

## Appendix 3 – Representations from Responsible Authorities

### Police Objections

I refer to the above premises licence application and would confirm that under Section 18 (6) (a) of the Licensing Act 2003, relevant representations are made to the application.

Having visited the location, there are concerns under the public safety element of the Licensing Act 2003, given there is an expectation of the sale of 5000 tickets but the infrastructure surrounding the venue, specifically road links, would be swamped by such an attendance which in itself could also give rise to issues of crime and disorder.

The rural location and road situation would also prove a challenge for any blue light service called to the event in the case of an emergency.

The latter element noted previously (crime and disorder) can also be engaged with the sale of alcohol from 12.00hrs until 03.00hrs on Friday and Saturday as excessive drinking can lead to ASB and disorder.

**John Bean**  
**Licensing Officer**

## Appendix 4 – Representations from Interested Parties

### Broadwindsor Group Parish Council

We have been contacted by a number of parishioners and have included their comments within our submission.

The Parish Council is disappointed that the application has been submitted without detailed plans which has resulted in a significant number of issues being raised which we hope will be addressed before any decision is made.

#### **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

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Rural crime is already a growing problem – this event will be seen as an opportunity and /or cover for criminal activity on site and in the local area.

Have the local forces been consulted about this event and the resources that may need to be resourced and deployed to cover the event?

#### **Public Safety**

Organisers do not have an Event Management Plan or Traffic Management Plan available for review at this time, therefore, the following risks to the public, have not been addressed.

Have the Highways Dept at Dorset Council been consulted about this event?

The applicant has stated that a safety coordinator will be appointed. This person is not named and there is no indication how this person will be skilled, qualified, or experienced to deal with this position.

Are the organisers providing transport from local stations, local towns to reduce the number of vehicles?

Single track roads in a poor state of repair– large volumes of vehicles - risk to pedestrians, dog walkers, horse riders.

Access for emergency service vehicles and council service vehicles would be compromised with high volumes of traffic on single track roads.

Riverside camping facilities - evacuation plan for bad weather – flash flooding which is becoming a regular summer occurrence.

Environmental impact of littering in River Axe and wild weeing by festival goers!!

Proximity of River Axe – will there be adequate security fencing and security personnel to ensure public safety, the combination of alcohol and drugs and the temptation of messing about in the water in hot weather.

The applicant has stated that a first aid kit will be available for medical emergencies. Yet the applicant fails to state whether any persons on site will be first aid trained. The applicant also fails to indicate how medical emergencies are anticipated will need to be dealt with. During festivals patients present with catastrophic injuries, broken bones, overdosing on illegal drugs and alcohol, stroke, cardiac arrest and pneumonia from drug use and hypothermia.

The applicant has provided no information, with regards, to mitigation and resolution of these kinds of emergencies.

### **Prevention of Public Nuisance**

Traffic on single track roads – impact on quiet enjoyment for pedestrians, dog walkers, horse riders

Impacting 'business of usual' for local residents during set up, festival itself and dismantling, rural area and festival planned during silaging and haymaking season, racehorse yards in the area.

Music to 3am – who will be monitoring the noise levels?

Festival participants remain in the fenced compound – last time this was not the case, free range across neighbouring farmland.

### **Protection of children from harm**

Proximity of River Axe – will there be adequate security fencing and security personnel to ensure safety, the attraction of children to water.

Resident 1

To Whom it may concern

I wish to object to this proposal as I can't see how it's not going to have a major affect on the river and all the hard work being done by not just myself with the financial help of both Dorset National Landscape Partnership and the Environment Agency to protect and improve the river, it's wild life ,and the flora and fauna surrounding it , But also other land owners in the area who can see the need for change along our water courses , to improve water quality and biodiversity for the good of all.

Funding is at present being sort to do works in the neighbouring field along these similar lines , we are also looking at the possibility of improvement works at the site of so called Little Jamaica. I would prefer to it to be Known as gorgeous Dorset , where it would appear the application proposes to actually span the river . Just some of the wildlife known to be active in this area include Kingfishers , otters , Lapwings , Snipe , Woodcock, Herons and Egrets.

