

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor C Sutton

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council

Councillor J Dorrington

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Vile

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Ms B Cooke

National Trust

Mr L Luke

Planet Purbeck

Mrs J Owens

Sustainable Swanage

Mr F Roberts

Swanage Landers

Also in attendance: -

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Ms G Percival

Assets & Compliance Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

There were no matters raised.

**1) Apologies**

Apologies for his inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr D Pratten (Beach Buddies).

**2) Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

No declarations were made on this occasion.

**3) Matters arising from the Meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

No matters were raised on this occasion.

**4) Matters arising from the Meeting of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

No matters were raised on this occasion.

**5) Motion for the Ocean Action Plan - Update**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the VSBDM provided a brief summary of the ‘Motion for the Ocean Declaration’, approved at the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, and presented the ‘Motion for the Ocean Action Plan’ which had been developed by the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party over the last 12 months. Item 4 of the Action Plan, outlining a proposed bio-audit to be completed in August 2025, was highlighted as an important step to engage with the community and obtain vital information on the biodiversity of Swanage bay. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the ‘Motion for the Ocean’ Action Plan be adopted, with progress reports to be made to forthcoming meetings of this Committee.

**6) Energy Footprint 2024 - Report**

The VSBDM presented the Energy Footprint Report for 2024, which also contained a comparison with data from 2022 and 2023. The report detailed energy use, water use, and waste generated by the Town Council over a 12-month period.

It was noted the data indicated that there had been a 5 per cent increase in carbon emissions compared to the 2022 figures. The 2024 results indicated this was in part the result of an increase in diesel usage due to the acquisition of a single tractor during 2023. The tractor delivered a range of efficiencies, but it was also noted that the longer growing season that was becoming more common now, had resulted in an increased level of work for the grounds team over the year.

Additional information was provided regarding the energy generated from PV solar panels installed at Beach Gardens and the depot in 2024. Due to the dates when installation was completed, it was not possible to present complete data, although it was noted that this will be integrated into the analysis for the 2025 Energy Footprint report.

Looking towards the next 12 months, it was anticipated that a reduction in energy usage will be seen as more of the actions contained within the Environmental Action Plan are implemented and the full effect of the energy generated by the PV Solar panels is able to be seen across a full 12-month period.

The Assets & Compliance Manager reported that Wessex Water had sent third party contractors in February 2025 to inspect Council buildings and provide reports aimed at improving water efficiency, which are currently awaited.

Other steps that could be taken to reduce energy consumption were discussed together with the informal report produced in January 2025 by Purbeck Energy Group. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Vile and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That officers should approach specialist consultants to deliver a formal energy audit in order to assess the feasibility of potential energy saving measures within the Town Hall, with options being presented to this committee in advance of the budget setting process for the next financial year.

**7) Review of the Carbon Neutral target for 2030 - Update**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the VSBDM detailed the Carbon Neutral target and the actions to deliver this included within the Environment Action Plan. It was explained that there appears to be a general trend to move away from strict Carbon Neutral targets

to focus more on de-carbonisation by taking steps such as reducing gas consumption and sourcing electricity from 100% renewable energy suppliers.

Discussion was held over whether the Carbon Neutral target for 2030 is still realistic and achievable. It was noted that there are still goals that can be achieved and although the level of progress desired at this time had not been fully realised, as technology continues to rapidly advance and new approaches are designed, it was felt that the target remains a potentially realistic goal. It was noted that the 2030 carbon neutral target was set in 2019, and therefore the current year marked halfway through this period. Thus a mid-point energy audit, to accurately detail the current progress and look at any other steps which could be taken would be beneficial.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Vile and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the current Carbon Neutral target for 2030 should be kept in place and that further advice should be taken from Dorset Council officers and specialists regarding energy usage and the approach to recording relevant data in order to ensure that best practice is followed and more usable data is made available.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That progress towards the Carbon Neutral target should be reviewed in six months' time.

After a further brief discussion, looking at when a formal public update could be prepared and released, it was noted that more time was required to fully understand the impact of the steps already taken, including the installation of the PV Solar panels. It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by the Chairman and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That an updated energy audit be commissioned to take place in early 2026 with the results being presented to this committee in June 2026.

## **8) Sustainable Swanage - Update**

The representative of Sustainable Swanage provided an update on recent and forthcoming activities. Since the last meeting of this committee, Sustainable Swanage had organised three public meetings to share information on environmental matters with the community, set out future plans, cultivate public interest and develop a pool of volunteers. These meetings had included:

- March focused on Youth Voice which looked at the desire of younger people to be more included in environmental matters and the potential for reinstatement of the Saturday morning Forest Schools. The meeting generated interest in the National Trust Environmental Leadership courses.
- April saw Growing Greener Swanage meet with presentations delivered on Peveril Point & The Downs Local Nature Reserve, ongoing wildflower and butterfly surveys to monitor changes to biodiversity and the potential for developing a local tree warden scheme.
- June focused on Rethinking Rubbish, looking at establishing recycling groups which could collect items not currently collected or processed by Dorset Council.

In addition to these public meetings, the Repair and Re-use café had launched at Herston Village Hall in April 2025 with attendance that far exceeded the expected turn out. This will continue to meet monthly to provide this service.

Members were encouraged to attend a forthcoming public meeting on the topic of the Motion for the Ocean to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 within the Mowlem community room.

**9) Swanage Streams Partnership Flood Management Project – Proposed diversion of Public Footpath SE3/2**

The Rivers & Coast Project Officer for the National Trust provided a brief presentation on the Swanage Streams Partnership and the Flood Management project which is being funded and supported by the Environment Agency and DEFRA. One aspect of this is improvements to the land at Godlingston Manor Farm, which would involve the implementation of measures at specific locations to slow the flow of water with an aim to mitigate the changing weather patterns being experienced such as increased storm events. Part of the Godlingston Manor Farm works would require a minor diversion to an existing public footpath from the western side of a tributary to the eastern side of the tributary.

A formal application had been submitted to Dorset Council and, subject to any unforeseen delays, a public consultation would take place in the first half of 2026. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To provide support to the application submitted to  
Dorset Council for the proposed footpath diversion  
at Godlingston Manor Farm.

**10) Environment Action Plan - Report**

Further to Minute No. 8) of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Members noted the contents of the updated version of the Environment Action Plan and considered the formation of a working party to review it in detail and update the document, where appropriate, with key actions, prioritised appropriately, and any newly identified actions required. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To form a task & finish group to review and update  
the Environment Action Plan, comprised of  
Councillors Sutton, Tomes, Vile, Bonfield,  
Dorrington and Brookes.

**11) Swanage Greenspaces Strategy – Presentation of Strategy and Action Plan**

The Assets & Compliance Manager provided an overview of the draft Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 which aims to set out the vision for the current and future management and development of the diverse range of greenspaces that are owned and managed by the Council. The current document details information on the overall strategic management approach, site specific management plans and includes useful information for visitors including accessibility details. In addition, it contains the Greenspace Action Plan which was informed by the public greenspace survey undertaken in early 2025. It was noted that this was an iterative document and will be enhanced over time as additional management plans are developed.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Vile, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To adopt the Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025,  
together with the Greenspace Action Plan, including  
the timetable for 2025/26.

**12) Community engagement in Greenspaces – Update from Planet Purbeck**

**a) King George's Field user engagement**

Further to Minute No. 10 a) of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the VSBDM reported that a number of projects had been assigned to Planet Purbeck over the previous six months, including the Swanage Streams Partnership, supporting Sustainable Swanage and the greenspaces engagement for King George's Field and Herston Community Field. Due to Planet Purbeck having a finite amount of time and resources, it had become necessary to review and re-prioritise the projects. The result of this review had been a request to defer the community engagement in respect of King George's Field for 12 months which would also reduce the forecasted expenditure from the Environmental Engagement Plan 2025/26 budget.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by the Chairman and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To defer the King George's Field Stakeholder Engagement until 2026.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That a request be made to the Finance & Governance Committee that the funding in place for the King George's Field Stakeholder Engagement (within the Environmental Engagement Plan 2025/26 budget) be carried forward to the 2026/27 financial year subject to budget analysis and approval.

**b) Herston Community Field proposal**

The representative from Planet Purbeck reported that they had operated a stand at the recent Herston Community Fun day held in May 2025 within this greenspace to engage with the public, answer questions and to obtain verbal feedback and survey submissions on what would be beneficial to enhance the space for the public and for wildlife. Lots of valuable feedback had been received. This work will be continued with additional planned public engagements in the local area with the results being collated and brought to a forthcoming meeting of this committee.

**13) Waste Management**

**a) Update on activities from Beach Buddies**

An update was provided by the Chairman on behalf of Beach Buddies which reported that in 2025, there had been a total of 23 beach cleans carried out so far leading to the removal of 503kg of litter and debris, the majority of this having been collected from North Beach. This has been made possible by a pool of volunteers with an average of 18 attending each beach clean. It was also reported that the main beach was noticeably cleaner than previously recorded with thanks offered to the Council beach operatives for their work in achieving this. It was noted that the possibility of Beach Buddies volunteers cleaning other areas of the town was currently under consideration.

**b) Update on activities from Swanage Landers**

The representative of Swanage Landers provided an update on their activities which included the aforementioned conversation with Beach Buddies and the potential for their volunteers to assist in cleaning other areas of the town in addition to the beach. It was noted that in 2026, Litter Free Purbeck through Swanage Landers and Beach Buddies will have been working with volunteers for 10 years to collect litter.

In addition to this, with the assistance of the Council Operations Department, the second Mechanical Road Sweep this year has been booked to be carried out in July. It was noted that Dorset Council no longer employed a street sweeper in Swanage and that it had indicated that it would increase the number of road sweeps in Swanage to compensate for this. It was suggested that officers should request an update from Dorset Council at the end of 2025 to ascertain what services had been carried out during the year, and for the response to be reported to a future committee meeting. The Assets & Compliance Manager reported that Dorset Council had implemented a good level of waste collections for the summer season, operating seven days a week and continuing up until 6-7pm every evening.

**14) Environmental Engagement Budget - update**

The VSBDM reported that the Environmental Engagement budget approved for 2025/26 totalled £20,000, which included supporting the Swanage Streams Partnership, the Marine bio-audit for the Motion for the Ocean action plan and both the Herston Field and King George's field Stakeholder engagement projects.

Further to Minute No. 12)a) above, it was noted that the King George's Field Stakeholder Engagement would be deferred and that a proposal would be made to the Finance & Governance Committee to carry forward the £4,500 approved for this project into the 2026/27 financial year.

**15) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas**

**a) Consideration of energy efficiencies for Council buildings**

It was noted that this had been discussed under Minute No. 7), above.

**b) Public Conveniences – Water efficiency surveys**

Further to Minute No. 6 above, it was again noted that the Council is awaiting receipt of the survey results which will be reported to a forthcoming meeting.

**c) Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs LNR Open Day – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Assets & Compliance Manager reported that the Open Day on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 will be the third year that it has run. This year the event will run from 11am-2pm and will include guided butterfly identification walks and wildflower walks.

**d) Dorset Council – Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025 consultation**

It was reported that at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 2nd June 2025, Dorset Council's public consultation on its draft Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025 had been considered. Committee members agreed that it may be prudent for the Environment and Green Spaces Committee to review the consultation documents and provide any feedback on the strategy to the Planning and Consultation Committee. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by the Chairman and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Chairman of the Environment & Green Spaces Committee and the Assets & Compliance Manager work together to review the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025 documentation and to provide any relevant feedback to Dorset Council via the Planning and Consultation Committee.

**16) Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 2.15 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

The Meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.

