

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Consultation response analysis report produced by the
Consultation and Engagement Team – Dorset Council



Photo credit: Susan Buckland

August 2025

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	People and organisations across Dorset came together to prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with the aim to help restore and protect nature in our county. The strategy sets 12 priorities for nature recovery in Dorset, supported by a list of potential activities and a local habitat map. This consultation gave people the opportunity to help shape the strategy and get involved in nature recovery.
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran from 07/05/25 to 30/07/25.
What consultation methods were used?	<p>The consultation was available both online, in paper form via request, in 2 forms – the main version, and a youth version.</p> <p>There were also several drop-in sessions held across the county to raise awareness and support with general queries.</p> <p>The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.</p>
How many responses were received overall?	Overall, there were 335 responses – 284 for the main survey, and 51 for the youth version.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	<p>80.8% of responses were from individuals, which is slightly lower than typical consultations. Organisations, groups, or businesses were the remaining 19.2%.</p> <p>There were slightly more female respondents (49.1%) than male (42.7%).</p> <p>84.7% of the respondents said their ethnic group was White British which is typical of the wider Dorset population.</p> <p>Responses from disabled people were quite high at 10.3% compared to an approximate Dorset figure of 4.6% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.</p>
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and on the council's consultation platform: https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/
How will the results be used?	Results from this survey will be used to inform the next steps of the process.
Who has produced this report?	Consultation and Engagement Team, Dorset Council, August 2025

Background

People and organisations across Dorset came together to prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with the aim to help restore and protect nature in our county. The strategy sets 12 priorities for nature recovery in Dorset, supported by a list of potential activities and a local habitat map.

From July 2023, a steering group and 5 advisory groups, with representatives from 42 different organisations, worked together to shape and input into the strategy. In addition to that, several other people took part in a range of events, workshops or online webinars, helping further refine the strategy and maps. The [Consultation and Engagement Report](#) provides more detail on the groups, engagement activities and data insights.

In May 2025, this public consultation was launched for 12 weeks to give more people the opportunity to help shape the strategy and get involved in nature recovery.

The Consultation

The consultation survey was aimed at all residents and groups across Dorset, providing an opportunity for everyone to share their views on the strategy. Feedback was gathered through two main forms:

- an online survey
- an online youth survey (aimed at young people under 18)

Both versions of the survey had paper versions to ensure they were accessible.

The Nature Recovery Officer at Dorset Council also ran various events and drop-in sessions throughout the consultation period.

Event	Number of attendees
Drop-in session at Weymouth Library : Tuesday 27th May, 10.30am to 3.30pm	7 people
Information stall at Open Farm Sunday at Home Farm, Sadborough: Sunday 8th June, 10.00am to 4.00pm	1400 visitors at the event
Drop-in session at Blandford Library : Thursday 12th June, 10.00am to 4.30pm	6
Drop-in session at Bournemouth Library : Monday 16th June, 10.00am to 3.00pm	4
Drop-in session at Bridport Library : Wednesday 25th June, 10.00am to 3.00pm	8
Drop-in session at Dorchester Library : Tuesday 15th July, 10.00am to 4.00pm	12
Drop-in session at Poole Library : Wednesday 16th July, 10.00am to 3.00pm	5

Facebook LIVE session: Thursday 17th July, 6.00pm.	32 people live, 2.7k views on Facebook, 65 views on YouTube
Drop-in session at Ferndown Library : Wednesday 23rd July, 10.00am to 3.00pm	4
Drop-in session at Christchurch Library : Friday 25th July, 10.00am to 3.00pm	8

Other meetings and events presented at by the local nature recovery officer:

- National Farmers Union Dorset management meeting
- Dorset Catchment Partnerships delivery group meetings
- Country Land and Business Association Dorset committee meeting
- Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils working together webinar
- Environmental Farmers Group Dorset steering committee meeting
- Dorset Downs farmer cluster
- High Stoy Conservation cluster

The consultation ran for 12 weeks, and the results will feed into the next steps of the process.

Analysis Method

Overall responses were examined, with specific responses of respondents being highlighted where appropriate.

Where open-text comments have been received, if there were 35 or more for a question, they have been coded and themed. For all under this, the comments are shown verbatim.

Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

Executive Summary

Across both the main and youth versions of the survey, the findings illustrate strong support for the strategy and its priorities.

The strategy generally

85.3% (238) agreed that the strategy helps explain what nature recovery is, with 76.9% (216) agreeing it helped them understand why nature recovery is needed. 92.9% (262) confirmed they understood the purpose of the strategy in addition to this.

The shared vision and joint mission statements also received broad endorsement, with 66.6% (187) and 85.7% (240) agreement respectively. Respondents identified increasing wildlife, connecting nature-rich spaces, and outdoor spaces to enjoy for health purposes as the most important benefits of nature recovery. The strategy was seen as a practical tool, with many participants indicating they would use it to identify activities, collaborate with others, and help deliver objectives in local areas.

However, there were some challenges identified for the mapping specifically, with some comments relating to:

- them being too complex, with multiple layers present
- instructions or guidance unclear, especially for first-time users
- creating barriers for engagement as they can be technically difficult to navigate

To improve the maps, there were references to providing clearer links between the mapped data and priorities and improving accessibility. This was especially important for those not already engaged in nature recovery work, so it can be a tool for all.

The priorities

Agreement levels were consistently high across all priorities. In particular, nature connection (96.2%), species abundance and diversity (95.8%), and priority species (97.0%) were the most strongly supported priorities.

1. Grasslands

- Agreement: 88.6% overall; 63.8% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 86.3% said improving grassy areas with wildflowers is important

2. Woodland

- Agreement: 93.7% overall; 64.9% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 96.1% said making woods better and bigger is important

3. Heathlands

- Agreement: 94.4% overall; 62.5% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 73.5% said heathlands are important

4. Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands

- Agreement: 93.1% overall; 66.7% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 98.0% said healthy rivers and wetlands are important

5. Coastal

- Agreement: 84.1% overall; 62.8% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 94.0% said coastal care is important

6. Urban

- Agreement: 92.9% overall; 61.2% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 88.0% said urban greening is important

7. Farming

- Agreement: 94.3% overall; 69.0% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 84.3% said balancing nature and resource use is important

8. Natural processes

- Agreement: 83.9% overall; 59.7% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 84.3% said letting nature take care of itself is important

9. Nature-based solutions

- Agreement: 96.1% overall; 69.7% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 96.1% said nature-based solutions are important

10. Nature connection

- Agreement: 96.2% overall; 68.4% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 84.0% said giving people ways to help nature is important

11. Species abundance and diversity

- Agreement: 95.8% overall; 65.6% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 94.1% said helping wildlife thrive is important

12. Priority species

- Agreement: 97% overall; 59.1% strongly agreed
- Youth support: 90.2% said helping wildlife in need is important

The data collected for this consultation will inform and help develop the final version of the strategy.

The respondents

Q. I am responding as:

(n-281)

Option	Total	Percent
An individual	227	80.8%

An organisation, group or business	54	19.2%
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Q. Are you providing an official response for your organisation, group or business?

(n-55)

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	50	90.9%
No	5	9.1%

The organisations, groups, or business' submitting official responses are listed below:

Organisation/group name	Official response?
South West Lakes Trust	Yes
River Axe Landscape Recovery and The Magdalen Environmental Trust	Yes
North Dorset Trailway Network	Yes
Environment Bank	Yes
Hazelbury ABUZZ	Yes
Woodland Trust	Yes
Friends of Lodmoor Country Park	Yes
WH White - Canford Park SANG	Yes
Sherborne School	Yes
Branksome Triangle Committee	Yes
Blandford Forum Town Council	Yes
Salisbury & Wilton Swifts and North Wiltshire Swifts	Yes
Stinsford Parish Council	Yes
Swifts Local Network: Swifts & Planning Group	Yes
Charminster Parish Council	Yes
Dorset Local Nature Partnership	Yes
Ewens Farm, West Chelborough	Yes
The Court Leet of the Island & Royal Manor of Portland	Yes
The Ramblers (Dorset Area)	Yes
Toller Porcorum Parish Council	Yes
National Trails UK	Yes
Kingston Maurward College	Yes
Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site	Yes
The Lesley Haskins Charitable Trust (known as The Erica Trust)	Yes
Lower Brimley Coombe Farm	Yes
Cranborne Chase National Landscape	Yes
Charmouth Parish Council	Yes
Lyme Regis Town Council	Yes

Dorset Catchment Partnerships	Yes
Portland Town Council	Yes
Dorset National Landscape	Yes
Trees for Wimborne which is part but independent of Wilding Wimborne	Yes
Timothy Bowden	Yes
Compton Abbas Parish Council	Yes
The Portland Association CIC	Yes
The Escarpment Cluster	Yes
Bournemouth Development Company (joint venture of BCP Council and Muse)	Yes
Richborough	Yes
Wessex Conservation Grazing	Yes
Coppet Hill LLP	Yes
River Char Community Project	Yes
Dorset Bird Club	Yes
British Lichen Society	Yes
Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd. (trading as Wyatt Homes)	Yes
The British Association for Shooting and Conservation	Yes
Weymouth Town Council	Yes
Thornhackett Parish Council	Yes

Q. Please pick the option that best describes you/your group.

(n-278)

Option	Total	Percent
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (People who own and/or manage land. For example, farms, woodlands and estates)	28	10.1%
Communities and Individuals (Members of the public and local voluntary or community sector organisations)	169	60.8%
Business, Industry and Economy (Large and small businesses across all sectors. For example, utilities, manufacturing, retail, hospitality, building development)	5	1.8%
Public bodies (Local government, town and parish councils, regional government bodies and agencies, and public service providers. For example, healthcare)	19	6.8%
Nature and environment sector (Individuals and organisations with expertise or interest in nature, environmental issues or managing land for conservation purposes)	53	19.1%

Partnerships and connectors (Existing groups that work collaboratively across sectors or on specific issues)	4	1.4%
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Q. Have you been involved in preparing the draft Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

(n-281)

Option	Total	Percent
I am a member of the steering group or one of the LNRS advisory groups	4	1.4%
I attended an event, workshop or meeting	24	8.5%
I have joined the Nature Recovery Dorset network	13	4.6%
I was asked to help with a specific task by one of the advisory group members	3	1.1%
I have not been involved	237	84.3%

Q. Do you live or work in Dorset?


(n-281)






Option	Total	Percent
I live in the DC area	182	64.8%
I live in the BCP Council area	77	27.4%
I work in Dorset (either DC or BCP) but am a resident elsewhere	13	4.6%
I am not a resident and do not work in the area	9	3.2%

Key

At various points throughout the report, we will be cross-referencing across 6 different respondent types. In certain tables it wasn't possible to list the full title, so a mixture of an image and number has been used to differentiate them. This order will be the same for all tables in the report. For example:

Number

Number representing group	Respondent type	Icon representing group
1	Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers	

2	Communities and individuals	
3	Public bodies	
4	Nature and environment sector	
5	Dorset Council residents	
6	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council residents	

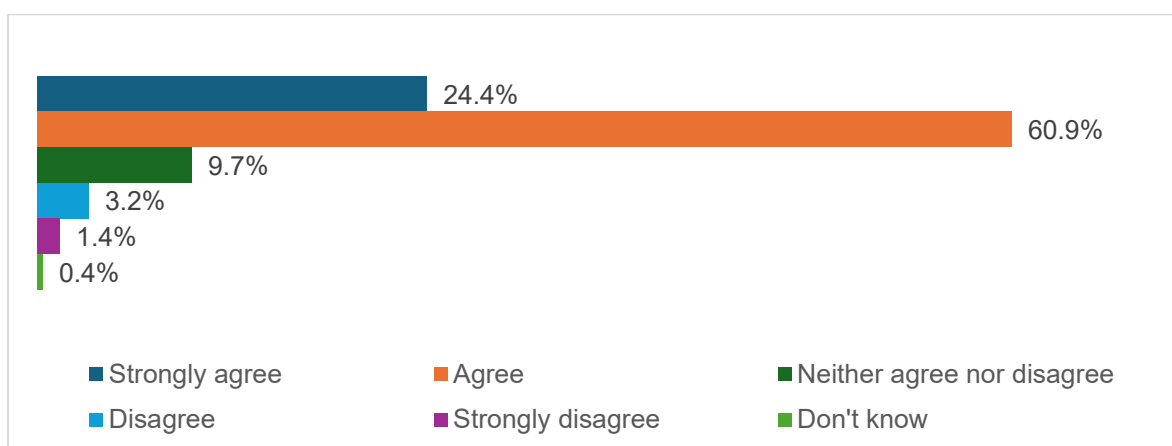
For Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council residents, we have used a shorthand in this report. So, they will be referenced as DC, and BCP.

The strategy itself

For the first questions in this section, respondents were asked to state how much they agreed or disagreed with 2 different statements.

Statement 1: “The strategy helps explain what nature recovery is”

(n-279)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	68	24.4%
Agree	170	60.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	27	9.7%

Disagree	9	3.2%
Strongly disagree	4	1.4%
Don't know	1	0.4%

Overall, the data underlines broad agreement for the statement 'The strategy helps explain what nature recovery is.' 85.3% (238) of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed, with just 4.6% (13) disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

9.7% (27) remained neutral, potentially showing some uncertainty, and 0.4% (1) did not know.

Looking across the stakeholder groups outlined in the introduction, there was a slight difference with the farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers group.

Although the level of agreement was again high - 81.5% (22) agree - 11.1% (3) disagree, which is an increase from the overall figures.

Q. If you disagree, please let us know why.

11 respondents marked that they disagreed with statement 1, but there were 23 comments received for this question, which can be seen below verbatim. To help provide clearer context for the responses, each comment will be accompanied by the respondent's answer to the previous question.

Respondents who disagreed

Answer to previous question	Comment
Disagree	Well we would not need this if new housing was not placed on the green belts
Disagree	It needs to reflect the real loss of biodiversity and natural landscapes in Dorset
Disagree	In the shared vision and join mission section, it talks about the different components of nature recovery but does not ask the question 'this is what everyone can do for nature recovery' or provide a definition of nature recovery.
Disagree	The help is there, but hidden in so much work that it far too easy for me to have missed something.
Disagree	It does to an extent, but on narrow terms. At the moment the definitions and descriptions of nature and nature recovery largely omit or underrepresent geodiversity. The result is that the text of the strategy and even the questions in this survey implies and in some places explicitly states that nature, and therefore nature recovery, equates to biodiversity only. Geodiversity is a fundamental and significant component of nature and therefore

	essential to a complete and effective approach to nature recovery.
Disagree	No baseline of competent facts is provided. Improve from what to what? Many examples given are generic and irrelevant.
Disagree	Very wordy and complicated , needs simplifying and localizing to make it relevant at a community level encouraging local people to engage and hold organizations accountable .
Disagree	Nature recovery is a cultural re-engagement with our natural surroundings as well as a functional re-engagement. The "strategy" should give more weight to this cultural re-engagement. The biggest factor to bring about success will be we - the people of Dorset - changing our values, actions and lifestyles.
Disagree	To us, 'nature recovery' suggests regeneration and regenerative practices. But the document mainly refers to sustainability and sustainable practices. It does go far enough to explain 'recovery'. To us, this document is essentially a vision. To make it a strategy, it would need to have a detailed action plan.
Strongly disagree	It is not the responsibility of the council. Should not waste tax payers money in such a way
Strongly disagree	I don't think you are accurately identifying what some of the key causes of nature decline is in the UK. We can talk about conventional extractive farming, we can talk about the negative effects of pollution via transport (cars) chemical run off for example from farming; we can talk about cleaning up water systems and actually enforcing regulation around sewage and muck and slurry in water systems - but one thing that no-one will address is the incredible burden that domestic dogs and cats place on everything in this living landscape. Without a massive awareness raising campaign into the negative effect of dozens of spaniels a day working their way through the hedges either side of every public footpath in the country - we can't be really serious about supporting the non-human - the small animals that are continually bothered by dogs, and by cats. It's really mind blowing that this is not included in your strategy.

