

Table 1: Dorset County Council's 'Green Asset' Review

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		Financial performance				Environmental designations / interest				Social value in local community			Overview	Options
Site name	Gross Area (ha)	Expenditure	Income	net +/-	Comment	Ecological	Landscape	Historic	Opportunities	Local community	Contribution to health & wellbeing	Opportunities		
Avon Heath Country Park	223.3	£229,000	£272,000	£43,000	see Country Parks Income Strategy 2017	International (SAC, SPA) & national designations (SSSI) for lowland heathland interests			Habitat restoration on peripheral areas. Enhancement of natural assets set out in CS agreement	Friends of Avon Heath. 420,000 visitors	Regular opportunities to volunteer. Regular groups of disadvantaged people use site. Contributing to Stepping Into Nature project. Green Flag award	Enhanced playground facilities deigned for disabled access. Respite care opportunities in Holiday Lets.	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Durlston Country Park, Swanage	129.7	£295,000	£337,000	£42,000	see Country Parks Income Strategy 2017	International (SAC) & national designations (SSSI, NNR) for calcareous grassland interests	Dorset AONB	Parts include Grade II listed building (Castle) and Historic Park & Garden	Habitat enhancement set out in CS agreement. Habitat restoration as part of Durlston Pleasure Grounds (P4P) project	Friends of Durlston. 350,000 visitors	Regular opportunities to volunteer. Regular groups of disadvantaged people use site. Contributing to Stepping Into Nature project. Green Flag award	Durlston Pleasure Grounds project. Green Flag award for 2018	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Black Down near Hardy's Monument	113.0	HLS more than covers cost of site management by in-house team / contractors	£19,068		Senior Ranger comment - grant more than covers staff and materials costs currently	National designation (SSSI) on 22ha for lowland heathland / grassland interests.	Dorset AONB	National designation (SAM) on 0.7ha for significant historic burial features in monumental landscape	Further recognition of historic and natural assets following restoration works and SDRLP project	Popular local site	Assessment of value and potential to contribute improving health not yet undertaken	Potential to become Country Park for Dorchester area and to develop community offer and contribution to health & wellbeing	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Hardys Birthplace Visitor Centre & Thorncombe Wood, Higher Bockhampton	24.1	£81,000	£23,000	-£58,000	see Country Parks Income Strategy 2017	Local nature conservation designation of woodland and heathland (SNCI, LNR); on Ancient Woodland Inventory		National designation (SAM) for Roman Road	Enhancement of natural and historic features ongoing & set out in Management Plan	70,000 visitors	Regular opportunities to volunteer. Regular groups of disadvantaged people use site. Contributing to Stepping Into Nature project. Green Flag award	Potential to become Country Park for Dorchester area and to develop community offer and contribution to health & wellbeing	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep

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Slop Bog, Redwood Drive, Ferndown	22.1	CS more than covers cost of site management by in-house team / contractors	Avon Heath CS includes Slop Bog		Countryside Stewardship to 2023, then opportunities derived from 25YEP / post Brexit scheme	International (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) & national designations (SSSI) for lowland heathland interests			Habitat restoration on peripheral areas. Enhancement of natural assets set out in CS agreement	Slop Bog Guardians friends group. c. 10,000 visits, mainly local residents	Regular opportunities to volunteer. Circular walks well established.	Opportunity to create Walkabout Leaflet for Slop Bog and surrounding area	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Batcombe Picnic Site, Hilfield Hill, Hilfield	15.7	HLS more than covers cost of site management by in-house team / contractors	£2,761		Higher Level Stewardship to 202?, then opportunities derived from 25YEP / post Brexit scheme	Local nature conservation designation of woodland and grassland (SNCI, LNR)	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets set out in CS agreement. Develop opportunities for use of timber extracted from site at Hilfield Friary	c. 10,000 visits. Valued picnic site in heart of countryside	Volunteering opportunities in Countryside Management Teams	Develop partnership with Hilfield Friary for volunteers living & working at Friary	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Turners Puddle, Heathland & Woodland, Wareham	14.7	cost included in Hardy's Birthplace expenditure	Thorncombe Wood HLS includes Turnerspuddle Heath		Higher Level Stewardship to 202?, then opportunities derived from 25YEP / post Brexit scheme	International (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) & national designations (SSSI) for lowland heathland interests	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets set out in HLS agreement	c. 1,000 visits. Little known site	Open access site with public footpath	Develop community offer with National Trust at neighbouring Lawrence of Arabia's Cottage	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited. Could consider sale or lease to third party such as NT or Forestry Commission	Keep or consider alternative delivery if opportunity arises
Castleman Trailway	13.1	not known	none		Consider whether financial contributions could come from Active Travel agenda. Review wider opportunities for income generation	Corridor of semi-natural habitats, mainly woodland, linking heathland and woodland sites			Enhancement of natural assets on banks and cutting slopes	c. 100,000 visits by walkers and cyclists	Surfaced trailway was impassable in places before Countryside Management Team input	Opportunities for creating off-road network links across the county under Active Travel agenda	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Blandford Railway Line	12.2	£7,500	none		Consider whether financial contributions could come from Active Travel agenda. Review wider opportunities	Corridor of semi-natural habitats, woodland, scrub & grassland			Enhancement of natural assets on banks and cutting slopes	c. 100,000 visits by walkers and cyclists along North Dorset Trailway	Surfaced trailway was impassable in places before Countryside Management Team input	Opportunities for creating off-road network links across the county under Active Travel agenda	Good future prospects in public ownership. A North Dorset Trailway Centre at The Milldown would add	Keep