**Swanage Town Council**

# **Environment Policy Action Plan**

**Version 13**

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas (as listed below) and the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council has taken the approach of producing a short action plan with a small number of key actions that can be developed quickly. This is seen very much as an iterative action plan that can grow and develop as we better understand what is required to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. Completed actions are retained at the bottom of the document.

The Environment Action Plan Task and Finish Group met during September to review the Action Plan and the following proposals were identified:

1. To identify a small number of priority actions for officers to focus their attention on over the next period. While other actions remain important, there will be less focus on these actions. It is noted that in many cases these are ongoing actions that require less input than the priority actions.
2. To delete a number of actions to streamline the plan to ensure that only relevant actions that the Town Council can realistically control are included in the plan.

The Action Plan below includes these proposals and the progress to date column has been updated.

**Decisions required**

The Committee is asked to consider the various actions below and note progress to date.

1. Approve the selection of the blue actions as 'priority' targets in section 2 along with the other actions in this section.
2. Approve the deletion of the grey actions highlighted in section 3 below.

Culvin Milmer  
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager  
October 2025

## Swanage Town Council: Environment Policy Action Plan – V13

### 1. The Town Council's Environment Policy includes the following policy areas

1. **Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner:** We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions.
2. **Managing our built environment sustainably:** We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably.
3. **Protecting and enhancing the natural environment:** We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town.
4. **Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice:** We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice.
5. **Protecting local infrastructure:** By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure to retain a vibrant and sustainable town.
6. **Supporting Sustainable Tourism:** We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism.



## **2. Propose that the following actions are carried forward**

The blue highlighted ones are considered 'priority' actions.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Policy Area
1.	Review the Carbon Neutral target for 2030	Liaise with other authorities to see what they have undertaken	Not Known	2030	Tracking our use of carbon	ONGOING – An energy efficiency audit was undertaken during 2025 which has highlighted a number of useful ways to reduce energy. This will be presented to Committee in October. The Town Council are now working with Dorset Council to develop a parish/town council network for sharing information related to energy use, decarbonisation and carbon neutrality. The June Committee agreed to review this target in early 2026.	Managing our built environment sustainably
2.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme	Work with the Tree Council to identify what is required	Small?	2025-26	Scheme set up and actions undertaken	Work is being undertaken by councillors and officers to embed this scheme in the Council.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
3.	Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan	Develop the Action Plan and put in place a mechanism to ensure this is delivered.	See Action Plan	See Action Plan	Action Plan approved	Action Plan is approved and is now being implemented.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
4.	Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to increase the number of charging facilities in STC car parks.	Consider options and bring a report to Committee.	Not known	2026	Chargers installed.	ONGOING - STC is working with Dorset Council to deliver the Charging Ahead scheme in three car parks in Swanage – various delays have been incurred although work does continue with	Protecting local infrastructure

						officers. This will be presented to the Council when ready.	
5.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	£0	Ongoing	Report to Tourism Committee	ONGOING – Work will be undertaken over the next year to establish how the Town Council can develop such a vision.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism
6.	Promote sustainable transport and walking in and around the town to reduce the need for visitors to use cars.	Look at alternative forms of transport and promote these on website and digital media. Work with Dorset Council and other partners	-	Ongoing	Customer feedback and uptake.	ONGOING – This will be done through the support of PTAG and the current discussions on a Purbeck tourism strategy. Dorset Council will present some of their ideas at the October 2025 Committee.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism
7.	Undertake a 'biodiversity' audit of all sites owned by the Town Council to assess their importance within the natural environment.	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	Not known	tba	tba	The Council has adopted a Greenspaces Strategy which will encompass this. A biodiversity audit was undertaken of King Georges Field during June 2024. Community stakeholder engagement is planned for Herston Community Field. This is now picked up in the Greenspaces Strategy. <b>Propose that this is changed to 'Implement the Green Spaces Strategy'</b>	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
8.	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers.	£2,000	2025-26	All staff and officers trained	ONGOING – An accredited 'Carbon Literacy' course was delivered to a majority of staff and Councillors during the spring of 2025. Those that were unable to take the course during this first round will be offered an online course during the next 6 months.	Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

9.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	Not Known	2025-26	Reduction in water use as measured by water bills	<p>ONGOING - Water use has been reduced significantly with the move away from annual bedding flowers and more drought resistant plants. Engagement with Wessex Water has been undertaken and a survey was undertaken of water use in public toilets in 2025. Unfortunately, this has provided very few options to improve on what is already being done.</p> <p>Water butts are being considered for the TIC and Cemetery to use to water plants.</p>	Managing our built environment sustainably
10.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of the Swanage bathing beach	Engage with the public	Unknown at this stage	Ongoing	Sea users are better informed	<p>ONGOING: A noticeboard providing a daily update to water quality and further information has been installed outside the TIC. The main beach signs will be updated in 2026-27 to include additional information about water quality. The Council will continue to run engagement sessions with the public in conjunction with Wessex Water.</p>	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
11.	Support the Swanage Streams Partnership to improve the water quality of the three streams in the parish.	Work with National Trust and Planet Purbeck, provide funding and support	£6k in 2024-25 ? in 2025-26	Ongoing	Partnership set up and engagement being delivered	<p>The Swanage Streams Partnership was launched in November 2024 to 140 people. Over the year Planet Purbeck will start to deliver a wide range of engagement activities supporting the improvement of the streams. This was highlighted in the Swanage News article on 14 December 2024. A report will be submitted to October Environment Committee.</p>	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

12.	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage and other partners to deliver community based environmental improvements.	Through the implementation of an 'Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan'	£6,000	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered through Sustainable Swanage or directly by the Town Council	ONGOING - Costs included in 2025-26 budget.  An update will be provided to each Environment Committee.	Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice
13.	Enhance electric facilities on event fields and the market site to eliminate the requirement for fossil fuelled generators.	Report produced detailing costs of upgrades to sites.	Not known	Ongoing	Upgrades undertaken	ONGOING - Two electric points installed and in use at the market site.  Further work required for PAG and Sandpit Field –to be included in the Green Seafront Scheme.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism

### **3. Propose that the following are removed from the Action Plan**

1.	Ensure all new Town Council constructions have sustainability embedded in their design.	Included in each specification.	Not known	Ongoing	All construction specifications will include sustainability.	ONGOING	Managing our built environment sustainably
2.	Continue to plant trees according to the Swanage Tree Strategy and Policy (approved November 2022) generally with 30 planted each year.	Areas identified and trees planted.	Not known	On-going	Number of trees planted.	ONGOING – For past 3 years at least 30 new trees planted per annum to continue. During 2022, Tree Strategy and Policy were approved by Full Council. Site specific Beach Gardens Tree Strategy also produced in 2023. This is now included in the Greenspace Strategy.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

3.	Work with partners to implement environment actions identified within the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	Tbc	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
4.	Undertake an audit of the Council's hedges	Work with Sustainable Swanage	Small?	June 2025	Audit undertaken	Sustainable Swanage are keen to support this by working with the relevant organisations.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
5.	Work with partners to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow and engage with Wessex Water regarding a long-term solution to this issue.	Hold engagement with partners and customers and identify Wessex Water plans and all are aware	Unknown at this stage	Ongoing	Everyone is better informed	Ongoing: A swimmers meeting with Wessex Water has been arranged for 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and a dialogue with Wessex Water continues.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
6.	Support Dorset Waste Services to increase the household recycling rate across Swanage.	Support the education teams at DWS, including about composting and food waste.	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from DWS.	ONGOING - Work with Sustainable Swanage and other groups to promote household recycling. (FareShare and Community Pantry). In the early summer Sustainable Swanage held an event with the Dorset Waste Services to promote recycling. In addition a recycling workstream has been implemented within Sustainable Swanage to encourage the collection of hard to recycle items.	Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice
7.	Recommend that all new constructions in Swanage are built according to sustainable criteria.	Include recommendation in all responses.	None	Ongoing	Increase in new builds built according to sustainable criteria.	ONGOING - May be included in the Design Code in the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan	Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice

8.	Campaign to ensure essential services are retained in Swanage in accordance with the Swanage Local Plan, to minimise travel requirements.	By working with SPDT Dorset Council, P-TAG, and other relevant organisations, such as DCCG, and supporting community initiatives to maintain services.	None	Ongoing	By recording and reviewing the actions undertaken and reporting to Full Council.	ONGOING – Working in partnership with SPDT on developing the Chapel Lane community services. Working with other groups such as Wellbeing Swanage and will be included within the draft Neighbourhood Plan.	Protecting local infrastructure
9.	Enhance the beach ‘toy bank’ to include a provision at the Ocean Bay end of the beach.	Identify a solution and implement it.	Not known	July 2025	Enhanced Toy Bank in place.	ONGOING - Beach Toy Bank currently successful at the Information Centre. Will engage with North Beach partners in 2025.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism

#### **4. Completed actions archive**

<b>Completed Actions 2024-25</b>							
1.	Implement energy reduction measures.	Produce report which details various possible measures.	Not known	March 2024	Energy use reduction will be tracked by officers	COMPLETED - LED lights have now been installed across all council buildings. Solar panels have been installed at the depot and garage and will be installed at Beach Gardens Pavilion during October/ November. It is noted that there are now no more ‘quick wins’ with regards energy reduction measures	OPS1
2.	Identify two further sites to be enhanced by Sustainable Swanage	Work with Sustainable Swanage to develop plans	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed and work undertaken at sites	COMPLETED - Northbrook Copse and the former St Mark’s Playing Field identified for enhancement. For Northbrook Copse a management plan and enhanced information signage has been produced. For Herston Community Field, the National trust has been engaged.	OPS1

3.	Work with partners to implement actions identified within the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Identify areas within Strategy that can be developed.	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed	REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH ACTION BELOW– Need to develop Action Plan for Committee. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is included in the Purbeck Local Plan and will be reviewed during the current preparation of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	OPS1 / TIC 1
2.	Support businesses in their efforts to be more sustainable	Working with Sustainable Swanage to provide information and support to businesses	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from businesses.	REMOVE - All new leases between Swanage Town Council and its business partners include a section on environmental considerations. Sustainable Swanage works with businesses to identify effective ways to provide support. With the change of emphasis of Sustainable Swanage, this is no longer a reasonable expectation.	TIC1
3.	Support, where possible, the establishment of a community bus in Swanage.	Review options around a community bus for Swanage	Not yet known	Ongoing	Options exist around improving the route of the Durlston Bus but a community bus serving the whole community could take some time to develop.	REMOVE – This has been the subject of much discussion over the years, but at the current time there does not seem to be a viable solution available. Therefore, this will be removed and subsumed within the ‘sustainable transport’ action below	TIC1
<b>Completed Actions 2023-24</b>							
1.	Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines.	Equipment asset list to be reviewed and options for change considered.	Not known	March 2023	Review undertaken.	DONE - Officers to produce asset list of machines, including power source, during 2022/23 and take report to Committee at the end of 2023.	OPS1
2.	Develop an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council’s business which includes tracking carbon use.	System to be set up and managed by officers.	None	March 2023	System set up.	DONE: The Council publishes annually usage for the following: gas, electricity, waste tonnages, petrol, diesel, and water.	OPS1

