

Natural beauty evaluation table for: *Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park – Additional Dorset Heath*

| Factor | Example sub-factor | Example Indicator | Comments | References |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Landscape quality | Intactness of the landscape in visual, functional and ecological perspectives | Characteristic natural and man-made elements are well represented throughout | <p>The area proposed for inclusion in the Dorset & East Devon National Park is an area of Dorset Heaths, north of the existing Dorset AONB boundary, between Dorchester and Upton.</p> <p>See map 1 – the pink hatched area.</p> <p>We are very fortunate indeed that this area, part of England’s rare and endangered lowland heath landscape which survives almost exclusively in Dorset, has survived remarkably intact, so that we have a second chance to recognise its importance – and a second chance to award it the National Park designation which John Dower in 1945 saw that it deserved.</p> <p>The early designation history of this area is salutary and instructive. It shows how this area of lowland heath, from being so highly valued as to be included in a proposed National Park in 1945, came to be under-valued during the years which followed.</p> <p>Briefly, the early post-war history is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks in England and Wales: Report by John Dower, 1945, recommended the Dorset Coast and Heaths for future National Park status; • Report of the National Parks | <p>References for all sections include the following:</p> <p>National Parks in England and Wales: Report by John Dower, 1945</p> <p>Report of the National Parks Committee [England and Wales] [The Hobhouse Report], 1947</p> <p>National Parks Commission: minutes and correspondence relating to the designation of the Dorset AONB, 1954-59.</p> <p>Jurassic Coast.org</p> <p>Dorset CC AONB landscape assessment</p> <p>Dorset CC Landscape Character Assessment (non-AONB)</p> <p>Dorset CC, Dorsetforyou, location of nature designations in Dorset: http://explorer.geowessex.com/?layers=4585&basemap=27&x</p> |

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| | | | <p>Committee [England and Wales] [The Hobhouse Report], 1947, proposed the Dorset Downs, Heaths and Coast for Conservation Area [later called AONB] status;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In both the 1945 and 1947 reports, the supporting maps clearly show our “additional Dorset heath-land” area as included in the area proposed for National Park, then later AONB designation; • In the 1950s, the intactness and importance of this heath-land area were recognised when the area was under consideration for inclusion in the Dorset AONB. The inclusion of this area of heath-land in the AONB was advocated by the National Parks Commission, and by Dorset County Council and the then Dorchester Rural District Council. The area’s omission from the Dorset AONB designated in 1959 reflected the interests of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Ministry of Defence, which had for many years leased heath land at Bovington for military training purposes; and ○ the UK Atomic Energy Authority [UKAEA] which in 1957 began to develop experimental nuclear reactors in the secluded environment of Winfrith heath. | <p>=377086.78&y=99055.51&epsg=27700&zoom=10</p> <p>East Devon AONB</p> <p>Natural England: Winfrith Heath/Tadnoll SSSI notification, updated 1996</p> <p>Dorset Environmental Records Centre: various, including: Dorset Biodiversity Audit.</p> <p>Dorset Wildlife Trust: various, including articles about the “Great Heath Project.”</p> <p>DWT Magazine, Winter, 2007: John Wright, Tadnoll and Winfrith Heath Nature Reserves</p> <p>DWT, information and presentations provided by: Tony Bates [President] Nigel Webb [Chair]</p> |

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| | | | <p>Ironically, perhaps, the presence of the facilities at Bovington and Winfrith has helped to protect the area’s fine qualities and intactness, and to safeguard its internationally important biodiversity [see also below.]</p> <p>The last of the Winfrith experimental reactors closed some years ago. The restoration [by Research Sites Restoration Ltd [Winfrith], RSRL] of the Winfrith reactor site to wet and dry heath land, with open access, is well under way and this will be the first nuclear site in the country to be fully decommissioned.</p> <p>Today, the MoD and Research Sites Restoration Ltd [Winfrith] are valued partners in the conservation and interpretation of Dorset’s heritage.</p> <p>The omission of this beautiful and internationally important area of heathland from current landscape designation is an anomaly which should be rectified by the inclusion of this area in the Dorset and East Devon National Park.</p> <p>The area’s landscape quality and character:</p> <p>The area comprises five identifiable</p> | <p>Dorset Environmental Records Centre</p> <p>Hutchins, Revd John, The History of Dorset, 1774 [2nd edition, extended, 1860]</p> <p>Local history publications, eg relating to the area before and during WW1, and during and after WW11.</p> <p>MoD website</p> <p>National Trust: various, including Purbeck Estate Management Plan; Studland: The Cyril Diver Project [David Hodd].</p> <p>Purbeck District Council: various, including “Making Purbeck Special, a Strategy for the Purbeck Heritage Area, 2002-7”, 2002.</p> <p>Research Sites Restoration ltd [Winfrith] [RSRL]</p> |