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					for income generation								significantly to financial viability of the Trailway	
Shillingstone Railway	8.0	cost included in Blandford Railway above	none		Consider whether financial contributions could come from Active Travel agenda. Review wider opportunities for income generation	Corridor of semi-natural habitats, woodland, scrub & grassland	Stourpaine - Shillingstone section in Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets on banks and cutting slopes. E.g. planting of native Barberry for rare moth!	c. 100,000 visits by walkers and cyclists along North Dorset Trailway	Surfaced trailway was impassable in places before Countryside Management Team input	Opportunities for creating off-road network links across the county under Active Travel agenda	Good future prospects in public ownership. A North Dorset Trailway Centre at The Milldown would add significantly to financial viability of the Trailway	Keep
The Pine Clump at Upton Bypass	6.9	CS more than covers cost of site management by in-house team / contractors	Avon Heath CS includes Pine Clump		see Country Parks Income Strategy 2017	International (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) & national designations (SSSI) for lowland heathland interests			Habitat restoration on peripheral areas. Enhancement of natural assets set out in CS agreement	Unknown no. visitors. Open access site promoted as part of Upton Heath Nature Reserve managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust	Circular walk within Pine Clump	Opportunity for tramper access around site via adjacent Roman Road?	Good future prospects in public ownership while CS operational. Could consider lease or sale to Dorset Wildlife Trust in future if this leaves DCC at no financial disadvantage on management of Slop Bog and Avon Heath	Keep or consider alternative delivery if opportunity arises at end of current CS scheme
Okeford Hill Picnic Site, Sturminster Newton	6.2	£500	none		de minimus cost	None	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park only has community value. There is no public access to scrub / grassland	Access to extensive public bridleway network from car park	Opportunity to create Walkabout Leaflet for Okeford Hill Car Park	Opportunity to sell c.5ha scrub woodland / grassland to adjacent landowner	Keep car park. Dispose of greater part with no public access
Steeple Hill Picnic Site, Steeple, Wool	5.2	£250	none		de minimus cost	None	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Stunning views of countryside from car park. Neighbouring land part of Lulworth Firing Range so public access restricted		Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep

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Corfe Mullen Cycleway	4.6	not known	none		Consider whether financial contributions could come from Active Travel agenda. Review wider opportunities for income generation	Corridor of semi-natural habitats, mainly woodland, linking heathland and woodland sites			Enhancement of natural assets on banks and cutting slopes	c. 100,000 visits by walkers and cyclists	Surfaced railway was impassable in places before Countryside Management Team input	Opportunities for creating off-road network links across the county under Active Travel agenda	Good future prospects in public ownership	Keep
Wanderwell Quarry Nature Reserve, Bridport	4.3	£250	can be drawn from reserve if needed	£42,180 held in reserve for Wanderwell Quarry and Jellyfields for site management	de minimus cost	Local Nature Reserve and Local Geological Site	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets within site	Strong volunteer support from Bridport community	Public access throughout site. Volunteering opportunities in Countryside Management Teams. Good access to local Rights of Way network	Opportunity to create Walkabout Leaflet in Wanderwell Quarry and surrounding areas	Public value likely to be better delivered currently through direct mnagement as this gives DCC links with strong volunteer community in Bridport. They help at this site, on RoW and the Trailways. If that situation changes then could consider lease to BTC	Keep or in future consider alternative delivery if benefits of volunteers no longer available
Dudmoor Park, Christchurch	2.9												n/a - C&C has no interest at present	
Jellyfields Nature Reserve, Bridport	2.8	£250	can be drawn from reserve if needed		de minimus cost	Local Nature Reserve	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets within site	Strong volunteer support from Bridport community	Public access throughout site. Volunteering opportunities in Countryside Management Teams. Good access to local Rights of Way network	Opportunity to create Walkabout Leaflet for Jellyfields and access onto Bridport - Bradpole Trailway	Public value likely to be better delivered currently through direct mnagement as this gives DCC links with strong volunteer community in Bridport. They help at this site, on RoW and the Trailways. If that situation changes then could consider lease to BTC	Keep or in future consider alternative delivery if benefits of volunteers no longer available