3.	Develop a system to monitor the Council's waste streams and undertake review.	Identify waste streams and review options for reduction.	Not known	June 2023	Waste tonnages monitored through Management System.	DONE – Linked to 2 above.	OPS1
4.	Reduce the amount of paper documents printed by the Town Council	Review printing volumes and work towards reducing, beginning with introduction of councillor laptops.	Total not known. Budget for Councillor s' laptops agreed.	June 2023	Monitor through Environment Management System	DONE – Laptops have now been procured and training provided to Councillors. Printed copies of Council reports are no longer issued to Councillors.	TH1
6.	Move to a fully renewable energy contract for the electric supply to the Town Council	Reviewing green options and undertaking a procurement exercise.	-	October 2023	New contract set up.	DONE – Fully renewable energy contract is now in place – Sep 2023.	TH3
2.	Consider options for renewable energy on the Town Council estate.	Undertake research and produce report.	Not known	March 2024	Report produced detailing relevant options.	DONE: Solar Panels are being procured.	OPS1 / TIC1
1.	Review options to reduce or eliminate pesticide/herbicide use.	Current use will be reviewed and alternatives considered.	Not known	March 2023	By monitoring amount used.	DONE - Report provided to February Committee detailing current use and explanation of some available alternatives. Committee agreed to continue current approach and review in the future	OPS1
2.	Reduce quantity of bedding plants and develop more drought resistant plantings.	Planting more drought resistant plants.	Not known	June 2023	Reduction in water use and more hardy plants	DONE - Trial of more drought-resistant plantings is ongoing.	OPS1

### Completed Actions 2022-23



No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date	
1.5	Make climate impact a determinant in all grant giving.	Add section to grant application form.	None	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Revised application form	Full Council	COMPLETE – Criteria now included within application form.	NIKI
2.1	Undertake an energy audit of all Town Council buildings and identify ways to reduce energy consumption.	Review options to procure a consultancy to undertake this work.	£2,000	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	A report will be produced once complete	Operations	COMPLETE - A report was procured which provided a range of options for the installation of LED bulbs and solar panels across the Council's estate. This will be incorporated in further work being undertaken by the Council in 2022-23.	CULVIN
3.5	Develop The Downs as a Local Nature Reserve.	Continue to work with Sustainable Swanage to deliver this.	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Nature Reserve established	Operations	COMPLETE - Customer survey released in January. Sustainable Swanage Open Meeting in early 2021. A Management Plan is complete.	OPS1
5.1	Support a Rights of Way survey to encourage walking in the area	Identify solution and work with partners or other stakeholders	£250	Summer 2021	Survey completed with areas for improvement identified. STC will present findings to Dorset Council for implementation, if necessary	Operations	COMPLETE – Survey complete, Rights of Way Open Meeting on 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022 – setting up volunteer hub to undertake grading of ROWs.	TIC1
6.3	All events held on Town Council land to be single use plastic free	No single use plastic will be permitted	£0	Nov 2021	No single use plastic in use	Tourism	COMPLETE - 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021 - Full Council confirmed that all events should now be single use plastic free	TIC1
6.5	Enhance the supply of free drinking water solutions across the town	Produce signage for current drinking water taps to make them more obvious and consider if any	Budgeted in 2020-21	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Signage implemented	Tourism	COMPLETE - Signs have been added to all drinking water taps to make them more visible.	TIC1 / OPS1

		further are required					A water refill station has been installed on the seafront; part funded by a grant from 'Sea Changers.'	
6.6	Work with event organisers to ensure that sustainability is embedded into their events	All event applications to detail what positive and negative impacts their events will have on the local environment	£0	Immediate	Event application form updated	Tourism	COMPLETE - All events during 2021 were required to complete an 'Environmental Impact Assessment'. These will be reviewed at year end and a report produced	TIC 1

**Consideration of energy efficiency improvements to Council buildings**

During 2025, an informal audit was undertaken of the Town Hall, Swanage Information Centre and the Council's Depot to see how these areas might benefit from improving energy efficiency measures.

The results of this audit identified a range of options that might be considered.

While the Depot, which is a modern building was seen to be reasonably efficient, it was clear that a number of key improvements might be made to the Town Hall to deliver a more energy efficient building, although as a Grade 2 listed building, this would present challenges in some areas.

The action plan below identifies a number of these potential improvements. It can be seen that some are relatively straightforward and indeed can be undertaken by internal staff such as ensuring that loft insulation is laid to a sufficient standard and doors seal appropriately.

The following main areas were identified that would lead to the use of external suppliers:

1. Zone heating, enhanced heating controls and an energy monitoring system
2. Infra-red heating for the Chamber and as additional heating for offices to replace standalone electric heating units
3. Town Hall Annex boiler replacement and improvements to radiator systems

It is proposed that the first two items above are undertaken during 2025-26 and is funded from the Council's 'Environmental Projects Reserve', which is being set aside for energy improvements. Early budget indications suggest that around £6,000 might be sufficient to cover these works.

It is becoming increasingly important to replace the Town Hall Annex boiler as this has nearly reached the end of its useful life and it is now not as efficient as it should be. The Environment and Green Spaces Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 asked for a review of the Carbon Neutral Target to be considered at a meeting in February 2026. This would seem a useful point to discuss any future boiler replacement for the Town Hall.

**Decisions required**

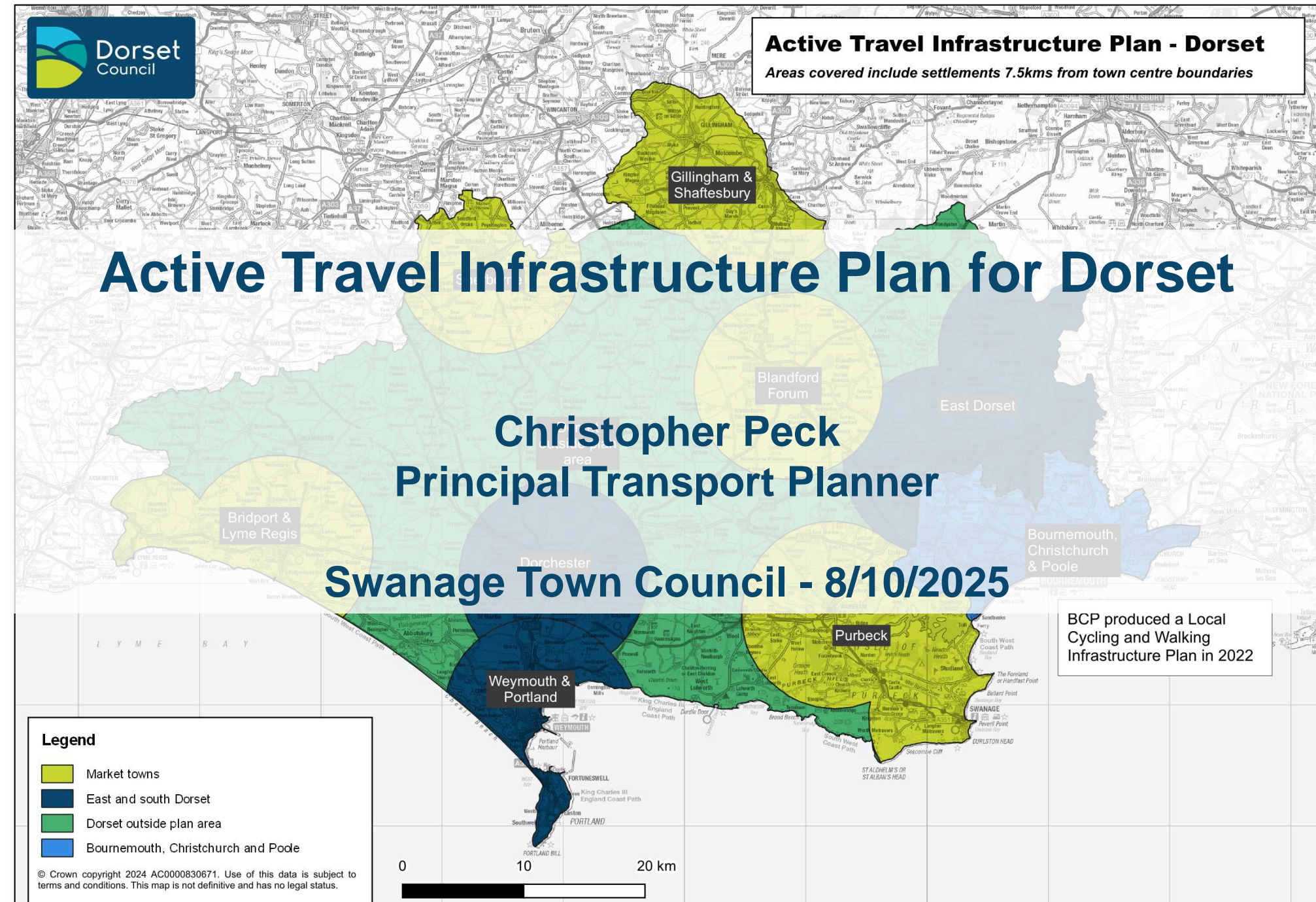
- 1.1 Note the Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- 1.2 Approve the actions as set out in section 1 of the Action Plan below for 2025-26

Culvin Milmer  
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager  
October 2025

## Energy Efficiency Action Plan - September 2025

Section 1 - Town Hall 2025-26		Progress	Budget	Date to do
1	Consider improvements to loft insulation.	Some areas of the Town Hall have a relatively low level of insulation. This will be improved where possible. The Town Hall Annex loft has a good level of insulation installed.	£1,500	2025-26.
2	Improve lagging of heating pipes in boiler room.	The unlagged heating pipes in some areas of the Town Hall act as heating pipes so these will not be lagged. However, relatively small improvements can be made to areas within the boiler rooms.	£100	2025-26
3	Consider zone heating and heating controls, inc. energy monitoring system.	The Council has procured a detailed report from a supplier to provide advice regarding zone heating and hot water control in the Town Hall, radiator plans and for advice about the most appropriate boiler for replacement. The budget has been suggested to cover any expected improvements.	£2,000	2025-26
4	Consider infra-red heating alternative for Chamber and as additional heating in building.	Infra-red heating is a more efficient heating source and is often used in large buildings with lots of space such as historic churches. In addition, small infra-red heating mats and panels can work well as back up heating for staff areas. Issues exist with regard to the listed status of the building; however standalone options are available.	£2,500	2025-26
5	The door to the balcony won't close effectively allowing heat to escape.	This is being fixed.	-	2025-26
6	Ensure all doors in building shut properly and include threshold strips.	This has been completed	-	Completed

7	Bay room radiator adjuster TRV may not be working, and radiator is behind filing cabinets.	This is being resolved	-	2025-26
<b>Section 2 - Town Hall 2026-27</b>		<b>Progress</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Date to do</b>
8	Review hot water controls as these appear to be set on high much of the time.	This is related to the need for a replacement boiler in the Annex.	-	2026-27
9	The boilers for the main building are pretty good at about 80% efficiency; however, the annex side old boiler is only about 60% efficient and is near the end of its useful life.	A new boiler in the Annex is becoming increasingly urgent. An approach to replacement will need to be considered in the next 6 months. Capital funding is available for new heating solution.	tbc	2026-27
10	Consider full radiator flush to improve radiator efficiency.	To be done at the same time as boiler replacement.	£1,000	2026-27
11	Consider use of a product such as 'Endotherm' which improves heat transfer efficiency through radiators.	This will be considered at the same time as boiler replacement.	tbc	2026-27
12	Consider voltage optimisation filter which reduces the amount of electricity required by the building.	This is being considered.	tbc	2026-27
13	Consider if any of the single glazed windows throughout can be double glazed?	This is a challenge. After a meeting with the Conservation Officer, not only would this be expensive but as the building is Grade 2 listed, any changes must not alter its appearance. This will need to be reviewed at a later date.	tbc	Defer any work until a later date.
<b>Section 3 - Other areas</b>		<b>Progress</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Date to do</b>
14	Investigate water meter for Swanage Information Centre and Town Hall.	This is being reviewed in connection with Item 9 of the Environment Policy Action Plan	tbc	To consider
15	Consider replacing Swanage Information Centre boiler with an Air Source Heat Pump.	This is being reviewed. Defer any work until boiler end of life - 27-29.	tbc	To consider
16	Confirm if Swanage Information Centre loft has insulation.	During work in the Spring, the opportunity was taken to install loft access. This confirmed that no insulation was present. The contractors were then tasked to install loft insulation accordingly.	-	Complete





# Summary

- What is an Active Travel Infrastructure Plan?
- Why are we doing this?
- Public Engagement (Dec 2023 - Jan 2024)
- Network Plans
- Prioritisation criteria
- Next steps



# What is an Active Travel Infrastructure Plan?

The Active Travel Infrastructure Plan (ATIP) is:

- A long-term strategy for improvements to routes for walking, wheeling\* and cycling

\*wheeling means using a wheelchair, mobility scooter or other type of mobility aid

- Network plans for routes linking neighbourhoods to schools, town centres, leisure destinations and employment areas
- Prioritised routes, identifying which routes will generate the biggest benefits.