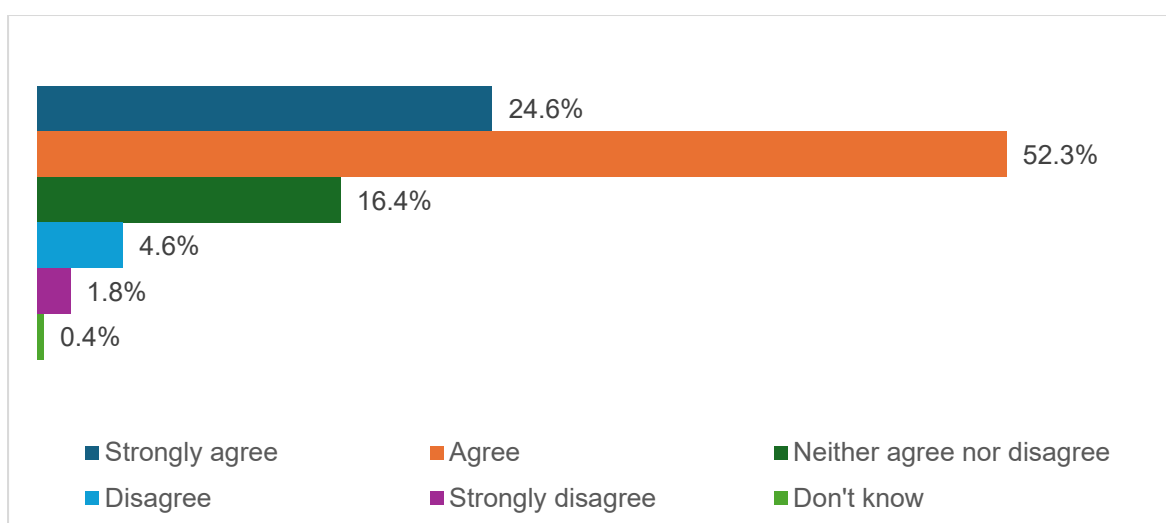
Other respondents who also answered this question

Answer to previous question	Comment
Strongly agree	Explanations are easy to understand and follow.
Strongly agree	I think overall the strategy is excellent. It is suitably broad and all-encompassing, and I think you should be proud of it.
Strongly agree	This is a really clear explanation.
Agree	I didn't watch the videos but just read the text and I didn;t get any sense of the urgency of why this was needed

Agree	The strategy does not include targets, which would be helpful in spelling out the challenge. These could be Dorset derived targets or could be sourced from Favourable Conservation Status documents produced for NE (e.g Favourable Conservation Status for Lowland Calcareous Grassland - which indicates a fourfold increase)
Agree	The Strategy sets out how to achieve the goal of "30 by 30".
Neither agree nor disagree	Dorset is unique in having a UNESCO Heritage Coast alongside East Devon. This is because of the geology that is what underpins nature throughout the county. Geology seems to have been completely ignored
Neither agree nor disagree	I don't think the strategy concludes what the desired end point is, or links to government policies and targets explicitly. It does not link specifically to how DC and BCP will manage landuse planning to contribute to it.
Neither agree nor disagree	The strategy is very basic and lacks ambition, but it is a step in the right direction.
Neither agree nor disagree	I do not have much time for such documents - having seen so many 'strategies' emerge from the council over decades with, disappointingly, so little real outcomes achieved.
Don't know	I couldn't get the strategy document to open but I do have an idea what nature recovery is due to volunteering with two charities involved in nature protection.
Not answered	Stop cutting hedges

Statement 2: "The strategy helped me understand why nature recovery is needed"

(n=281)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	69	24.6%

Agree	147	52.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	46	16.4%
Disagree	13	4.6%
Strongly disagree	5	1.8%
Don't know	1	0.4%

While the overall response is not quite as unanimous as the previous question, there was a very high level of respondents (76.9%) agreeing or strongly agreeing with statement 2.

16.4% (46) answered neutrally, neither agreeing or disagreeing, and 6.4% (18) disagreed or strongly disagreed. Once again, 1 respondent did not know.

There were some notable differences across the stakeholder groups in this case. Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers had lower levels of agreement (62.9% from 17 respondents), and in-turn, higher levels of disagreement (11.1% from 3 respondents).

In contrast, those from the nature and environment sector showed stronger support, with 80.8% (42) agreeing and none disagreeing. The remaining 19.2% (10) were neutral.

Public bodies also had higher levels of agreement at 84.3% (16), though they also a higher level of disagreement at 10.5% (2).

Q. If you disagree, please let us know why.

Similarly to before, although 18 respondents disagreed, there were 28 comments received for this question. They can be seen below verbatim, split into relevant tables.

Respondents who disagreed

Answer to previous question	Comment
Disagree	The strategy is so long that ordinary members of the public get fed up having read 5 or 6 pages of it. There needs to be a much shorter summary for ordinary members of the public to read. I only read a part of it before all the jargon and elaborate phrasing put me off reading the rest.
Disagree	I already know why it's needed.
Disagree	It doesn't talk about what the impact would be if we did nothing eg what wildlife or landscapes might we lose?
Disagree	It needs to provide more examples of the loss of biodiversity and natural landscapes

Disagree	The problem is that there is so much here that understanding is made more difficult. Reading at least three times did not really increase much except my confusion.
Disagree	it's not clearly written enough and everything is thrown in
Disagree	See above.
Disagree	The strategy is generic and non-specific with relation to Dorset. It should analyse the particular threats that Dorset faces. This could've been taken from any UK level document.
Disagree	Already know why
Disagree	Although the video was very engaging I don't think the average person who grasps why nature recovery is needed from it ?
Disagree	There is a variety of vies on the Council but the questions ask for MY views
Strongly disagree	No idea why this is a priority for the council when there are people struggling financially, and not enough private rental properties
Strongly disagree	I am already very well aware why nature recovery is desperately needed.
Strongly disagree	I have found dealing with self interest groups how little they actually know about country side.

Other respondents who also answered this question

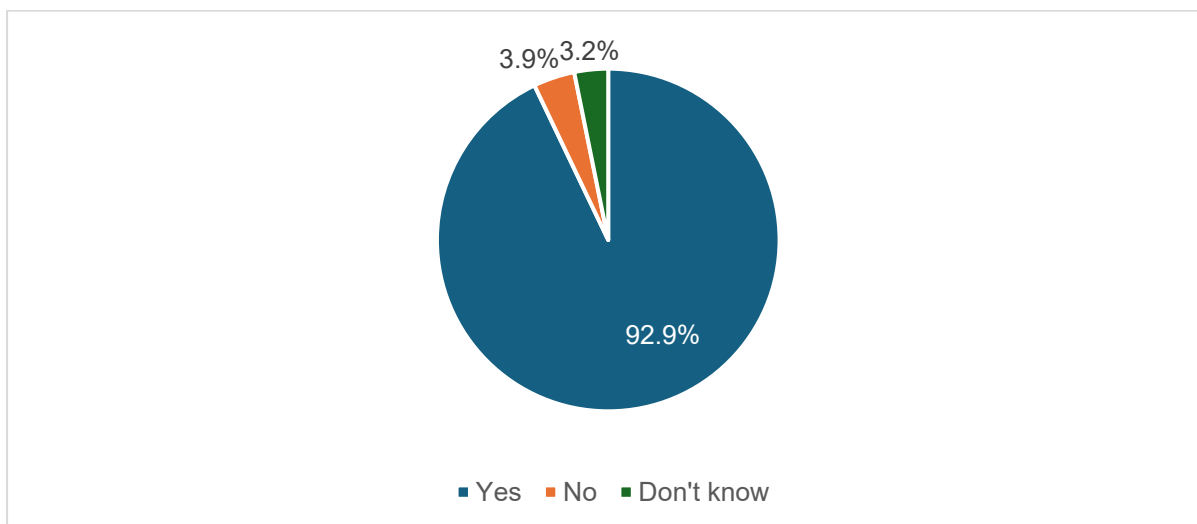
Answer to previous question	Comment
Strongly agree	It highlighted the current problems and the benefits of applying the strategy
Agree	More specific information/data would be useful.eg...species counts,, water pollution levels,
Agree	I think the 30by30 target would be helped with an explanation of why 30x30 is needed and what it is to do - providing a safe place for nature to thrive. It explains the what of 30x30 really well but not the 'so what'.
Agree	It does, but I found the Pdf more effective than the web pages. However, threats and opportunities relating to geodiversity are missing from that section of the strategy.
Agree	But I think more needs to be said about how it's the every day public making mistakes in their choice to tarmac their garden, put astroturf down, cut down large trees and grow non-native plants. Educate people about these things and you will give them a reason to think twice when they just tear down an oak tree
Neither agree nor disagree	At a detailed level it is clear on what changes are needed but at an overall level, less so.
Neither agree nor disagree	A strategy is not needed to spell out what is obvious! To most of us here it is our lived experience that BCP and wider Dorset areas have suffered significant decline in fauna and flora over many decades.

	<p>Most of this is due to the encroachment on nature by building development of all types and, in recent years, the rush to make cycle paths that are hardly used.</p> <p>Again, council strategies and plans (and administrators' interpretation of these) have led to over development, loss of public amenities (eg seafront car parks, mature trees).</p> <p>A general loss of respect for keeping our public areas clear of litter and rough sleeping (ie holidaying/life-style camper vans and tents) means there are now vehicles parked on grass verges and human waste discharged onto the Overcliffe and in parks.</p> <p>Local councils have become notorious for tick-box consultation practices that are putting off residents from bothering to give their views! A strategy is not needed to spell out what is obvious! To most of us here it is our lived experience that BCP and wider Dorset areas have suffered significant decline in fauna and flora over many decades.</p> <p>Most of this is due to the encroachment on nature by building development of all types and, in recent years, the rush to make cycle paths that are hardly used.</p> <p>Again, council strategies and plans (and administrators' interpretation of these) have led to over development, loss of public amenities (eg seafront car parks, mature trees).</p> <p>A general loss of respect for keeping our public areas clear of litter and rough sleeping (ie holidaying/life-style camper vans and tents) means there are now vehicles parked on grass verges and human waste discharged onto the Overcliffe and in parks.</p> <p>Local councils have become notorious for tick-box consultation practices that are putting off residents from bothering to give their views!</p>
Neither agree nor disagree	I already knew
Neither agree nor disagree	I was already aware
Neither agree nor disagree	Already aware.
Neither agree nor disagree	Not much background in the strategy but it is clear from other sources that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries and that increasing biodiversity and support for the environment is fundamental to tackling climate change.
Neither agree nor disagree	I am already aware of why nature recovery is needed.

Neither agree nor disagree	Bullet points on page 28 set out historic land use changes under a number of headings. Land use has changed continuously over centuries of human habitation albeit the changes are perhaps now more rapid than previously and this is largely due to a rapid increase in population. Post war UK population was in the order of 48 million individuals. It is currently in the order of 70 million. This increase in population adds new demands on food production, water treatment, housing and the built environment. Perhaps the demand on nature have less to do with how can we preserve or enhance nature and more to do with determining how big the population can become and remain sustainable.
Don't know	See above

Q. Do you understand what the strategy is for?

(n-282)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	262	92.9%
No	11	3.9%
Don't know	9	3.2%

The results for this question show a clear consensus: 92.9% of respondents (262) stated that they understood the purpose of the strategy. A small proportion, 3.9% (11), responded 'No', while 3.2% (9) said they didn't know.

Q. In the previous question you answered you did not have a clear understanding of what the strategy is for. Please tell us why.

There were 17 comments left for this question, which can be seen below verbatim.

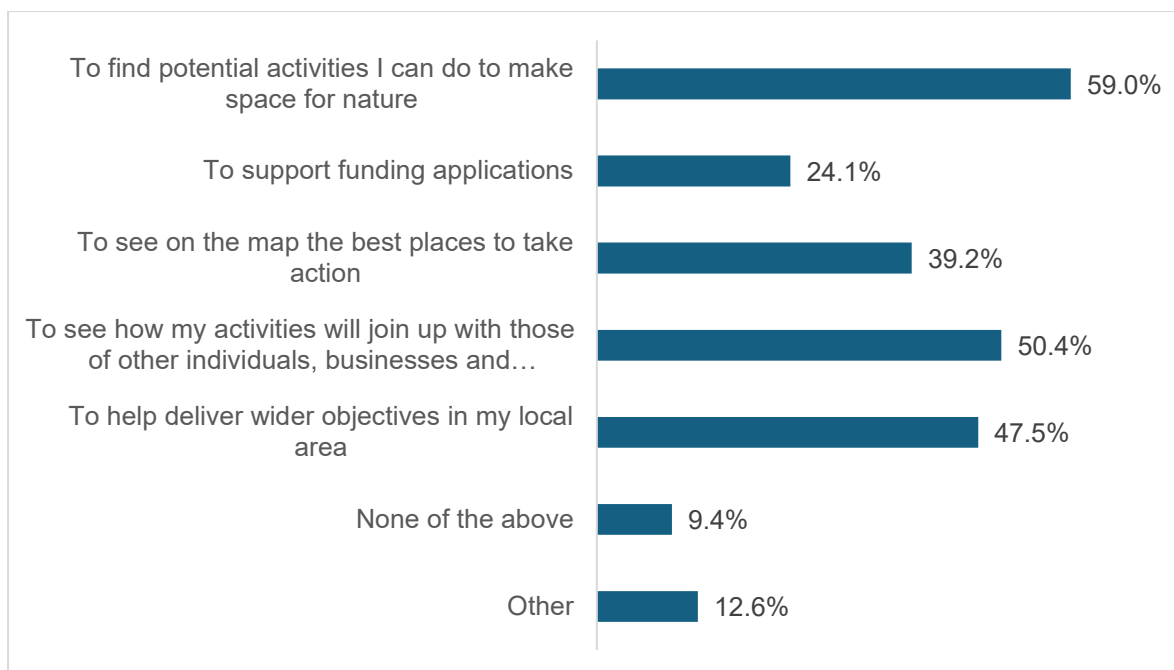
Stop cutting hedges and verges

The first I knew of this "strategy", was in an on-line newsletter from DC. I have read the information on line very quickly, but have not really had time to thoroughly examine the details and probably won't have the time during the future.
I haven't heard anything about this before
Don't agree with the strategy being a priority of the council
Only recently come across the links
It's not black and white in what you will be doing
I can see what some of the strategy is for, (eg delivering the gov 30x30 target for dorset) but it does not seem clear who is delivering it and how it will happen, especially the councils role in it.
I haven't yet read the strategy - It would be helpful to have a link to the strategy while in the survey
<p>We appreciate and support the production of this document and the huge amount of work that much have been put into it. However despite the large volume of the document, (probably too much for many people to want to deal with) It is not clear how the information will be used. This is very worrying as inevitably with such an extensive area being covered there are many mistakes regarding what is the most suitable habitat to aim for. Some of these mistakes are understandable , some less so - (eg the grasslands of the Colehill Ridge which were the subject of much representation after the production of the draft Core Strategy in 2021.</p> <p>If the main purpose is to encourage all parties to do the most they can to aid nature recovery, then the guidance needs to be consistently firm for all habitats in all situations. We suggest in our response that the guidance relating to heathland restoration from 'woodland' ie conifer plantations is worryingly weaker than it should be.</p>
<p>You are not clear what it is for. You present it as if it was something nice to have, a wish list - in language designed for primary school children.</p> <p>What about saying to your community - we are nature, without it we will not survive, your children will not survive. simple.</p> <p>Nature is fundamental to our ability to live.</p>
<p>The deeper I delved into the Strategy the more confused I became on how it is going to be implemented, funded, monitored.</p> <p>I understand that there is a legal requirement for the Strategy and we clearly need something to replace the earlier Dorset Biodiversity Strategy and its refresh. However, the document appears to have attempted to cover pretty well everything so it becomes difficult for all but specialists to work through let alone understand how things will be prioritised and delivered. I would not be able to explain this to a neighbour for example. I have spoken to several members of the public who are completely lost with the whole thing and have given up trying to get their heads round it.</p> <p>I do not understand how I use the system to actually see what is likely to happen in the local area. Indeed the red star indicating my land is the only one for miles! So how do I link up other than by using my own initiative?</p>

We have had strategies before. They have not stopped catastrophic ecological collapse. What is still unclear to me is why this one is any different. How will this plan be linked to legislation to ensure nature recovery actually happens?
Haven't got time to read it. This is one of 6 consultations BCP has sent out. Each has multiple pages of documents to read. Impossible!
Because it isn't especially clear , it was almost as if it had been created by a committee who still get paid whether the objectives are met or not so it was very vague and short on tangible deliverables ?
Richborough is promoting Land at North Townsend ('the Site') for c. 450 residential units through the BCP Local Plan process. While the majority of the site falls outside the identified 'high nature opportunity areas', Richborough wish to understand if this has been intentional, if so clarifications to the proposed built development boundary can be provided. It is acknowledged that there will be a legal requirement to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain through the planning process and that the Nature Recovery Strategy designations could assist this process. However, in the absence of further clarity at this time, it is important that any designations introduced through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy do not make the BNG requirement more onerous to achieve, or serve to fetter the development potential of a site. Regard should therefore be had to this when mapping 'priorities' for land.
Dorset has an extensive array of habitats and complex sites and unsure how one single strategy can complement all successfully without being over complicated.
<p>I am unsure what level of recovery is being assumed or aimed for.</p> <p>Recovery to a 1940s post war Dorset?</p> <p>Post Napoleonic war Dorset?</p> <p>Tomas Hardy's Dorset?</p> <p>Recovery to a known Dorset population?</p>

Q. How do you think you will be able to use the strategy and its maps?

(n-278)



Option	Total	Percent
To find potential activities I can do to make space for nature	164	59.0%
To support funding applications	67	24.1%
To see on the map the best places to take action	109	39.2%
To see how my activities will join up with those of other individuals, businesses and organisations	140	50.4%
To help deliver wider objectives in my local area	132	47.5%
None of the above	26	9.4%
Other	35	12.6%

Respondents were asked to pick ways they could use the strategy and its maps, which resulted in a variety of different responses. The most common across them all was 'To find potential activities I can do to make space for nature', which was picked by 59.0% (164) of respondents.