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Five Bridges Picnic Site, Shaftsbury Road, Kington Magna	2.6	£250	none		de minimus cost	Unknown, but woodland next to River Cole would be worth surveying - otters?			Enhancement of natural assets within site	Part of site used by Gypsy & Traveller community from time to time	unknown	unknown	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep
Winfrith Newburgh Picnic Site, Dorchester	1.9	£250	£6,000		de minimus cost to manage the picnic site. Income from lease for mobile café	Unknown: most of site is Blackthorn scrub and plantation, but adjacent road verge has some chalk grassland wildflower interest			Enhancement of natural assets within site, especially road verges which could make picnic site intrinsically more attractive for visitors	Moderate numbers of visitors to mobile café	unknown	Enhancement of picnic area which is currently in poor state	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited, and income from this site significant	Keep
Fosters Field Public Open Space, Sherborne	1.6	£0	none		Lease to Sherborne Area Youth & Community (peppercorn)	None				Yes	Yes; key site in town		Site leased for 87 years	Alternative delivery model in place
Northbrook Road Playing Fields, Swanage	1.4	£0	none		Lease to Swanage Town Council (peppercorn)	None				Yes	Yes; key site in town		Site leased to 2155	Alternative delivery model in place
Land off Barnes Way, Tricketts Cross, Ferndown	1.3	£250	none		de minimus cost to DCC. The site is managed under HLS as part of Parley Common Nature Reserve on our behalf by Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust	International (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) & national designations (SSSI) for lowland heathland interests			Enhancement of natural assets set out in HLS agreement between ARC Trust & Natural England	Yes	Access onto Parley Common from the north crosses DCC land, and the land contributes to the wider wellbeing value that Parley Common provides to residents of Tricketts Cross, Parley & Ferndown	Could consider formal lease to ARC?	Public value likely to continue to be delivered through informal arrangement with ARC Trust, but we could consider formal lease	Keep or consider lease to ARC if approached
Whiteway Hill Picnic Site, Tyneham	1.2	£250	none		de minimus cost	None	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Stunning views of countryside from car park. Neighbouring land part of Lulworth Firing Range so public access restricted		Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities	Keep

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													also very limited	
Loders to Sun Inn Cycleway, Dorchester	1.0	£250	none		de minimus cost	Not known. Corridor of semi-natural habitats, likely to support Water Vole.			Enhancement of natural assets through cut-and-collect along riverbank would be possible	c. 10,000 visits by walkers and cyclists	There was very limited and largely unsafe access from the north end of Dorchester to the Sun Inn prior to the construction of the cycleway	Opportunity to create Walkabout / cycle leaflets for the area	Public value in this asset is moderate, and management liabilities are very limited	Keep
Buckham Down Picnic Site, Beaminster	0.6	£250	none		de minimus cost	None	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Stunning views of countryside from car park.	Opportunity to create Walkabout / cycle leaflets for the area	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep
West Compton Picnic Site, Beaminster (aka Shatcombe Lane Picnic Site, Eggardon Hill)	0.3	£250	none		de minimus cost	None	Dorset AONB		Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Access to Eggardon Hill and its stunning views, from car park.	Opportunity to create Walkabout leaflet for the area	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep
King George's Field, Shipton Gorge, Bridport	0.3	£0	none		Lease to Lodgers Parish Council (peppercorn)	None				Yes	Yes; key site in village		Existing lease for 99 years	Alternative delivery model in place
Bridport to Bradpole Cycleway	0.2	£250	none		Bridport Town Council undertake most management on our behalf, at no cost to DCC	Limited interest in verge grassland			Enhancement of natural assets on banks and cutting slopes	c. 100,000 visits by walkers and cyclists	Surfaced trailway makes off road access easy	Opportunities for creating off-road network links across the county under Active Travel agenda	Public value likely to better delivered through lease arrangement with Parish Council	Keep
Fontmell Magna Picnic Site & Car Park, Shaftesbury	0.2	£250	none		de minimus cost	None			Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Stunning views of countryside from car park.	Opportunity to create Walkabout leaflet for the area	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep

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Bishops Limekiln Picnic Site, Abbotsbury	0.1	£250	none		de minimus cost	None			Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value	Stunning views of countryside from car park.	Opportunity to create Walkabout leaflet for the area	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep
Car park at Old Chalk Pit Track, Chaldon Herring	0.0	£250	none		de minimus cost	None			Enhancement of natural assets around car park	Car park has community value		Opportunity to create Walkabout leaflet for the area	Public value likely to remain limited in comparison with sites closer to communities, but liabilities also very limited	Keep