I believe this to an AONB and needs to be protected as such .

The roads around the proposed site are some of the narrowest in Dorset and can't possibly see how they could cope with an extra five to ten thousand people, catering vans and HGV traffic and who will be left with the cost of of putting them right after.

Quite simply the wrong place for such a major event.

Many thanks

## Representation 2

With regards to the Dorsom Music Festival, Beaminster, application for planning by Hoptails Ltd. I have some objections that I would like to communicate. These are as follows:

1. Although the applicant has stated that a detailed Event Management Plan (EMP), will be submitted, this is not available to view. It is my opinion, that it would be very unwise to grant planning permission, for this event without these plans being completed. Applicants will be selling tickets for this event on the back of planning permission. If the EMP fails to deliver on specifications then the event will be cancelled leaving ticket holders with tickets that will be unusable. Potentially this could leave the council with a liability issue after granting permission for this event. The applicants have listed themselves as a Limited company. This allows directors to dissolve companies and avoid debts and promises of services.

2 The applicant has stated that a safety coordinator will be appointed. This person is not named and there is no indication how this person will be skilled, qualified or experienced to deal with this position.

3. The applicant has stated that a first aid kit will be available for medical emergencies. Yet the applicant fails to state whether any persons on site will be first aid trained. The applicant also fails to indicate how medical emergencies will be dealt with. I work for the NHS. I am a HCA and have worked in ED Yeovil Hospital during the Glastonbury Festival, many times. We have patients presenting with catastrophic injuries, broken bones, overdosing on illegal drugs and alcohol, stroke, cardiac arrest and pneumonia from drug use and hypothermia. The applicant has provided no information, with regards, to mitigation and resolution of these kinds of emergencies.

4. Although the applicant states that a fire risk assessment will be completed, there is no information regarding these details, who will complete this work and how said person will be qualified, skilled and experienced in dealing with this aspect of the EMP.

5. Traffic controls have also not been submitted. Seaborough is a small village with single carriageway roads, used by cyclists, walkers and many, many horse riders. We have a number of large racing stables in and around the village. The large numbers of vehicles accessing this event will seriously compromise the safety of these other local road users. I am a shift worker, working nights and weekends. This traffic congestion will impede my attendance to work.

It is very noticeable that the EMP is not forthcoming and as such I would suggest, that for the reasons stated, planning permission is not granted until a detailed and precise EMP is available for the council and residents to view. I think this is a reasonable assertion.

## Response From Applicant

1. *NO event can take place under this proposed Licence without their being an Event Management Plan in place.*
2. *The contents of the Event Management Plan do not form a part of any Premises Licence other than to reference it as a pre-requisite to any such event being contemplated or delivered.*
3. *Event Management Plans are created by the organizers and are then presented to the relevant and responsible authorities prior to any event being staged, for prior approval.*

4. *The usual body to deal with such arrangements are the local Safety Advisory Group for Dorest, which will include elements from the Emergency Services, HSE etc.*
5. *Therefore ALL Public Safety issues, such as some of the concerns raised in [REDACTED] Rep, are dealt with in the Event Management Plan – the definitive guide for which is, as you know 'The Purple Book', AND*
6. *We therefore return to Point 1 above – that NO such event can ever take place unless the Event Management Plan has first be signed off by the Safety Advisory Group in accordance with nationally accepted and recognized best practice.*

Thanks for your email. Yes I would like to continue with my objection to this application. The applicants and their representatives have referenced the Events Management Plan (EMP) on numerous occasions. I have contacted Hoptails and their representatives for a copy of their EMP. As yet I have received no reply to my requests, not even a curtesy reply to explain that this will be forthcoming. My contacts with these groups are ignored. As such, I request that the licensing committee bear this in mind when reviewing this application.

## Representation 3

### **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

Large number of people in one confined area with access to alcohol and drugs, there will be an element who will indulge to excess with the usual consequences of arguments, fights, and unacceptable behaviour.

Rural crime is already a growing problem – this event will be seen as an opportunity and /or cover for criminal activity on site and in the local area.