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| | | | <p>geographic and geo-political landscapes. From east to west, these are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wareham Heath/Forest • Mid Piddle Valley Pasture • Bovington / Alfpuddle Heath & Forest • Mid Frome Valley Pasture • Crossways / Winfrith Lowland Farmland and Heath. <p>The characteristic qualities which unify and distinguish the area are those typical of Dorset lowland heath. In England, 80% of lowland heath has disappeared, and what remains is largely in Dorset. The area presents an unspoilt, undeveloped, tranquil, rural landscape, a harmonious, interesting and constantly engaging patchwork of open heath, farmed land (mostly pastoral,) scrub, and woodland.</p> <p>The area is of very high biodiversity value and significance. Much of the area is designated SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site and/or LNR, chiefly for its wet and dry heath-land habitat and some as woodland habitat, wet meadows, ditches and ancient hedgerows. [See map 2: lowland heath areas.] The link below, and map 3, show SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site, and LNR nature designations across Dorset, indicating clearly the</p> | <p>Tranquillity surveys, maps and assessments, CPRE.</p> <p>Swanage Museum archive of artists associated with Dorset: Robert Field, David Haysom</p> <p>For Thomas Hardy, various, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J B Bullen, Thomas Hardy, the World of his Novels, Francis Lincoln, 2013 ○ Michael Millgate, <i>Thomas Hardy: A Biography</i>, 1982 ○ J Hillis Miller, Thomas Hardy: Distance and Desire, London, OUP, 1970 ○ Andrew Enstice, Thomas Hardy: Landscapes of the Mind, London, Macmillan, 1979 |

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| | | | <p>concentration of designated sites in the additional heathland area, and in the adjacent, other Purbeck heaths.</p> <p>http://explorer.geowessex.com/?layers=4585&basemap=27&x=377086.78&y=99055.51&epsg=27700&zoom=10</p> <p>The nature designations fully or partially within the additional Dorset heath-land area are listed beneath map 3.</p> <p>Natural England, in its notification of the Winfrith Heath/Tadnoll SSSI [now also SPA], said of this area: “Although these heathlands have declined in extent ... they show a high degree of ecological cohesion and clear ecological trends and patterns. This complex is one of the major lowland heathland areas in Britain and is of international importance for its plant and animal communities.” [See also below.]</p> <p><small>Winfrith Heath is one of a collection of sites which together comprise the Dorset heathlands. Although these heathlands have declined in extent and now occupy only 14% of their original area they show a high degree of ecological cohesion and clear ecological trends and patterns. This complex is one of the major lowland heathland areas in Britain and is of international importance for its plant and animal communities.</small></p> <p>John Wright, in an article in Dorset Wildlife Trust’s magazine in 2007, recorded the astonishing diversity of wildlife, much of this rare and endangered, to be seen on the heath at different times during the year.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tokuko Kitawaki, Journal of Kyoto Seika University, No 23 ○ National Trust publications: Hardy’s Cottage; Max Gate <p>National Trust: Clouds Hill [T E Lawrence.]</p> <p>Moreton parish church: The Rex Whistler windows</p> <p>Other attractions: publications and websites</p> |

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| | | | <p>Map 4 indicates the Landscape Character Assessment for the area concerned.</p> <p>The whole area is also important, and has greater potential, as a recreational resource, reflecting in part its proximity to and accessibility from the UK's largest non-industrial conurbation, Poole/Bournemouth. Recreational use and conservation management are key features and go hand in hand. This is recognised by the National Trust and the Dorset Wildlife Trust, both significant stakeholders in the area.</p> <p>The area contains many ancient rights of way, some designated as regional or local trails, and narrow lanes which include nationally and locally designated cycle routes.</p> <p>The area also contains many ancient monuments, as well as the major visitor attractions of Thomas Hardy's birthplace cottage and adult home [both NT,] T E Lawrence [Lawrence of Arabia]'s Cloud's Hill cottage [NT,] his burial place in Moreton cemetery, and the nearby Bovington Tank Museum.</p> | |
| | The condition of the landscape's features and elements | Landscape elements are in good condition | The landscape's features and elements are in good condition. The area's high importance for biodiversity is reflected in its nature designations and interest. The area's attraction as landscape is reflected in the | |

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| | | | <p>designation of national, county and local walks, trails and cycle routes.</p> <p>At the same time, the lowland heath landscape is fragile and vulnerable, and any pressures for development of this quiet, very largely unspoilt area would be a matter for concern.</p> <p>Growing recreational use and increased opportunity are welcome, but require careful and sensitive management to balance recreational and conservation considerations.</p> <p>Now is the time to designate the area for its natural beauty, outstanding landscape and nature value, by including it in the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park.</p> | |
| | <p>The influence of incongruous features or elements (whether man-made or natural) on the perceived natural beauty of the area</p> | <p>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visually intrusive, have only localised influence or are temporary in nature</p> | <p>The military presence, which might be thought an incongruous feature in this quiet, rural landscape, has contributed to safeguarding the area, conserving its intactness and its sense of remoteness and relative wildness, and sustaining its high biodiversity value.</p> <p>The so-far very limited impact of building and agricultural “improvement,” and the historic presence of the MoD since the C19th, have helped preserve the area in visual, functional and ecological terms.</p> | |