To see how activities join up with others and to deliver wider objectives were the next 2 significant reasons given, at 50.4% (140) and 47.5% (132) respectively.

39.2% (109) picked to see on the map the best places to take action, 24.1% (67) to support funding applications, 12.6% (35) other (of which responses can be seen after this question), and 9.4% none of the above.

This suggests that most respondents are interested in using the tool to identify steps for nature recovery and how to potentially collaborate and support others.

For questions throughout the report, where there are notable differences across different respondent groups, the data has been cross-referenced. In the table below, the numbers represent:

1. Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers
2. Communities and Individuals
3. Public bodies
4. Nature and environment sector
5. Live in DC
6. Live in BCP

Option	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
To find potential activities I can do to make space for nature	44.4%	66.3%	63.2%	43.1%	57.2%	68.0%
To support funding applications	48.2%	15.1%	52.6%	25.5%	27.2%	12.0%
To see on the map the best places to take action	33.3%	36.1%	73.7%	43.1%	40.6%	34.7%
To see how my activities will join up with those of other individuals, businesses and organisations	74.1%	41.0%	52.6%	68.6%	58.9%	29.3%
To help deliver wider objectives in my local area	74.1%	39.8%	68.4%	49.0%	52.8%	33.3%
None of the above	7.4%	11.5%	5.3%	3.9%	7.2%	13.3%
Other	11.1%	9.6%	15.8%	19.6%	17.2%	2.7%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-27); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-166); 3 - Public bodies (n-19); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-51); 5 – Live in DC (n-180); 6 – Live in BCP (n-75)

Top choices by group

Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers:

- To see how my activities will join up with others (74.1%)
- To help deliver wider objectives in my local area (74.1%)

Communities and Individuals:

- To find potential activities (66.3%)

Public bodies:

- To see on the map the best places to take action (73.7%)

Nature and environment sector:

- To see how activities join up with others (68.6%)

Live in DC:

- To see how activities join up with others (58.9%)
- To find potential activities (57.2%)

Live in BCP:

- To find potential activities (68.0%)

Q. If other, please specify.

41 comments were received for this question which have been coded and themed. Some of the main themes were:

- lack of information in relation to the actual delivery of aims and objectives, including accountability
- how the strategy could support in embedding organisation goals
- issues with the maps being difficult to use and providing a barrier for use
- being able to help with action and identify places to support

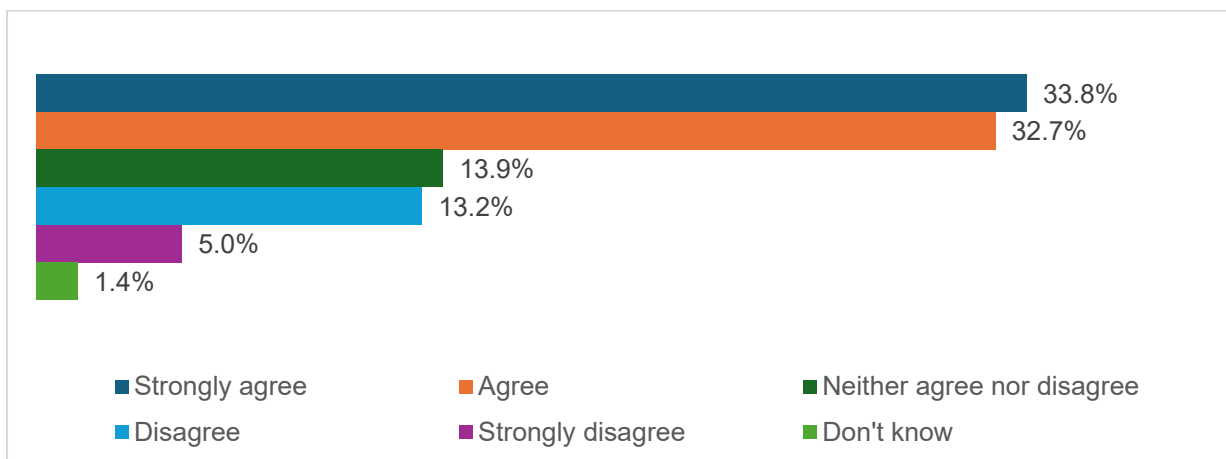
Comment/theme	Total
Lack of information in relation to the actual delivery of aims and objectives, including accountability	7
Other	6
Support embedding organisation goals/supporting documents	6
Maps difficult to use/interpret/provides tech barrier	5
To save our green places/help with action/identify more places	5
Comment on specific area	4
To guide and assist	3
Monitor locations	2
Geology has been ignored/better represent role of geodiversity in nature recovery	2
To see how activities impact other environments/wildlife/join up with others	2
Map inaccurate	2

Concerns for development and housing will result in loss of habitat/identify housebuilding sites bad for nature	2
Won't engage those not part of existing organisations	2

Shared vision and mission statement

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the shared vision?

(n-281)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	95	33.8%
Agree	92	32.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	39	13.9%
Disagree	37	13.2%
Strongly disagree	14	5.0%
Don't know	4	1.4%

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the shared vision for the strategy: **“Nature in Dorset is thriving, resilient, and connected across our landscapes. It is accessible to and celebrated by all.”**

Analysing the data, a clear majority (66.6%) broadly agreed with the vision, with 33.8% (95) strongly agreeing and 32.7% (92) agreeing.

Of the remaining responses, 13.9% (39) neither agreed or disagreed, 13.2% (37) disagreed and 5.0% (14) strongly disagreed. Lastly, 1.4% (4) did not know.

When considering the 6 aforementioned response types, there were some differences:

- respondents involved in nature and environmental projects had higher levels of agreement at 71.7% (38), but also higher levels of disagreement (22.7% (12)). 3.8% (2) remained neutral and 1.9% (1) did not know
- public bodies had higher levels of agreement at 73.7% (14), but also a slightly higher level of disagreement at 21.1% (4). The remaining respondent did not know
- farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers had lower levels of agreement at 61.5% (16). Similar levels of disagreement at 15.4% (4). Higher levels of respondents remaining neutral, though, with 23.1% (6) doing so
- respondents living in the BCP area had slightly lower levels of agreement at 62.3% (48), but also lower levels of disagreement at 13.0% (10). Interestingly, 23.4% (18) remained neutral, perhaps showing more uncertainty within this group

For those that disagreed, they were given the option to explain why, which have been analysed in the next question.

Q. If you disagree or strongly disagree, please tell us why.

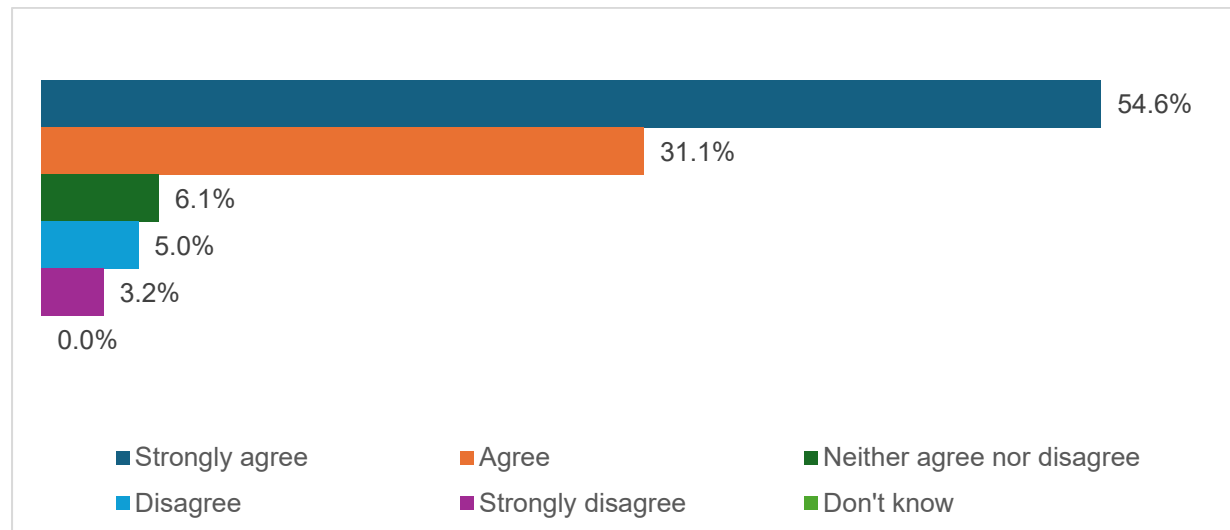
69 comments were received for this question, which have been coded and themed. Some of the main themes were:

- varying topics relating to accessibility and land management. Not all spaces to be open to the public, or more controls put in place to support
- general comments on environmental decline
- engaging and educating all on the importance of nature recovery
- either suggestions to improve the vision, or where more clarity is needed
- concerns new development sites are having on nature recovery

Comment/theme	Total
Accessibility and land management	17
Environmental decline	13
Other	13
Educating all on importance of nature recovery	11
Vision clarity and meaning	11
Concerns with new development and housing sites	10
Comment on specific site	6
Criticism of authorities	5
Connectivity	5
More done to ensure land is protected and celebrated	4
Need real action	4
Stop cutting hedges and verges/hedgerows crucial	3
For many it isn't a top concern	2
Community action and volunteering	2
Cut verges in residential areas	1

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the joint mission?

(n-280)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	153	54.6%
Agree	87	31.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	17	6.1%
Disagree	14	5.0%
Strongly disagree	9	3.2%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Joint mission: “Collectively work together to meet the urgent need and ambition to address the climate and nature emergencies through nature recovery.”

Compared to the joint vision, the overall agreement rate for the joint mission is notably higher, with 85.7% (240) agreeing overall. Of that figure, 54.6% (153) strongly agreed, exemplifying the strength of opinion.

8.2% (23) disagreed or strongly disagreed and 6.1% (17) remained neutral.

Overall, the high levels of agreement indicate that the joint mission statement resonated with more respondents across different groups than the vision.

Looking across the 6 different respondent types, levels of agreement were broadly similar to the overall. However, those in the nature and environment sector had an overall agreement of 94.3% (50), which is higher than average, and the highest across all groups. This suggests people working in relevant fields particularly value the mission statement.

Q. If you disagree or strongly disagree, please tell us why.

39 comments were received for this question, which have been coded and themed. 'Other' is the theme with the highest total as several comments were unrelated to the mission statement and the respondents' level of agreement. Some of the main themes were:

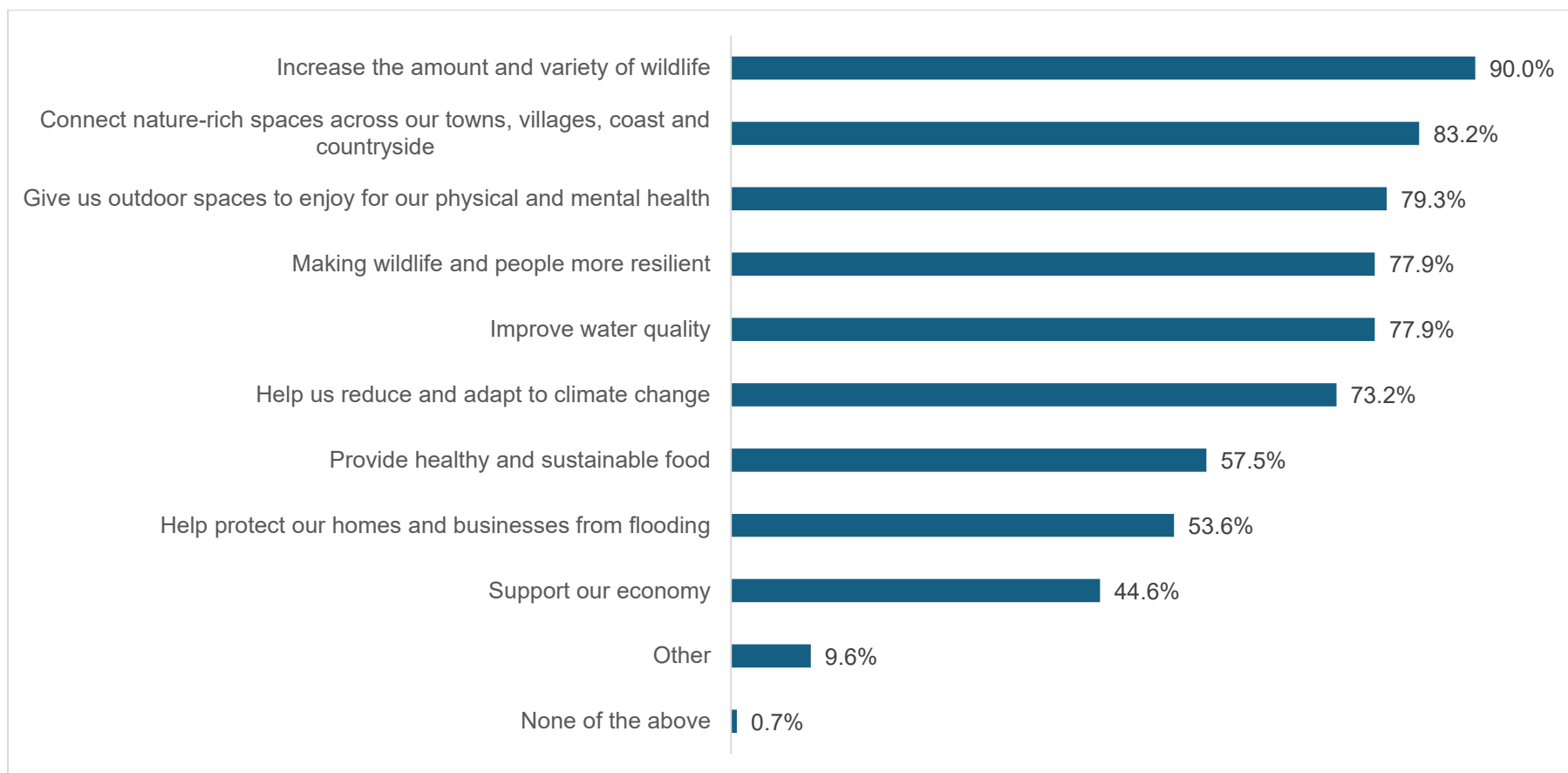
- there being no real action or targets
- more urgency being needed to show why nature recovery needs attention
- suggestions for the language used
- collaboration will be needed with all groups. Linked to that, there was criticism that the Council is difficult to work with

Comment/theme	Total
Other	14
No real action/targets	6
More urgency/needs attention (why it is important work starts now)	5
Suggestion to change the language used	5
Council difficult to work with/do not listen	4
Need agreement from other organisations/collaboration with all stakeholders	4
No climate emergency	3
Too expensive/who will pay for it?	2
More ambition (needs to go further)	2
More information needed/need to make people aware of the situation (more clarity needed)	2
Focus should be elsewhere	2

Most important benefits of nature recovery

Q. What do you think are the most important benefits of nature recovery?

(n-280)



Option	Total	Percent
Increase the amount and variety of wildlife	252	90.0%
Connect nature-rich spaces across our towns, villages, coast and countryside	233	83.2%
Give us outdoor spaces to enjoy for our physical and mental health	222	79.3%
Making wildlife and people more resilient	218	77.9%
Improve water quality	218	77.9%
Help us reduce and adapt to climate change	205	73.2%
Provide healthy and sustainable food	161	57.5%
Help protect our homes and businesses from flooding	150	53.6%
Support our economy	125	44.6%
Other	27	9.6%
None of the above	2	0.7%

Looking at the data above, the respondents consider the most important benefits of nature recovery to be wildlife, nature connectivity, and health benefits, with strong support also for climate resilience and water quality.

