

Urban Heath Partnership
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Dorset Council



POOLE HARBOUR'S BIRD AND RECREATION INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 / 2022

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1. Introduction

The Local Planning authorities are working in partnership to deliver the Poole harbour recreation mitigation. [The Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) 2019- 2024](#) was prepared and adopted jointly between BCP and Dorset Councils and is advised by Natural England. Further information regarding the SPD is available on the [Dorset Council website](#).

2. Background

Under the SPD the Local Planning Authorities collect developer contributions from development within 5kms of Poole Harbour Special Protected Area (SPA) sites. These contributions are used to fund Poole Harbour recreation mitigation in the form of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) and Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects (PHIPs).

In December 2020 a Seasonal Mitigation Warden was appointed, followed shortly by the mitigation coordinator in January 2021. Subsequently in July 2021 the brand identity of Poole Harbour's Bird And Recreation Initiative (BARI) was established.

During the 12-month period covered by this report the Covid pandemic meant that England was placed under lock down rules between January – March 2021 followed by very slow releasing of social restrictions. Masks were still obligatory in social situations until Dec 22 when Covid Plan B was implemented. Its worth noting that BARI was established during the Covid pandemic so this will have impacted in some ways to its progress.

2.1 Structure and governance of Poole Harbour's Bird And Recreation Initiative (BARI)

Staff structure

The Urban Heath Partnership team leader manages the Mitigation Coordinator. The Mitigation Coordinator line manages a seasonal mitigation warden and a part time seasonal Dorset Dogs warden.



Governance

The BARI team are employees of Dorset Council and managed by Urban Heath Partnership. The Steering group that advises and supports the initiative is made up of representatives from:

- BCP Planning
- BCP Environment team
- BCP CIL planning and finance
- Dorset Council Planning
- Dorset Council Environment Team
- Dorset Council CIL planning and finance
- Natural England Marine Advice Team Lead
- UHP Team Leader

An agreed Terms of Reference governs the group (appendix 8.1)

2.2 The Recreation Zone

Poole Harbour mitigation is delivered within a specified recreation zone (Figure 1)

Delivery is split between the current Local Authority Areas 85% BCP and 15% Dorset Council.

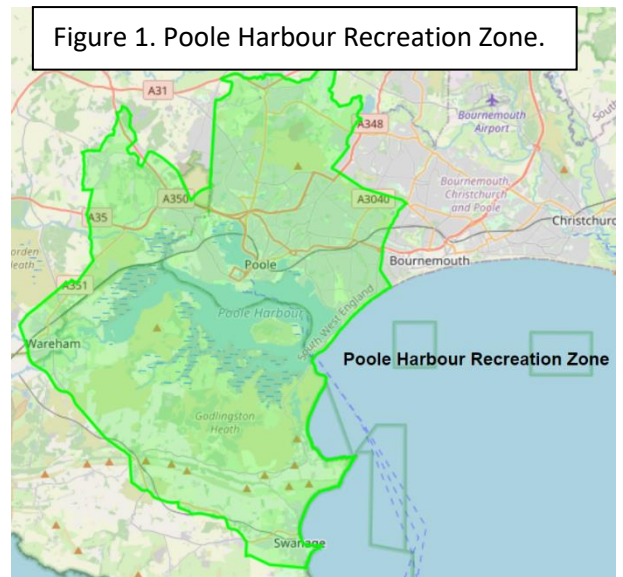
2.3 Work areas

Coordination and Management

The key elements of coordination and management include

- Developing and delivering projects with stakeholders (PHIP and SAMM)
- Developing and delivering key messaging (SAMM)
- Managing the delivery of SAMM through wardening, social media and strategic engagement
- Monitoring and reporting the results of mitigation projects

The wardening element of SAMM is delivered and funded by the Local Planning Authorities along with PHIPs. More detail on PHIP and SAMM delivery in sections 5 and 6.



3. Plans and Strategies

- 3.1. [The Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) 2019- 2024](#)
- 3.2. Poole Harbour disturbance study. 2019. Footprint Ecology
- 3.3. [Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan 2006 \(Amended 2011\)](#)
- 3.4. [Natural England, Site Improvement Plan. Natura 2000](#)

4. Finance

Dorset Council will collect SAMMs contributions through CIL and BCP Council collects the SAMMs through planning obligations. The budget is split between the two Unitary Councils from developer contributions collected from development within 5Km of Poole Harbour SPA sites. Dorset Council contribute 15% plus hosting costs and BCP Council contribute 85%. BARI applies for project funding via proforma and matrix scoring that is then evaluated by the steering group. Final approval is secured through the BCP infrastructure improvement board and Dorset Council senior management via infrastructure and delivery planning manager. Stakeholders are encouraged to make applications for funding through BARI for their own projects. Both go through a rigorous process to ensure that they prove good value and achieve high standards of mitigation.

