


NATURAL ASSETS

Natural Assets play a critical role in providing services that are vital for the physical wellbeing of Dorset's population. As well as the natural regulation of hazards, such as flooding.

Dorset Council has a responsibility to protect the county's Natural Assets, facilitating habitat gain and improving the quality and protection of Dorset's species. We also need to increase sequestration, use land to increase resilience to climate change, and ensure that future management and maintenance of these assets are financially sustainable.

After detailed evidence and information gathering exercises, led by the EAP and carried out by officer working groups, it has been recommended that the Council **implement the following 24 actions** relating to Dorset's Natural Assets.

Milestones have been identified for each action. This plan shows the immediate targets we will need to achieve by 2023 to keep us on track.

Find definitions for each of the symbols used in this plan in the...  [SYMBOL KEY](#)



ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets



OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
Protect and increase ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience on Council land	D I P				
ACTIONS	2021-23 TARGET				
Identify areas on Dorset Council land to enhance ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience (surface water run off and natural flood management)	D I P				Appropriate areas identified by 2022
Develop a scientifically robust approach to identify & monitor carbon sequestration values of council owned open space	D I P				Methodology created & communicated by March 2023
Expand 'cut and collect' verge management to increase ecological value of highway verges	D I P				1 x additional "cut & collect" machine purchased and Additional waste sites identified by 2022
Develop and provide guidance to ensure community tree planting initiatives are ecologically robust & sensitive to local landscape ('right tree in the right place') e.g. Tree planting checklist	D I P				Guidance developed & communicated by 2021
Work with tenants of County Farms to promote and ensure best environmental practices are upheld and share best practice	D I P				Guidance created & communicated by 2021



Direct action



Indirect action



Partnership / influence action



Improves ecology



Builds resilience



Encourages economic sustainability



Enhances health & wellbeing








Estimated carbon saving potential



Estimated cost to implement action

ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets

OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
Protect and increase ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience within Dorset	D I P				
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
Creation of suitable high ecological value areas on council land (incl. bee-friendly, wild flower, hedge & woodland planting zones) & areas for carbon sequestration & climate resilience	D I P				Plan developed & initiated by 2022
Work in partnership with Lead Flood Authority and EA to develop Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD's) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) ensuring that drainage solutions are of high ecological value	D I P				SUDs SPD developed by 2022
Promotion of ecologically friendly gardens to residents	D I P				Future action beyond 2023
Review all Dorset Council chemical use to ensure no harm to unintended species	D I P				Reviewed 100% of chemical use + improvement plan created and initiated (if required) by 2021
Increased tree planting where suitable to avoid detrimental effects on other habitat types or landscape	D I P				Potential schemes identified by July 2022 Projects initiated from Oct 2022



ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets

OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
Protect and increase ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience within Dorset	D I P				
ACTIONS	2021-23 TARGET				
Continue with and further develop partnership working (e.g. Urban Heaths Partnership, Dorset Coast Forum) to maximise opportunities for joint working and external funding	D I P				Ongoing partnership working
Work with town & parish councils to promote best practice within their greenspace & communities	D I P				Guidance created & communicated in 2021
Develop strategic approach to draw together planning gains from various ecological mitigation schemes (e.g. Biodiversity, Nitrates and Heathland schemes) to maximise the ecological benefits to Dorset	D I P				Strategy developed by 2023
Develop business case for large scale commercial carbon sequestration scheme within Dorset & implement scheme if feasible	D I P				Business case developed by 2023
Continue to support partners to investigate the opportunities to reintroduce beaver colonies to facilitate flood prevention and to improve water quality and enhance biodiversity	D I P				First trial in 2021 / 22



ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets



OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	2021-23 TARGET
Protect and increase ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience within Dorset	D I P				
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
Work with internal & external partners to identify opportunities for Large Scale Re-wilding	D I P				Initial opportunities identified by March 2022

OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	2021-23 TARGET
Use of various planning gains to increase ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience	D I P				
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
Develop policy to ensure where ever possible additional land brought about by planning gain is managed in-house to benefit from economies of scale and to ensure ecological value and carbon sequestration potential is maximised	D I P				Policy developed and agreed by 2022
Use developer contributions secured through the planning system to provide and sustain high-quality public open space that is capable of meeting the needs of current and future residents/visitors	D I P				Mechanisms agreed by 2023

D Direct action
I Indirect action
P Partnership / influence action
 Improves ecology
 Builds resilience
 Encourages economic sustainability
 Enhances health & wellbeing
 Estimated carbon saving potential
 Estimated cost to implement action

ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets



OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
<p>Increased appreciation and engagement with areas of high ecological value</p>	<p>D I P</p>				
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
<p>Communicate to businesses and land owners good practice in terms of protecting and enhancing ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Guidance created + Information communicated by 2022</p>
<p>Work with partners to connect fragmented habitats across the county</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Fragments identified, Targets agreed + Plan created & initiated by 2022</p>
<p>Further develop and promote the health & wellbeing benefits of publicly accessible high ecological value land</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Promotional materials created and communicated by 2021</p>
<p>Work in partnership with Children's and Adult Services to identify and create opportunities for natural environment to be better utilised on social care offer</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Meeting held with ASC to identify opportunities + Plan developed and initiated by 2022</p>

D Direct action
I Indirect action
P Partnership / influence action
 Improves ecology
 Builds resilience
 Encourages economic sustainability
 Enhances health & wellbeing
 Estimated carbon saving potential
 Estimated cost to implement action

ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets



OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
<p>Increase accessibility of rights of way and off road routes</p>	<p>D I P</p>				
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
<p>Ensure rights of way network is fully promoted and maintained to a high standard</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Revise and update ROWIP + Reconstitute DLAF by 2022</p>
<p>Increase amount of well provisioned and well promoted off road routes</p>	<p>D I P</p>				<p>Map of proposed off-road routes created + Plan to increase amount of off-road routes created + Promotional materials created & communicated by 2023</p>

D Direct action
I Indirect action
P Partnership / influence action
 Improves ecology
 Builds resilience
 Encourages economic sustainability
 Enhances health & wellbeing
 Estimated carbon saving potential
 Estimated cost to implement action

ACTION PLAN: Natural Assets



OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	CO ₂ SAVING POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	COST	
<p>Ensure decision making around use of natural assets is based upon ecological value</p>					
ACTIONS					2021-23 TARGET
<p>Work with development management team to ensure green infrastructure advice team is involved in all relevant planning applications to ensure ecological value and recreational opportunities are fully considered</p>					<p>Planning process amended to include liaising with Green infrastructure team by 2022</p>