The top 2 options picked were 'Increase the amount and variety of wildlife', which was chosen by 90.0% (252) of respondents and 'Connect nature-rich spaces across our towns, villages, coast and countryside', which was picked by 83.2% (233) of those answering this question.

Other most supported options:

- 79.3% (222) chose 'Give us outdoor spaces to enjoy for our physical and mental health'
- 77.9% (218) chose 'Make wildlife and people more resilient'
- 77.9% (218) said 'Improve water quality'







Climate and sustainability

- 73.2% (205) chose 'Help us reduce and adapt to climate change'
- 57.5% (161) said 'Provide healthy and sustainable food'

Protection and economic development

- 53.6% (150) chose Help protect our homes and businesses from flooding
- 44.6% (125) picked Support our economy

Looking across them all, 'Support our economy', aside from 'Other', was the only option picked by fewer than half the respondents. This could suggest the link between the economy and nature recovery is unclear, or that the other areas should take more emphasis.

Option	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
Increase the amount and variety of wildlife	92.6%	89.8%	89.5%	90.6%	92.1%	85.7%
Connect nature-rich spaces across our towns, villages, coast and countryside	81.5%	83.8%	84.2%	86.8%	86.5%	76.6%
Making wildlife and people more resilient	81.5%	77.3%	84.2%	83.0%	83.7%	63.6%
Improve water quality	88.9%	76.1%	79.0%	83.0%	81.5%	71.4%
Help us reduce and adapt to climate change	88.9%	71.9%	79.0%	71.7%	78.1%	62.3%
Help protect our homes and businesses from flooding	70.4%	52.1%	68.4%	43.4%	59.6%	37.7%
Provide healthy and sustainable food	77.8%	55.1%	63.2%	54.7%	65.7%	40.3%
Give us outdoor spaces to enjoy for our physical and mental health	77.8%	82.6%	84.2%	69.8%	80.3%	79.2%
Support our economy	55.6%	41.9%	57.9%	43.4%	49.4%	32.5%
Other	14.8%	7.8%	0.0%	13.2%	11.8%	2.6%
None of the above	3.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%

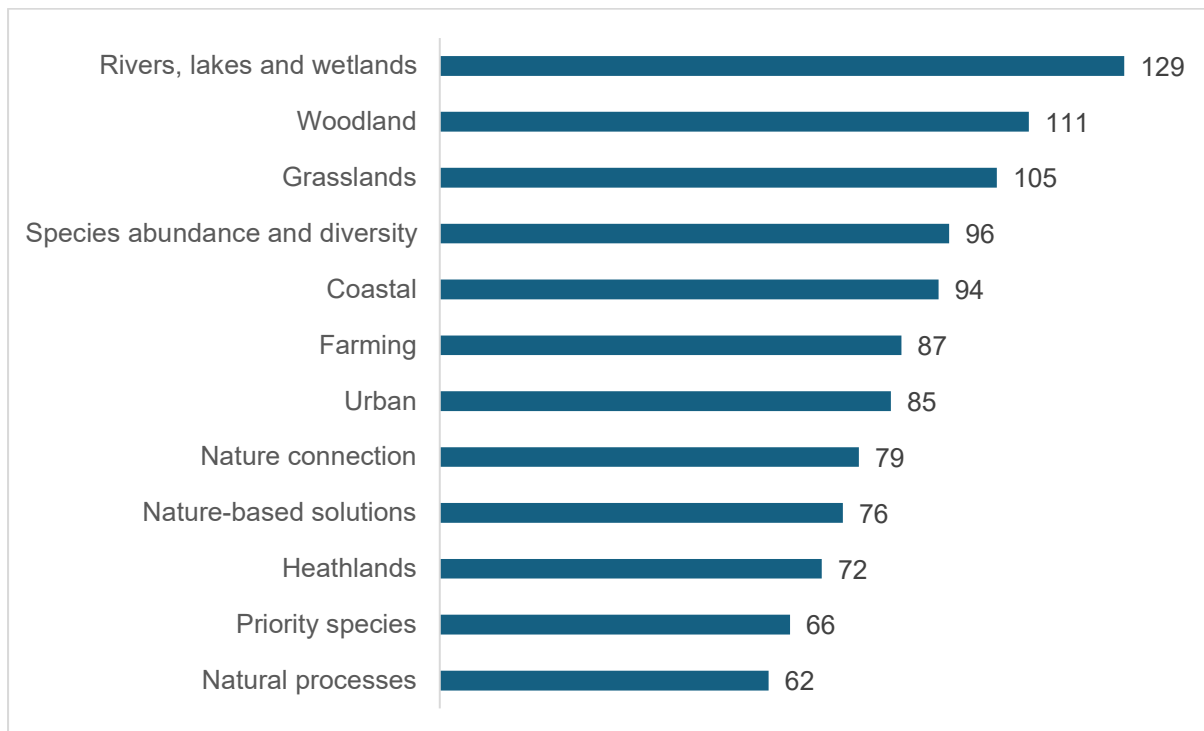
Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-27); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-167); 3 - Public bodies (n-19); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-53); 5 – Live in DC (n-178); 6 – Live in BCP (n-77)

Conditional formatting has been used to identify patterns of key differences across the 6 groups. There were 5 options that had more than a 20% variation between stakeholders, which were:

- Provide healthy and sustainable food has a 37.5% difference between farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers versus BCP residents
- Help protect our homes and businesses from flooding had a 32.7% variation between the same 2 groups
- Help us reduce and adapt to climate change has a 26.6% difference between the same groups again
- Support our economy has a difference of 25.4% between public bodies vs residents in BCP
- Making wildlife and people more resilient has a 20.6% difference between public bodies and residents in BCP

Priorities

(n-1062)



The table and chart highlight how many respondents answered a question on each priority, not the level of agreement with each priority.

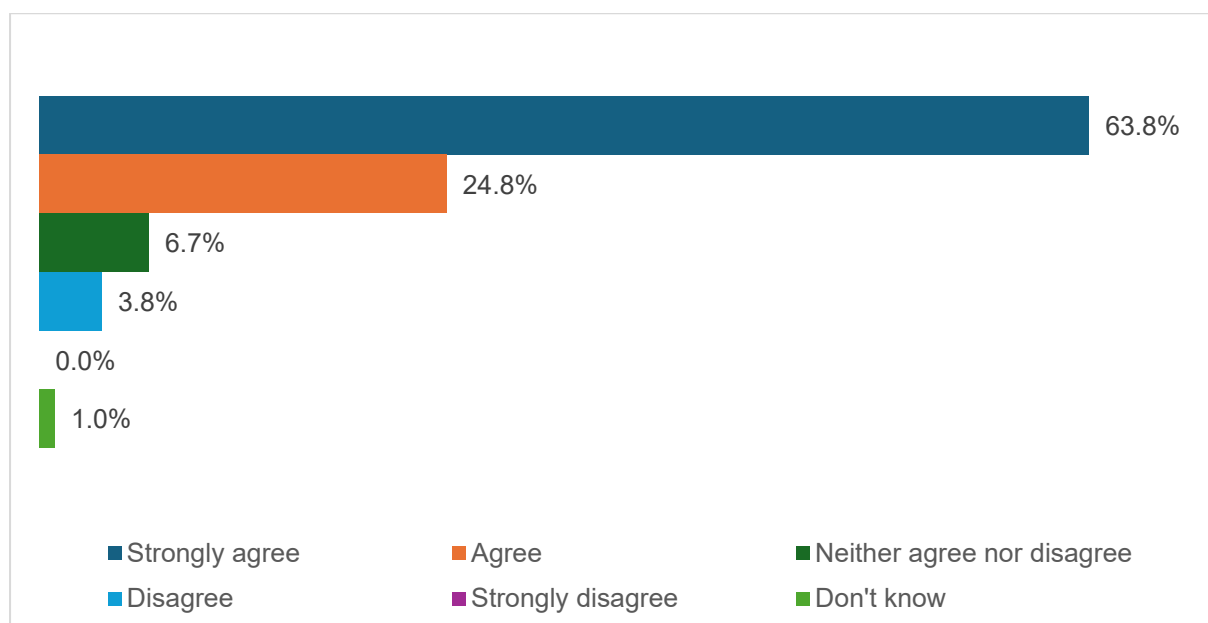
Priority	Total	Percentage
Rivers, lakes and wetlands	129	45.4%
Woodland	111	39.1%
Grasslands	105	37.0%
Species abundance and diversity	96	33.8%
Coastal	94	33.1%
Farming	87	30.6%
Urban	85	29.9%
Nature connection	79	27.8%
Nature-based solutions	76	26.8%
Heathlands	72	25.4%
Priority species	66	23.2%
Natural processes	62	21.8%

Priority 1 - Grasslands

Increase and enhance grassland across Dorset by creating more species-rich, larger, better-managed, and interconnected areas.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n=105)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	67	63.8%
Agree	26	24.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	6.7%
Disagree	4	3.8%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Don't know	1	1.0%

Overall, there was a high level of agreement with the grasslands priority. 88.6% (93) agreed, with 63.8% of those responding strongly agreeing. Of the remaining responses, 6.7% (7) neither agreed nor disagreed, suggesting some uncertainty or ambivalence. 3.8% (4) disagreed and 1.0% (1) did not know.

Looking across the different responding stakeholders (labelled in the table on the next page), overall agreement continues to be unified. Nature and environment sector respondents, alongside those living in the DC area, had the highest levels of agreement at 95.0% (19) and 93.0% (66) respectively.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
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Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	88.9%	5.6%
Communities and Individuals	88.0%	4.0%
Public bodies	81.8%	0.0%
Nature and environment sector	95.0%	5.0%
Live in DC	93.0%	1.4%
Live in BCP	81.0%	4.8%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-18); Communities and individuals (n-50); Public bodies (n-11); Nature and environment sector (n-20); Live in DC (n-71); Live in BCP (n-21)

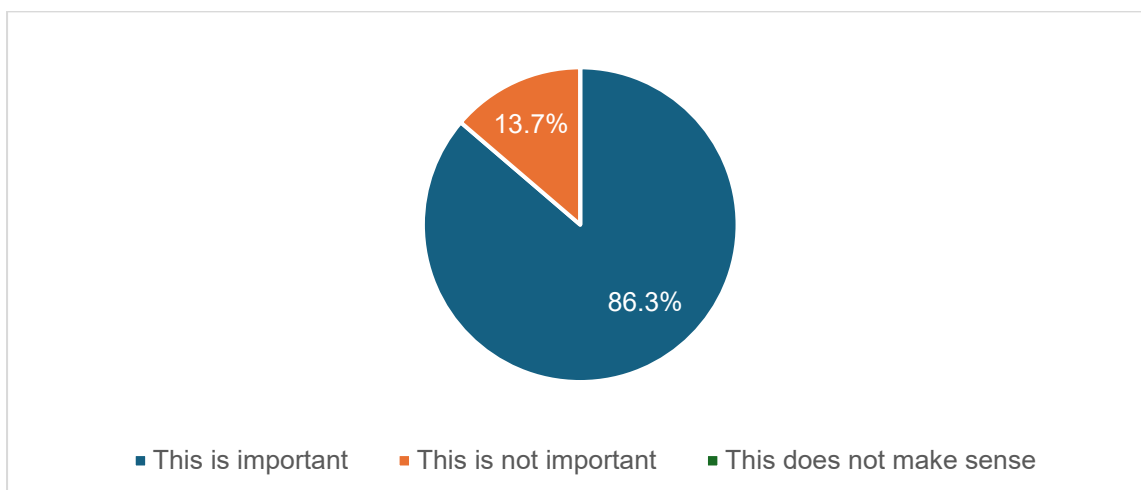
Although still high, respondents living in the BCP area and public bodies had the lowest levels of overall agreement at 81.0% (17) and 81.8% (9). Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers had the highest disagreement at 5.6% (1).

Youth survey response

In the youth survey, respondents were asked a simplified version of the priority questions, allowing them to share their opinion on an idea for each. These will be added in for each of the sections. They were given a set of statements and then asked if they thought they were important or not.

Q. “Make our grassy areas better with more wildflowers”

(n-51)



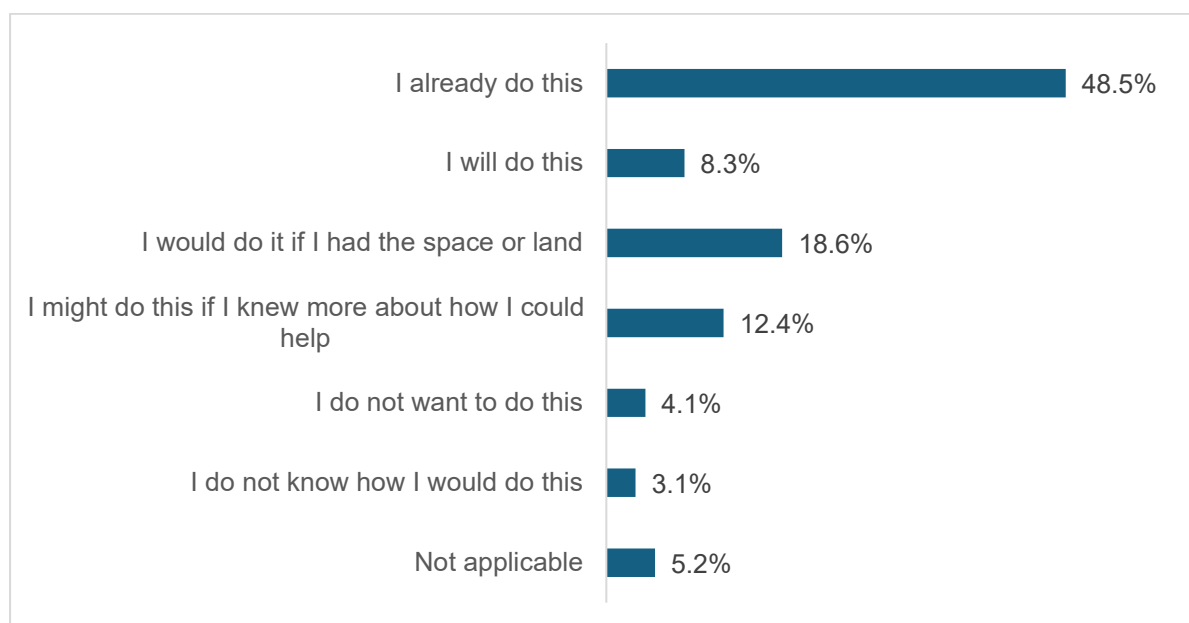
Option	Total	Percent
This is important	44	86.3%
This is not important	7	13.7%
This does not make sense	0	0.0%

Continuing the trend from the main survey, youth respondents thought that the grasslands part of the survey was important, with 86.3% (44) stating so. 13.7% (7) said that this priority was not important.

This suggests that across both versions of the survey, grasslands is a valued priority across a range of different stakeholders.







Q. Would you do any activities to support the grassland priority?

(n-97)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	47	48.5%
I will do this	8	8.3%
I would do it if I had the space or land	18	18.6%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	12	12.4%
I do not want to do this	4	4.1%
I do not know how I would do this	3	3.1%
Not applicable	5	5.2%

The activity responses were mixed with just under half of the respondents (48.5%, equating to 47 people) already performing grassland-based activities. From the remaining responses, there is a willingness to do more, but it is not currently possible due to land or lack of information and guidance. 18.6% (18) would do more if they had the space or land, and 12.4% (12) might do some activities if they knew more about them. 8.3% (8) will do more in the future, 5.2% (5) were not applicable, 4.1% (4) do not want to participate in grassland activities, and 3.1% (3) do not know how to participate.

Option	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
I already do this	81.3%	39.6%	27.3%	52.9%	53.0%	28.6%
I will do this	12.5%	6.3%	18.2%	5.9%	6.1%	9.5%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	25.0%	36.4%	11.8%	24.2%	9.5%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	6.3%	16.7%	9.1%	5.9%	10.6%	23.8%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	19.1%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	5.9%	1.5%	9.5%
Not applicable	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	17.7%	4.6%	0.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-16); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-48); 3 - Public bodies (n-11); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-17); 5 – Live in DC (n-66); 6 – Live in BCP (n-21)

As might be expected, 81.3% of the farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers that responded already commit to grassland-based activities. A further 12.5% indicated plans to increase their involvement in the future, suggesting potential for further participation growth.