4.1. Eligibility

Internal and external applications must meet the criteria set out in the pre-application form. This ensures that

- Projects are within the Recreation Zone as stated in the SPD
- Manages impacts on waders and wildfowl from recreational disturbance

- Contributes towards improving our understanding of the impacts of this adverse effect either directly (monitoring and surveying) or indirectly (monitoring the success of the project outcomes).
- Meets one or more of the strategic objectives as laid out in the Natural England Site Improvement Plan.

4.2. Budget

Project cost	Amount
Dorset Dogs Engagement Warden	£9865
Community Toolkit	£1894.90
Volunteer scheme	£632
Mediterranean Gull Survey	£500
UHP management and Staff costs	£54,387
Total	£66,778.90

5. Engagement and Awareness Raising

5.1 Seasonal Warden

A full-time warden was appointed for the winter season (October 21 – March 22). This role delivered a programme of positive engagement activities and events to promote ‘wildlife friendly recreation’ with a focus on overwintering SPA bird species across 32 sites included in the Poole Harbour Recreation Zone. Targeting Poole Harbour residents and recreational user groups by patrolling, running outreach activities (free guided bird walks) pop-up stalls and attending stakeholder events (Upton Country Park family events). The role also involved the management of social media channels Instagram and Facebook, creating content for website and newsletters. The warden delivered a volunteer programme, recruiting and training 5 volunteers in January 22.

5.2 Dorset Dogs Warden

A part time position for a Dorset Dogs/ BARI warden was created to explore if partnership working would be successful. Dog disturbance is one of the most adverse land-based disturbances our birds face and the numbers of dogs are on the increase, so it is essential we prioritise this.

The wardens developed the Coastwise Canines campaign and delivered on site engagement to champion positive behaviour for people with dogs on the coast and promote responsible dog ownership.

The Dorset Dogs Engagement Wardens worked across Poole Harbour engaging site visitors, dog owners, professional dog walkers, local communities, and land managers. The aims were to raise awareness and appreciation of flocks of overwintering migrant birds and the impacts that

disturbance can have on them, promote ways to avoid disturbance to the birds at particularly sensitive locations and times and carry out work in such a way as to avoid displacing negative impacts to locations elsewhere and what dog owners could do to help.

The Wardens undertook the following:

- Planning and liaison with land managers
- Observing visitor behaviour, birds and disturbance by dogs
- Refining key messages for Doggy Dog Code under 'Do prevent your dog from chasing wildlife and farm animals' around overwintering birds
- Developing resources including display materials
- Development of a joint leaflet
- Attending and organising events, on site public engagement to raise awareness of pro wildlife dog walking
- Using social media to promote the Dorset Dogs key messages
- Creating videos delivery key messages

Sites

Engagement focused on sites identified by land managers and by the BARI Recreation Mitigation Warden where dog disturbance had been recorded and also locations previously targeted by Dorset Dogs Poole Harbour project work, these include: Harbourside Park (Whitecliff Recreation Ground and Baiter Park), Hamworthy Park, Ham Common, Lake Pier, Studland - Bramble Bush, Brands Bay and Shell Bay and Upton Country Park and Frenches Farm SANG.

Additional Information

This post was job shared by the existing Dorset Dogs Assistant Warden and the Urban Heath Partnership Education Assistant. It had challenges due to one colleague having long covid and struggling with energy levels. She was signed off sick in February 22 and did not return to post.



5.3 Community toolkit

The BARI team developed a series of flyers, posters and spotter sheets targeting disturbance both on land and at sea. The community toolkit has enabled the team to respond to stakeholder requests and campaigns. With a set of guidelines to ensure it is positive messaging and focused directly on recreational disturbance to overwintering SPA bird species in Poole Harbours recreation zone we can create accessible content both digital and for print to share the BARI message and branding. We have had very positive feedback from Stakeholders about how great the branding is and how the public have responded positively to its style.

