆ Purbeck District Council
- ◆ National Trust
- ◆ Forestry Commission
- ◆ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Under the SPD the Local Planning Authorities collect developer contributions from development within 5kms of heathland sites. These contributions are used to fund heathland mitigation in the form of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) and Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs) which include development of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs).

A core team of staff is funded jointly from contributions collected by each Local Planning Authority. This team is responsible for co-ordinating and delivering elements of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM). This team continues to be employed by Dorset County Council on behalf of the UHP (Team structure attached in Appendix 1.0).

The wardening element of SAMM is delivered by the Local Planning Authorities along with HIPs.

This report concentrates on the SAMM elements of heathland mitigation delivered by the UHP Core Team during the financial year April 2017– March 2018.

There are four main strands to the work of the UHP Core Team:

- Co-ordination
- Education
- Monitoring
- Dorset Dogs Project

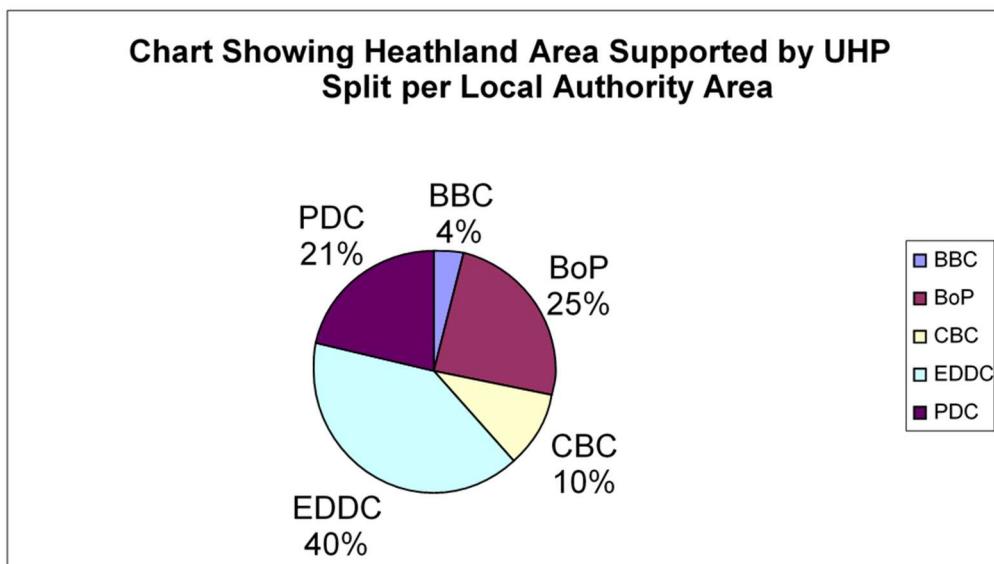
2. Co-ordination

The aims of UHP Co-ordination are as follows:

- To develop and deliver an annual business plan in line with the adopted UHP Heathland Mitigation Strategy.
- Co-ordinate delivery for delivery by the UHP core team of those elements of SAMM agreed by the Implementation Group in line with the approved budget.
- To support co-ordination of the wardening element of SAMM across the area on all heathland sites.
- To monitor delivery of SAMM in each LPA area, reporting annually.

The UHP Core Team provides mitigation across the project area with consideration to heathland sites across the area.

The following chart (Table 1) gives an approximation of the split of heathland area between Local Authority Areas as a percentage, this only includes sites on which UHP provide mitigation support.



Implementation Group

The Implementation Group oversees the delivery of SAMM, including the work of the core team and of mitigation staff providing wardening employed by the Local Authority partners. The group is made up of partner representatives with meetings at least biannual and is facilitated by the UHP Team Manager. Terms of reference for the meeting have been agreed by the Group.

Strategy & Business Plan

The Group has agreed the UHP Heathland Mitigation Strategy which sets out the work of the UHP Core Team and the annual business plan setting out the delivery of the strategy, both prepared by the Team Manager. The Group will monitor progress against these documents as reported by the Team Manager.

SAMM Service Level Agreement

A Service Level Agreement has been drawn up by the Team Manager in consultation with the partners covering the delivery of the wardening element of SAMM by Local Authority partners.

2017 -18

During the 2017 – 18 financial year a number of changes occurred within the UHP Core team.

- Monitoring Officer maternity cover organised, Rachel Pearce started leave on 31st October 2017, a Monitoring Warden was recruited to cover monitoring for up to 12 months. The more strategic elements of the role have been picked up by the Team Manager.
- Funding for the Firewise Communities Project was secured from Fire Service and Dorset Police along with funds from UHP allowing the initiation of the project. A Project Assistant was employed to support the project working 2 days per week for 18 months from January 2018.
- As agreed by the Implementation Group in the previous financial year a full time Education and Dorset Dogs Assistant has been employed to increase capacity of Education and the Dorset Dogs Project delivery.
- The Dorset Urban Heaths Grazing Partnership approached UHP to explore the options of hosting the Grazing Co-ordinator post. After Preparing costings the Implementation Group approved this and the Grazing Co-ordinator was recruited and started in January 2018.
- The Team Manager prepared a report for the LPA Planning Policy Officers requesting an extension to the agreed funding for 1 year from March 2019, this will bring UHP funding in line with the SPD. Seeking an agreement for this extension will continue into the next financial year.

The Wildfire Conference was organised by UHP in conjunction with Andy Elliott, DCC GIS Manager and Wildfire Tactical Adviser to DWFRS. This was an international event held at The Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth on 7th and 8th November 2017. The event was a resounding success with over 150 attendees receiving excellent feedback.