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| | | | <p>The Winfrith experimental nuclear reactor station, begun in 1957, was small-scale, well-hidden in its secluded, wooded environment, with many evergreen trees, and thus very localised indeed in its visual impact and influence. The station closed some years ago and the process of dismantling the facility, and its stabilisation for the future, is well-advanced. Visitors to the expansive yet intimate Winfrith and Tadnoll DWT Nature Reserve might not know that the former Winfrith facility, silent and woodland-wrapped, is nearby.</p> <p>The last two nuclear reactors are presently being decommissioned by Research Sites Restoration Ltd [RSRL], and this site of over 300 acres will be returned to wet and dry heathland with Open Access to the public in the near future. This will be the first nuclear site in the country to be fully decommissioned and will be an example to show what can be done, in due course, at Harwell, Sellafield and Dounreay, and at other sites in this country and abroad.</p> <p>Today, the MoD and RSRL [Winfrith] are valued partners in the conservation and interpretation of Dorset's heritage.</p> | |

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| | | | <p>Open-cast sand and gravel quarries in a small part of the area are of very limited extent, and are well-shielded by the topography and by woodlands. These provide, in their local environment, a living, working landscape which fits well with the various nature reserves.</p> | |
| <p>Scenic quality</p> | <p>A distinctive sense of place</p> | <p>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place</p> | <p>English lowland heath is a very distinctive type of landscape with high scenic quality and is exceptionally rich in biodiversity. This landscape type was immortalised by Thomas Hardy in his novels. Born and brought up in a small cottage within the proposed heath-land area, he describes evocatively his “Egdon Heath” in many novels.</p> <p>In “The Return of the Native,” Hardy captured the essence of the lowland heath area: “Twilight combined with the scenery of Egdon Heath to evoke a thing majestic without severity, impressive without showiness ... grand in its simplicity.”</p> <p>The lowland heath landscape is, at the same time, a rare, fragile and endangered landscape. The omission of this area of lowland heath from the AONB in the 1950s increases its exposure and vulnerability. The importance of lowland heath landscape, and of better valuing, conserving and managing it in future, are recognised in two current</p> | |

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| | | | <p>projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Wildlife Trust’s “Great Heath Project” to establish seven areas mainly of heathland which will contribute towards a corridor for wildlife in the Poole Basin • The National Trust’s Cyril Diver Project involves an extensive ecological survey for the careful measurement of the changes which have taken place since Diver’s surveys during the 1930s. <p>These projects both concern areas of heathland adjacent to the area considered here.</p> | |
| | Striking landform | Landform shows a strong sense of scale or contrast | The area’s unspoilt landscape patchwork offers its own attractions and contrasts; their appeal is both visual and sensual. | |
| | | There are striking landform types or coastal configurations | <p>The Dorset lowland heath is a striking and, today, unusual habitat. For example, the Morden bog, a wet heathland mire with a characteristic and quite rare ecology, is a distinctive open landscape feature.</p> <p>Woolsbarrow Fort and Woodbury Hill, two of the Iron Age hill forts in the area, are scheduled ancient monuments with splendid views over surrounding countryside.</p> <p>The long-inhabited valleys of the Rivers Piddle and Frome form a striking water</p> | |

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| | | | <p>meadow environment, fringed by scheduled ancient woodland, other woods and ancient monuments, with isolated farms, hamlets and estates such as the Moreton Park Estate. There are fully restored working water meadows in the Piddle Valley near Puddletown.</p> | |
| | <p>Visual interest in patterns of land cover</p> | <p>Land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which may be appreciated from either a vantage point or as one travels through a landscape</p> | <p>The characteristic qualities which unify and distinguish the area are those typical of Dorset lowland heath. In England, 80% of lowland heath has disappeared after being built on or converted into farmland, and what remains is largely in Dorset. Dorset's lowland heath habitats are recognised as being of national and wider European importance.</p> <p>The area presents an unspoilt, undeveloped, tranquil, rural landscape, a harmonious, interesting and constantly engaging patchwork of open heath, farmed land, scrub, and woodland, including undulating areas and low-lying wetlands and valleys.</p> <p>Ancient monuments, historic buildings and hamlets, add to the landscape's visual interest, as does its wildlife value. It is a frequent comment, and compliment, about the area that being there is like stepping back in time.</p> <p>There is a strongly concordant relationship between topography and land-use/vegetation</p> | |

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| | Appeal to the senses | Strong aesthetic qualities, reflecting factors such as scale and form, degree of openness or enclosure, colours and textures, simplicity or diversity, and ephemeral or seasonal interest | <p>patterns, the vegetation and wildlife following the logic and lie of the land with a profound and historic sense of harmony.</p> <p>The area’s unspoilt landscape patchwork offers distinct and very special attractions, their appeal visual and sensual, mysterious and atmospheric – iconic landscapes which Thomas Hardy and his characters would have recognised, offering tranquillity and seclusion rarely experienced in southern England, juxtaposed at the eastern end of the area with the “mysterious” and secluded presence of the MoD. Both Thomas Hardy and T E Lawrence chose this landscape in which to live and write.</p> <p>Much of this area, especially the heathland, is essentially unchanged since Hardy’s time.</p> <p>The heath-land area’s extraordinary biodiversity, reflected in wildlife designations, is a constant source of fascination and interest to residents and visitors.</p> <p>Visitors may hear stonechats, linnets, jays, green woodpeckers and possibly woodlarks. They may see the hobby, the raven, and the short-eared owl. Dartford warblers with their characteristic, some say rather scratchy, song, are especially associated with the heathland. After dark during the summer</p> | |