# Why do we need a Plan?

- Understanding residents' priorities for where they want to see improvements
- Plan required to secure Active Travel England funding (~£3m capital + £600k rev over last few years)
- Supporting future funding bids to central Government
- Ensuring that new developments link to good quality routes



# Benefits of active travel



**Air quality**



**Climate change**



**Access to employment and skills**



**Health and wellbeing**

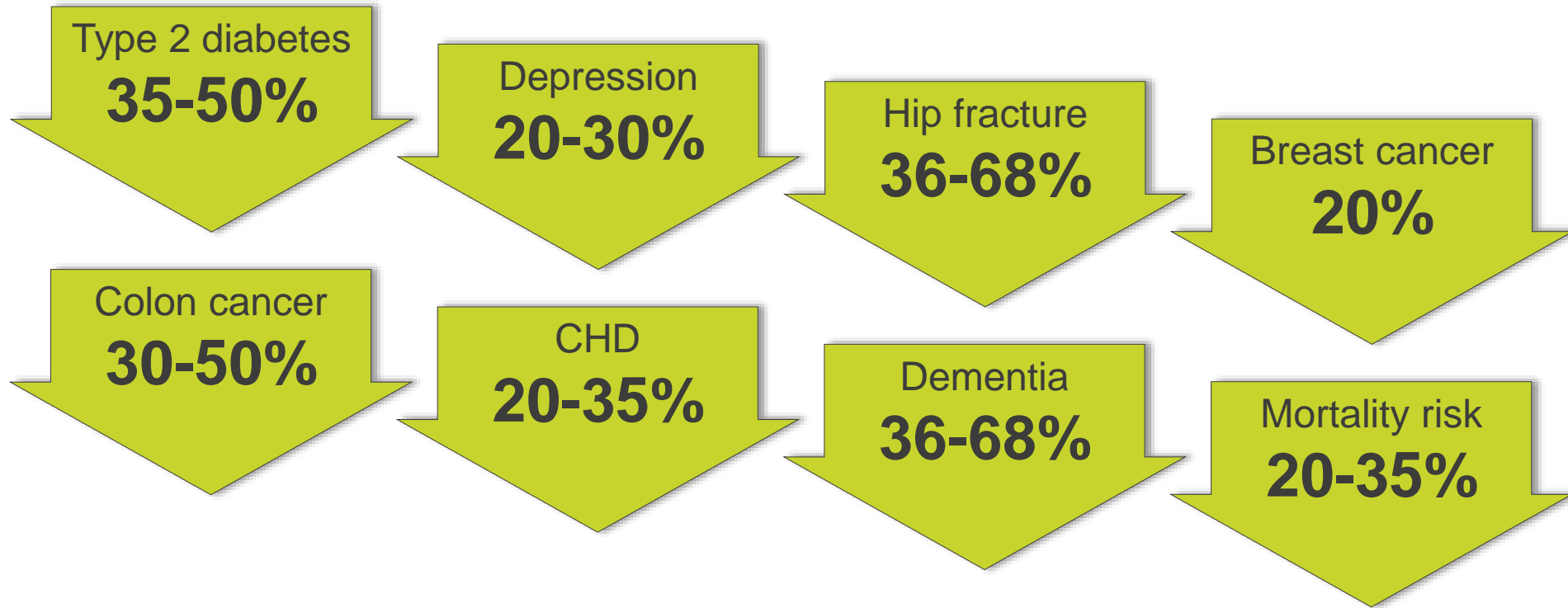


**Travel choice**

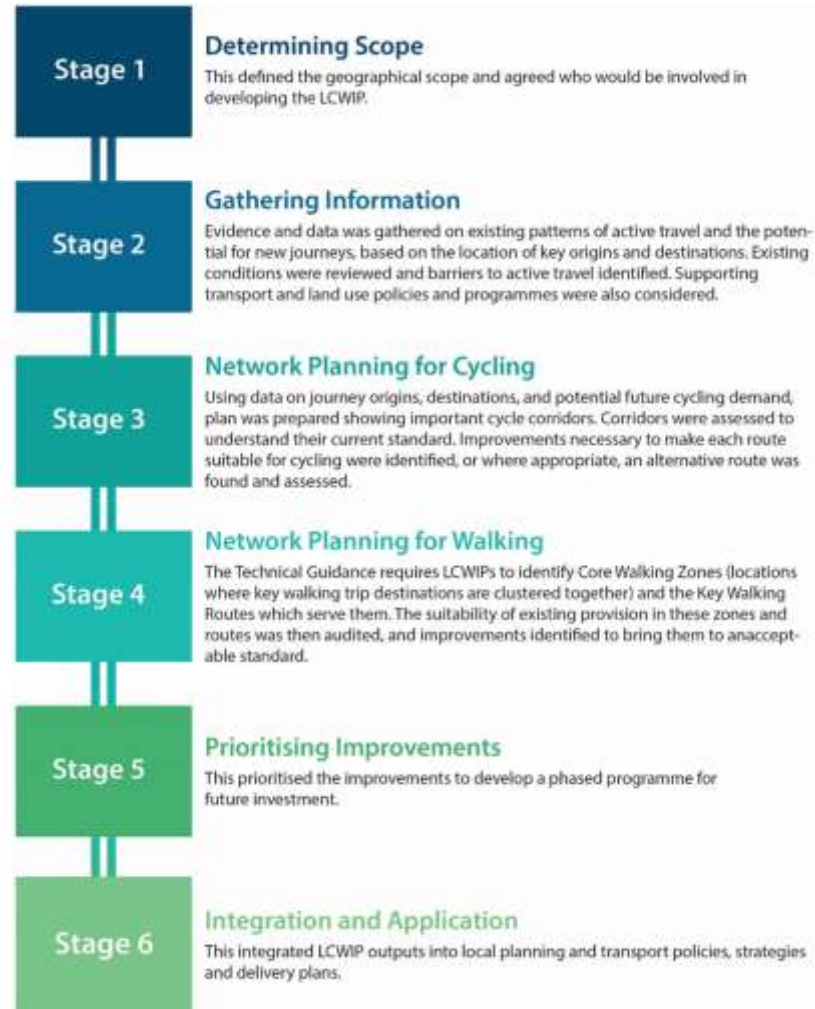


**Congestion**

# Public health benefits of physical activity



# ATIP process



Current stage



Network plans for walking and cycling

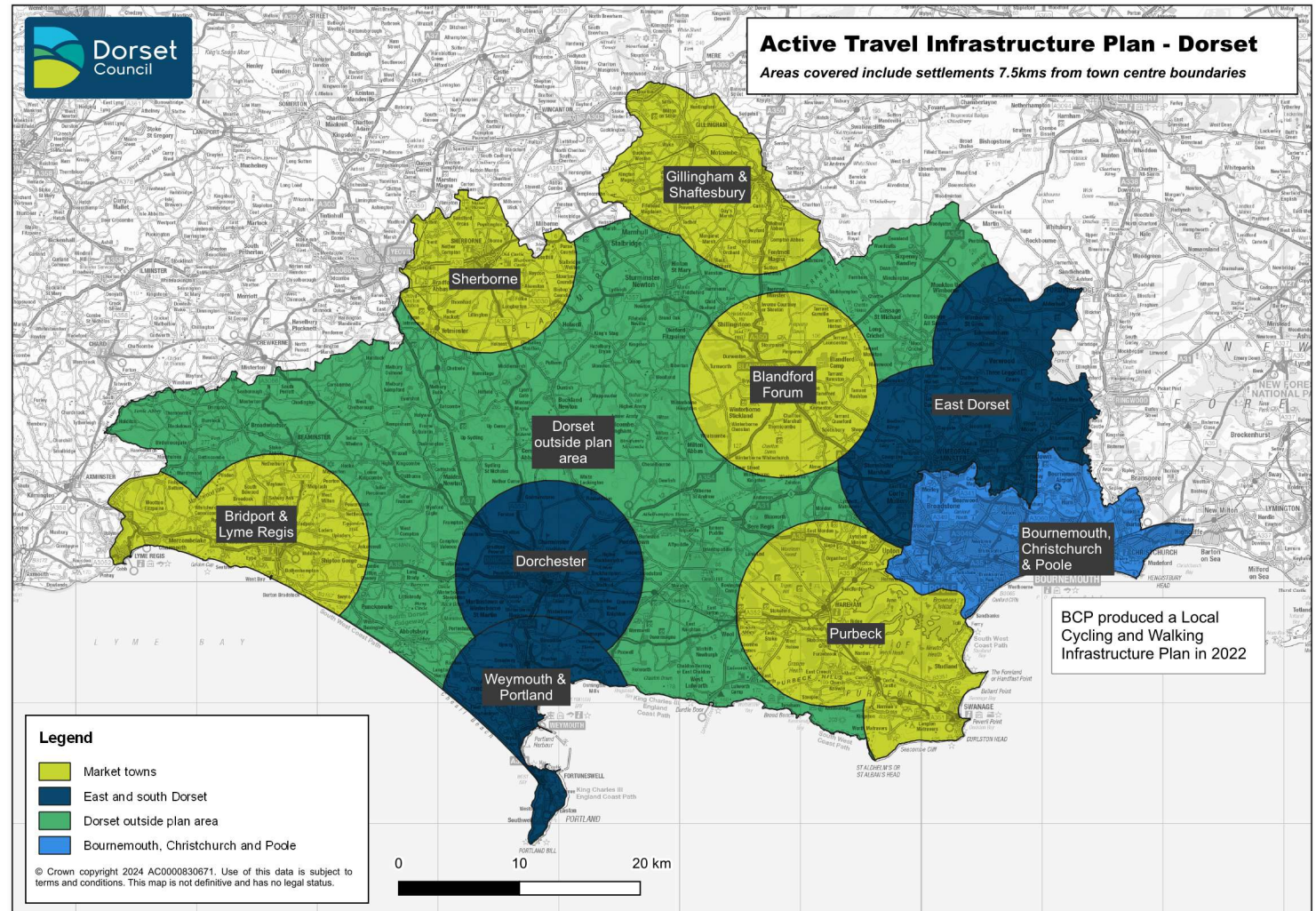


Prioritised list of routes / schemes - short, medium, long term

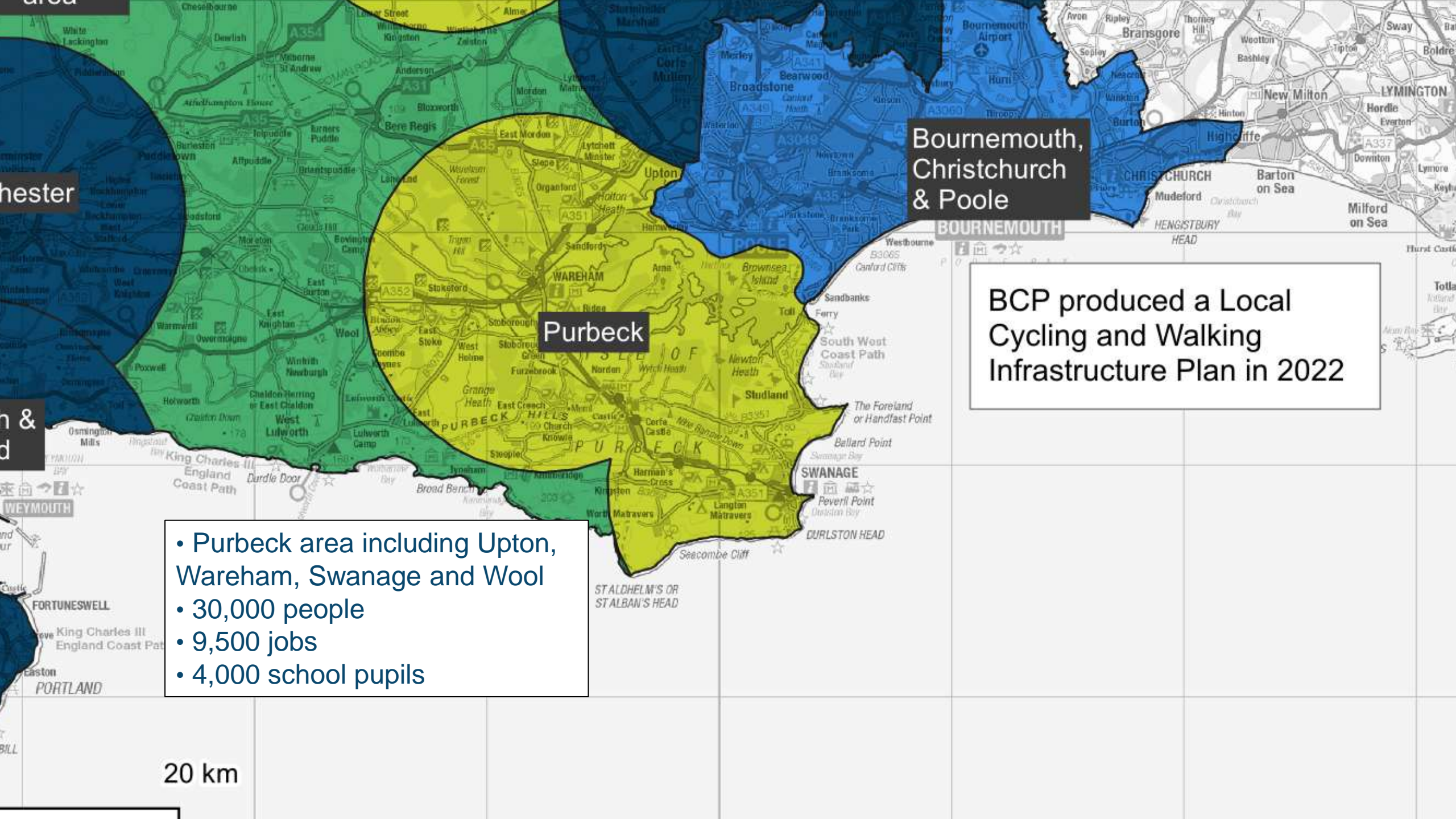


# Scope of the plan

- 7 areas defined
  - east Dorset (100k people, 24k jobs)
  - south Dorset (108k people, 38k jobs)
  - key market towns
- 15 town centre areas
- These areas cover 85% of the Dorset population







Bournemouth,  
Christchurch  
& Poole

Purbeck

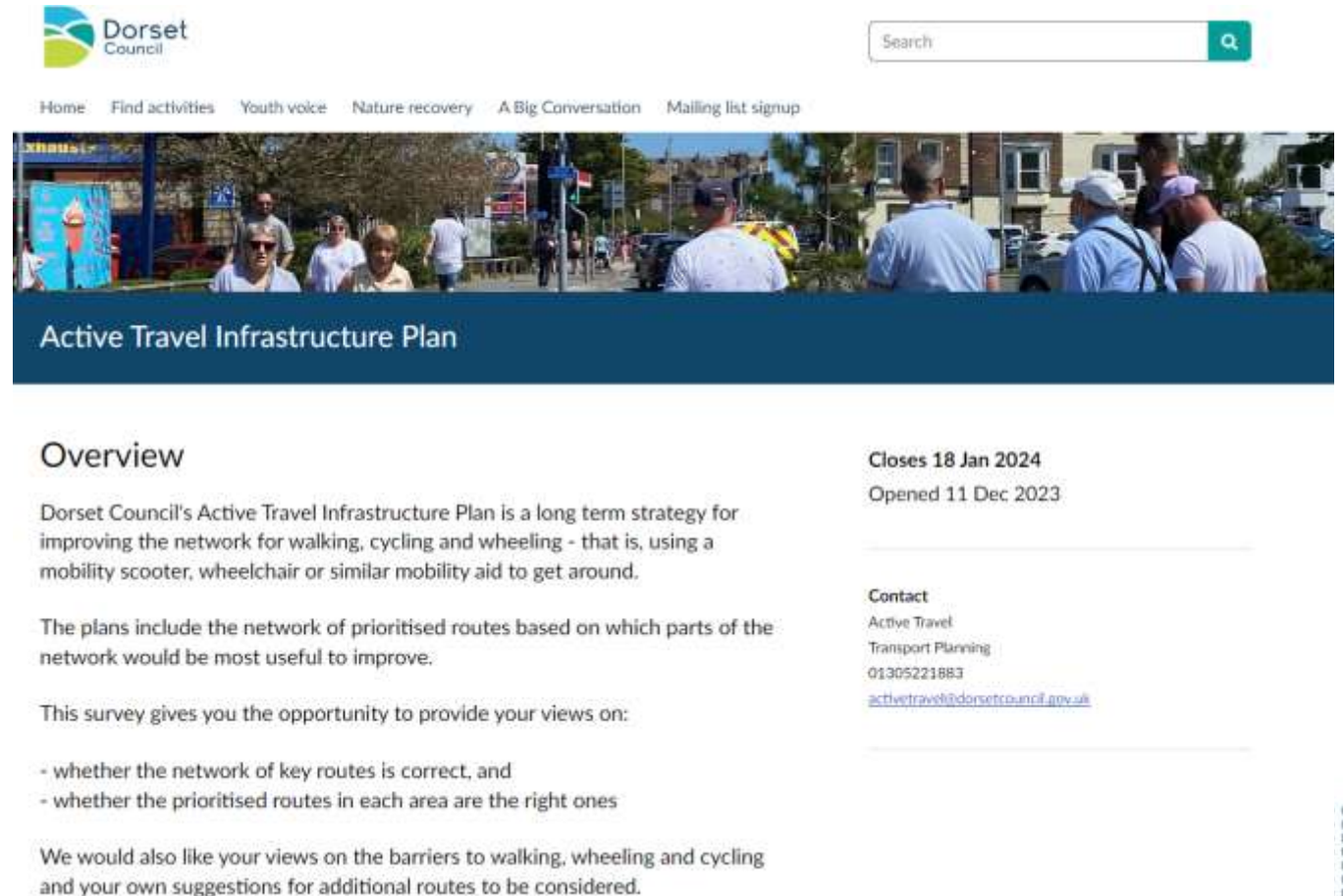
BCP produced a Local  
Cycling and Walking  
Infrastructure Plan in 2022

- Purbeck area including Upton, Wareham, Swanage and Wool
- 30,000 people
- 9,500 jobs
- 4,000 school pupils

20 km

# Public engagement on the Plan

- December 2023 – January 2024
- 979 responses
- 1,081 barriers
- 400+ routes submitted



The screenshot shows the Dorset Council website for the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan. At the top is the Dorset Council logo and a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Find activities, Youth voice, Nature recovery, A Big Conversation, and Mailing list signup. A large banner image shows a group of people walking on a path. Below the banner is the title 'Active Travel Infrastructure Plan'. The main content area is titled 'Overview' and contains the following text:

Dorset Council's Active Travel Infrastructure Plan is a long term strategy for improving the network for walking, cycling and wheeling - that is, using a mobility scooter, wheelchair or similar mobility aid to get around.

The plans include the network of prioritised routes based on which parts of the network would be most useful to improve.

This survey gives you the opportunity to provide your views on:

- whether the network of key routes is correct, and
- whether the prioritised routes in each area are the right ones

We would also like your views on the barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling and your own suggestions for additional routes to be considered.

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Contact' section with the following information:

**Closes 18 Jan 2024**  
**Opened 11 Dec 2023**

**Contact**  
Active Travel  
Transport Planning  
01305221883  
[actvetravel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:actvetravel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