Co-ordination Actions identified for 2018/19

- Prepare and deliver Annual Business plan in line with Heathland Mitigation as agreed by the UHP Implementation group.

- Support consistent delivery of all SAMM work under the agreed Service Level Agreement.
- Prepare Annual report on Heathland Mitigation Delivery.
- Work with Planning Policy Officers to agree an extension of agreed funding for the UHP Core Team ending in March 2019 until March 2020 to be in-line with the SPD document.

Documents referred to in this section and more detailed information about the work of the Core Team are available from the UHP Team Manager, email: urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk, telephone 01202 642787.

3. Education

The aims of UHP Education are as follows:

- To deliver a co-ordinated approach to education across the Partnership.
- To identify Target Schools which the UHP Education Officer will primarily contact and work with offering heathland related activities tailored to age and subject.
- To increase awareness of the importance of heathlands due to their wildlife and biodiversity.
- To increase awareness of the consequences of heathland fires to the wildlife and the community along with other potentially damaging activities.
- To encourage individual and community responsibility for the protection of heathlands for the future and provide a sense of ownership;

These messages are delivered within all UHP Education activities. This includes the Arson Courtroom (ACD) sessions delivered to Key Stage 3 students and heathland related activities to Key Stage 1 and 2 students. Previously the UHP Education Officer and Partners have agreed that targeting Key Stage 3 is imperative to ensure local young people fully understand the consequences of fires on heathlands and to promote the reasons why heathlands are considered important, and targeting Key Stage 2 students is important to raise awareness of the heathland habitat. This is considered an important educational aim as the child will develop an understanding and awareness of the heathlands at a younger age to enable them to identify the importance of heathland sites when reaching year 8 and taking part in the ACD.

Target Schools have been agreed with partners as those to offer our activities to as a priority, mainly due to proximity to a heathland site, this list is reviewed annually. The current Target School list is attached at Appendix 2.

The part-time Education Assistant started work in August 2017 and has enabled an update of education resources available, along with development of new resources and an increase in the number of students reached through the education programme.

Across south-east Dorset a total of 5217 students have been directly worked with. Of this total, 71% were students from Target Schools.

Table 2 identifies the total number of students who were involved with UHP Education activities during the period April 2017 to March 2018 Split per Local Authority Area.

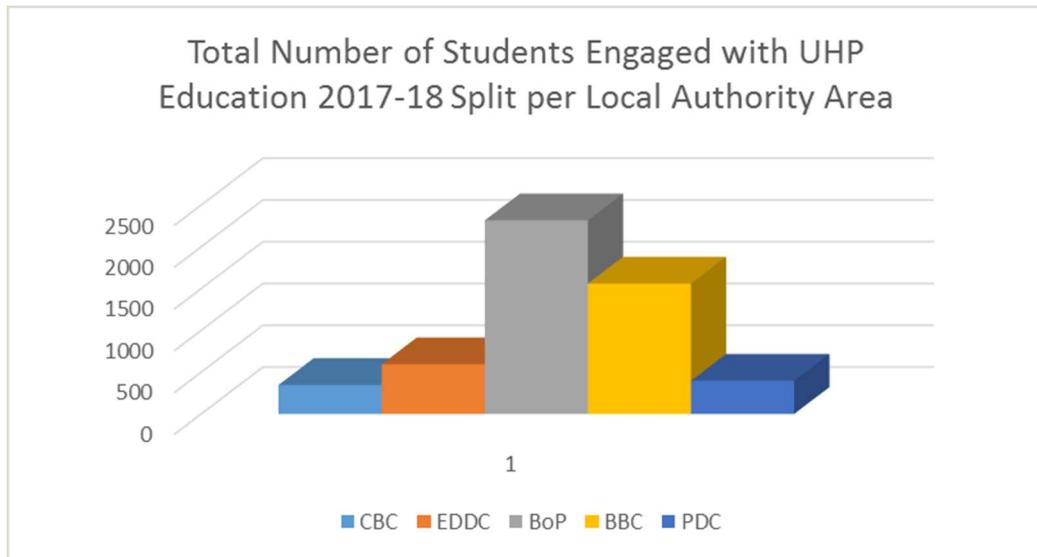


Table 3 displays the number of students involved with UHP Education comparing the last three financial years.

Local Authority Area	All 2014 -15	All 2015 -16	All 2016 -17	All 2017 -18
Bournemouth Borough Council	994	1,022	1068	1561
Borough of Poole	1818	1,591	680	2317
Christchurch & East Dorset Councils	725	1,162	877	942
Purbeck District Council	286	333	302	397
TOTAL	3,823	4,108	2927	5217