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| | | | <p>visitors may hear the nightjars churring and cheeping. They will see and smell the wild flowers and the bright yellow flowers, which smell of coconuts, of three species of gorse, the pink and purple flowers of four different heathers, several varieties of orchid and many other heath-land plants. The sundew, a tiny carnivorous plant, attracts insects to its sticky pads. Britain's rarest spider, the ladybird spider, is at home here [the black and red male emerging to mate before being eaten by the female]. All six species of British reptiles are to be found here - grass snake, smooth snake, adder, common lizard, sand lizard, and slow worm - together with many species of butterflies such as the silver studded blue butterfly, dazzling dragonflies, blue damselflies, and metallic green tiger beetles.</p> <p>These heaths are great places to walk and a feast for the senses.</p> | |
| | | <p>Memorable or unusual views and eye-catching features or landmarks</p> | <p>A memorable, pleasing, and unusual view, typical of this area, is the wide expanse of open lowland heath, with its vibrant colours of yellow gorse and several species of purple heather among the bleached heath-land grasses, against the back-drop of dark ancient woods to the north, and, to the south, the high, coastal escarpment, behind which, an easy walk along the Purbeck Way, lies the dramatic Jurassic Coast, Britain's only natural</p> | |

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| | | <p>World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Characteristic cognitive and sensory stimuli (e.g. sounds, quality of light, characteristic smells, characteristics of the weather)</p> | <p>The open, lowland heath is, like all the scenery of this country, man-made but it has existed in much the same form since the land was originally cleared 3500 years ago in the Bronze Age. It is one of nature’s most primeval sensory experiences.</p> <p>The scents of heather and gorse mingle with the sensory patchwork of bog and coarse, crackling grasses. Birds and butterflies abound, some of these, for example the Dartford Warbler and the Nightjar, are national rarities.</p> <p>Rough, wild and beautiful, with a powerful and primeval sense of proximity to nature, and very little habitation, the area has a quality of isolation, risk and challenge which is unusual and striking, belying its location in southern England.</p> <p>The heathland and woodland which are abundant here and in adjacent lowland heath areas of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park, form the only extensive, truly “wild” areas amongst the ubiquitous farm land which prevails in other parts of rural southern England.</p> | |
| Relative | A sense of | Relatively few roads | The area is characterised by minor lanes | |

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| wildness | remoteness | or other transport routes | <p>which are little-used and designated as national and local cycle routes. The main road from London and the east to Dorchester and Weymouth, much of it in cuttings, lies not far to the north.</p> <p>The railway line from London to Weymouth passes through the area as it approaches Dorchester and then its Weymouth destination: a modest line, much of it well-screened by trees, and with electrified track, the railway is quiet and presents no visual intrusion – while enabling residents and visitors to travel by sustainable transport. The small stations of Wool, and [by request] Moreton, lie in the area.</p> <p>Neither railway nor roads interfere with the area’s sense of remoteness and isolation.</p> | |
| | | Distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation | The area is sparsely populated. Remoteness from significant habitation accentuates the “wilderness” character and primeval quality of the heath. The nearby presence of the MoD, which has taken advantage of the area’s wild qualities to train troops here since the mid C19th and test tanks and other military equipment here since WW1, has helped to preserve and even enhance the area’s relative wildness. | |
| | A relative lack of | Extensive areas of | There are extensive areas of semi-natural | |

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| | human influence | semi-natural vegetation | <p>vegetation. The area comprises an unspoilt, remote and isolated patchwork of lowland heath, farmed land, scrub and woodlands. Much of the area is designated in recognition of its high biodiversity value and interest.</p> <p>Rough, wild and beautiful, the open lowland heath which characterises the area is one of nature’s most primeval experiences. In this environment, a wide range of heath-land plants thrives, and birds, butterflies and moths, reptiles and invertebrates abound, many of these now rare.</p> <p>All six British reptiles, grass snake, adder, smooth snake, common lizard, sand lizard and slow-worm are found here and on other Dorset heathlands but nowhere else in the country.</p> <p>The area is of very high biodiversity value and significance. Much of the area is designated SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site and/or LNR, chiefly for its wet and dry heath-land habitat and some as woodland habitat, wet meadows, ditches and ancient hedgerows. [See map 2: lowland heath areas.] The link below, and map 3, show SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site, and LNR nature designations across Dorset, indicating clearly the concentration of designated sites in the</p> | |