Have the local forces been consulted about this event and the resources that may need to be resourced and deployed to cover the event?

### **Public Safety**

Organisers do not have an Event Management Plan or Traffic Management Plan available for review at this time, therefore, the following risks to the public, have not been addressed to some resident's satisfaction.

Have the Highways Dept at Dorset Council been consulted about this event?

The applicant has stated that a safety coordinator will be appointed. This person is not named and there is no indication how this person will be skilled, qualified, or experienced to deal with this position.

Are the organisers providing transport from local stations, local towns to reduce the number of vehicles?

Single track roads in a poor state of repair– Large volumes of vehicles - Risk to pedestrians, dog walkers, horse riders.

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Proximity of River Axe – will there be adequate security fencing and security personnel to ensure public safety, the combination of alcohol and drugs and the temptation of messing about in the water in hot weather.

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## Representation 4

We have only just been informed by another local farm of the intention to have another festival, this time over three days and onward annually. We are the farm that adjoins Seaborough Manor Farm, and the bridleway from Mosterton that runs through our property and on to theirs.

We have a lot of sympathy for farms at this difficult time and of course extra income through diversification is no doubt what a lot of farms are looking for.

However this is surely not the right location with two way single track roads in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, no immediate public transport links, for something of this size. With 5000 people we are probably looking at around 2000 vehicle movements, no doubt including camper vans etc. Where are they all going to park? Also all the larger vehicle movements associated with setting up and dismantling, toilets; food vans; music; stage set up etc. Something of this size is surely more suited to somewhere with decent transport links and organised hardstanding parking etc.

We understand there were considerable traffic problems and a serious road accident on one of the last occasions.

The noise level can be heard over a large area, and surely would be unfair on local residents (probably the whole of Mosterton). There were quite a few 'free-range' people on the last occasion, and I would consider with this amount of people, this problem will only worsen. I agree with the other objections and would strongly object myself to this licence being granted.

## Representation 5

We share the concerns outlined below (prepared by xx). Since the information regarding the details for the organisation of the proposed festival is not available to us before we are expected to respond to the Licensing Department by 12<sup>th</sup> March, (and we are not aware of how rigorously the highways and other safety departments would ensure the concerns are addressed and enforce safety regulations), we feel unable to support the proposed festival in Seaborough.

### **Shared Concerns:**

#### **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

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We do hope that these concerns will be addressed prior to any permissions / licences being granted.

## Representation 6

Myself and my wife , are against the licence for the dorsom music festival/ licence. We both feel that our tiny hamlet , seaborough with its one way damaged lanes would not be able to cope with the amount of people mentioned, there is already extra traffic using seaborough with building projects ongoing.

We also worry about the public safety as well , we normally cycle and walk the lanes around seaborough, but feel that would not be safe to do so over the 3 or 4 days of the mentioned festival.

Also we are concerned about people leaving the festival site at 3am ( when proposed music finishes) we feel this is unfair to all the residents of seaborough.

## Representation 7

Please see below a number of concerns raised by residents in Seaborough, who wish to remain anonymous, where the proposed DORSOM Music Festival is planned to be held this summer. We have contacted the applicant, but the relevant documents are not yet available to allay any concerns. I believe the applicant is waiting for a SAG meeting to take place prior to writing these documents which makes it very hard to know how well organised the event will be and if the concerns will be addressed

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## Representation 8

### **Objection 1 – Area proposed as ‘Little Jamaica’ is on East Swilletts Farm.**

We do not want the festival to take place on our land.

The area outlined as ‘Little Jamaica’ is directly on the current (and previous) river course. It is proposed there will be a bridge installed for participants to cross the river to use as part of the festival area. The boundary of East Swilletts Farm and xx land has always been the centre of the river (Riparian Ownership). Yesterday, we had confirmation from our solicitors (Kitson and Trotman, Beaminster) who hold the deeds to East Swilletts Farm, that “the river in its current location” is the boundary. This is the standard law for shared ownership of rivers, therefore it is for the other landowner to prove that the centre of the river is not the boundary line.