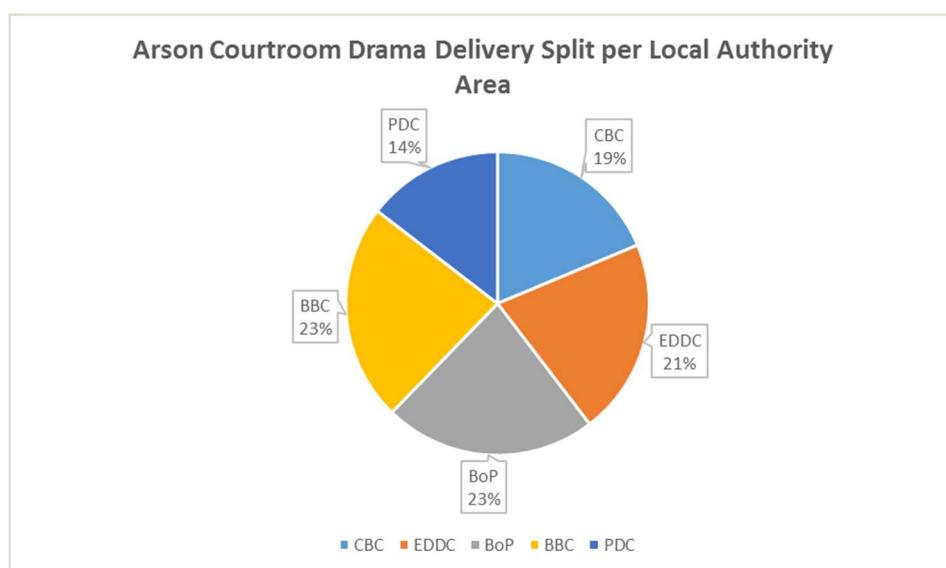
This year showed a significant increase in the numbers worked with, this has been achievable with the support of the Education Assistant.

During 2016-17 there was less take up for our sessions from schools in the BoP area, this increased again this year along with numbers worked with in all areas.

The Arson Courtroom Drama is delivered to Year 7 or 8 students to reinforce the importance of heathlands due to their wildlife and biodiversity and highlight the consequences of heathland fires to the wildlife and the community. Of the 16 schools targeted to receive ACD, sessions were delivered in 10 of them.

In this year 1855 students were engaged in an ACD session this shows a 25% increase on last year. This has been possible with the support of the Education Assistant.

Table 4 shows the split of the 1855 students which were engaged in an ACD session split between Local Authority areas.



Apart from ACD a number of different activities are offered on heathland sites, allowing exploration on the heathlands with the aim of increasing understanding of the habitat. All education activities have been developed to deliver the key messages and fall within the National Curriculum.

Events

Four events were attended this year: Wild about the Heath event, Heathland Hullabaloo, Parley Common event, St Catherine's Hill History Day. 1680 members of the public were engaged with at these events. Seven activities were organised at Libraries, 136 children and adults were engaged at these.

Heathland Life Newsletter

The Heathland Life newsletter details the work of the UHP team. The newsletter is sent out to Councillors and Partners through email as a PDF. The newsletter reflects the previous six months events and activities, Partner's heathland projects and information from mitigation staff.

For copies of the UHP Heathland Life, please contact the UHP Project Office.

Young People

One Beaver group was worked with this year, a total of 24 children were engaged with.

Education Actions identified for 2018/19

- Liaise with Partners to agree Target Schools in response to incident data, catchment area and accessibility to site.
- Accommodate further year groups in the UHP education programme when requested with age specific, National Curriculum linked resources.
- Offer the Arson Courtroom Drama to all Year 8s within Target Schools and identify any further schools to approach with the ACD.
- Continue to work with primary-aged Target Schools.
- Collaborate with Partners to deliver any reactive messages within schools in close proximity to the occurrence of heathland fires or other incidents.

Further detailed Education analysis is available from the UHP office, email: urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk or telephone 01202 642787.

4. Monitoring

The aims of UHP Monitoring as set out in The Revised Monitoring Strategy for the Dorset Heathlands SPD (Fearnley and Liley 2014) are as follows:

- Organise the collection and collation of different data sets to be analysed by Footprint Ecology and stored by DERC as part of the Monitoring Strategy.
- Support and advise partners as required in monitoring of new access management projects or SANG development.

An update of the Monitoring Framework was carried out by Chris Panter (Footprint Ecology) and Rachel Pearce (UHP) following request from partners in 2016/17. The report is available with all reports (as per end of section).

Car Park Counts

The annual 14 Co-ordinated car park counts organised over 2 hour periods across the project area took place during 2017/18. The car park surveys are carried out at 7-9am, 10am-12pm and 2-4pm.

These car park transects provide a robust comparison between car parks over time across the heaths and related sites. This involves 5 or 6 members of the UHP Core Team and Partner Mitigation staff recording the number of cars parked at agreed car parking sites across the area. These range from small informal car parks or laybys, through to large car parks accessing or adjacent to heathland sites and also including a handful of “honeypot” sites. All data is collected and forwarded to Footprint Ecology for analysis and reporting.

People Counting Sensors

During the 2017 -18 year, 37 core heathland sensors and 31 others have been maintained. These 31 other sensors include sensors on SANG sites, Heathland Infrastructure Projects, and at visitor attractions. The sensors include pyros, long-range pyros, pressure slabs and one induction loop (used to record bicycles).