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| | | | <p>additional heathland area, and in the adjacent, other Purbeck heaths. http://explorer.geowessex.com/?layers=4585&basemap=27&x=377086.78&y=99055.51&epsg=27700&zoom=10</p> <p>The nature designations fully or partially within the additional Dorset heath-land area are listed beneath map 3.</p> <p>Natural England, in its notification of the Winfrith Heath/Tadnoll SSSI [now also SPA], said of this area: “Although these heathlands have declined in extent ... they show a high degree of ecological cohesion and clear ecological trends and patterns. This complex is one of the major lowland heathland areas in Britain and is of international importance for its plant and animal communities.”</p> | |
| | | <p>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</p> | <p>The area has extensive uninterrupted tracts of land, and is almost entirely unspoilt and undeveloped.</p> <p>The military presence, which might be thought an incongruous feature in this quiet, rural landscape, has contributed to protecting the area, conserving its intactness and its sense of remoteness and relative wildness, and safeguarding its high ecological value.</p> | |

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| | | | <p>The UK Atomic Energy Authority’s Winfrith experimental nuclear station, built in the 1950s, was and is small-scale, well-hidden in a secluded, wooded environment and thus very localised indeed in its visual impact and influence. The station closed some years ago and the process of dismantling the facility, and its stabilisation for the future, is well-advanced. Some of its former buildings and workshops provide locations for Dorset Police HQ, and for the Dorset Green Technology Centre, but these do not represent industrial or urban influences.</p> <p>These features are not intrusive. They contribute in a positive way to the area’s interest and international reputation, and to making this a living, working landscape and not a museum of rural life.</p> | |
| | A sense of openness and exposure | Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character | The open, exposed, rough and wild quality of the Dorset lowland heath unquestionably provides this experience. The menacing character of Thomas Hardy’s Egdon Heath is well described in his novels. Much of this scenery is still intact and has hardly changed at all since Hardy described it in <i>Return of the Native</i> and other novels over 100 years ago. | |
| | A sense of enclosure and isolation | Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, landform that offers a feeling of | Woodlands – including designated ancient woodlands as well as some areas of plantation – are a feature of the area, providing an undulating backdrop and | |

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| | | isolation | surround to the open heaths and low-lying valleys. Because of areas of woodland, even the isolated farms and hamlets are often unseen and are come upon by chance. | |
| | A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature | Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention | The lowland heath has, intrinsically, an extraordinarily primeval quality – as Thomas Hardy and other novelists have well understood. Though [as we know] occupied and used by man from the earliest times, the heath seems untamed by man and an inherently wild, inhospitable environment where nature thrives and even threatens. A frequent comment by visitors to this whole area is that it feels like stepping back in time. | |
| Relative tranquillity | Contributors to tranquillity | Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences | <p>In assessments of tranquillity, eg by CPRE [the “CPRE Tranquillity Maps”], the following factors are among those considered to contribute to a sense of tranquillity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing a natural landscape, with natural-looking woodland containing deciduous trees • Seeing stars at night • Absence of human sounds • Hearing wildlife and birdsong | |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace and quiet • Hearing running water <p>The proposed area of additional Dorset heathland scores highly on all of these tranquillity factors.</p> <p>The whole area – including heath-land, wetland water-meadows, marsh and bog, farmland and pasture, woodland and scrub - has very high biodiversity value, in part as a consequence of its high rating on all relative tranquillity contributory factors. [See passim.]</p> <p>The area has minimal visual intrusion, which is largely confined to those, relatively few and unobtrusive, structures associated with farming and small hamlets. The military training area occupies a very small part, in the North East, of the total additional area proposed. There is no live firing at this facility. The restricted access to this area, and its well-defined tracks for vehicle use, have created an environment in which wildlife flourishes.</p> <p>Around 25-30% of the proposed area is woodland or forest, with areas of mixed native species, and some conifers. Woodlands are</p> | |

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| | | | <p>home to an abundance of wildlife, and provide a secluded, natural setting.</p> <p>Night time visibility is generally excellent. The area of additional Dorset heathland, like much of the proposed National Park area, is a potential candidate area for Dark Skies Status because of the minimal light pollution in the area. Visitors and residents are amazed by the clearness of the night skies and the stars. There are astronomy observatories around the proposed National Park area, in both Dorset and East Devon [see previous evidence.]</p> | |
| | Detractors from tranquillity | Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences | <p>The following factors are among those which detract from a sense of tranquillity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing human habitation in its various forms • Seeing man made roads, railways, low flying aircraft, turbines, power lines • Experiencing night time light pollution. • Hearing traffic , railway and aircraft noise • Hearing crowds of people | |