*Refer to attached document which includes maps and photos.*

### **Objection 2 – Environmental impacts on the River Axe – SAC and SSSI status**

**On behalf of the Upper Axe Landscape Recovery Team**

**On behalf of East Swilletts Farm**

We do not want the festival to go ahead as it will significantly impact nature recovery along the River Axe.

The festival is located alongside and on the River Axe, which is a nationally significant river with SAC and SSSI status. There are multi-agency action plans and interventions taking place across the whole Axe catchment as it is recognised that this may be our last chance to save the Axe.

There are existing and planned projects covering this stretch of the Upper Axe:

#### **Upper Axe Landscape Recovery**

This is a multi-million pound, 20 year+, flagship project delivered by Upper Axe CIC, Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Currently in its 2-year Development Phase, it will roll out from 2025. Ecology and hydrological surveys have already been undertaken along this stretch of the River Axe, which has confirmed there are a several protected species including Otters and Water Voles.

Alongside the key agencies involved, the project has also recently been visited, and had the support of, Rebecca Pow – Minister for Nature and Chris Loder – West Dorset MP.

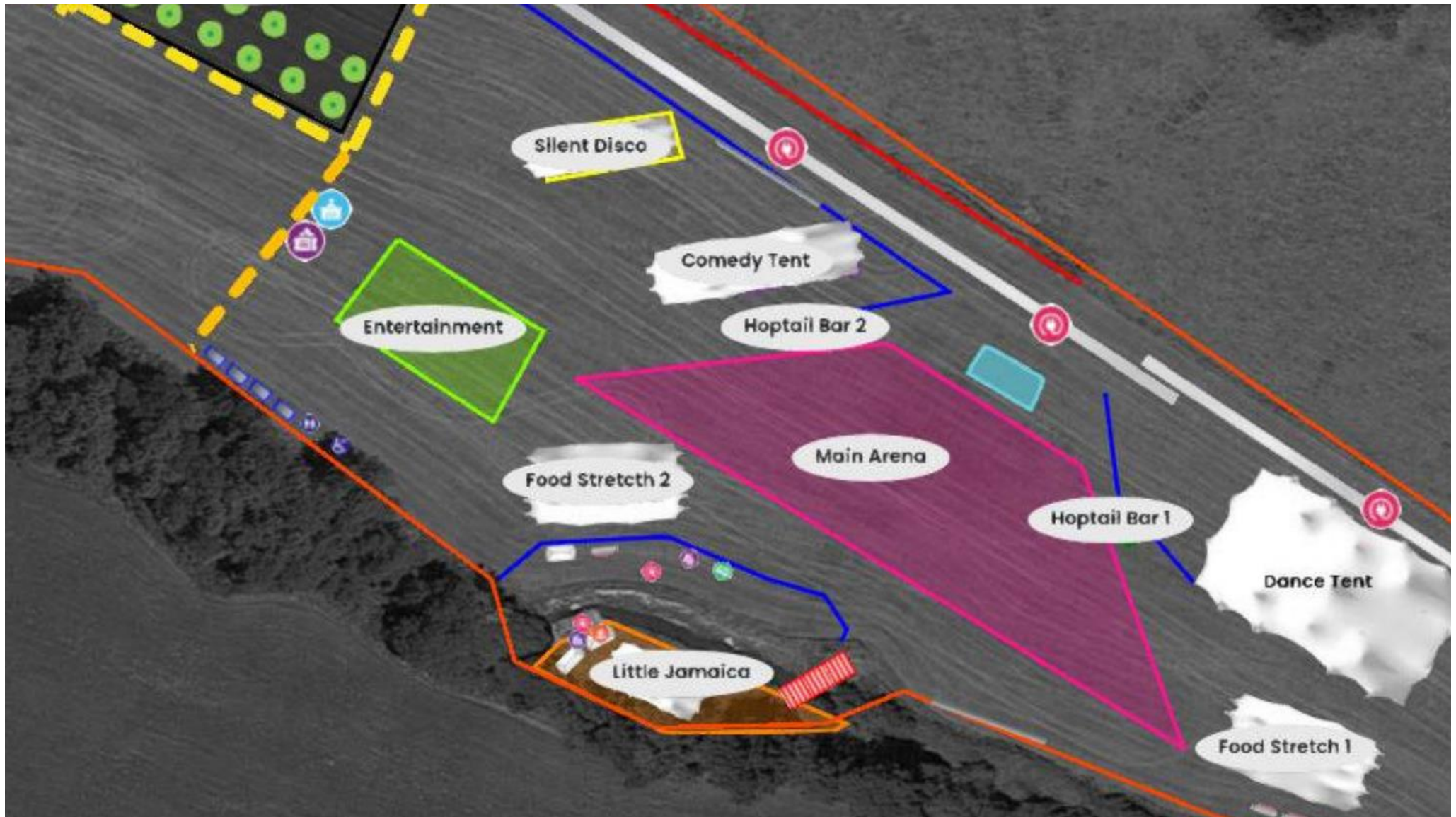
- See video about the project <https://youtu.be/TrkEC34g5Qk>
- See attached document for further details about the project.