Just over half DC residents and nature and environment sector respondents also already partake in activities at 53.0% and 52.9%. Building on this, 24.2% of DC residents would commit to more activities if they had the space or land.

Contrastingly, just over a quarter of BCP residents (28.6%) and public bodies (27.3%) currently participate in activities. However, the reasoning for potentially committing to activities could be different. For public bodies, 36.4% (4) would do more if they had the space or land. 23.8% of BCP residents might do more if they knew more about how they could help – pointing to a case of more information and guidance being needed to allow them to take part. BCP residents did also have the highest number of respondents across these categories that did not want to take part in activities at 19.1%.

If you have any comments about the grasslands priority, let us know here.

54 responses were received for this question, which have been coded and themed. Some of the main themes discussed were:

- grassland management, with emphasis also on landowner engagement and incentives
- new activity/strategy ideas related to grasslands and beyond
- some issues in terms of the definitions within the priority, and how people can actually support

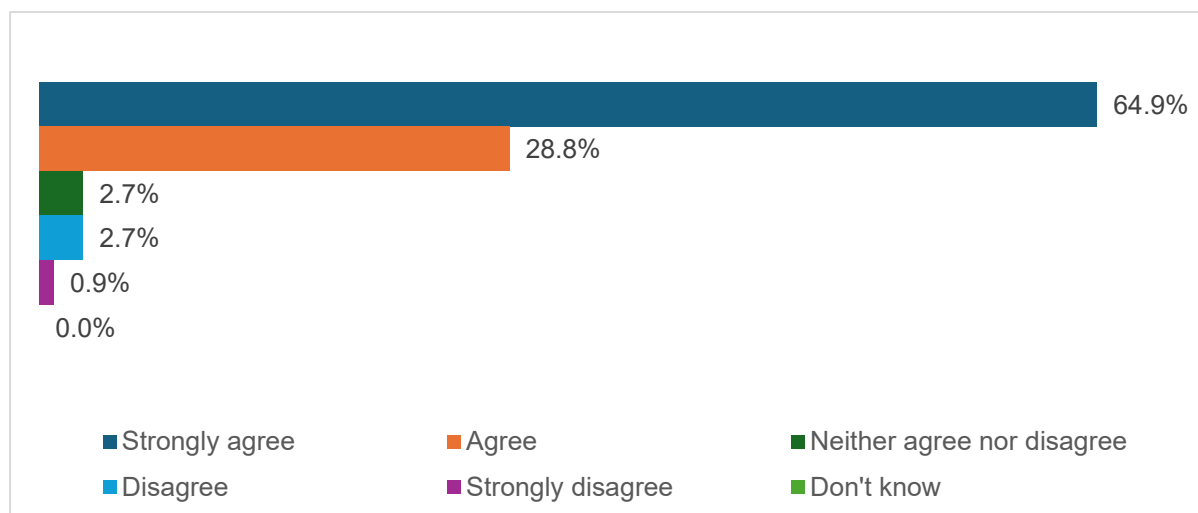
Comment/theme	Total
Grassland management	16
Other	7
Landowner engagement and incentives	7
New activity/strategy idea	7
Comment on specific area	6
Not clear in terms of general clarity and definitions, or for individuals how to support	5
Wildflowers able to grow (via meadows, verges)	4
Grasslands reinstated to benefit wildlife	4
Protection/preservation key in some areas	3
No direction for delivery	3
It's an important/beneficial habitat	3
Social enjoyment	2
Access to support and equipment	2
Benefits made more clear	2
Comment on specific changes to strategy	2
Issue with maps/general content and figures not accurate	2

Priority 2 – Woodland

Dorset's woodland habitats of broadleaved, mixed, wet woodland, and scrub are sustainably managed, resilient, expanded, and better connected.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-111)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	72	64.9%
Agree	32	28.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	3	2.7%
Disagree	3	2.7%
Strongly disagree	1	0.9%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Similarly to the grassland proposal, overall, there is a very strong level of support for the priority. 93.7% (104) agreed, with 64.9% (72) of that figure strongly agreeing.

Of the remaining responses, 3.6% (4) either disagreed or strongly disagreed and 2.7% (3) were neutral.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	100.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	93.3%	5.0%
Public bodies	80.0%	10.0%
Nature and environment sector	100.0%	0.0%
Live in DC	95.7%	2.9%
Live in BCP	89.7%	6.9%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-11); Communities and individuals (n-60); Public bodies (n-10); Nature and environment sector (n-24); Live in DC (n-69); Live in BCP (n-29)

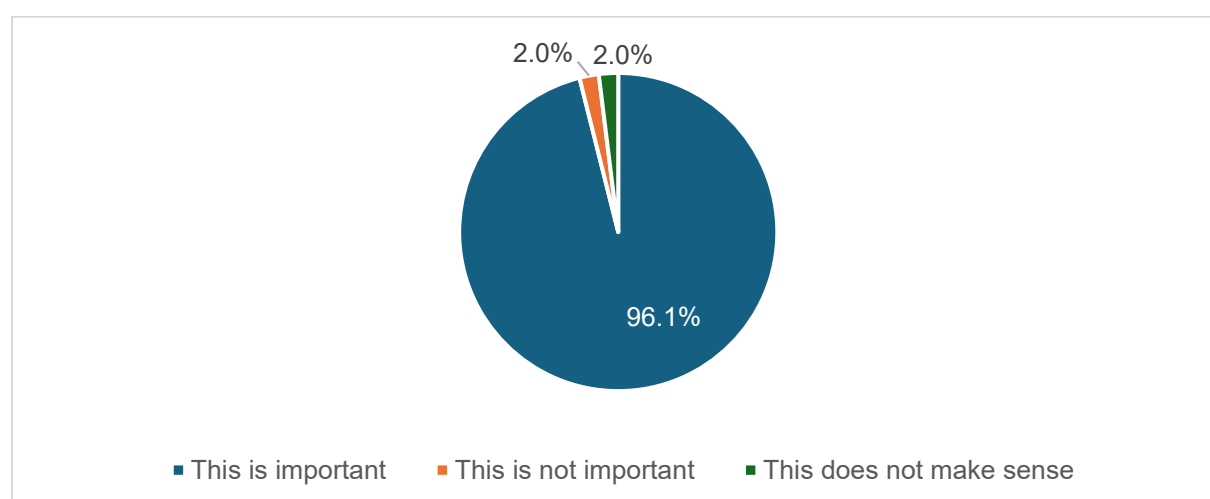
Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers and respondents in the nature and environment sector, both agreed with the proposals at 100%. It is worth noting however, that especially for the former, there is a smaller sample size to draw from, so caution should be taken when looking at the results in isolation. This could suggest that woodland is a top priority for those that manage or farm appropriate land, or those that work in the field.

All other groups had a majority agreement too, responding with an overall agreement rate of 80% or more.

Youth survey response

Q. “Make our woods better and bigger with lots more trees”

(n-51)

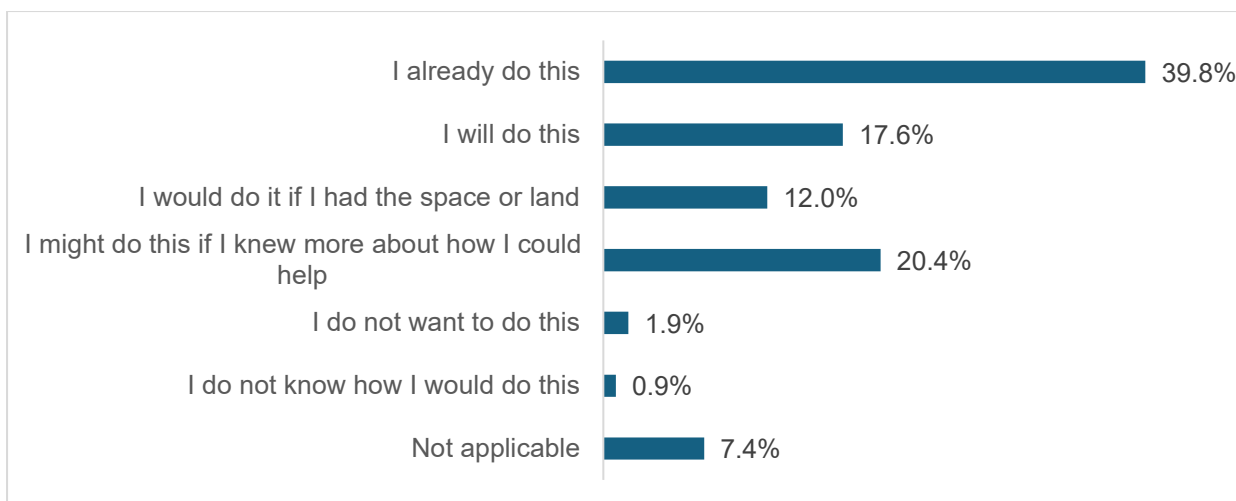


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	49	96.1%
This is not important	1	2.0%
This does not make sense	1	2.0%

Although framed differently for the audience, the youth response further exemplifies the support for the priority. 96.1% (49) of the respondents said that making our woods better was important. 2.0% (1) thought it was not, and 2.0% (1) thought the priority did not make sense.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the woodland priority?







(n-108)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	43	39.8%
I will do this	19	17.6%
I would do it if I had the space or land	13	12.0%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	22	20.4%
I do not want to do this	2	1.9%
I do not know how I would do this	1	0.9%
Not applicable	8	7.4%

Compared to the previous priority, there was a slight decline in the number of respondents already engaged in activities, with 39.8% (43 respondents) confirming their support for woodland-based actions. 20.4% (22) would consider doing more if they knew how to, 17.6% (19) will commit to more actions, and 12.0% (13) would do more if they had the space available.

7.4% (8) responded this was not applicable and 0.9% (1) do not know how they would do this. Interestingly, just 1.9% (2) did not want to take part in woodland activities.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	72.7%	23.7%	30.0%	65.2%	41.8%	28.6%
I will do this	27.3%	17.0%	30.0%	13.0%	14.9%	21.4%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	20.3%	10.0%	0.0%	14.9%	10.7%

I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	28.8%	20.0%	8.7%	23.9%	21.4%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%
Not applicable	0.0%	5.1%	10.0%	13.0%	3.0%	10.7%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-11); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-59); 3 - Public bodies (n-10); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-23); 5 – Live in DC (n-67); 6 – Live in BCP (n-28)

As before, farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers either already engage in woodland-based actions (72.7%) or will do them (27.3%). This suggests that the activities are important for those that are responsible for appropriate land, albeit a small sample size.

Unlike the grassland priority, however, 65.2% of those in the nature and environment sector said they take part in woodland activities. In addition, 13% responded that they will do more, showing potential participation growth.

A slight disparity is evident between DC and BCP residents. 41.8% of people that live in DC already take part in woodland actions, compared to 28.6% of respondents in BCP. There is a similar pattern across the 2 groups, though, with 23.9% of DC residents and 21.4% of BCP residents potentially doing more if they knew how to. This, coupled with the 28.8% of communities and individuals that identified the same, shows that there's a potential area to explore in supporting individuals get more involved. It could be that currently individuals feel unclear about how to participate, or that information is not readily available to them.

Q. If you have any comments about the woodland priority, let us know here.

53 responses were received for this question, which have been coded and themed. Some of the main themes discussed were:

- new or different activity and strategy ideas
- comments on specific places to be considered
- that trees are important, and this should be given an elevated status
- comments on suggestions to wording within the priority

Comment/theme	Total
Activity/strategy idea	16
Comment on specific place/area	10
Should be given elevated status/trees are important	7
Comment on the wording	7
Other	7

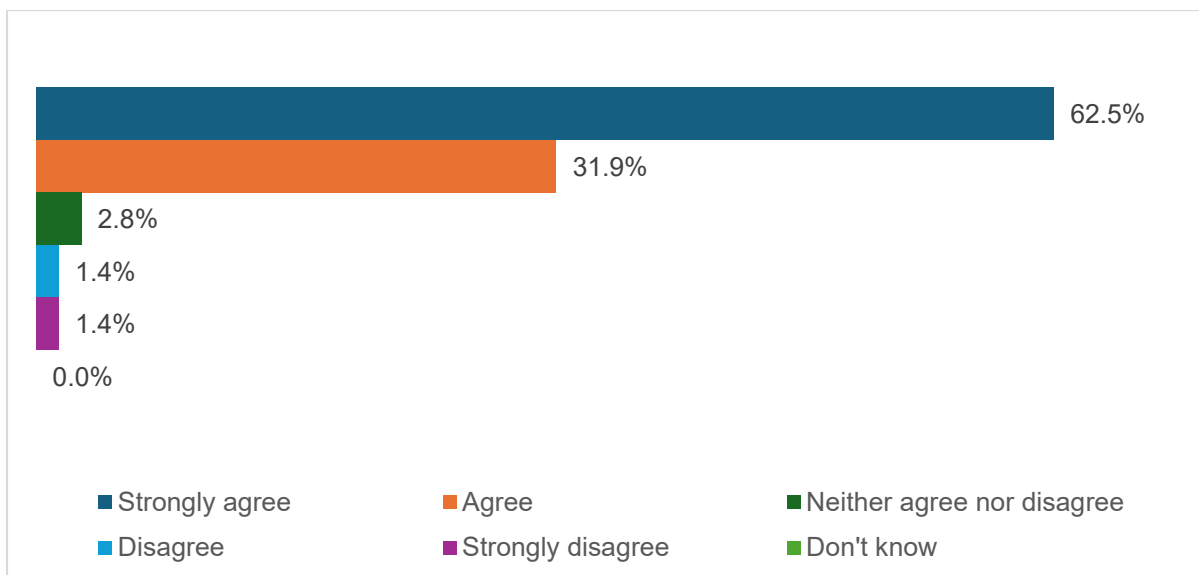
Other means that are important (hedges, Copses)	6
Landowner/developer engagement and incentives	5
Positive comment on the priority	3
Concern for development/protections under planning guidance	3
Not the highest priority/not highest where other options make more sense	2
Better prevention and enforcement to prevent tree felling	2
Engagement with schools	2
More areas returned to woodland	2
Native trees	2
Too much restricts public access/controlled public access	2
Named organisation that could help	1

Priority 3 – Heathlands

Heathland habitats are better, bigger, and connected, and where there are gaps, more wildlife habitat is created.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-72)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	45	62.5%
Agree	23	31.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2.8%
Disagree	1	1.4%

Strongly disagree	1	1.4%
Don't know	0	0.0%

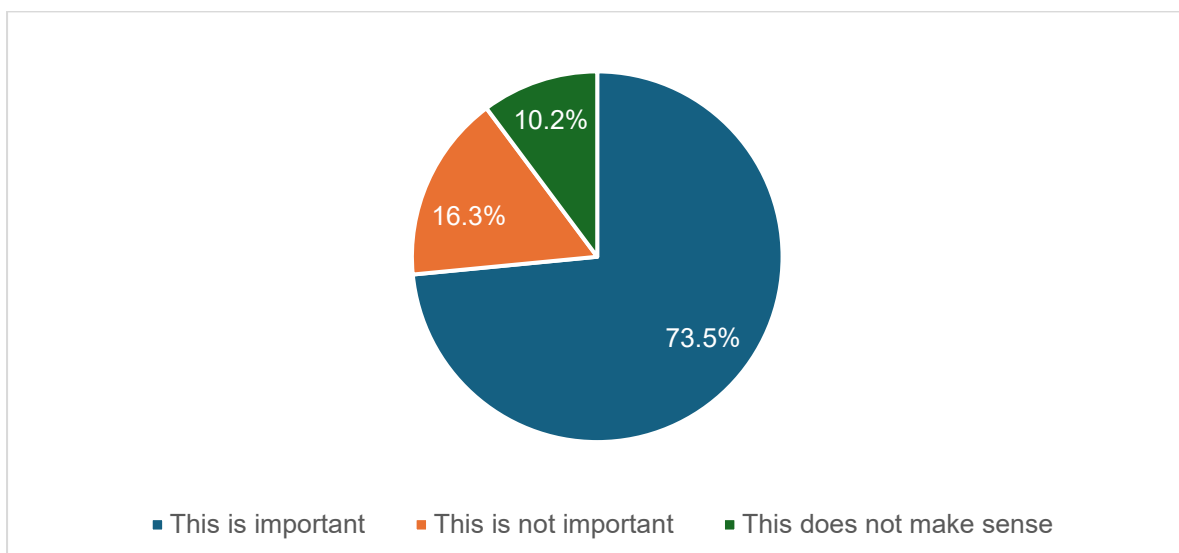
The heathland priority had an almost unanimous level of support for the proposal, with 94.4% (68) agreeing or strongly agreeing. 2.8% (2) were neutral, and 2.8% (2) either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Considering the 6 different respondent types, comparing across all of them for this priority is not possible due to farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers and public bodies having very small sample sizes (4 each). Across the other 4, the level of support was in-line with the overall.