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| | | | <p>Detractors from tranquillity in this area are few and very limited in their effect. Light pollution is concentrated along the main road, and, even there, is not a major consideration. Light pollution is otherwise very low throughout the area, even in the Piddle valley where habitation comprises small hamlets and isolated farm buildings.</p> <p>Traffic noise is confined to the “A” roads which skirt the area, and the nature of the landscape, including the ridges and woodland areas, ensure that traffic noise does not carry far nor interfere with the experience of tranquillity. Woodland areas mask, and shelter the heath from, roads and the small railway line to Weymouth, ensuring that these routes are unobtrusive. No routine air flight path crosses this area.</p> <p>Small amounts of noise are associated with particular activities in and around the area, ie: periodic noise from the small MoD tank training area and the adjacent clay pigeon shooting school; a small number of sand and gravel extraction sites which border the Puddletown road [but which do not deter good use of the adjacent Scout and Guide camping site;] the Dorset Gliding School [a quiet operation with a mix of winch and aerial</p> | |

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| | | | launch methods;] and Monkey World. | |
| Natural heritage features | Geological and geo-morphological features | Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality | The heath-land landscape is associated with specific geological characteristics which provide the conditions for the historic formation and maintenance of the lowland heath and its distinctive flora and fauna. | |
| | | Presence of striking or memorable geo-morphological features | Just a few miles and a short walk or cycle ride away from the dramatic and striking geology and geomorphology of Dorset's Jurassic Coast, the wild, beautiful and enigmatic scenery of the lowland heath provides an extraordinary contrast with the more-visited coast. The area's lowland heaths, water meadow valleys, undulating woods, and the ridges with their many scheduled ancient monuments, illustrate the diverse and complex geology of Dorset and of the proposed National Park. | |
| | Wildlife and habitats | Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality | The high biodiversity richness, value and importance of the additional lowland heath area are reflected in its various national and international nature designations. The species-rich and distinctive quality of Dorset's lowland heaths is internationally recognised and contributes to its sense of place and scenic attraction. The lowland heath was described by Hardy as an exceptionally difficult and economically challenging and challenged terrain, and it is | |

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| | | | <p>still, in modern agricultural terms, a very poor and unproductive landscape. Some 80% of England’s lowland heath-land habitat has been lost, with the associated loss of plant and animal species. Most of the lowland heath which remains is in Dorset and is typified by a sense of remoteness, openness and exposure, and relative lack of human influence. This proposed additional Dorset heathland is largely composed of remote tranquil places which have a powerful sense of isolation and are visited by small numbers of discerning people. The area deserves to be more visited – under a carefully balanced management framework agreed with stakeholders by the proposed National Park Authority.</p> <p>The lesser-known lowland heaths of the proposed additional area complement the nearby, better known lowland heaths of southern Purbeck (like Arne, Studland, and Hartland Moor) which are within the AONB. The inclusion of both areas of heath-land within the National Park would add to its vital potential for landscape-scale conservation and to represent a “green bridge” for southern England.</p> | |
| | | Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of | Lowland heath is of exceptional importance as wildlife habitat and this is reflected in the area’s nature conservation designations | |

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| | | place, relative wildness or tranquillity | (SPA, SAC, SSSI, etc). Among species, some endangered, which thrive in this environment are birds, butterflies, moths and reptiles. Uniquely, all six species of British reptiles (grass snake, adder, smooth snake, common lizard, sand lizard and slow-worm) are found here on the heath and on other Dorset heathlands but nowhere else in the country. | |
| Cultural heritage | Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes | Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality | <p>The area's many scheduled ancient monuments contribute to a sense of man's deep-rooted presence in the area, while the area's unspoilt, nature-rich tranquillity and relative wildness convey a sense of man's harmonious coexistence with nature here. Visitors love the small hamlets, the old, thatched houses, the old farms and farm buildings, and the charming pubs and tea-rooms which the area offers. Family-owned estates continue here, eg the Moreton estate [see also below,] and the Lulworth estate which owns land here and elsewhere in the proposed NP area.</p> <p>Specific attractions to which visitors are drawn include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Hardy's birth-place cottage [a tiny cottage in the woods where TH lived as a boy with 3 generations of his family; now NT] • Thomas Hardy's adult home, where he wrote many of his works, Max Gate | |

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| | | | <p>on the outskirts of Dorchester [built by Hardy, an architect by profession, and maintained as a Victorian/Edwardian home, with Hardy's furniture and possessions; now NT]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clouds Hill: the secluded cottage in the woods where T E Lawrence [author, archaeologist, and WW1 military hero Lawrence of Arabia] sought refuge and solitude, kept as he knew it after his death in 1936 [now NT] • Moreton village and church: after his death in 1936 in a motor cycle accident, while returning from Bovington camp along the heath roads, T E Lawrence was buried in nearby Moreton cemetery in a funeral attended by Churchill and other military and political figures. • Moreton church, badly damaged in an air raid in WW11, was restored in the early 1950s; its breathtakingly beautiful engraved glass windows are perhaps the greatest achievement of the glass engraver Laurence Whistler. The Forgiveness Window, the final window of Whistler's set, was installed this year, 2014. The BBC recently recorded a service in the church showing these windows to advantage. | |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bovington Tank Museum: the army has used the wild heath-land to train men since the mid C19th and to test tanks since their development in WW1. T E Lawrence was posted to the adjacent Bovington Camp. The Tank Museum is one of the UK's foremost military museums • Athelhampton House and gardens [a medieval and Elizabethan house, with beautiful gardens, still in private hands] • Bere Regis village and church: the church richly ornamented in the 1490s by local boy made good, Cardinal Morton, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Henry V11 and origin of the expression "Morton's Fork." The church contains the memorials of the Turberville family, immortalised in Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the D'Urbervilles." • Briantspuddle village and model farm [a medieval village enhanced in the early C20th by delightful thatched cottages and a model farm built by the first Baron Debenham • Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre: assists governments around the world to stop the smuggling of primates from | |