Linked to the work above, there are several river and wetland projects within, and upstream of, the proposed festival area which would be detrimentally impacted were the festival to go ahead.



## DorSom Festival Plan:

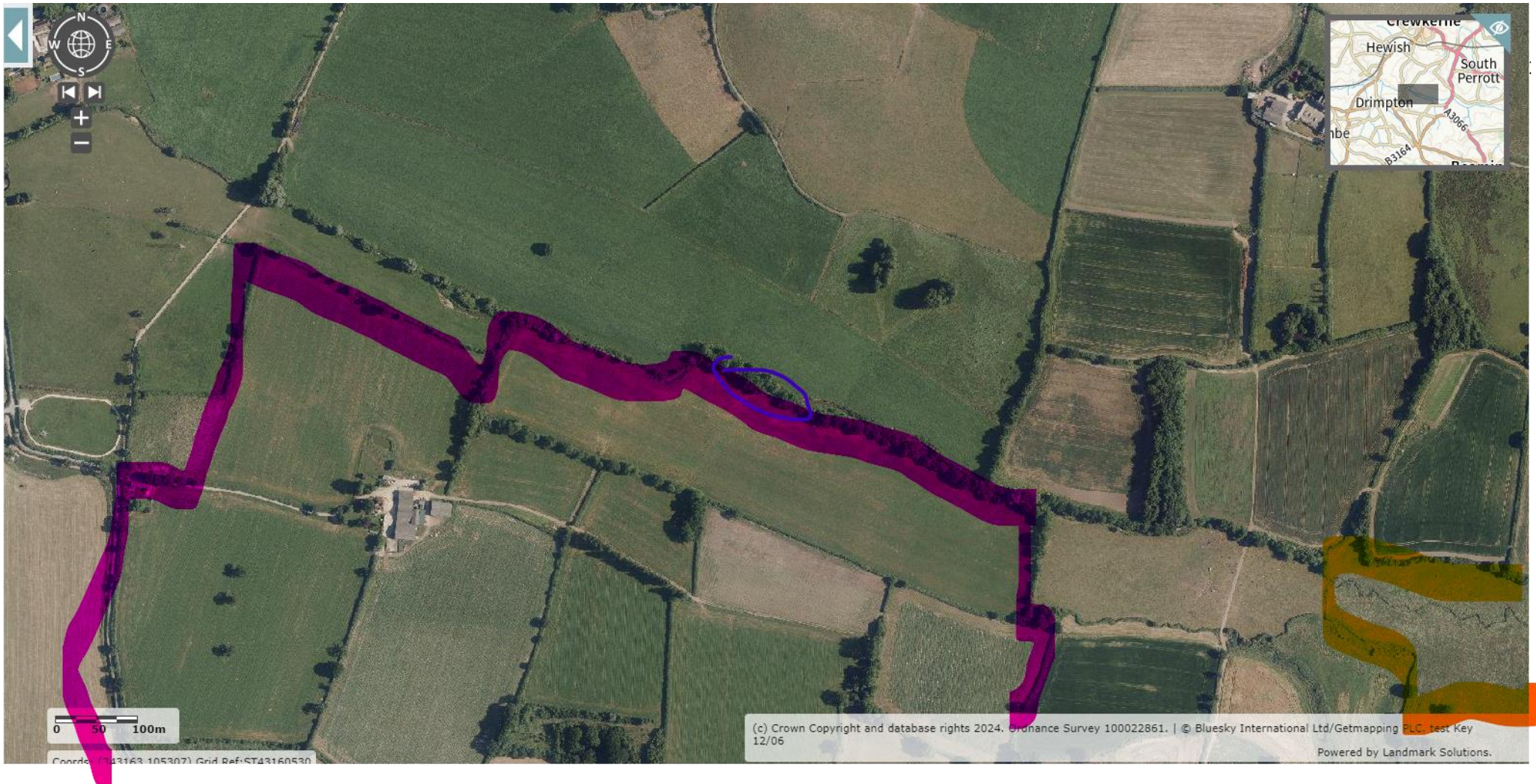
- Land above watercourse is owned by Barber. Below is Copp (East Swilletts Farm).
- River Axe runs along/near the hedge line. Boundary line is the centre of the river in its current location (“riparian ownership”).