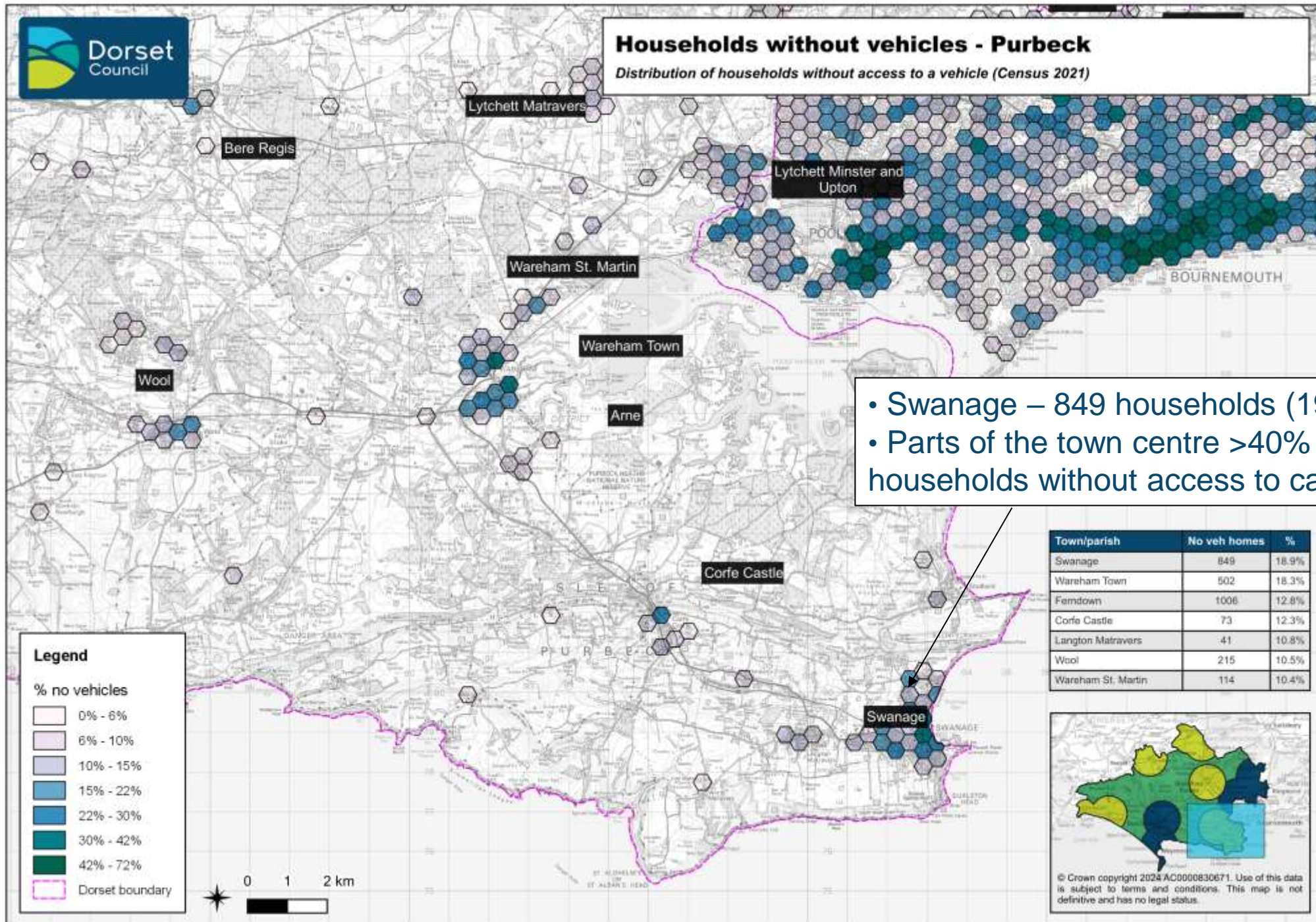
Responses

0 - 20
20 - 40
40 - 60
60 - 80
80 - 100
100 - 102



## Households without vehicles - Purbeck

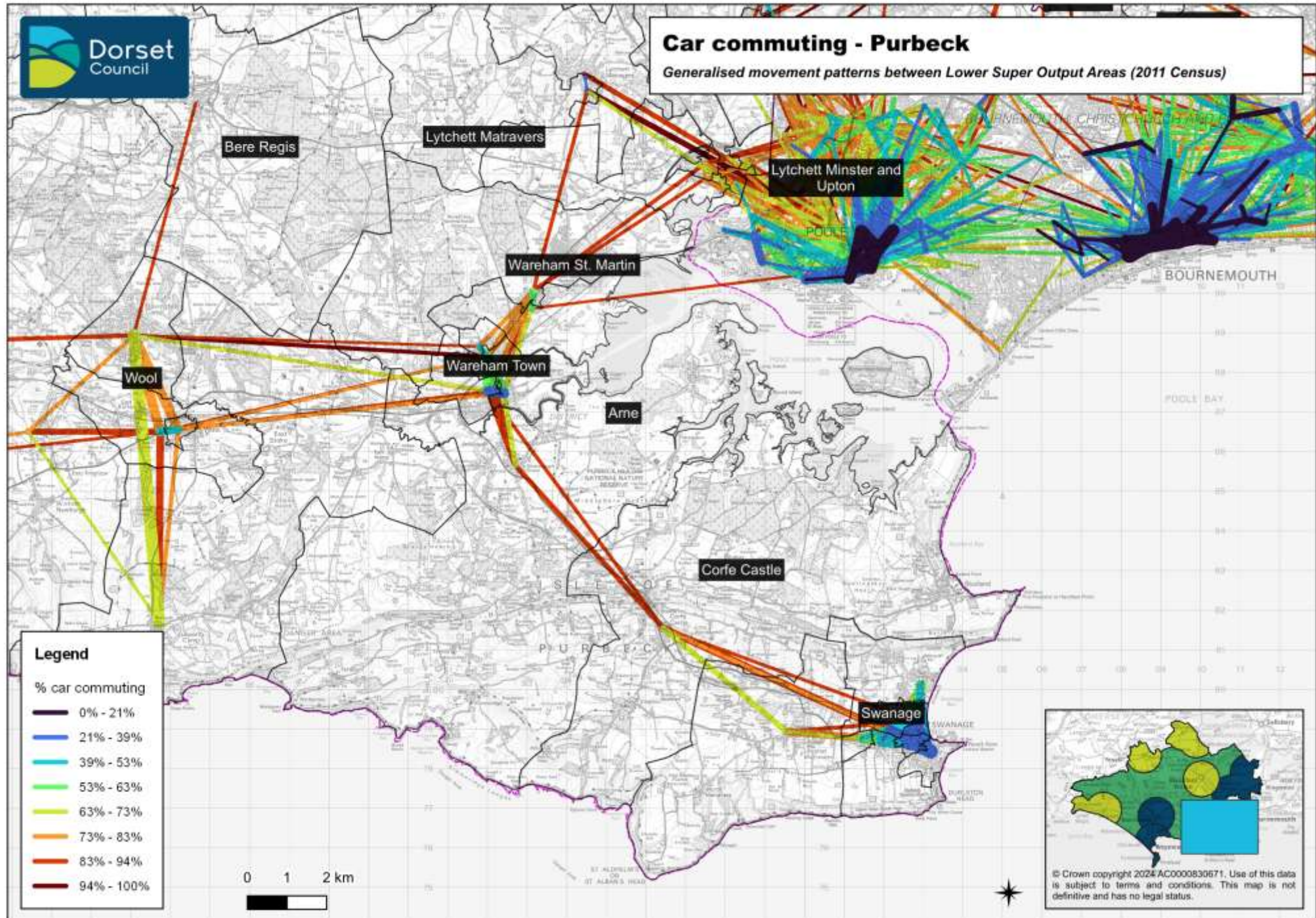
Distribution of households without access to a vehicle (Census 2021)





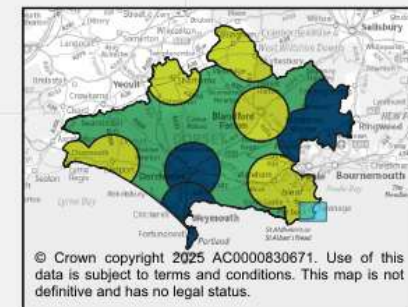
## Car commuting - Purbeck

Generalised movement patterns between Lower Super Output Areas (2011 Census)





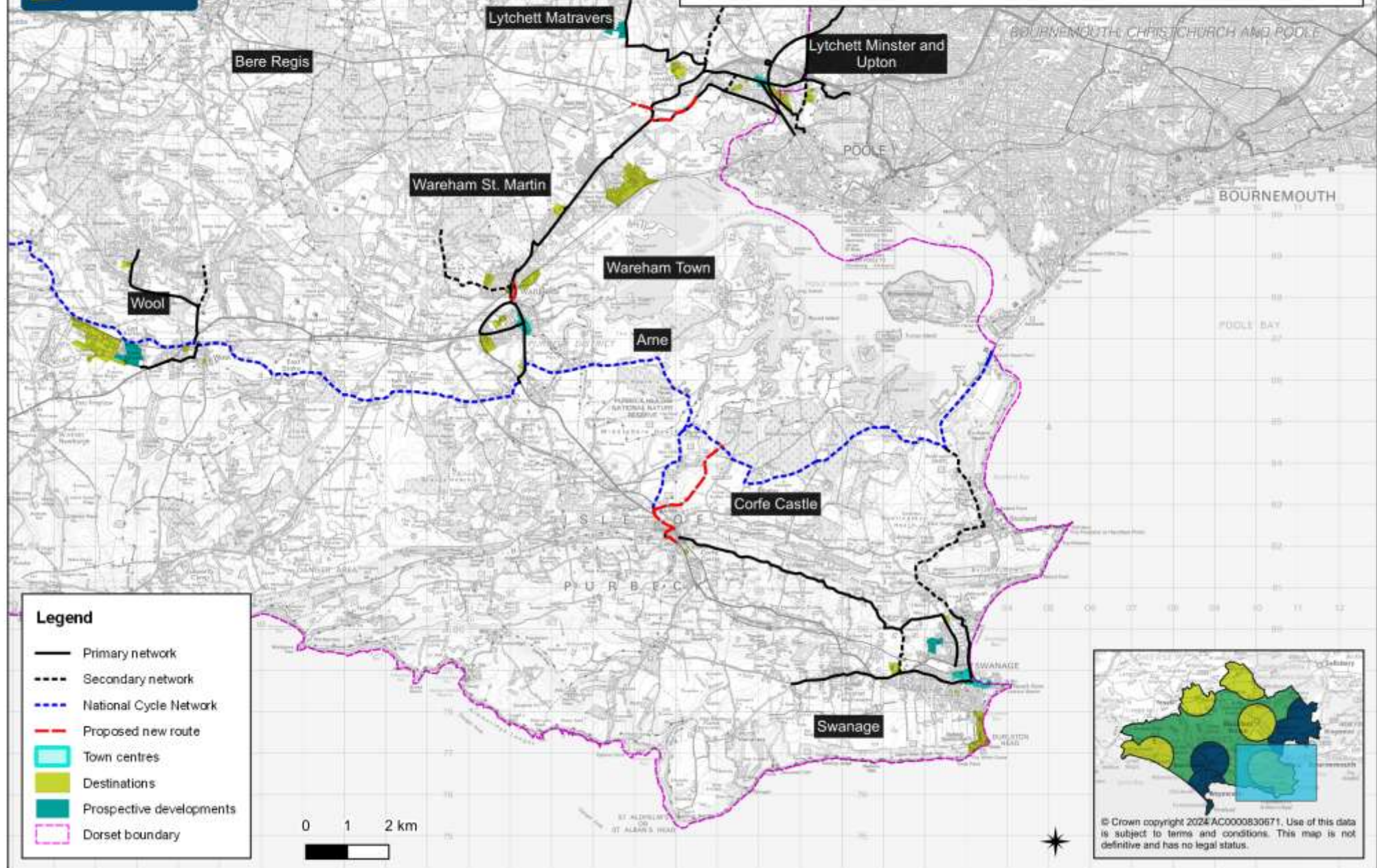
- The defined town centre
- up to 2kms from the town centre as suitable for walking / wheeling