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| | | | the wild. At the Centre refugees of this illegal trade as well as those that have suffered abuse or neglect are rehabilitated into natural living groups. | |
| | | Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape | See above. | |
| | Historic influence on the landscape | Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape. | <p>The lowland heath is an important, rare and vulnerable historic landscape type.</p> <p>The lowland heath landscape type has, intrinsically, an extraordinarily primeval quality – as Thomas Hardy and other novelists have well understood. Though the heath seems untamed by man, this landscape has [as biologists have demonstrated] been occupied, used and managed by man from the earliest clearances in the Bronze Age.</p> <p>The fragile, relatively wild character of this landscape is a formidable example of man’s ability to live in harmony with nature and with the specific and challenging ecosystem of the heath-land for some three millennia. In England, some 80% of lowland heath habitat</p> | |

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| | | | <p>and landscape has been lost – what remains is chiefly in Dorset, and is the lowland heaths for which National Park designation and protection are requested. This extraordinary historic landscape, with its uniquely rich biodiversity, deserves such protection.</p> <p>The area’s many scheduled ancient monuments [such as Woolsbarrow Fort and Woodbury Hill Iron Age hill forts and the medieval lost village of West Burton], its hamlets, many old cottages and farms, its historic houses and estates, are further evidence of historic influence on the landscape.</p> <p>Unsurprisingly, a frequent comment by visitors to this area is that it feels lost in time.</p> | |
| | | Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time | The whole area conveys a powerful sense of harmonious balance between natural elements/ecosystem, and cultural elements/the influence of man. In particular, the seemingly wild and beautiful lowland heath landscape is a formidable example of man’s ability to live in harmony with nature and with the specific and challenging ecosystem of the heath-land for some three millennia. | |
| | Characteristic land management | Existence of characteristic land | The heathland is associated with very specific, traditional land management | |

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| | practices | management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty | <p>practices which have prevailed for millennia and are today the subject of scientific research in order to help modern heathland owners, including the NT and Dorset Wildlife Trust, to manage and sustain this unique landscape and biodiversity-rich habitat. Such practices work with the geological and biodiversity characteristics of the heath in order to promote and sustain the heath's landscape and ecology.</p> <p>The area's mosaic of heath, water meadows, woodland and farms has for centuries provided the materials for subsistence, including local industries and crafts. Thomas Hardy describes Egdon Heath and its people, the heath-land and woodland communities, largely self-sufficient and self-absorbed.</p> | |
| | Associations with written descriptions | Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape. | <p>This area is the Egdon Heath of the famous Dorset novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy. Born and brought up in a tiny cottage in this area, Hardy knew this landscape and its people intimately. He described the heath and its people in insightful, fascinating and obsessive detail in his many novels, including <i>The Return of the Native</i>, <i>The Woodlanders</i>, <i>the Mayor of Casterbridge</i>, and <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>.</p> <p>The area, its villages, estates, churches, houses, and ancient monuments were</p> | |

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| | | | <p>described in detail in the 1774 seminal history of Dorset by the Revd John Hutchins, vicar of Wareham [which is at the south-eastern end of the additional area of heath.]</p> <p>Other noted literary figures to live in or near this area and describe it were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revd William Barnes, the Dorset C19th poet, educator and philanthropist, and vicar of Winterbourne Came, who wrote extensively in the Dorset dialect; • T E Lawrence [Lawrence of Arabia], author, archaeologist, and WW1 hero, who in the 1930s sought solitude and refuge in a small heath-land cottage, Clouds Hill, not far from Bovington Camp where he was based. | |
| | Associations with artistic representations | Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music | Dorset’s lowland heaths have inspired artists including J M W Turner , who travelled through the county and produced a series of paintings of Corfe Castle, Lulworth, Poole Harbour and elsewhere from which prints were made, and John Constable . In the C20th, it became fashionable for the Bloomsbury set to visit and have country retreats in Purbeck, where many depicted the landscape, included Paul Nash, Augustus John, Graham Sutherland, and Alfred Palmer. Francis Newbury , Head of the Glasgow School of Art, lived in Bridport and, | Swanage Museum archive of artists associated with Dorset: Robert Field, David Haysom |