- Water sports flyer (200 handed out)
- Water sports Top tips poster (5 printed and distributed)
- General BARI flyer (500 handed out)
- Spotter Sheet (240)
- Kids activity pack (195 handed out)
- Dorset Dogs partnership flyer (100 handed out)
- Dorset Dogs Partnership postcard (400 given out in goody bags)
- Keep off the saltmarsh sign for RSPB, BCP at Turlin Moor



BARI'S TOP WATERSPORTS TIPS

HELPING HARBOUR BIRDS SURVIVE THE WINTER WITH MILDLY FRIENDLY WATERSPORTS

- LOOK OUT FOR THE BIRDS** 01
TAKE A MINUTE TO NOTICE WILDLIFE WHEN SETTING UP, AND FIND A BIRD-FREE AREA TO LAUNCH AND LAND
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT A DISTANCE** 02
GIVE THE BIRDS PLENTY OF SPACE: AT LOW TIDE THEY FEED AND AT HIGH TIDE THEY REST
- CONTRIBUTE TO COASTAL RESEARCH** 03
GET IN CONTACT WITH US, TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO VOLUNTEER AS A SEA SCOPER AND CONTRIBUTE TO IMPORTANT COASTAL RESEARCH
- SHARE THE MESSAGE** 04
HELP US TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING DISTURBANCE TO OVERWINTERING BIRDS BY TELLING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

BIRDS MIGRATE SOUTH FOR WINTER, TO FOLLOW THE WARMER WEATHER

20,000
OVER 20,000 OVERWINTERING BIRDS DEPEND ON POOLE HARBOUR FOR SURVIVAL

17
DIFFERENT SPECIES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

112%
THE INCREASE OF ACTIVITY ON POOLE HARBOUR SHORELINE SINCE 2011

THE PROJECT IS MANAGED BY URBAN HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS ON BEHALF OF DORSET COUNCIL AND BCP AND ADVISED BY NATURAL ENGLAND

BIRD AND RECREATION INITIATIVE | URBAN HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS (DOORSETHATHS.ORG.UK)

Dorset Council BCP

BARI

THE BIRD & RECREATION INITIATIVE

DO PROTECTED BIRD SPECIES USE POOLE HARBOUR?

Saltmarshes **Reedbeds**

Marshes are rich with food that the birds are vital to their survival.

As designated an SPA (Special Protection Area) in 1999 due to the numbers of species that depend on it every year.

We aim to raise awareness of the importance of SPA species within the community and support their recovery.

NEED YOUR HELP?

busier the birds are more t

disturbed costs the birds long time to replace

the birds have short life spans

in journeys to make their energy stores to feeding grounds

WHAT YOU'LL SEE...

DARK BELLED BRENT GOOSE

Coming from Northern Russia, these geese migrate in family groups staying together from one breeding season to the next.

PIED AVOCET

A story of conservation success, coming back from the brink of extinction in the 19th century, these birds join us in winter from the Netherlands and SW France.

OYSTERCATCHER

You'll see Oystercatchers all year round in Poole Harbour, but numbers dramatically increase every winter when they are joined by their Norwegian cousins.

EURASIAN CURLEW

The Curlew is also a resident all year round but its Scottish relatives come for winter. You'll spot them at Holes Bay, Whitley Lakes, Studland, Bramble Bush and Arne.

FOLLOW THE MISSION

[@BIRDANDRECREATIONINITIATIVE](#)

WANT TO HELP?
CONTACT US ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Followers: 208
Reach: 2,184

Followers: 20
Reach: 1,815

WEBSITE VIDEOS, INSTA REELS, LIVE FEEDS, SCOPE VIEWS, BIRD OF THE WEEK

Dorset Dogs

Love Dogs...Love Nature

Winter Wader Word Search

C	S	U	R	V	I	V	E	N	G
J	R	W	S	A	N	M	D	N	R
O	R	U	H	A	C	L	I	V	E
U	R	H	A	U	T	R	I	V	E
R	U	A	U	T	R	I	V	E	
E	B	E	D	T	C	A	M	B	S
Y	R	N	P	F	O	E	V	N	
P	A	S	S	P	O	R	T	A	D
S	H	W	E	I	G	H	T	A	D

Instructions: Find the names of the birds in the word search. Some are written horizontally, some vertically, and some diagonally. Write the names in the spaces provided.

Names to find: Oystercatcher, Herring Gull, Teal, Tufted Duck, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Little Egret, Avocet, Wigeon, Black-tailed Godwit.

HOW MANY OF BARI'S FRIENDS CAN YOU SPOT THIS WINTER?

Poole Harbour is the world's second largest natural harbour.