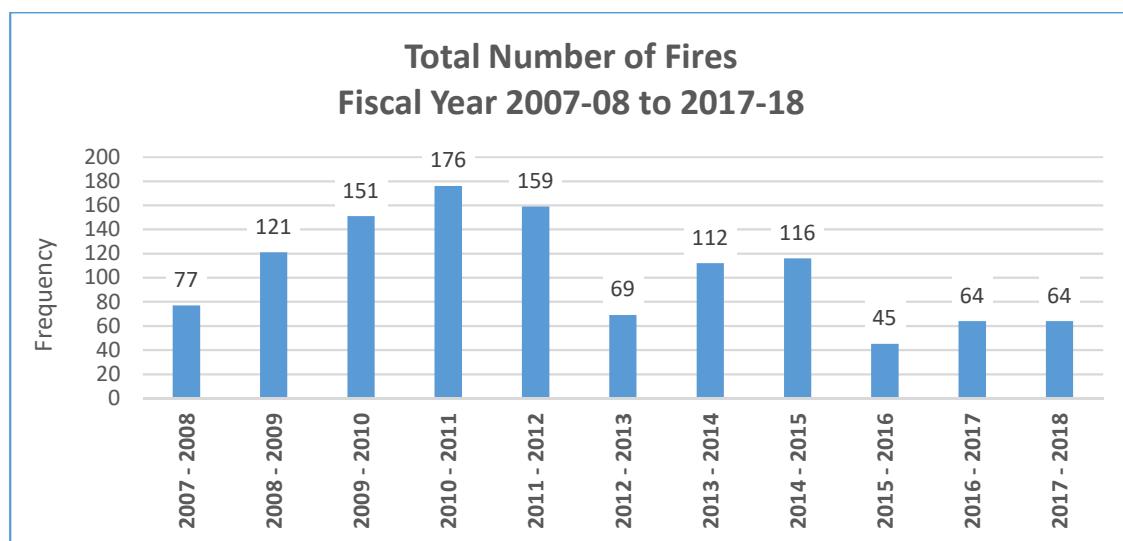
The number of project and SANG sensors will continue to vary as new SANGs are created and other mitigation project monitoring is carried out. 64 sensors have had calibrations carried out to monitor accuracy of each sensor.

The Monitoring Officer collects data from and maintains the sensors. This includes regular checks and repairs or replacement, due to vandalism and theft. Data is collected approximately every three/four months, downloaded and checked before forwarding to Footprint Ecology.

Incident recording – Dorset Explorer

The Monitoring Officer coordinates reporting and recording of any illegal or destructive activities which will impact of the heath. ‘Incidents’ are recorded by mitigation staff and officers on the Dorset Country Council’s ‘Dorset Explorer’ system and cover a range of activities including; fires, motorcycles/off-roading, fly tipping and vandalism. Fire data is gathered to record the number of fires and area of damage to the heathland SPA. Further incidents are recorded to inform focus of resources for SAMM delivery.

Table 5 shows the number of fires recorded on heathland sites across south east Dorset from 2007 – 2018.



Monitoring of SANGs

The Monitoring Officer has continued to assist partners, developers and ecologists in developing SANGs and their monitoring programmes.

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) are new or enhanced greenspaces of a quality and type suitable to be used as mitigation for development likely to affect the Dorset Heathland European and internationally protected sites. They are designed to absorb recreation pressure that would otherwise occur on these fragile sites.

Monitoring was carried out for the new Frenches Farm SANG and at the Upton Park SANG Phase 2. This included face-to face visitor surveys and the installation of 3 sensors at key entrances at Upton Country Park.

SANG monitoring methodology follows principles set out in the Dorset Heathlands SPD and may include onsite tally counts, onsite interviews, installation of automated people counters and car park monitoring in line with the Dorset Heathlands Monitoring Strategy.

Advice and consultation regarding SANG monitoring and project monitoring has been given to a number of partners, ecologists and developers working with SANG development within the project area, work with partners and developers continues.

Monitoring Actions identified for 2018/19

- Continuing to organise co-ordinated car park counts on 14 dates throughout the year.
- Continuation of sensor maintenance, change and download in accordance with the streamlined number of sensors and new project & SANG sensors.
- Continuing with support for development and monitoring of SANGs, including further SANGs coming online over the next 12 months.
- Work continues with partners on projects, SANG development and monitoring.
- Publish Report on Frenches Farm and Upton Country Park phase 2 SANGs visitor monitoring.

The full 2017 -2018 UHP Monitoring Report which reports on and summarises data collected and the Bog Lane SANG Monitoring Report are available from the UHP Office, email: urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk or telephone:01202 642787.

5. Dorset Dogs Project

The Dorset Dogs project began in 2009, conceived by partner organisations within the UHP. The aim was to address both issues and opportunities relating to people with dogs out and about in countryside and greenspace. Funding to set the project up came jointly via heathland development mitigation funding and the Natural England (NE) Access Management grant scheme. The scope of its work extended across the whole of Dorset however The NE funding ceased in 2011 and since then funding has been through heathland mitigation funding meaning the work has been focused on south east Dorset.

The aims of the UHP Dorset Dogs project are to deliver:

- A broad and balanced approach looking at both the positive aspects of dog ownership and access as well as more challenging issues.
- Work across the project area ensuring that negative impacts are not transferred from one site to another; discouraging management that will displace problems elsewhere as this may appear to be successful when in reality the problem still exists but has been sent elsewhere.
- Awareness of the important heathland issues within a broader approach allowing open engagement covering other aspects of dog ownership.
- To provide effective and consistent information on and off site for dog owners, including signs, leaflets, events and website information to support and promote responsible ownership and behaviour.
- To support land managers in providing positive access management for people with dogs.
- To promote existing non-sensitive sites and areas where dogs are allowed off lead and encourage development of new safe areas for off lead exercise.

Work includes engagement, education and liaison with dog owners, children, charities, dog tourism, dog related businesses, conservation, countryside and wildlife organisations and landowners including local authorities with the use of the following engagement types:

- Information 'pit stop' events; either standalone or as part of bigger community events.
- Annual festival.
- Guided walkies.
- On-site guidance such as 'Doggy do code' signs and 'paw print' roundels.
- Website www.dorsetdogs.org.uk,
- Interactive forum www.facebook.com/dorsetdogs
- Membership group for people with dogs who live in or visit Dorset.
- Partnership working and canine access advice provision, with conservation and land managing organisations and projects
- Liaison & interaction with many organisations, businesses and individuals including running competitions, discounts, articles, provision of information and advice and resource sharing

- Printed literature
- Seminars/workshops for specific interest groups
- Volunteers

The part-time Dorset Dogs Assistant began work in August 2017 and has since undergone wide-ranging training. She has made important contributions to the work, including increasing the number of people engaged with at events and enabling more businesses to be reached and placed on the website, as well as keeping the website and Instagram page regularly updated.