West: towards Seaborough. East: towards Mosterton. North towards Crewkerne. South towards Littlewindsor.

- Pink highlighted area is boundary of East Swilletts Farm
- Purple lined area is the proposed area of 'Little Jamaica' in Dorsom
- Orange lighted area is Chris Banyard's recent EA & Dorset funded river & wetland improvements.
- Further EA funded river improvements about to start in the adjacent field to the left of Chris Banyard, owned by Adam Coleman.





**DorSom Festival Plan: close up of proposed 'Little Jamaica'**  
**Partially on land owned by Copp (East Swilletts Farm)**





River Axe facing West towards Seaborough: 'Little Jamaica' area





River Axe facing West towards Seaborough (where rivers turns 45 degrees to the left): 'Little Jamaica' area





River Axe looking East towards Mosterton: 'Little Jamaica' area





River Axe looking East towards Mosterton: 'Little Jamaica' area





Looking North to proposed location of 'Little Jamaica'.



Photo taken from hedge line on East Swilletts side.





River and wetland restoration on Chris Banyards land, 2 fields upstream of proposed Festival.





# Axe Landscape Recovery Partnership

2022 - 2049



**Uniting farmers, landowners and communities to take collective action to restore degraded rivers and floodplains in the Axe catchment to a more naturally functioning, ecologically improved system.**

The River Axe catchment, situated within Devon, Dorset and Somerset, covers approximately 30,800 hectares with the combined length of the Axe and its four tributaries totalling 418 km, in addition to many minor tributaries and feeder streams. The Axe is a shallow, non-navigable river which rises at 150m above sea level near Beaminster and flows for 35km west and south past the town of Axminster and into Lyme Bay.

The Axe derives from a British Celtic word, meaning 'abounding in fish', indicating what was once an extraordinarily productive and vibrant ecosystem – no wonder then, that the Axe is of national significance, as both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Returning the River Axe SAC to 'favourable condition' is a requirement of the EU Habitats Directive and contributes to England Biodiversity Strategy Targets. The SAC has a number of measures attributed to it including a 'river restoration programme for protected areas' in the current River Basin Management Plan for the South West (Environment Agency 2014). Development of the river restoration plan and its subsequent implementation will help improve the status of the river, contributing to achieving Good Ecological Status as required under the Water Framework Directive.

**The Axe Landscape Recovery project aims to secure the future of wildlife species and habitats in the River Axe and its floodplain, including the SAC and SSSI, and thereby demonstrate that productive agriculture, and the natural environment can co-exist.**

Only by working alongside farmers and utilising their knowledge of the land they farm, can we realise the potential for farming and food production to be part of the solution to reversing biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately climate change. Over the generational timeframe, the project aims to work towards both economic and environmental resilience within the participating farms, with the importance of farming to the regional economy a paramount consideration.