Did you know that Poole Harbour is an SPA (Special Protection Area) due to the sheer number of protected bird species that winter here every year - over 20,000! It was the birds that Poole Harbour owes the vital protection that this status brings, so join us in ensuring it keeps its international importance.

- OYSTERCATCHER
- HERRING GULL
- TEAL
- TUFTED DUCK
- DARK-BELLED BRENT GOOSE
- LITTLE EGRET
- AVOCET
- WIGEON
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Search Tip: There are lots of different habitats around Poole Harbour that our birds like, from mudflats to reedbeds to sandy shores.

Use these 4 keys for visual identification:
Size and shape
Colour pattern
Behaviour
Habitat

8. Poole Harbour's Bird and Recreation Initiative Annual Report 2021 / 2022

6. Current Project Planning and updates

6.1. Context and Aims

Stakeholder mitigation projects are worked up in partnership, the aim is for the Initiative to support and match fund projects that applicants may not have been able to achieve without this extra financial support. The Coordinator works with these applicants to develop successful projects.

Some projects are lead by BARI and developed in partnership with the land managers. This occurs when a priority and need has been identified and no existing plan is in place.

6.2. Developing projects 2021/22

- **The Summer Assistant**

The summer education role was approved to make up for lost engagement during the winter months due to Covid-19. Enabling BARI to target stakeholder groups when they are at their busiest with new water sports and shore based recreational users. **This role has developed into the Coastal Engagement Warden post.**

- **Coastal Engagement Warden**

October 21 had no engagement due to seasonal wardens needing training, familiarising themselves with the 32 sites. The Project Coordinator invested 12 days in October inducting the Wardens by introducing them to land managers, stakeholders and the BARI brand messaging, Bird Id skills development and understanding bird disturbance and site visits. The Coordinator presented the Steering group with a 23 month post for a Coastal Engagement Warden to establish good links with the community and local organisations for authentic behaviour change to occur. They will deliver the summer instructors course for local water sports organisations that have already signed up, run the social media accounts and have a good lead time to prepare for the winter period maximising engagement opportunities at events run by partners and organising BARI led events. A seasonal role cannot deliver the level of engagement BARI needs to achieve its mission. This project proforma has now been submitted to the Steering group for approval with an aim to recruit someone by July 22.

- **Recreation map – Harbour paddle trail**

In 2019 Dorset Council worked with Poole Harbour Canoe club to create a map targeting Canoe and Kayak disturbance as identified in the recreational disturbance study 2016. This map was found to be very useful and an update was required by the steering group. Leading on this the Coordinator discovered issues between the PHCC and RSPB Arne due to a conflict of landing on Arne. There were other issues around engagement between user groups and land managers and so the map update was put on hold whilst a thorough engagement process is conducted. The potential for this a wildlife friendly paddle trail map.

- **RSPB Bay Watch**

This project will create a disability access path and viewpoint at the eastern end of Lytchett Bay. The viewing platform will zone off access directly to the mudflats whilst ensuring people have good quality views of the bay without disturbing feeding or roosting birds. This is matched funded by Wessex Water and RSPB. They have been approved in principle based on planning permission which they have applied for. They will know by July 22 the outcome and if successful contractors will start in September 22.

- **Brownsea no landing Signs (Dorset Wildlife Trust)**

Brownsea Island northern shoreline is not accessible to the public and has existing 'No Landing' signage in place. They would like to improve and significantly enlarge the signage along this area of shoreline to be able to make people aware of this shoreline being inaccessible to recreational users from further away. They will be situated in known key roosting and nesting bird areas to deter landing, therefore reducing disturbance events. On warmer days they can have in excess of 50 unpermitted landing events from various watercraft. This was presented to the Steering group, feedback was given and we are waiting for DWT to respond to this feedback.

- **Wader fence and footpath improvement Studland peninsular**

National Trust have been researching how to zone areas of the Studland peninsular off for wildlife. BARI is now developing a project with them to enhance footpaths and zone areas. They will lead on the site infrastructure and BARI will assist with interpretation and signage, they are currently getting quotes for the works, and we will meet later in the summer to discuss next steps. They will be running school workshops in springtime to create huge colourful wader birds that will showcase the wader fence that is needed to try and re-establish a roosting area at Shell Bay. BARI supports this project and its aims and will work up a successful project with the team at National Trust.

7. Monitoring



BARI'S WINTER STATS

FACE TO FACE ENGAGEMENT

DECEMBER 2021- APRIL 2022

THE WARDENS HAD 912 DIRECT ENGAGEMENTS THAT RAISED AWARENESS OF RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE

DORSET DOGS: 363 **BARI: 549**



912

RAISING AWARENESS

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC
THROUGH A VARIETY OF
ACTIVITIES.