Membership as of 31st March 2018 was over 2000.

Website www.dorsetdogs.org.uk

Website statistics:

2017 – 18 overall page view figures averaging around 4000-8000 each month with a peak of nearly 12000 in Festival month.

The website continues to see high volumes of use, and is an invaluable tool for promoting the Dorset Dog message. The figures are down on last year as prior to the Assistant starting it was not possible to continue to update and develop and cross-post to social media as the rest of the Dorset Dogs workload had taken precedent, especially the demand for events such as guided walks and pit stops as well as liaison and best practice support has continued to grow. Nevertheless, the website continues to receive positive feedback and with extra resource positive future growth will achieve good engagement.

Facebook & Instagram www.facebook.com/dorsetdogs

Facebook statistics:

The Dorset Dogs page currently has 3397 ‘likes’.

Individual posts regularly reach 800-1000+ people.

The Facebook forum has proved popular and engaging and is a very effective means to lead people onto the website and into participating in Dorset Dogs events. Dorset Dogs is now also on Instagram, this new promotional tool will be developed over the coming year and should have a wide reach including a younger audience.

Dorset Dog Engagement Events

Annual Festival

The Festival was held at Upton Country Park (UCP) in August 2017 and went extremely well with around 2000 visitors throughout the day.

The Festival is an excellent platform to spread the Dorset Dog messages, being held at UCP provided a great opportunity to promote the new off-lead fields as well as raising the profile of Dorset Dogs. Many conservation and business organisations were involved in the festival and it is a great opportunity to work with dog businesses, charities and trainers.

Pit stops

In total 34 pit stops took place at a variety of sites and events.

Pit stops continue to be effective in targeted engagement and ongoing liaison as people discuss site issues, then use the website and Facebook and join as Dorset Dogs members. Demand for pit stops has once again been greater than time available.

This year 4 mega pit stops have been delivered, this involves organising a larger event than a basic pit stop, generally including a dog trainer and activity, site managers and a few other relevant stands, as well as Dorset Dogs stand. These events provide a good forum for providing professional advice to dog owners and allowing wildlife and other organisations to increase their engagement with dog owners. They are also often used to attract more people to a site, so can be very useful on alternative or SANG sites and promoted widely. They can also be used for busier sensitive sites as an extra draw to engage with people.

Guided Walkies

23 guided walkies took place over the year. They are popular and effective and are an opportunity for local wardens and rangers who join or lead the walks to engage well with the people using the sites. Many more people than just those who attend are reached, through photo albums on Facebook that include key messages about site wildlife or land management and links to partner organisations' websites.

Total numbers engaged at all events was approximately once again 5000 with many more reached via pre and post-publicity relating to events.

Volunteers

There are a core group of 11 'Dorset Dogs Ambassadors', with 6 of those able to give fairly regular help in one form or another; but work commitments or health issues are a constraint for most of the volunteers. Nevertheless, they are an extremely useful and much appreciated part of Dorset Dogs.

Two of the volunteers are carrying out essential new member processes and making up free goody bags for pit stops and have carried out the equivalent of 1 day's work per week over the year.

Volunteers were essential to the annual Festival and have been extremely helpful in assisting at Guided Walkies including stewarding and taking promotional photographs.

Liaison and Promotion

The high level of engagement with Dorset Dogs means that there continues to be an exponential increase in the volume of enquiries and liaison, however this is fruitful in terms of promotion of Dorset Dogs aims.

The Dorset Dogs Officer has spent time working with a project in Bournemouth funded through heathland mitigation funding which allows BBC to employ an additional officer based within their Stour Valley Countryside team with the aim that BBC provides more engagement and management on dog related issues across their sites.

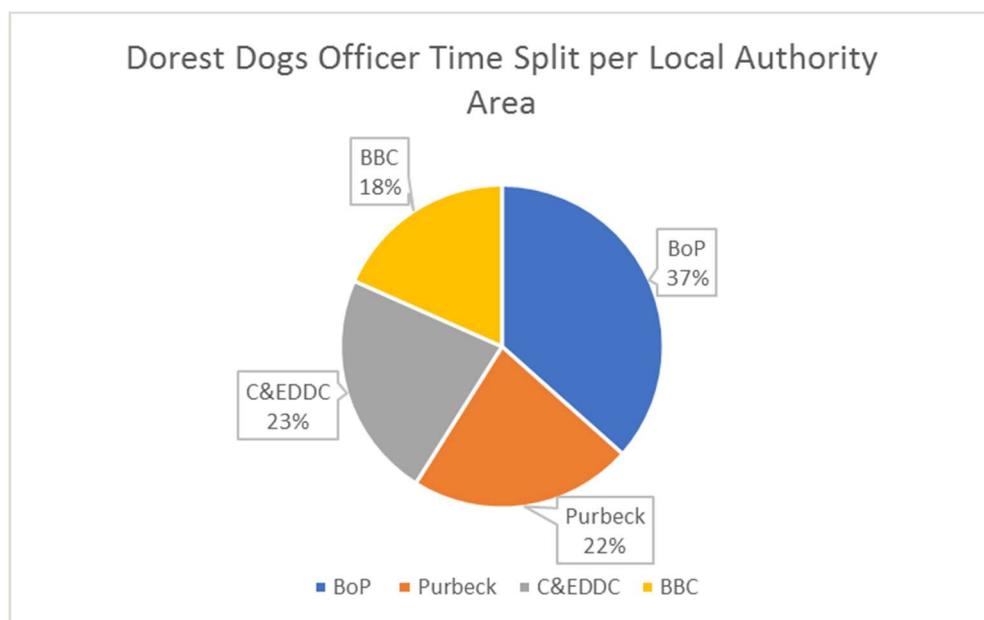
The Dorset Dogs Officer was asked to speak about Dorset Dogs methods as a best practice canine access management at a Kennel Club conference at Birmingham NEC and to be part of a panel of experts taking questions.