## Active Travel Network - Purbeck

Overall active travel network including destinations



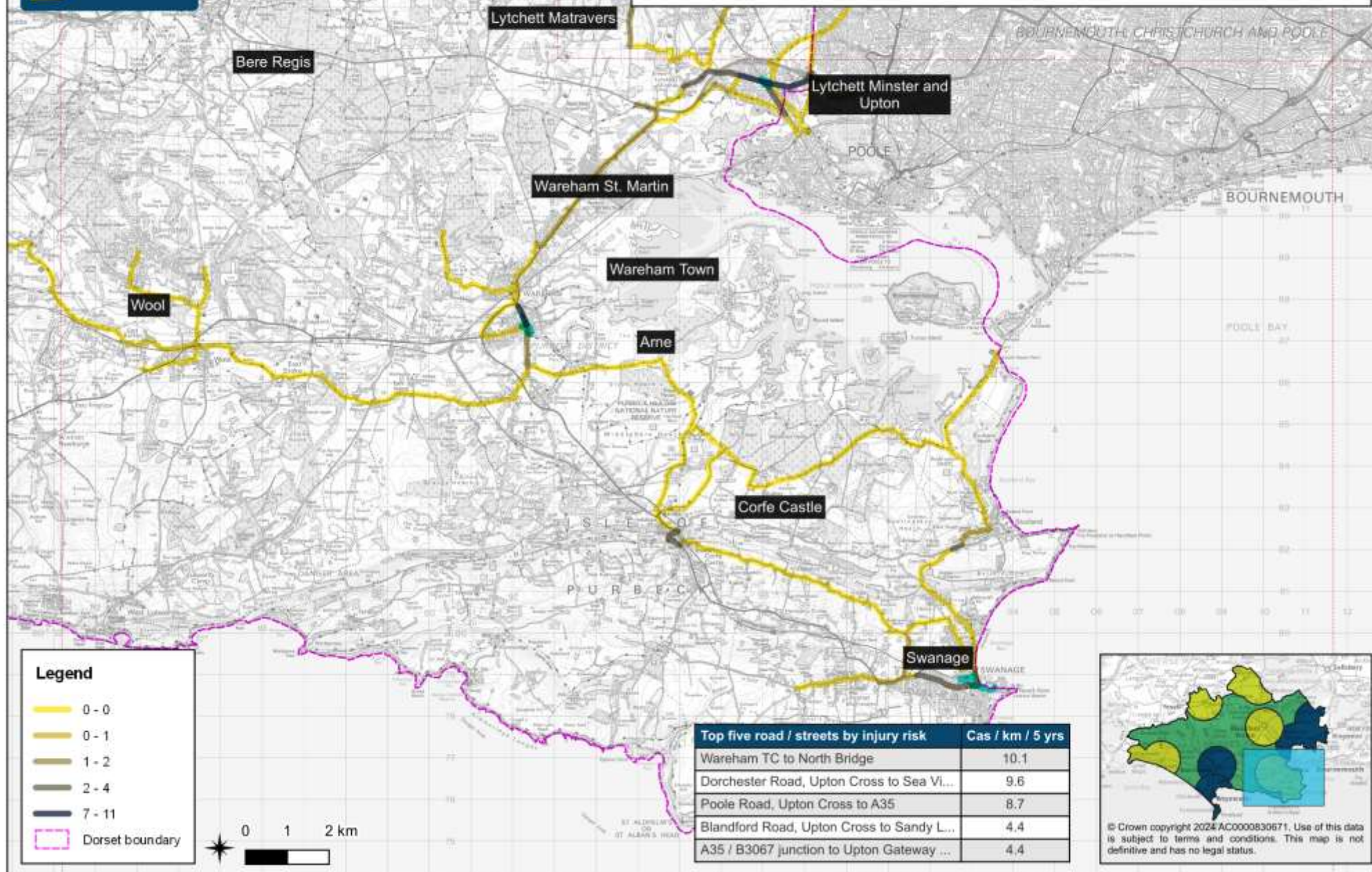
## Prioritisation criteria

- whether there is new housing proposed in the Local Plan near the route
- the average deprivation of the area surrounding the route (using the Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- the potential number of people cycling to work
- the potential number of people cycling to school
- the population living within 400 metres per km of route
- the number of jobs within 400 metres per km of route
- walking and cycling casualties per km of route
- number of major destinations (town centres, schools, employment areas, significant leisure sites) within 100 metres of the route



## Road casualties - Purbeck

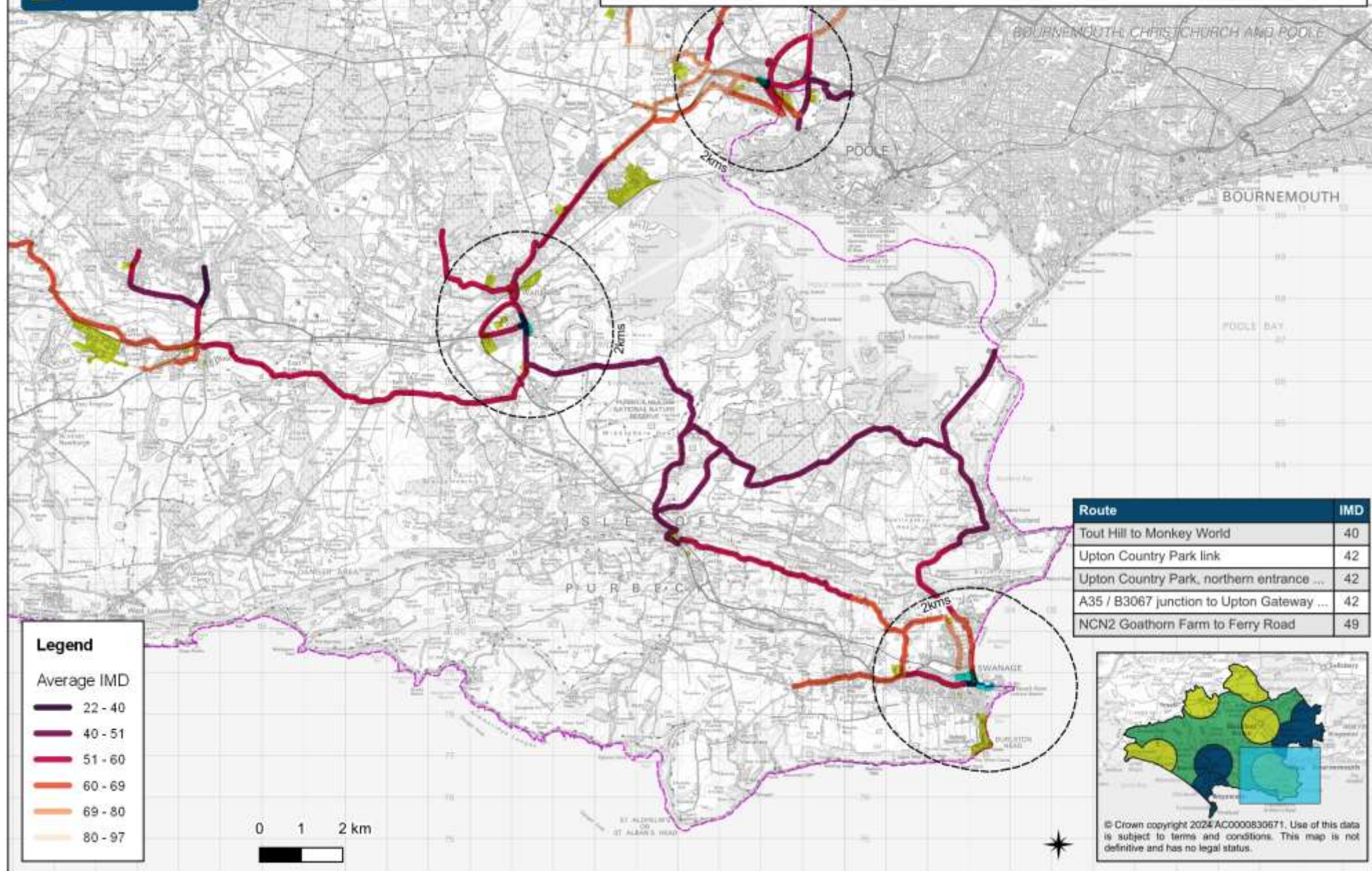
Police reported casualties to pedestrians / cycles over last 5 years, per km of route





## Index of Multiple Deprivation - Purbeck

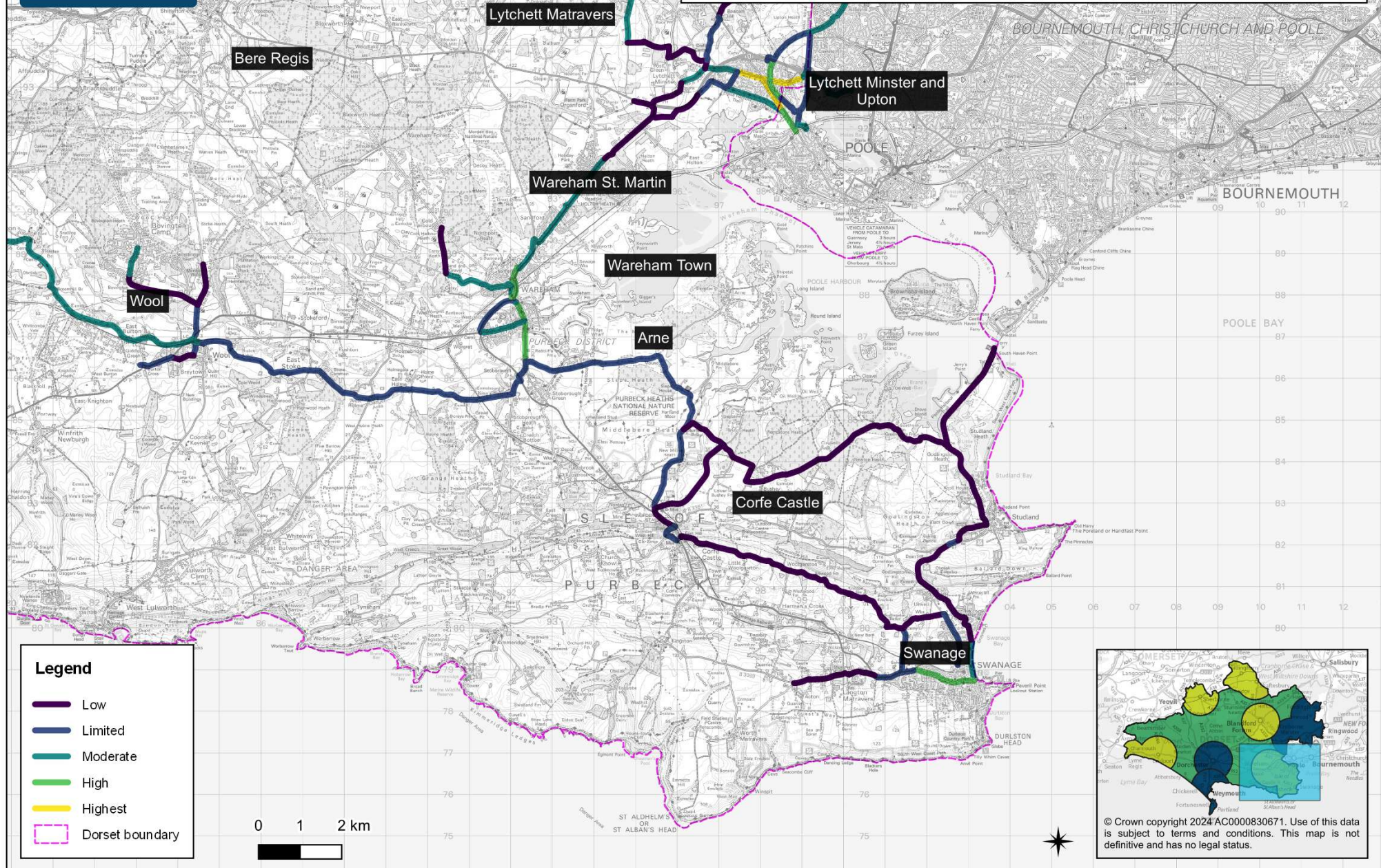
Active travel network with Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) percentile (1 = most deprived)





## Prioritised corridors - Purbeck

*Corridors prioritised by deprivation, population, jobs and links to developments*







**Durlston Country Park – Actions to support proposed ‘Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve’**

**The following information has been provided by Katie Black (Senior Ranger, Dorset Council)**

Durlston Country Park (Dorset Council) currently has a lease with STC for land to the south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park (see map figure 1) which adjoins Durlston NNR and has been managed for nature conservation purposes (by DCP) since the 21year lease began in June 2014. The lease runs until June 2035.

Two requests from STC (these are not interdependent):

- 1) Extension of the current lease to Dorset Council (Durlston Country Park) for an additional 15 - 21 years – on a similar agreement to manage the land for nature conservation. The requirements of the previous lease having been met (regarding boundaries)
- 2) Agree to the land being included in the proposed Durlston and Purbeck Coast NNR – summary details below

DCP are working with NT and DWT to extend the Durlston NNR to encompass the Townsend LNR and the NT land ownership along the coastal slopes (see map figure 2)

**Proposed Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve**

The proposed Durlston and South Dorset NNR will be created by bringing together land currently managed for conservation on the South Dorset limestone downland ridge. It is proposed that it will include Durlston National Nature Reserve, Townsend Nature Reserve and the National Trust coastal land holding enabling the landowners and tenants to work together to maximise the benefits for nature.

**Existing partners:** Durlston Country Park (Dorset Council), National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust (landowners), working with Dorset Natural Landscapes and Natural England

**Reason:** The public’s growing reconnection with nature, the urgency of the climate crisis and the Government’s commitment to a green recovery all create a unique opportunity to create larger areas managed for nature and make space for all the benefits it provides

**The core purposes of NNR’s:** Nature Conservation, Science and People

**NNR declaration:**

- a statutory designation with Natural England as the approving authority.
- held by Natural England and by Approved Bodies.
- only made with full agreement by the landowner.
- intended to secure the nature reserve for the long-term, but there is a legal process to de-declare NNRs (this is rare: only 5 since 1949).