PATROLLING SITES TO
PREVENT DISTURBANCE
HAPPENING IN SITU.

RUNNING TRAINING SESSIONS
AND GUIDED WALKS TO
EDUCATE PEOPLE AND
IMPROVE BIRDING SKILLS.

SETTING UP POP UP STALLS
AT EVENTS TO HAND OUT
FLYERS AND CHAT TO PEOPLE.

CREATING VIDEOS TO SHARE
THE MESSAGE ONLINE

Pop Ups
27

Training
3

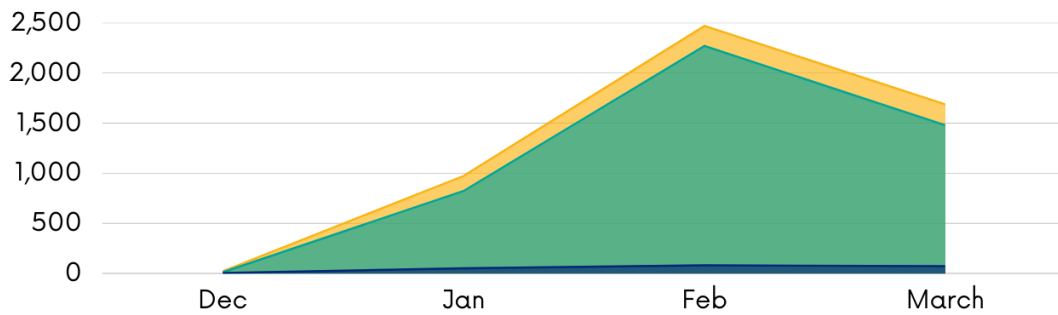
Film
6

Bird Walks
5

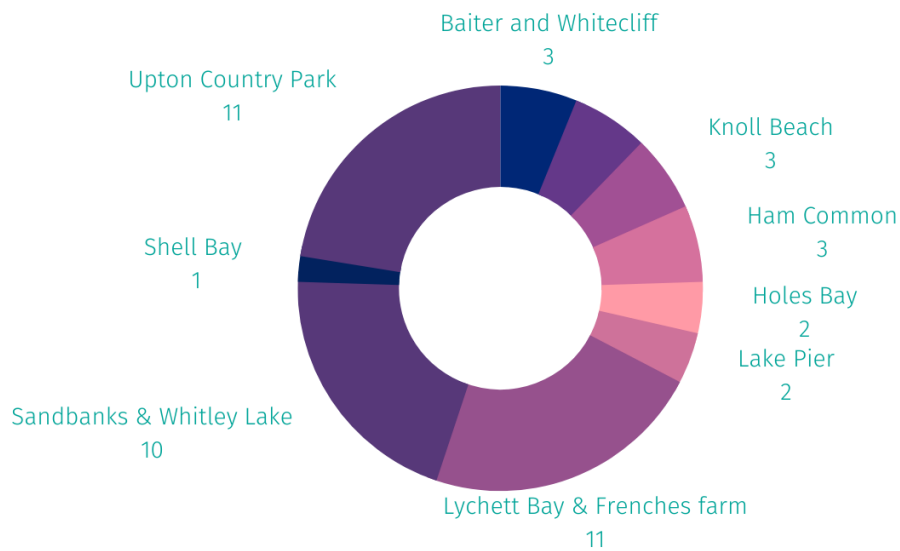
Patrols
48

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

BARI'S INSTAGRAM PAGE WAS ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021
BY MARCH 2022 IT HAD 208 FOLLOWERS AND WAS REACHING UP TO 2184 PEOPLE WITH POSTS



THE WARDENS PLANNED THEIR TIME ON SITE ACCORDING TO TIDES, WINDS, LAND MANAGERS SUPPORT AND USER ACTIVITIES. PATROLLING PRIORITY AREAS AND SETTING UP POP UPS AT BUSIER AREAS TO MAXIMISE ENGAGEMENT



WHERE WE MET THE LOCALS

7.2 BOPH Med Gull Survey 2021

BARI part funded the annual Mediterranean Gull surveying on Gull Island. They recorded 109 Mediterranean Gull nests, 3706 Black-headed Gull nests and 5 Oystercatcher nests.