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| | | | <p>for many years, in Corfe; he and his pupil Charles Rennie Macintosh depicted Dorset landscapes. In more recent times, many artists have portrayed the atmospheric heath, in a range of media, not least local artist James Fry [] who captured the primeval, wild and windswept quality of the heath and its dramatic skies. The heath-land landscape has featured in the filming of Thomas Hardy's novels, such as the Mayor of Casterbridge and Tess of the D'Urbervilles. Noted local photographers, including Andy Farrer and Tim Arnold [landscape] and Julian Sawyer [wildlife] celebrate the beauty of the heath; a Purbeck scene won the Landscape Photographer of the year award in 2011.</p> <p>Numerous artists and sculptors, working in a range of media, live in and are inspired by Purbeck's landscapes.</p> | |
| | Associations of the landscape with people, places or events | Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs | <p>The additional area proposed for inclusion in the Dorset & East Devon National Park is, in essence, Thomas Hardy's Egdon Heath.</p> <p>Dorset novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy was born in this heath-land and lived most of his long life here or very nearby. Hardy wrote extensively about what he called Egdon Heath and the heath dwellers, living and working in community with nature and the</p> | <p>[a] Michael Millgate, <i>Thomas Hardy: A Biography</i>, 1982</p> <p>[b] J Hillis Miller, <i>Thomas Hardy: Distance and Desire</i>, London, OUP, 1970</p> <p>[c] Andrew Enstice, <i>Thomas Hardy: Landscapes of the Mind</i>, London, Macmillan,</p> |

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| | | | <p>natural and spiritual forces of the heath.</p> <p>Hardy’s inspiration for Egdon Heath was the environment of his childhood home. Hardy located Egdon Heath in maps [see map 5], the end-papers for editions of his work published in his lifetime. In <i>The Return of the Native</i>, the heath is an amalgam of areas of heath and moorland east of Dorchester and north-west of Wareham, north of the Dorchester-Wareham road and south of the Dorchester-Wimborne road. The valley of the River Frome, scene of much of <i>Tess of the d’Urbervilles</i>, marks the southern boundary of the heath. To the heath around Hardy’s birthplace home in Higher Bockhampton, Hardy added heath-land areas near Puddletown, Bovington, and Winfrith, to form his Egdon Heath. The ancient round barrows named Rainbarrows, and Rushy Pond, which lie immediately behind Hardy’s childhood home, feature in the fictional heath.[a]</p> <p>In <i>The Return of the Native</i>, Egdon Heath is not merely the background to the novel, but “the “absolute” encompassing all other elements of the novel.[b]” Andrew Enstice highly estimates Hardy’s portrayal of Egdon Heath: “Hardy ... executed his portrayal of it so skilfully that ... even local people can</p> | <p>1979</p> <p>[d] Tokuko Kitawaki, Journal of Kyoto Seika University, No 23</p> <p>National Trust publications: Hardy’s Cottage; Max Gate; Clouds Hill [T E Lawrence.]</p> |

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| | | | <p>recognise their surroundings in his atmospheric portrait.[c]” Hardy portrays Egdon as eternally primitive: “To many persons this Egdon was a place which had slipped out of its century generations ago.” “The untameable, Ishmaelitish thing that Egdon now was it always had been.” Even within his Wessex [an area of tradition compared with the bright lights and social whirl of London and Bath], Hardy sees Egdon Heath as an ancient, unchanging and mysterious environment, a world lost in time.[d]</p> <p>Though Hardy’s heart is interred in Westminster Abbey, he and his wife are buried in the church yard of Stinsford, the parish church close to his birth-place cottage.</p> <p>References to Egdon Heath in other works include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1927 the composer Gustav Holst wrote a tone poem for orchestra entitled <i>Egdon Heath</i>, explicitly in homage to Hardy. He considered the restrained but brooding piece to be one of his best works. • In 1954 Bill Russo composed a Third Stream work titled <i>Egdon Heath</i>, in | |

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| | | | <p>homage to Hardy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Evelyn Waugh's <i>Decline and Fall</i>, "Egdon Heath" is the location of a prison. <p>Dorset poet and educator Revd William Barnes spent his life in and close to this area and wrote extensively in the Dorset dialect. His work is now widely studied throughout the English-speaking world.</p> <p>Author, archaeologist and WW1 war hero T E Lawrence lived in Clouds Hill cottage on the heath and died in a motor cycle accident nearby when riding one of the powerful motor cycles he obtained from a noted Wareham family firm. He is buried in Moreton cemetery.</p> <p>The army has a long, cultural association with the wild and secluded heath. The army's use of the heath includes military training on Wareham heath and in the area of the present Bovington camp from the mid C19th, and the development and testing of the tank during and after WW1. Bovington Tank Museum is a significant visitor attraction. Within the Dorset AONB and the proposed National Park area is the MoD's Lulworth camp and its extensive Lulworth Ranges. The East Devon AONB also includes a smaller MoD heath-land training area.</p> | |

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| | | | <p>The Purbeck area is noted for the strength, richness and diversity of its artistic talents and events. Numerous artists, in the visual and performing arts, and in all media, live in Purbeck, are inspired by its landscapes such as these, and participate in events like the Purbeck Art Weeks Festival, Purbeck literary, folk, and jazz festivals.</p> <p>Actor Edward Fox, strong supporter of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park and President of Dorset CPRE, lives in and loves this heath-land area.</p> | |