Youth survey response

Q. "Take care of our heathlands and make them bigger"

(n-49)

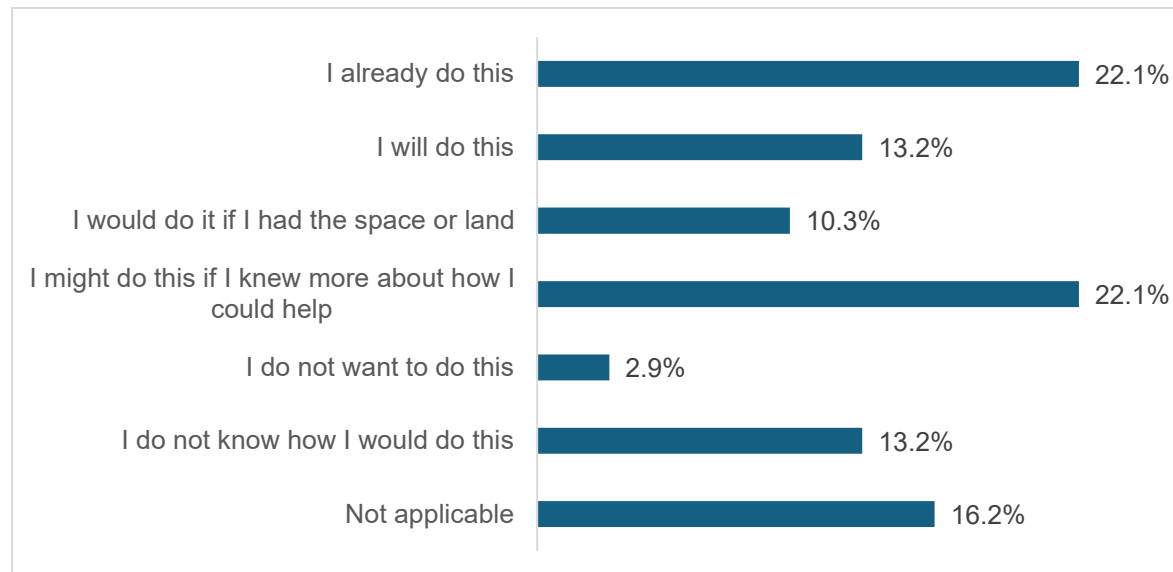


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	36	73.5%
This is not important	8	16.3%
This does not make sense	5	10.2%

Unlike the first 2 priorities, this is the first time there has been a difference between the youth response and the main survey response. 73.5% (36) think this is important, compared to 16.3% (8) who do not, and 10.2% (5) who thought it does not make sense. So, although there is a high number of youth respondents identifying the priority as important, there could be scope for more educational engagement relating to heathlands. This could help improve understanding and ensure more informed participation.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the heathlands priority?

(n-68)









Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	15	22.1%
I will do this	9	13.2%
I would do it if I had the space or land	7	10.3%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	15	22.1%
I do not want to do this	2	2.9%
I do not know how I would do this	9	13.2%
Not applicable	11	16.2%

Responses for this priority are more varied than previously, with just 22.1% (15) already involved in heathland-based activities. The same number of respondents also said they might do this if they knew more, potentially suggesting there is more uncertainty around how to support heathlands. 13.2% (9) said they will do more and do not know how they would get involved respectively. Lastly, 10.3% (7) would do it if they had the space or land, and 2.9% (2) do not want to.

Interestingly, 16.2% (11) respondents selected 'Not applicable' so further exploration could be useful to determine why this is higher than for other priorities.

The breakdown of responses potentially helps to better paint the picture here:

Option	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
I already do this	50.0%	14.6%	0.0%	38.5%	30.0%	8.7%
I will do this	0.0%	22.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	21.7%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	7.3%	25.0%	23.1%	15.0%	4.4%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	26.8%	25.0%	7.7%	20.0%	30.4%
I do not want to do this	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	4.4%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	19.5%	0.0%	7.7%	12.5%	17.4%
Not applicable	25.0%	9.8%	50.0%	23.1%	10.0%	13.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n=4); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n=41); 3 - Public bodies (n=4); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n=13); 5 – Live in DC (n=40); 6 – Live in BCP (n=23)

There were fewer farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers responding than previous priorities which is likely to have had an impact. For the others, there does appear to be an appetite to support, but again, there is uncertainty about how they would do so.

Looking at communities and individuals, the highest split of respondents is 26.8%, saying they might do more if they knew how to help. A further 19.5% do not know how they would involve themselves in the heathland priority activities. Conversely, 22% said they will do activities, suggesting that more awareness being spread throughout the strategy has alleviated some of the confusion.

For DC and BCP residents, there is again a split in responses. 30.0% (12) of DC residents are already involved in activities, compared to 8.7% (2) in BCP. However, 21.7% (5) in BCP will do more activities, which is higher than DC at 10.0% (4). Continuing the trend of communities and individuals, residents in both areas share some confusion as to how they would support activities. 30.4% (7) in BCP and 20.0% (8) in DC might do more if they knew more about how they could help. A further 17.4% (4) in BCP and 12.5% (5) in DC also stated they do not know how to take part.

More engagement with individuals on heathlands could be beneficial.

Q. If you have any comments about the heathland priority, let us know here.

22 respondents answered this question, and their responses can be seen verbatim.

There is a tendency to enlarge heathland at the expense of broadleaved (mainly birch) woodland but this too has its merits. There's only so much land...
Visits to local schools showing the wildlife and risks of (deliberate) fires
Natural England are doing a fantastic job locally and deserve everyone's support. 400mtr no building except nursing home is to be commended for future generations to enjoy and thrive in 5hdse sacred areas.
Vital to have better systems to prevent fires and block people from barbecues or fires in these areas
Leave Hatchard loan nature does a very good job on her own
Urbanisation and Farming has degraded the countryside in Dorset to a point where it is just a monoculture of various grasses all of which are devoid of nature. The Wildlife Trust and Local Authorities need to stop congratulating themselves on a biodiverse county when 90% of the land is under intensive farming and urbanisation particularly in the South East conurbation. High quality Greenspace must be reinstated to benefit wildlife and people alike. Urbanisation has broken up the wildlife rich areas into small patches which require reconnection with greenways.
maybe there should be some specific action around not using bbq on heathland (rather than raise awareness) also something about keeping dogs on leads in ground nesting bird season, and volunteering at country parks etc.
Expansion of habitat and connectivity is vital. More habitat means greater dispersal of human activity on it. The impacts of intensive farming also needs to be taken into account.
Priority 3 is an aspiration. Does this mean it's on the back burner?
It undoubtably has some beautiful heathland habitat but it also needs to have more trees to provide habitat for more species, help to reduce/improve flood risk & capture carbon. Trees & woodlands are also beneficial for wellbeing. I would not be in support of creating more heathland if it involved removing woodland / scrub habitat.
Who will be in charge of managing the priorities? Will there be a large executive? How many people on the ground will be paid to carry out the work?
I have heard a lot about volunteering with local parks, but I have not heard of any opportunities to spend time in, take care of or learn about our heathland. I don't think people would know how to enjoy time spent in heathland, and subsequently are not inclined to care for it, leaving rubbish and dog mess, allowing invasive plants to

escape from adjoining properties or even intentionally encroach directly onto the heathland, and allowing or causing wildfires. Heathland just isn't glamorous and doesn't offer as many recreation activities as beaches, rivers and parks and in fact can seem quite scary as it is home to snakes. Is there any way to try and change the reputation and foster more awareness and passion for heathland as part of the strategy? I don't see that there's much I can do as an individual, and I'd like to change that.

The Strategy informs us that huge areas of heathland were affected by the overplanting with conifers (into a category which the document now includes as woodland). The removal of these exceptionally low productivity conifers is, without a doubt, the most effective and cost efficient way of restoring heathland. However the Strategy strangely fails to sufficiently recognise and address this critical opportunity.

Firstly the various policies which relate to heathland within conifer plantations seem to imply targets linked just to mire restoration and linkage. We suggest that a simpler but more embracing guidance is first clearly stated such as 'restore and link heathland from conifer overplanting' This could be followed by suggestions for the most effective targets by adding 'paying particular attention to opportunities to -
expand existing heathland beyond the woodland
link heathland beyond and within the woodland
restore the natural catchment of valley mires within the woodland
embrace areas known to be important for key heathland species'

Secondly the Project maps blank out all the areas owned and/or managed by Forestry England. Yet Forestry England is by far the largest controller of potential heathland under conifers in the county. We do not understand why this has been done - it is not being done in Hampshire. Withholding presentation of the extent to which FE intends to contribute to nature recovery, when this information is presented in their Forest Design Plans, seems at best unhelpful and at worst misleading. Not to present that information, so that its intended contribution can be clearly assessed, makes the strategy fundamentally flawed and unsound. FE should be a key player in openly showing how and where it intends to contribute to the Strategy, not hiding its intended contribution in blanked out plantation blocks. We cannot help but link this lack of divulgence with the fact that, with the exception of Purbeck Forest (where what can relatively easily be achieved has been so positively demonstrated) far too little heathland restoration is done by FE despite conservation bodies consistently asking them to do more. The recent East Dorset Forest Design Plan for example shows barely any new heathland restoration and the comments on the draft from NGOs and NE alike totally ignored in the final plan. Forestry England clearly needs to be included in the guidance and the Projects map, not be exempted from it.

Although most coniferised heathland is controlled by FE a substantial area is in the

hands of private owners. They also need simple and clear direction regarding restoring areas of heathland as suggested above. Yet even if convinced to do heathland restoration, they are prevented from doing so by the Forestry Commission who will usually refuse to grant a Felling License for the operation unless either damage to an adjoining heathland SSSI can be demonstrated or alternative land is given up for woodland creation. As an example the FC refused to allow a significant portion of our own conifer plantation over former heathland to be restored to heathland unless we could provide land for replacement woodland - which we were not in a position to do. I cannot tick any of the above boxes because there is not one which says "I would do this if the FC would let me, but they will not". We understand that this Strategy cannot direct FC to change its internal policy. However it is essential that the Forestry Commission needs to see a clear and strong guidance in this Strategy allowing them to see that its own internal policies will be preventing private landowners from carrying out heathland restoration and thus be thwarting the aims of the Strategy. Please do take this point on board. I have long experience of heathland conservation dating from the 1980s and I am in no doubt that (despite some progress) FE with their management limitations and FC with their felling license restrictions are the main stumbling blocks to heathland restoration in Dorset. This Strategy should at least be doing what it can to address this.

Finally the strategy maps show the potential for heathland restoration from grassland as being too extensive covering areas which are unsuitable by virtue of being naturally too rich, too long subject to improvement or having their own interest as grassland. This leads the viewer to think that it is not of any great concern if not much heathland from conifer plantation is being promoted. They will believe there will be huge opportunity from grassland. There will not. Nor can heathland be reliably established on mineral workings.

It would be advisable to more carefully examine the map produced by the RSPB showing areas for potential heathland restoration when revising the maps accompanying this Strategy.

Also please note that unimproved acid grassland is a rarer habitat than lowland heath. It is not then appropriate to suggest that such acid grassland should be encouraged to progress to heathland as a means of increasing interest. Acid grassland is a habitat which should be promoted to be restored and maintained in its own right.

The working example and the artwork features pigs. Use of pigs on heathland for conservation purposes

is a recent activity and its value has yet to be evaluated. In any event it involves a landowner input over and above that even required for cattle and pony grazing. We were concerned that landowners may get the impression that heathland restoration has a follow on expectation that they may be unwilling or unable to give.

"Expand and connect current and potential heathland sites so they are big enough to protect from external pressures"

Within East Dorset the main barrier to this is Forestry England who have failed to deliver commitments made in 2009 and show little interest in the easy win of restoring the heathland/acid grassland rides. Instead they have been allowed to be invaded by birch and gorse in particular so further reducing opportunities of creating even wooded heath because of copious seed production that remains in the seed bank for decades.

"Manage some open areas in forests..."

New coniferous planting over heathland following clear felling of coupes should be discouraged and natural regeneration on these areas reduced so that at least wooded heath results. The failure by FE to deliver their Open Habitats policy is unacceptable.

"Restore dry and wet heath habitats to improve ecosystem function, "

This is feasible even on small sites.

I strongly support the excellent work of the Dorset Heaths Partnership.

Restore heathland habitat on former minerals and waste sites. NO! It is now recognised that the long claimed restoration potential is wrong because the substrate contains high proportions of silt and clay (so is unsuitable for reptiles) and the seed bank of any retained top soil will contain far too much gorse that will outcompete other heathland species. See RSPB research and evidence submitted by RSPB, ARC and EDEP to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Partial Update EiP February 2025. HCC were unable to identify any successful heathland restoration over minerals in the UK. Please stop perpetuating this myth!

Money needs to be found through grant funding or from the council to reduce the amount of volatile species, such as Rhododendron and Pine, to save our heathlands from scrubbing up and to reduce the risk and severity of the growing threat of wildfires. A strategy to identify these species on heathland boarding properties and funding to remove them would reduce the amount of complaints and risk to residents whilst saving some of our rarest habitats.

With regards to human activities on heathlands it would be beneficial to ground nesting birds and the reptiles to limit or discourage dog walking on heathland, either through more promotion of SANGs or through making it compulsory to have dogs on leads at all times on heathlands. There are many, many places to dog walk without disturbing wildlife but vanishingly few heathlands with healthy populations of ground nesting birds and of reptiles.

Dorset Peat Partnership (DPP) is a subgroup of the Dorset Catchment Partnerships. The DPP partners have restored 15 peatland sites with another aiming for completion

later this year. This work is helping to store water in catchments, slow the flow, improve water quality and provide habitat for species.

Heathland management and restoration are highly skilled and technical activities so it is unclear how this can be done by individuals or voluntary conservation. This work should be carried out by DC and NGOs including working with Natural England

Conifer plantations occupy roughly the same area of original heathland in Dorset as the surviving open heaths. Far and away the easiest and most certain way to extend the area of heathland will be to remove conifer plantations on former heathland sites; an action that seems to have been missed in the LNRS!

By contrast, acid grasslands - also a rare and restricted habitat - are suggested for heathland expansion. This may happen naturally and gradually but should not be accelerated by the NRS.

The Dorset National Landscape team convenes the Purbeck Heaths NNR partnership and will continue to support its management and expansion, as well as maximising its influence on nature recovery practice beyond its boundaries.

Heathland is not a natural environment. It is man made. It would be much better for the climate if trees are planted and allowed to grow in these areas, because trees sequester more carbon.

Heathland in Dorset is incredibly important as we have all 5 UK reptile species living on our heathlands and it is a rare habitat.

A pity that the case study in the document for this topic shows Mangalita pigs which are a Hungarian breed rather than one or more of the native British Breeds of pig. There are benefits from heathland but it does need to be managed. 'The Return of the Native' written in the 1870s shows that 150 years ago heathland was an important part of rural life.

I suppose that the interconnection between areas of heathland have some proximal measure of what is viable and presumably this does not suggest interconnection with the woodlands in priority 3.

Fully support restoring habitats on former minerals and waste sites.