8. Appendix
8.1. Terms of Reference



Recreation Mitigation Steering Group Terms of Reference
under the
Poole Harbour Recreation 2019-24 Supplementary Planning Document
January 2021

Introduction

These terms of reference detail the governance and operation of the Recreation Mitigation Steering Group, the group overseeing delivery of recreation mitigation as detailed in the Poole Harbour Recreation 2019-24 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). A Recreation Mitigation Co-ordinator and Seasonal Warden will report to and be supported by this Steering Group.

The SPD was adopted by Dorset Council (DC) and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) in April 2020, and sets out the need for recreation mitigation for residential and tourist development within a 'Poole Harbour Recreation Zone'. Residential and tourist development in this zone is likely to have a significant effect on Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar. The mitigation will address the impacts of additional visitors to the Harbour that arise from this development and the any resulting disturbance to protected birds. The SPD also sets out how mitigation will be funded.

Geographical Extent

The Poole Harbour Special Protection Area and Recreation Zone are shown on the map (Map is an extract from the SPD).

The Poole Harbour Recreation Zone is the area where new residential and tourist development is considered to have a likely significant effect upon the SPA, based on visitor survey information gathered. This area (shown in purple) is the focus of the recreation mitigation work, which sits across both BCP and Dorset councils.

Map of Poole Harbour Special Protection Area and Poole Harbour Recreation Zone.

Legend:

- Poole Harbour Recreation Zone (Pink hatched area)
- Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (Blue hatched area)
- Local Plan Areas (Blue outline)

Map labels include: Purbeck Local Plan, Lytchett Matravers, Upton, Poole Local Plan, Poole, Sandford, Wareham, Corfe Castle, Swanage, and SWANAGE.

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Ordnance Survey LA100022058

Purpose of the Recreation Mitigation Co-Ordinator Steering Group

The Steering Group has the key role of overseeing the delivery of Recreation Mitigation in Poole Harbour, this will include:

- Share ideas and put forward suggestions for recreation mitigation delivery and projects for the Mitigation Coordinator to research and investigate
- Evaluate and recommend recreation mitigation projects through an agreed process.
- Oversee development and delivery of a work programme for the Recreation Mitigation Co-ordinator and Warden
- Define recreation mitigation targets and time frames
- Input and scrutinise the monitoring (including visitor numbers, visitor behaviour, bird numbers and bird disturbance) and evaluate progress and outcomes around delivery of recreation mitigation against mitigation targets
- Oversee production of an annual Mitigation Delivery Report, to inform annual SPD Monitoring Report produced by Unitary Authority Planning Officers
- Oversee a communications strategy

Operation of the Steering Group

Funding –The Councils will collect contributions through CIL, Section 111 agreements, or planning obligations to fund the mitigation. The Steering Group will ensure all monies are spent appropriately in a timely manner

New Members – New members may be invited, adopted or co-opted on to the Steering Group with the agreement of a majority of existing members. Membership reviewed annually.

Meetings and Attendance – The Recreation Mitigation Steering Group will meet at least four times a year, additional meetings may be arranged if necessary. The location of meetings will be virtual or will be at one of the Steering Group member's locations and will change regularly to ensure travel distances are taken into consideration.

Reporting Arrangements – Agendas and papers will be sent out a week in advance of meetings. Meeting minutes will be distributed to Steering Group members within two weeks following a meeting and all papers will be made available on request from the Recreation Mitigation Co-ordinator.

Recreation Mitigation Steering Group Membership

Dorset Council:

Planning: Steve Boyt

Implementation and Site Management: Bridget Betts

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council:

Planning: Steve Dring, Malcolm Hodges

Implementation and Site Management: Michael Rowland

Natural England:

Nick Squirrell

Urban Heaths Partnership:

Team Manager: Paul Attwell

Recreation Mitigation Co-ordinator: Ria Loveridge

Recreation Mitigation Co-ordinator Responsibilities

The Recreation Mitigation Co-Ordinator will:

- Co-ordinate and deliver an agreed partnership programme for the mitigation required under the SPD including education, Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) and Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects (PHIPs)
- Monitor delivery of mitigation against mitigation targets
- Identify supplementary funding opportunities to link with this work
- Facilitate Recreation Mitigation Steering Group meetings
- Provide an officer report twice yearly to the Recreation Mitigation Steering Group
- Support the two councils planning departments by providing technical information relating to the SPD as required at Local Plan examinations, planning enquiries etc.
- Line Manage Poole Harbour Recreation Mitigation Warden including developing their work programmes
- Manage any other mitigation staff and volunteers and any contracts relating to this work
- Provide relevant reports/information to partners
- Facilitate wider Stakeholder meetings