Other Work

Dorset Dogs has received additional funding to carry out work outside of core hours on other projects including:

- West Dorset mitigation work including guided walkies.
- Poole Harbour overwintering birds mitigation for bird disturbance for Natural England and the Poole Harbour Commissioners.

Table 6 shows the split of Dorset Dogs Officer time split between Local Authority areas.



Dorset Dogs Actions identified for 2018/19

- Liaison and partnership working with a wide range of individuals and organisations will continue to be a useful and major part of the work.
- Organise Dorset Dogs Festival 2018 as key event to promote messages to a large audience of local dog owners.

- With extra resources expand the Out & About pages, Wagipawdia and Dog-Friendly on the website while keeping news and event pages up-to-date, lively and informative to maximise the opportunity it provides to engage and educate.
- Approach more businesses to offer advertising on the website to generate extra income.
- A round of pit stops and guided walkies will again take place during the year, with peaks during the spring and early summer at ground-nesting bird time.
- Recruit and train more volunteers to increase capacity.

Dorset Dogs work is increasingly important because of the following:

- There is an increasing body of evidence demonstrating significant health and well-being benefits of having a dog
- Dog owners are often the biggest group of visitors at many sites & routes and may be volunteers or more casual eyes and ears, helping with management, monitoring and care. As a peer group the responsible owners have the capacity to have a positive impact on others.
- People with dogs place great value on the places where they walk. Some already have a great interest in or knowledge of the wildlife or history of a site, whilst others have the potential to be engaged.
- People's quality of life is enhanced by dog ownership, as is our ability to relate to and have empathy for others.
- 25% of households have a dog and of these households the average is 1.3 dogs per household. Estimated 720,000 dogs in the South West*.

*Full statistical dog ownership report available:

https://www.pfma.org.uk/_assets/docs/Data%20report/PFMA-Pet-Population-Report%202017_WEB.pdf

For a copy of the full report for the year or more details about the Dorset Dogs project and its work please contact the Dorset Dogs Officer, email:
dorsetdogs@dorsetcc.gov.uk

6. Budget

The budget for the financial year 2017-18 for the core team costs was £148,877.94 funded by Local Planning Authority Partners from developer contributions collected from development within 5Km of any heathland site.

Table 7 details monitoring delivery costs as agreed by the Heathland Executive Group March 2014. (Costs agreed for 5 years from March 2014.)

Monitoring Revenue Expenditure 2015-16	Amount
Footprint Ecology	£5,200
Dorset Environmental Records Centre	£6,170
Dorset Explorer GIS maintenance	£4,000
Bird Surveys	£8,500
Total	£23,870*

* This total is split equally between the Local Authority Partners

7. Wardening

The wardening element of SAMM is delivered by the Local Authority partners with Mitigation Staff employed from 2014 was as follows in Table 8:

Council	Staff
BBC	1FTE
BoP	1.7 FTE(0.3 FTE livestock duties funded through HLS)
C&EDC	1 FTE
PDC	0.4 FTE (Employed by UHP/DCC on behalf of PDC)

A Service Level Agreement is in place between the Local Planning Authorities to agree a consistent approach to the wardening element of SAMM. The key elements to be agreed are as follows:

- Provision of a presence on heathland sites within the Local Authority area including those managed by partners and privately owned sites to encourage appropriate behaviour and signpost users to alternative open spaces. This may include patrols, educational visits and on site activities or events where appropriate.
- Attending where deemed appropriate and resources allow local community events to promote responsible use of heathlands and alternative open spaces.
- Respond following agreed Partner or UHP protocol to fire incidents and assist DWFRS and Dorset Police at incidents as necessary.
- Supporting where necessary and resources allow, the UHP Education Officer in delivering the agreed heathland education programme.

- Supporting where necessary and resources allow, the UHP Monitoring Officer in contributing to data collection as defined in the Monitoring Strategy for Dorset Heathlands and recording incidents on Dorset Explorer.
- Provide reasonable support for staff working in other areas during emergencies or high incident occurrences.
- Maintaining communication with partner staff to ensure consistent service delivery across Partnership area.
- Progress reporting of work to the UHP Team Manager to allow annual reporting to the Dorset Heathland Advisory Group.

Borough of Poole

The Heathland mitigation and grazing wardens for the Borough of Poole have been maintaining a strong site presence and establishing themselves as a helpful source of information for site users across Poole's heathland. Their focus has been on engaging dog walkers about positive dog management and Dorset Dogs, and empowering the public to report to them or to the police when they encounter incidents on the heath, thus increasing the number of mindful eyes and ears on this threatened habitat. They have worked more closely with the police, to tackle antisocial behaviour issues and fires on Ham Common, Corfe hills and Canford heath, and have gone into schools alongside DWFRS and UHP to engage young people.

Volunteer tasks continue to see good numbers of people coming out to help maintain and improve the heath. Their increasing knowledge of heathland wildlife led Wardens to provide Living Record training in the spring, enabling volunteers to record what they see across the habitat.