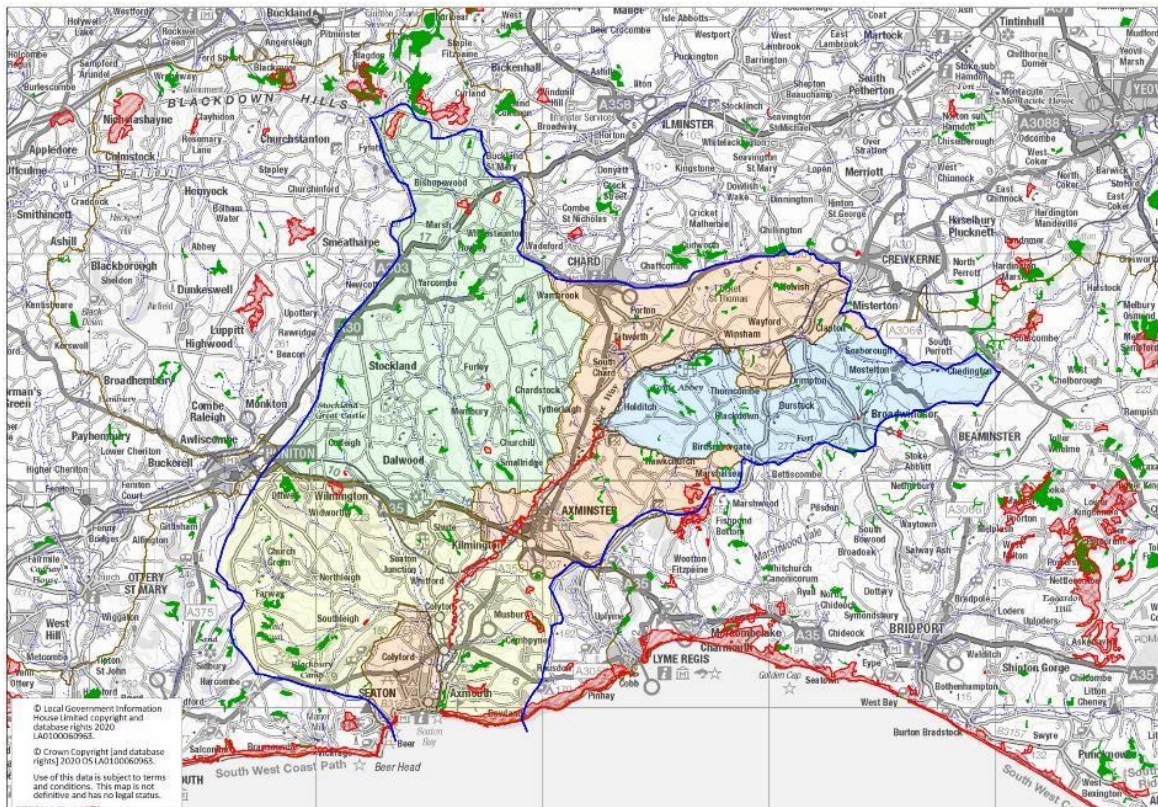
The main aims of the project are to:

1. Reconnect the river to the floodplain.
2. Increase the range and diversity of habitats.
3. Reduce diffuse pollution and sediment load from agricultural activities.



Landscape Recovery

## Map of the Axe Catchment



### KEY FACTS

- The Axe Landscape partnership was one of 22 flagship projects chosen during round one of the Defra's new Landscape Recovery Scheme.
- The project will run for a minimum of 20 years and is currently nearing the end of its 2-year Development Phase with the support of an initial grant of £800,000.
- The project evolved out of the Triple Axe catchment-wide strategic partnership, which includes the collaboration of three National Landscapes – Dorset, East Devon and the Blackdown Hills.

Video about the Axe project with Rebecca Pow, Minister for Nature, February 2024

<https://youtu.be/TrkEC34g5Qk>

Axe Landscape Recovery webpage

[Upper Axe Landscape Recovery](#)

Information about the Landscape Recovery Scheme

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work/landscape-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work/landscape-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work)

News about the 22 flagship projects within the scheme

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/08/an-update-on-the-first-round-of-landscape-recovery-projects/>