**NNR declaration is not:**

- any new protection or restriction.
- the addition of funding, although NNR accolade may attract it.

**What commitment is needed from partners?**

- A long-term commitment to make conservation the primary aim of land management for their land in the NNR.

**Durlston Country Park – Actions to support proposed ‘Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve’**

- A commitment to one or more of the core purposes of NNRs: To be at the heart of resilient landscapes and nature recovery networks, to have a commitment to science & research (acting as outdoor laboratories) and to enable people to connect with nature.
- To contribute to the development of a shared vision and management framework for the proposed NNR.

**Guiding principles**

More, bigger, better and more joined up – being the core findings from the ‘Lawton Review’ (Making Space for Nature 2010) of things we need to do to rescue our declining wildlife.

Now seeking to declare extensive NNRs operating at a landscape scale that can catalyse and drive nature recovery.

Management at scale can enable restoration of ecological processes and use of innovative techniques.

NNRs at the heart of resilient landscapes and local nature recovery networks.

NNRs as outdoor laboratories.

NNRs connecting people and nature

Partnership working within and beyond the NNR, with a shared vision

Management framework for the whole site, including objectives that shape partners’ operational plans, and specific plans for whole-site activities (e.g. public engagement, visitor management; research and monitoring).

Coordinated resourcing and delivery to achieve more across the whole NNR.

**Decisions required**

To recommend to Council

- i) Whether to agree to the inclusion of the land in the Council’s ownership to the south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park within the proposed NNR.
- ii) Whether to agree to an extension of the current lease, to be drawn up at the expense of Dorset Council.

Culvin Milmer

Visitor Service and Business Development Manager

October 2025



Figure 1 : Swanage Town Council Leased Land

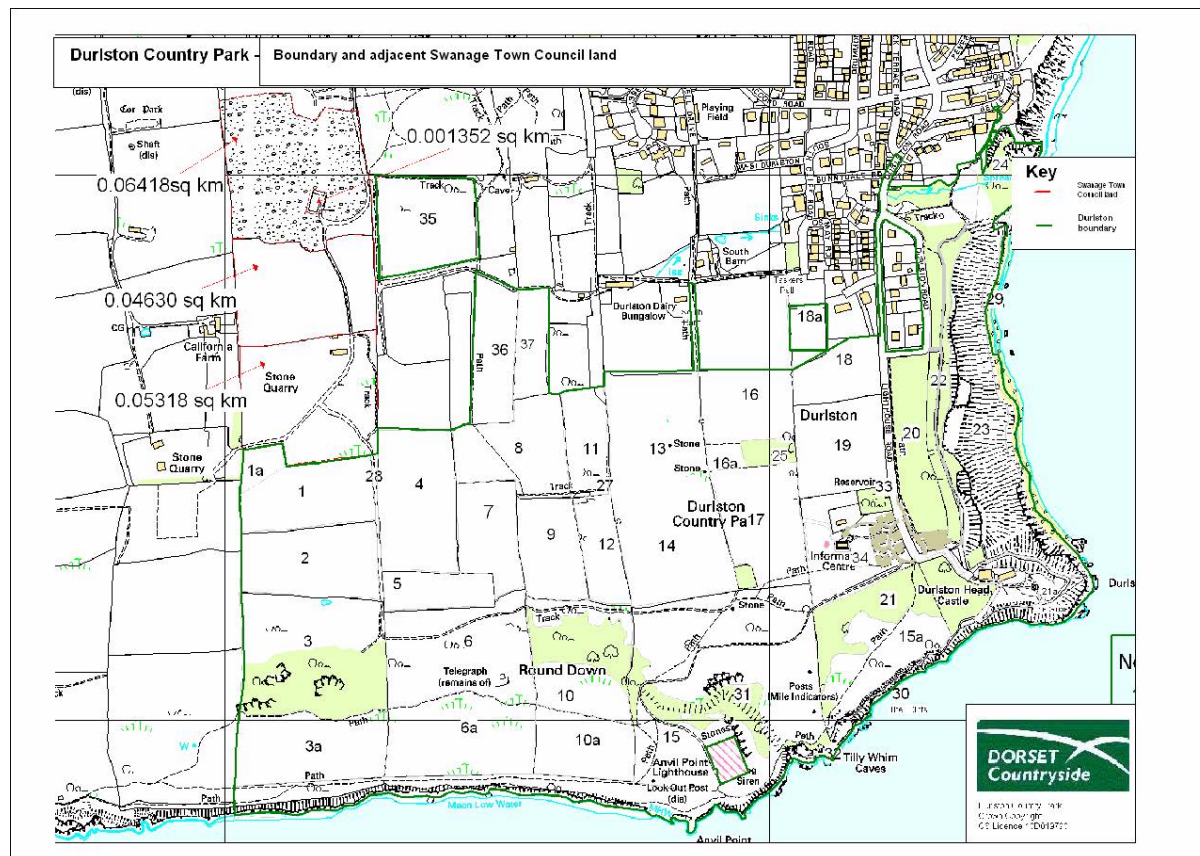


Figure 2 : Proposed National Nature Reserve Land Area



**Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 – Action Plan Update**

The Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 sets out the Council’s vision for the current and future management and development of the diverse range of greenspaces it owns and manages. At the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Minute No.11 refers, it was resolved to adopt the Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025, together with the Greenspace Action Plan, including the timetable for 2025/6.

The action plan set out below, was informed by the results of a public greenspace survey undertaken in early 2025.

<b>Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan</b>			
	<b>Timetable 2025/6</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2025</b>	<b>Environment and Greenspaces Committee March 2026</b>	<b>Environment and Greenspaces Committee June 2026</b>
<b>Develop an initiative to tackle dog waste and owners not picking up after their pets</b>		<b>Proposal to be presented</b>	<b>Proposal to be implemented</b>
<b>Prioritise locations for accessibility improvements such as footpath enhancements</b>		<b>Locations identified</b>	<b>First round of accessibility improvements implemented</b>
<b>Seek opportunities for external funding to deliver green space actions set out within this plan</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Install signage at greenspaces setting out the key features of the location</b>	<b>Present proposals</b>		<b>Signage implemented</b>
<b>Planting of additional wildflower areas/shrubs/bulbs</b>		<b>Bulb planting completed</b>	<b>Wildflower/shrub planting completed</b>
<b>Complete management plans for Day’s Park and the Recreation Ground</b>		<b>Management plan completed for the Recreation Ground</b>	<b>Management plan completed for Day’s Park</b>
<b>Review options for additional seating</b>			<b>Proposal to be presented</b>
<b>Continue tree planting in accordance with the Council’s Tree Strategy 2022</b>	<b>Numbers/locations identified</b>	<b>Planting completed</b>	
<b>Receive and review Planet Purbeck engagement reports in respect of King George’s and Forres Field and Herston Community Field</b>	<b>Reports received</b>	<b>Proposals to be presented</b>	

<b>Explore proposal to enter Godlingston cemetery into Cemetery of the Year award</b>		<b>Decision taken on entering cemetery for award</b>	
<b>Retain Green Flag award for Beach Gardens</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Continue to monitor and revise if appropriate, existing greenspace management plans</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Please see information below with reference to the October 2025 identified actions.

105 native tree whips will be received free of charge in November 2025 from the Wildlife Trust following a successful grant application. In addition, the Council has purchased 43 trees comprising 25 whips and 18 more mature specimens also to be delivered in November 2025. Autumn planting of additional perennial planting has also commenced along with planting of over 1000 spring bulbs in a variety of locations.

An application has been made to Dorset Community Tree Fund for matched funding towards interpretive tree signage proposed to be installed in Day's Park. The outcome of this application is currently pending. As well as Day's Park, additional greenspace signage is proposed to be implemented at Beach Gardens and Prospect Green.

### **Action required**

To note the progress made to date to deliver the Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan.

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager  
October 2025

**Environment Committee – 2025-26 budget and proposals for 2026-27****1. Current year: Environmental Improvement Engagement Plan 2024-25 budget**

A budget of £20,000 was approved for 2025-26. It is forecast that £13,650 of this will be spent by the end of the year. See Appendix 1 for a progress report.

**2. Next year: Proposed 2026-27 Budget**

The table below provides a list of recommended one off expenditure for 2026-27. The items shaded grey/blue are seen as essential to meet the Council's safety and regulatory obligations.

	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Detail</b>
1.	Environmental Community Engagement Budget	£15,000	Budget to support the various projects identified in the Environmental Action Plan including Sustainable Swanage and Motion for the Ocean. See Appendix 2
2.	Motion for the Ocean Signage	£3,000	Two signs on the seafront showing marine life including design costs
3.	Greenspaces Signage	£2,500	Day's Park, Beach Gardens, Prospect Green
5.	Green Seafront ground monitoring	£17,000	To provide 12 months ground movement and water level monitoring.
6.	Green seafront risk assessments	£5,000	To provide risk inspections and advice regarding ground stability.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£42,500</b>	

**3. 2026-27 contribution to reserve**

For some time, an annual contribution of £25,000 towards an 'Environmental Projects Reserve' has been made. At the end of 2025-26, this is forecast to be £67,000. This was originally set aside to fund energy improvements to enable the Council to meet its stated carbon neutral target for 2030. The Council is currently reviewing this target, as the main energy efficiency and generation projects, including solar panel installations, are now either complete or in progress this year, and a significant gap remains in achieving the overall carbon reduction goal.

**4. Decisions required**

- 4.1 Note the forecast spend for the current year 2025-26 in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Review the proposed budget for 2026-27 and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 4.3 Consider continuation of the £25,000 contribution to the Environmental Projects Reserve and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Culvin Milmer, Visitor Services and Business Development Manager - October 2025

## Appendix 1: Environmental Community Engagement Budget 2025-26

Approved Budget = £20,000

No.	Project	Detail	Forecast
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings. Also includes management of the website and social media.	6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck as in 2024-25.	£5,000
2.	Improving water quality – Freshwater and ocean	Support the ‘Swanage Streams Partnership’. The ‘Swanage Streams Partnership’ is led by the National Trust and works with Planet Purbeck. This contribution will enhance the public engagement work and support cleaner and more environmentally beneficial streams in Swanage.	£6,000
3.	Support the implementation of the Greenspaces Strategy	Various projects to enhance green spaces stemming from the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan	£0
4.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event, Motion for the Ocean etc  Herston Community Field Community Engagement – Planet Purbeck	£2,650
	<b>Total - £20,000</b>		<b>£13,650</b>



## Appendix 2: Environmental Community Engagement Budget 2026-27

No.	Project	Detail	Indicative Budget
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings.	6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck as in 2024-25.  The management of the Sustainable Swanage website and the social media page will be undertaken by volunteers from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026.	£4,000
2.	Improving water quality – Freshwater and ocean.	Support the ‘Swanage Streams Partnership’. The ‘Swanage Streams Partnership’ is led by the National Trust and works with Planet Purbeck. This contribution will enhance the public engagement work and support cleaner and more environmentally beneficial streams in Swanage. While this budget is notionally set aside for the project, a formal request outlining the outcomes to be achieved will need to be considered by this committee before any approval is made.	£6,000
3.	Support the implementation of the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan.	Various projects to enhance green spaces stemming from the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan	£2,000
4.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event, Motion for the Ocean etc	£3,000
	<b>Total - £20,000</b>		<b>£15,000</b>