Bournemouth Borough Council

Presence on heathland sites across the Borough continues to be provided within the Parks and Countryside Team. Resources for wardening have been increased with further mitigation funding to an equivalent of 2.68 FTE employees. One of these posts is employed to focus on dog related issues working closely with Dorset Dogs. This work includes engagement with dog owners in various ways. The extra resources also allow for extra on and off site engagement including working with support of the UHP Education Officer in delivering "Nature Tot" and school sessions.

Christchurch and East Dorset Council

Countryside Officers within the Christchurch and East Dorset Area have continued to maintain a presence on SSSI heathland sites across the conurbation. Working alongside partner organisations, officers have targeted resources in the areas where there have been higher levels of antisocial behaviour. Looking at the past five years of incident data indications are that fire numbers remain fairly consistent. Camp fires and BBQ's continue to be the main cause for concern. Education and engagement remain focused on raising awareness surrounding the risk of such activities and importance of the heathlands.

Purbeck District Council

The part-time Area Warden for Purbeck is managed within the UHP Core Team. Extra presence is provided on seven heathland sites across the area. Fire incidents have remained at a similar number to the previous year, fly-tipping incidents have risen in the last year. A number of education activities have been delivered in liaison with the UHP Education Officer and the Dorset Dogs Officer.

8. Other Mitigation Work

West Dorset District Council and North Dorset District Councils continue to pay for a part-time (0.5 FTE) post providing heathland mitigation for development in the Crossways and Bere Regis areas which impact on heathland sites within 5km.

This work includes Education, Wardening and Monitoring strands.

Education includes working with local schools to deliver sessions to raise awareness of the heathland habitat and attending local community events to raise awareness of the importance of the heathland habitat.

Wardening includes providing extra presence on Winfrith, Tadnoll and Black Hill heaths working in co-ordination with the site managers, engaging with site visitors to encourage responsible behaviour.

Monitoring includes collecting data from people counting sensors, on site perception surveys and co-ordinated car park counts.

West and North Dorset Warden and Monitoring Officer have been advising on the development of SANGs and other mitigation projects.

Other work includes working with Dorset Dogs to support land managers with dog related issues.

This work will continue with agreement until March 31st March 2019, Full reports of the Officers work and an Annual Monitoring Report produced by Footprint Ecology are available from the UHP Office: email urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk or telephone 01202 642787.

9. Dorset Urban Heaths Grazing Partnership

The UHP Team Manager was approached by the Dorset Urban Heaths Grazing Partnership (DUHGP) to host the Grazing Co-ordinator post which had previously been hosted by the RSPB. The UHP Implementation Group felt this would be a positive step as all partners in DUHGP are partners in UHP and this would allow for closer links with education, Dorset Dogs and monitoring.

UHP started hosting the Grazing Co-ordinator post along with a casual member of staff to cover leave and sickness on 1st January 2018.

Richard Warren was appointed as Grazing Co-ordinator along with Jackie Wallis as Casual Livestock Warden.

The work delivered includes:

- Daily checks of livestock and all welfare and husbandry related activities.
- Providing a 24hr standby for emergencies for DUHGP members.
- Handling administration of cattle movements and TB testing for partners.
- Practical help with TB testing and any livestock issues.
- Maintaining stocking levels across partnership sites to achieve grazing requirements.
- Planning for future of partnership.

DUHGP is funded through Countryside Stewardship Scheme funding by Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council and Dorset Wildlife Trust,

10. Firewise Communities Project

The Firewise Communities Project aims to create a sustainable network of community focussed groups concentrating on building resilience against wildfire damage to residential properties in south east Dorset. These would be centred around communities on the urban interface with heathland sites. The groups will provide safer environments, reducing risk of wildfire through knowledge and practical improvements to reduce hazards. Improving community cohesion and general wellbeing.

The project aims to deliver the following outcomes:

- Develop a consistent message and information pack (based on the international Firewise pack) through Consultation with stakeholders which can be used to support future groups.
- Design webpages for project with information on scheme.
- Design promotional information and events.
- Design sustainable support mechanism for future groups.
- Identify communities who might benefit from Firewise
- Set up and support a local pilot group/groups.

The project started in January 2018 with the following timescale agreed by the Funders Steering Group;

Month 1-6 consult with stakeholders and develop resources.

- Develop a consistent message and information pack (based on the international Firewise pack) through Consultation with stakeholders which can be used to support future groups.
- Design webpages for project with information on scheme.
- Design promotional information and events.
- Identify communities who might benefit from Firewise in high risk areas.
- Create response mechanism for interested communities which are not at risk and who may not be appropriate as a Firewise community.

Month 6-12 set up and support pilot scheme.

- Set up and support one or more local pilot groups.

Month 12 -18 continue supporting pilot scheme, review results and set up sustainable method for support of future schemes.

- Liaise with Local Planning Authorities to raise awareness of Firewise principals
- Investigate links with property insurance providers
- Design sustainable support mechanism for future groups.

Costs

The project is funded equally by the UHP, DWFRS and Dorset Police, with a total budget of £18,000 for the 18 month project.