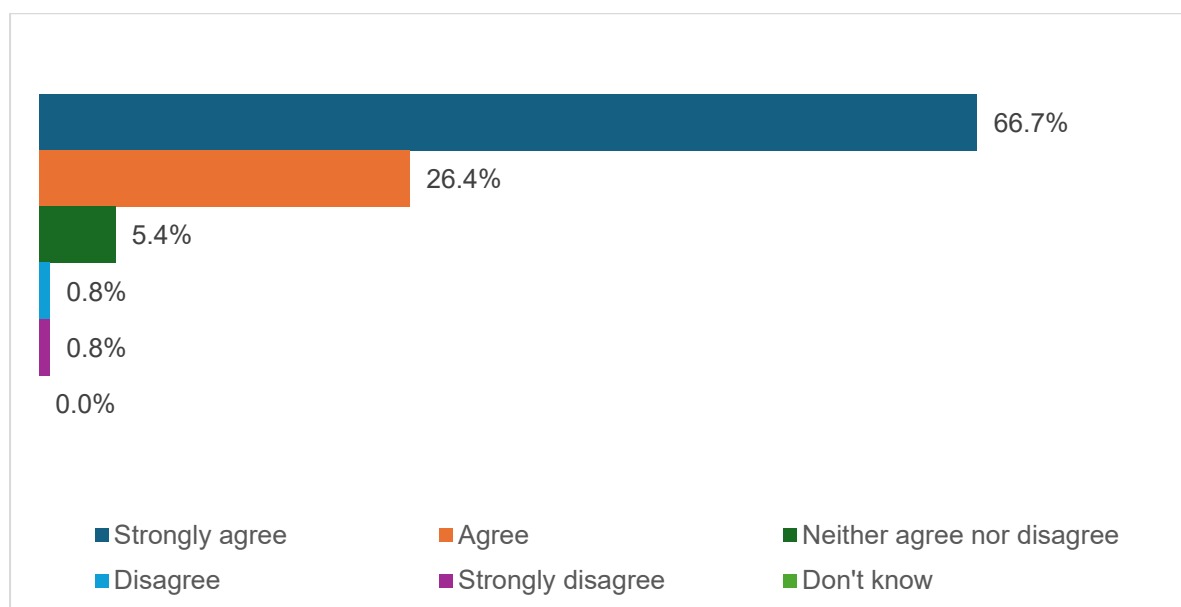
There are no heathlands in our Parish area.

Priority 4 – Rivers, lakes and wetlands

Rivers and lakes are naturally functioning, and wetland habitats are better, bigger, and connected to support wildlife and provide clean water and flood protection.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-129)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	86	66.7%
Agree	34	26.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	5.4%
Disagree	1	0.8%
Strongly disagree	1	0.8%
Don't know	0	0.0%

The majority showed a strong level of agreement with the rivers, lakes and wetlands priority, with 93.1% (120) of respondents expressing agreement. Of these, 66.7% (86) strongly agreed, indicating a high level of support. A small proportion, 5.4% (7), neither agreed nor disagreed, suggesting some uncertainty or neutrality. Only 1.6% (2) expressed disagreement, split evenly between 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. This reflects a broadly unified response in favour of the priority.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
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Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	100.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	93.2%	1.4%
Public bodies	81.8%	0.0%
Nature and environment sector	95.8%	4.2%
Live in DC	94.2%	2.3%
Live in BCP	90.6%	0.0%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-13); Communities and individuals (n-73); Public bodies (n-11); Nature and environment sector (n-24); Live in DC (n-86); Live in BCP (n-32)

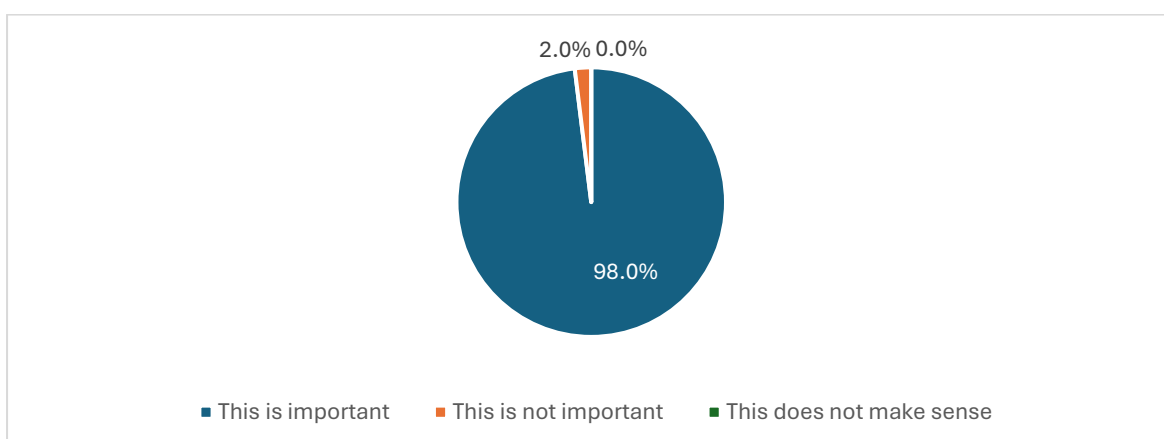
Overall, the data reflects a high level of consensus across the groups. Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers showed unanimous support for the priority, with 100% agreement. This suggests strong alignment with the priority among those directly involved in land management. The nature and environment sector also showed very high levels of agreement at 95.8%, with a small proportion (4.2%) expressing disagreement indicating broad support from those working in environmental fields.

All other groups demonstrated strong overall agreement, with communities and individuals at 93.2%, respondents living in the BCP area showed 90.6% agreement and residents in the DC area at 94.2%, reinforcing the widespread support across geographic areas. Public bodies had the lowest agreement rate at 81.8%.

Youth survey response

Q. “Make our rivers healthy and have more wetland areas for wildlife that need patches of water covered land”

(n-51)



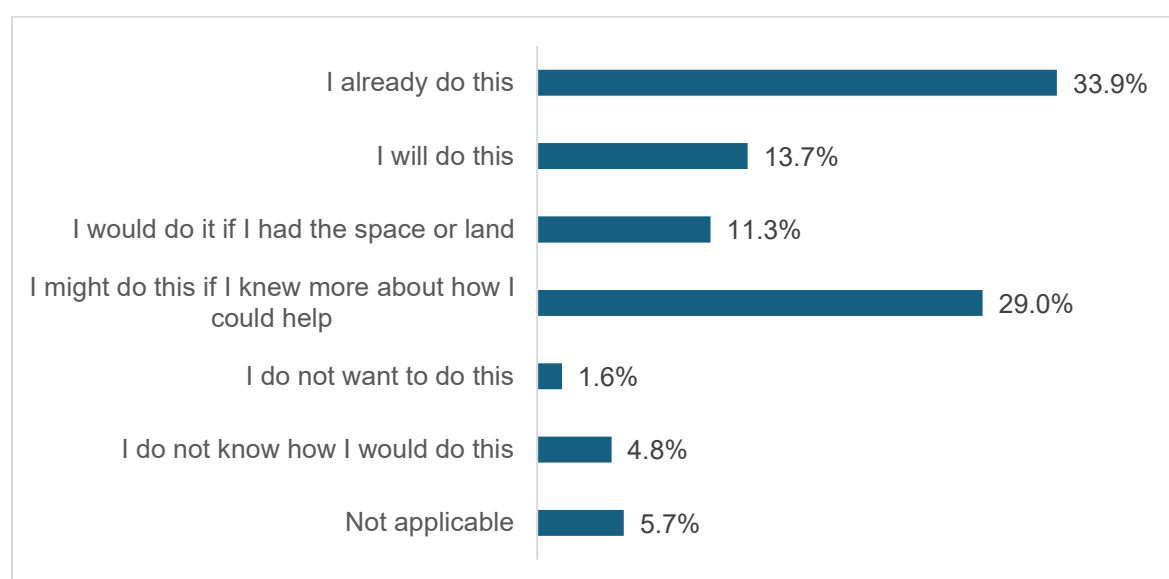
Option	Total	Percent
This is important	50	98.0%
This is not important	1	2.0%

This does not make sense	0	0.0%
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Responses from the youth survey show overwhelming support for ‘make our rivers healthy and have more wetland areas for wildlife’ with 98% (50) saying this is important, with only 2% (1) stating it is not important. No respondents indicated confusion or lack of understanding. This suggests that young people clearly value healthy rivers and wetland habitats.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the rivers, lakes and wetlands priority?

(n-124)









Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	42	33.9%
I will do this	17	13.7%
I would do it if I had the space or land	14	11.3%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	36	29.0%
I do not want to do this	2	1.6%
I do not know how I would do this	6	4.8%
Not applicable	7	5.7%

The data suggests a strong willingness to support the rivers, lakes, and wetlands priority, with 33.9% (42) indicating they already take action, showing a strong base of active engagement and a further 13.7% (17) said they will do this, suggesting potential for growth in participation.

However, nearly 29% (36) are open to participating but need more information selecting ‘I might do this if I knew more about how I could help’. 11.3% (14) would

support the priority if they had the space or land, highlighting a practical barrier for some. Only 1.6% (2) expressed that they do not want to participate, and 4.8% (6) said they don't know how, showing very low resistance but some uncertainty.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	46.2%	21.7%	36.4%	54.2%	34.9%	20.0%
I will do this	46.2%	10.1%	18.2%	8.3%	14.5%	16.7%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	15.9%	0.0%	12.5%	15.7%	3.3%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	7.7%	39.1%	36.4%	8.3%	27.7%	43.3%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	4.2%	1.2%	3.3%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	10.0%
Not applicable	0.0%	2.9%	9.1%	12.5%	3.6%	3.3%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-13); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-69); 3 - Public bodies (n-11); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-24); 5 – Live in DC (n-83); 6 – Live in BCP (n-30)

As noted in the previous priorities, farmers, foresters, landowners, and land managers (46.2%) are already actively involved, with the nature and environment sector showing the highest level of current engagement (54.2%). Communities and individuals, along with public bodies, also demonstrate interest, but a lack of knowledge emerges as a key barrier, reflected in 39.1% and 36.4% respectively selecting 'I might do this if I knew more.' Additionally, space constraints are acknowledged by 15.9% of communities and individuals and 12.5% of the nature and environment sector. The barrier of limited understanding is further reinforced by 8.7% of communities and individuals stating, 'I do not know how I would do this.'

Residents in DC show higher levels of current engagement, with 34.9% stating 'I already do this,' compared to 20% in BCP. In contrast, BCP residents express greater interest in participating if they had more knowledge, with 43.3% selecting 'I might do this if I knew more,' versus 27.7% in DC. Space constraints are slightly

more of a concern in DC (15.7%) than in BCP (3.3%), while uncertainty about how to get involved is more prevalent in BCP (10.0%) than DC (2.4%).

If you have any comments about the rivers, lakes and wetlands priority, let us know here.

55 responses were received for this question, which have been coded and themed. Some of the main themes discussed were:

- general comments on the challenges with water quality, pollution and water companies
- comments looking at land use and elements linked to that, such as tree/hedge planting
- comments on specific geographical areas
- flooding and flood plains

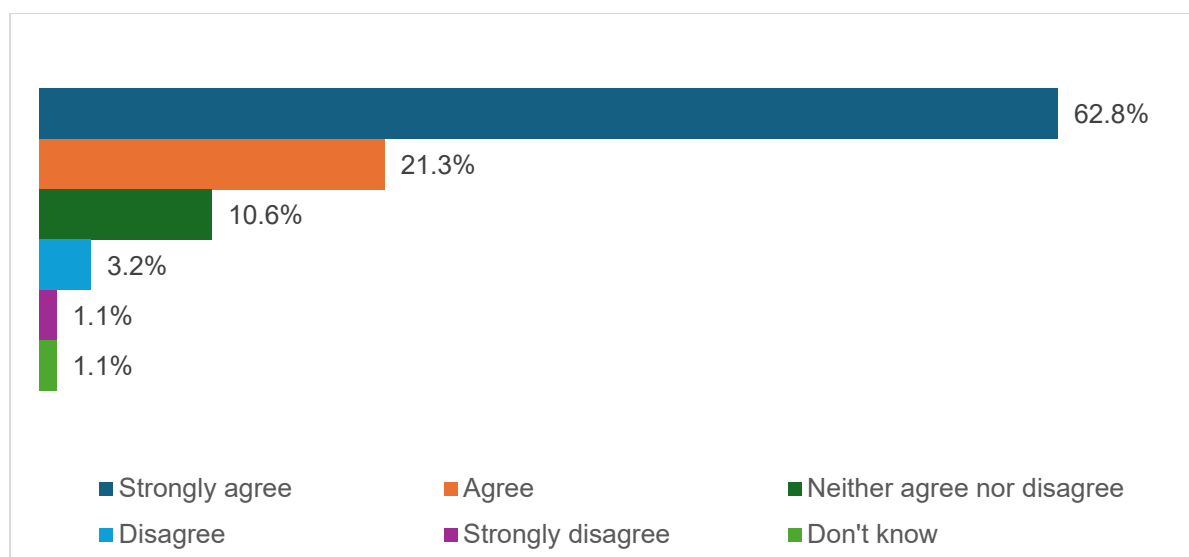
Comment/theme	Total
Water quality / Challenges re pollution from water companies / land owners / use of pesticides etc	18
Other	13
Land use comments - tree/hedge planting	12
Comment on specific geographical area	11
Flooding / flood plains	9
Omissions in / improvements for the strategy	8
Organisations mentioned in narrative	7
Mention of particular species / animal	6
Negative comments	3
Comments re map issues	3
Positive comments	2

Priority 5 - Coastal

The coastal strip is enhanced and restored to safeguard key habitats that protect rare and vulnerable species and space is created for coastal retreat as habitat is lost to erosion and sea level rise.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-94)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	59	62.8%
Agree	20	21.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10.6%
Disagree	3	3.2%
Strongly disagree	1	1.1%
Don't know	1	1.1%

Overall, there was a high level of agreement with the Coastal priority, with 84.1% (79) showing support. Of these, 62.8% (59) strongly agreed, indicating a strong sense of importance placed on coastal issues. A smaller proportion, 10.6% (10), neither agreed nor disagreed, suggesting some uncertainty or ambivalence. Only 4.3% (4) disagreed, and 1.1% (1) selected “don’t know,” showing that opposition or confusion was minimal. These results suggest that the Coastal priority is well understood and largely supported by respondents, with a clear majority recognising its value.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	100.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	88.3%	5.0%
Public bodies	50.0%	12.5%
Nature and environment sector	81.3%	0.0%
Live in DC	84.6%	5.8%
Live in BCP	83.9%	3.2%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-4); Communities and individuals (n-60); Public bodies (n-8); Nature and environment sector (n-16); Live in DC (n-52); Live in BCP (n-31)

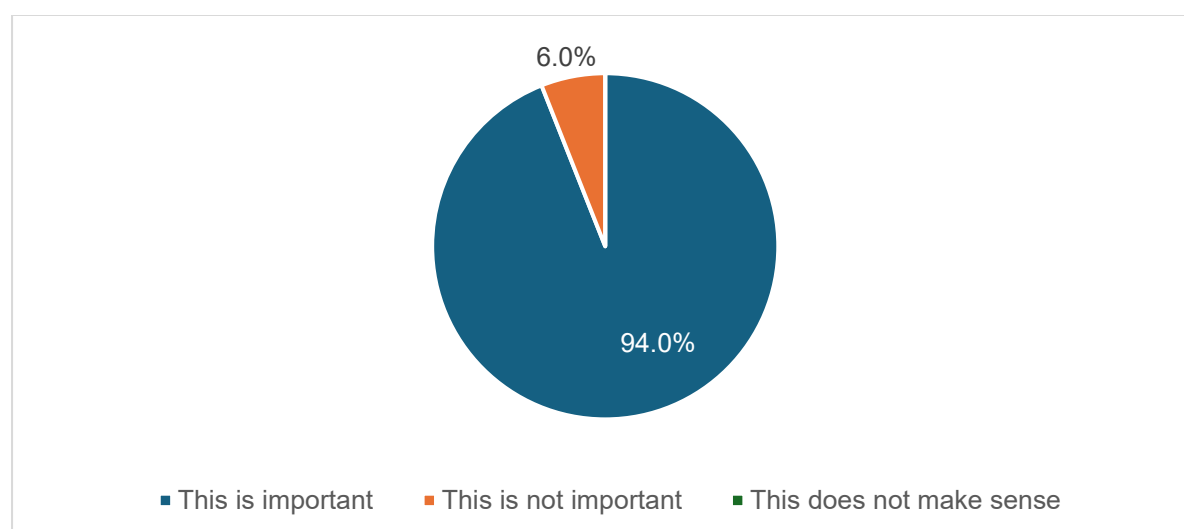
The majority of respondents showed a strong level of agreement with the priority, with 100% of farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers and 81.3% of those in the nature and environment sector expressing support, and no disagreement recorded in either group. Communities and individuals also showed high agreement at 88.3%, with a small proportion (5%) disagreeing.

Public bodies showed the lowest level of overall agreement at 50%, with 12.5% expressing disagreement, suggesting a more cautious or mixed view. Geographically, support was strong among those living in the DC area (84.6%) and BCP area (83.9%), with relatively low levels of disagreement (5.8% and 3.2% respectively).