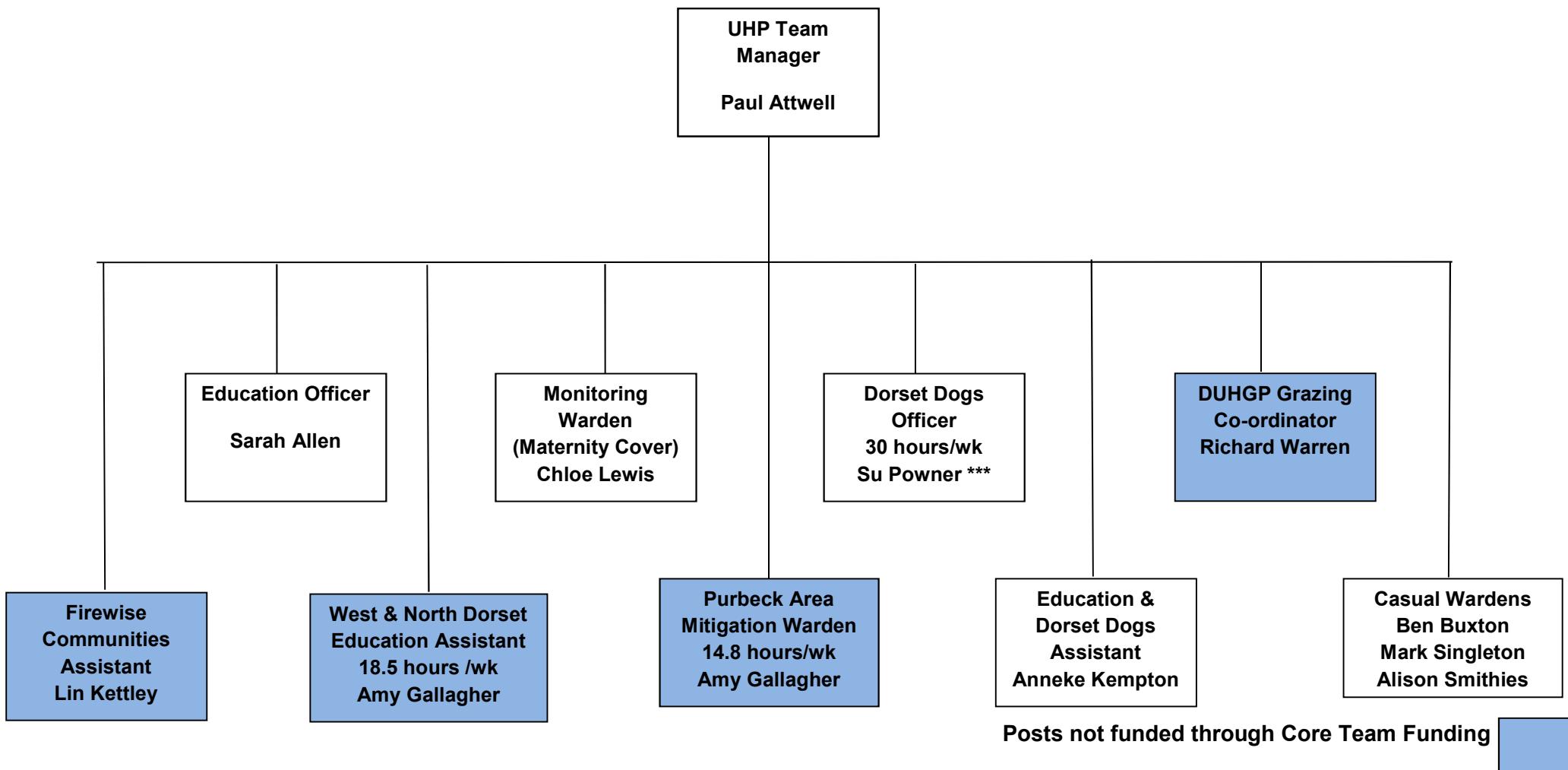
Work to Date

Lin Kettley has been employed as the Project Assistant working 2 days per week for 18 months, Lin started in January 2018, this gives a completion date of July 2019.

The initial work has concentrated on developing consistent messages and information for packs and website developing information from the USA Firewise Communities Programme. Lucian Deaton from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been providing support. He is liaising with Shaun Walton, the Chair of the Wildfire Group for the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), on the Memorandum of Understanding for Firewise in the UK. We hope this will be in place soon.

11. Appendix

1.0 Urban Heaths Partnership Staff Structure 2016-17



2.0 UHP Education Target Schools 2017-18

School	LA	Activity: HHA=Heathland Habitat Awareness. ACD= Arson Courtroom Drama
Heathlands Primary	BBC	HHA
Kingsleigh Primary	BBC	HHA
Christ The King	BBC	HHA
Elm Academy - Leaf	BBC	HHA
Kinson Primary	BBC	HHA
Bourne Academy	BBC	ACD
Oak Academy - Leaf	BBC	ACD
Glenmoor Academy	BBC	ACD
Winton Academy	BBC	ACD
Hamworthy Park Junior	BoP	HHA
Broadstone First	BoP	HHA
Canford Heath Junior	BoP	HHA
Merley First	BoP	HHA
Manorside Primary	BoP	HHA
Talbot Primary	BoP	HHA
Bishop Aldhelms Primary	BoP	HHA
Haymoor Junior	BoP	HHA
Upton Junior	BoP	HHA
Broadstone Middle	BoP	ACD
Carter Community	BoP	ACD
St Aldhelms Academy	BoP	ACD
Magna Academy	BoP	ACD
Highcliffe Primary	CBC	HHA
Highcliffe Comprehensive	CBC	ACD
The Grange	CBC	ACD
Twynham	CBC	ACD
Ferndown Middle	EDDC	ACD
Lockyers Middle	EDDC	ACD
West Moors Middle	EDDC	ACD
Sandford Primary	PDC	HHA
Lychett Minster	PDC	ACD
The Purbeck	PDC	ACD