Youth survey response

Q. “Take care of our beaches, cliffs and rocks along the coast”

(n-50)

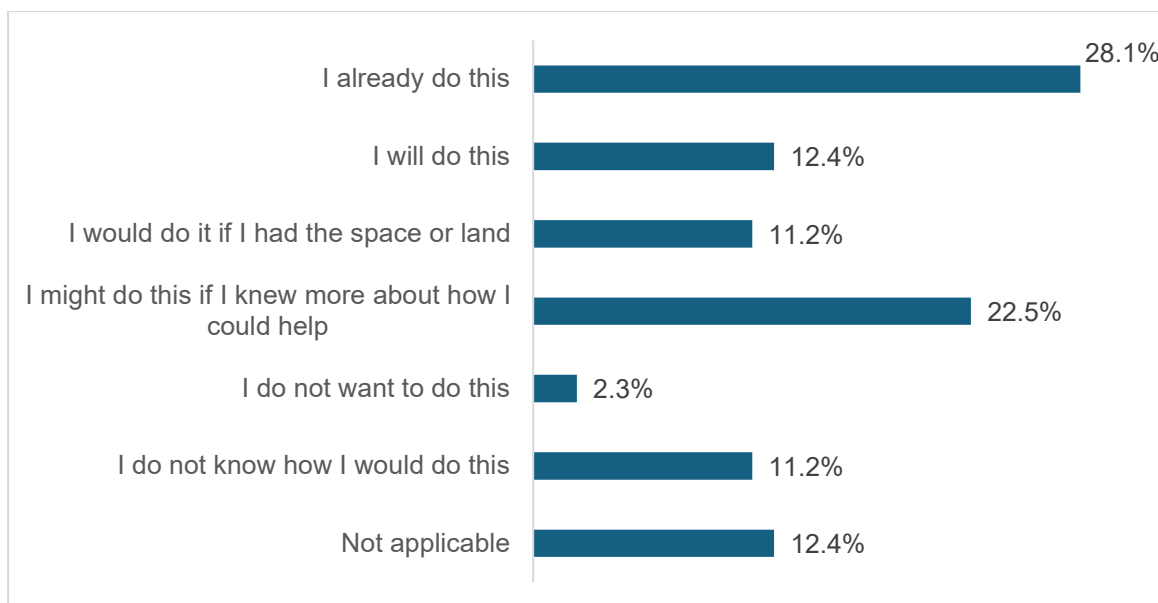


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	47	94.0%
This is not important	3	6.0%
This does not make sense	0	0.0%

Youth survey responses show very strong support for the coastal priority to “take care of our beaches, cliffs and rocks along the coast.” 94% (47) said this is important, while only 6% (3) felt it was not. No respondents showing confusion or lack of understanding. This suggests that young people clearly recognise the value of protecting coastal environments and see it as a meaningful and relevant priority.







Q. Would you do any activities to support the coastal priority?

(n-89)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	25	28.1%
I will do this	11	12.4%
I would do it if I had the space or land	10	11.2%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	20	22.5%
I do not want to do this	2	2.3%
I do not know how I would do this	10	11.2%
Not applicable	11	12.4%

Responses for this priority show a generally positive attitude, with 28.1% (25) already involved in coastal-related activities. 22.5% (20) said they might do this if they knew more, suggesting that increased awareness could encourage further engagement. 12.4% (11) responded that they 'will do this', showing potential for increased participation. 11.2% (10) said they would get involved 'if they had the space or land', highlighting a practical barrier for some and another 11.2% (10) said they 'do not know how I would do this' indicating a potential need for clearer guidance. Lastly, 2.3% (2) said they 'do not want to do this', indicating very low resistance to the priority.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	75.0%	19.3%	37.5%	33.3%	30.6%	13.8%

I will do this	25.0%	15.8%	0.0%	6.7%	8.2%	24.1%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	10.5%	25.0%	13.3%	18.4%	3.5%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	29.8%	12.5%	13.3%	22.5%	31.0%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.9%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	14.0%	0.0%	13.3%	10.2%	13.8%
Not applicable	0.0%	7.0%	25.0%	20.0%	10.2%	6.9%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-4); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-57); 3 - Public bodies (n-8); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-15); 5 – Live in DC (n-49); 6 – Live in BCP (n-29)

It is important to note some group sizes have a small size.

Farmers, foresters, landowners, and land managers show strong current engagement, with 75% stating 'I already do this'. Communities and individuals express high interest in learning more, with 29.8% selecting 'I might do this if I knew more about how I could help' and 10.5% citing space constraints. Public bodies show moderate engagement, with 37.5% already involved and 25% indicating the activity is not applicable.

Residents in DC demonstrate higher current engagement (30.6% 'I already do this') compared to BCP residents (13.8%). In contrast, BCP residents are more open to future involvement if better informed, with 31% selecting 'I might do this if I knew more,' versus 22.5% in DC. Space constraints are a more noticeable issue in DC (18.4%) than in BCP (3.5%), while uncertainty about how to participate is more common in BCP (13.8%) than DC (10.2%).

Q. If you have any comments about the coastal priority, let us know here.

There were 42 responses to this question which have been coded and themed. Some of the main topics were:

- as with other priorities, comments relating to a specific geography
- the strategy/priority omitting important content, such as geology in this case
- protection of wildlife and marine life

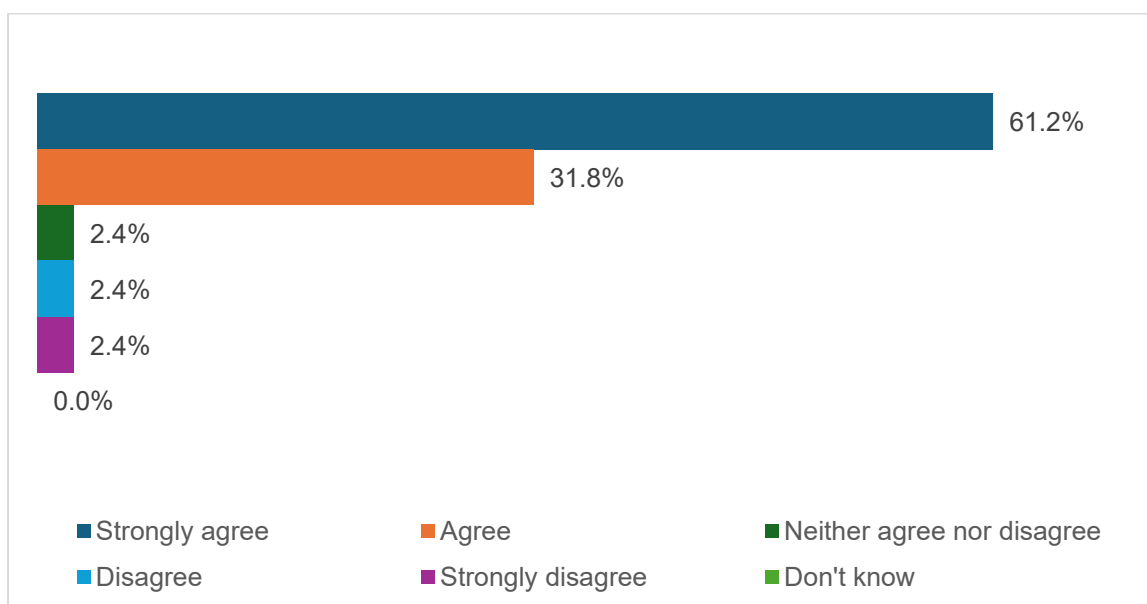
Comment/theme	Total
Specific geographic area mentioned	12
Omissions in the strategy e.g. geology	10
Protection of wildlife / marine life	9
Sea Defences / harbours / coastal erosion	8
Sewage / water pollution / water quality / silt	8
Other	8
More education needed	5
Specific species / animals mentioned in commentary	5
Negative - survey	4
Technical and specialist comments	4
Comments re tourism	4
Plastic / waste on beaches e.g. Rubbish/recycling	4
Comments re fishing industry	3
Specific organisation mentioned	3

Priority 6 – Urban

Our towns and villages have increased nature-rich spaces, so wildlife can travel between buildings, roads, parks, gardens and the wider countryside.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n=85)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	52	61.2%

Agree	27	31.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2.4%
Disagree	2	2.4%
Strongly disagree	2	2.4%
Don't know	0	0.0%

The majority showed a strong level of support for the priority, with 92.9% (79) expressing overall agreement, and 61.2% (52) of those strongly agreeing. The remaining responses were split, with 2.4% (2) neither agreeing nor disagreeing, and 2.4% disagreeing and a further 2.4% (2) strongly disagreeing. Overall, there was a strong consensus among the respondents.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	80.0%	20.0%
Communities and Individuals	95.7%	2.1%
Public bodies	80.0%	10.0%
Nature and environment sector	100.0%	0.0%
Live in DC	91.2%	7.0%
Live in BCP	95.2%	0.0%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-5); Communities and individuals (n-47); Public bodies (n-10); Nature and environment sector (n-16); Live in DC (n-57); Live in BCP (n-21)

There is a broad level of high agreement between the different respondent types. 100% of those in the nature and environment sector agreed with the priority, showing strong support from environmental fields.

This high level of overall agreement was present in communities and individuals too. 95.7% (45) of communities and individuals showed overall agreement, alongside 95.2% (20) and 91.2% (52) from residents in BCP and DC respectively.

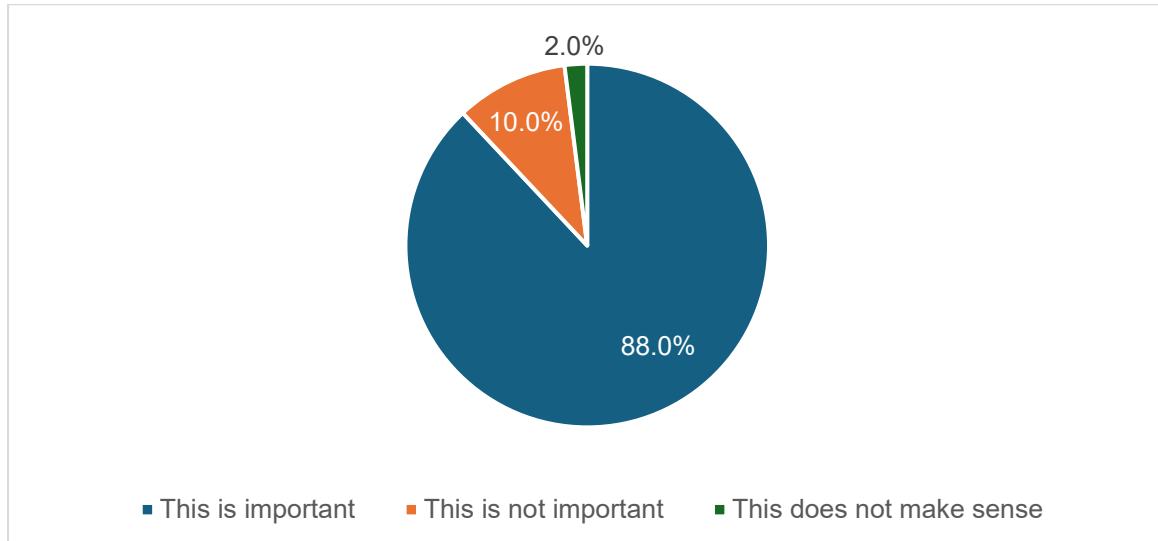
The high level of broad agreement from residents in BCP is particularly important as they are more likely to be living in urban areas and the audience for this priority.

Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers, coupled with public bodies, still had high levels of agreement at 80% each, but there was some general disagreement between these 2 groups.

Youth survey response

Q. “Create more wildlife-friendly spaces in our parks, gardens, along roads and on buildings”

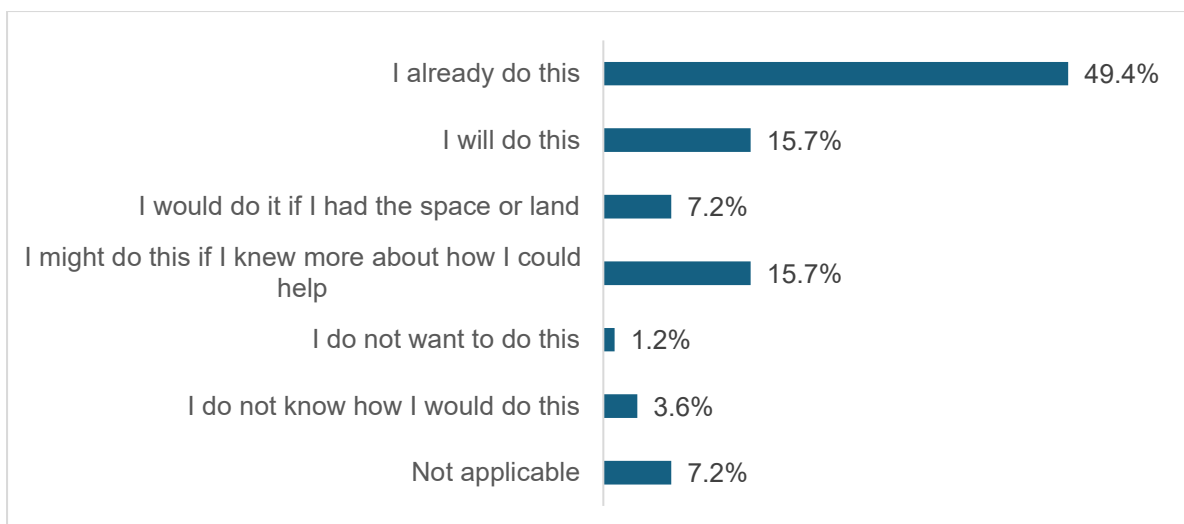
(n-50)



The statement “Create more wildlife-friendly spaces in our parks, gardens, along roads and on building’ was once again important for the young people that responded to the survey. 88% (44) stated so, showing a strong consensus. 10% (5) said that it was not, and 2% (1) thought it did not make sense. The urban priority is clearly of value to the young people that participated.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the urban priority?

(n-83)









Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	41	49.4%
I will do this	13	15.7%
I would do it if I had the space or land	6	7.2%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	13	15.7%
I do not want to do this	1	1.2%
I do not know how I would do this	3	3.6%
Not applicable	6	7.2%

The results highlight good levels of current participation, with potential for growth with some barriers removed. 49.4% (41) already take part in urban-based activities and a further 15.7% (13) will do so having completed the survey.

As with other priorities, some of the same barriers are present. 15.7% (13) might support this if they knew more about how they could help, and 7.2% (6) would do if they had the space or land. So, more general information and guidance would be helpful and allow more participation, and space issues continue to act as a current limitation.

For 7.2% (6) this question was not applicable, and lastly, 1.2% (1) did not want to take part.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	33.3%	52.2%	40.0%	57.1%	57.1%	33.3%

I will do this	33.3%	13.0%	20.0%	14.3%	12.5%	28.6%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	6.5%	10.0%	7.1%	7.1%	9.5%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	23.9%	10.0%	7.1%	12.5%	28.6%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	16.7%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	0.0%
Not applicable	16.7%	0.0%	10.0%	14.3%	3.6%	0.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-6); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-46); 3 - Public bodies (n-10); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-14); 5 – Live in DC (n-56); 6 – Live in BCP (n-21)

Certain groups had higher levels of current participation than the overall data, showing that it appears to be an accessible priority for communities and individuals, in addition to more specialist groups.

57.1% of respondents in the nature and environment sector already participate in activities, with 14.3% stating they will do so, potentially showing some potential for growth.

This sentiment is similar across the communities and individual respondents too. 52.2% already commit to activities and 13% suggested they will do moving forwards.

Interestingly, 57.1% of DC residents are currently involved in activities, compared to 33.3% of respondents in BCP. Due to the priority being focused on urban-based projects, there is an expectation this would be the other way round. However, one potential reason could have been limitations or barriers to participation. 28.6% of BCP respondents said they will partake in activities moving forwards, and a further 28.6% might do more if they knew more about how they could.

Public bodies showed moderate levels of participation with 40% currently involved in projects, with 20% stating they will take part in activities in the future.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers have lower levels of participation for this urban based priority at 33.3%, though this is based on a very small sample size. 33.3% also said they will do so in the future.

Q. If you have any comments about the urban priority, let us know here.

There were 50 responses to this question which have been coded and themed.
Some of the main topics were:

- encouraging and educating communities both to get involved but also on environmentally friendly practices
- protecting and maintaining green spaces
- the Council having conflicting priorities
- urban tree planting
- wildlife friendly features

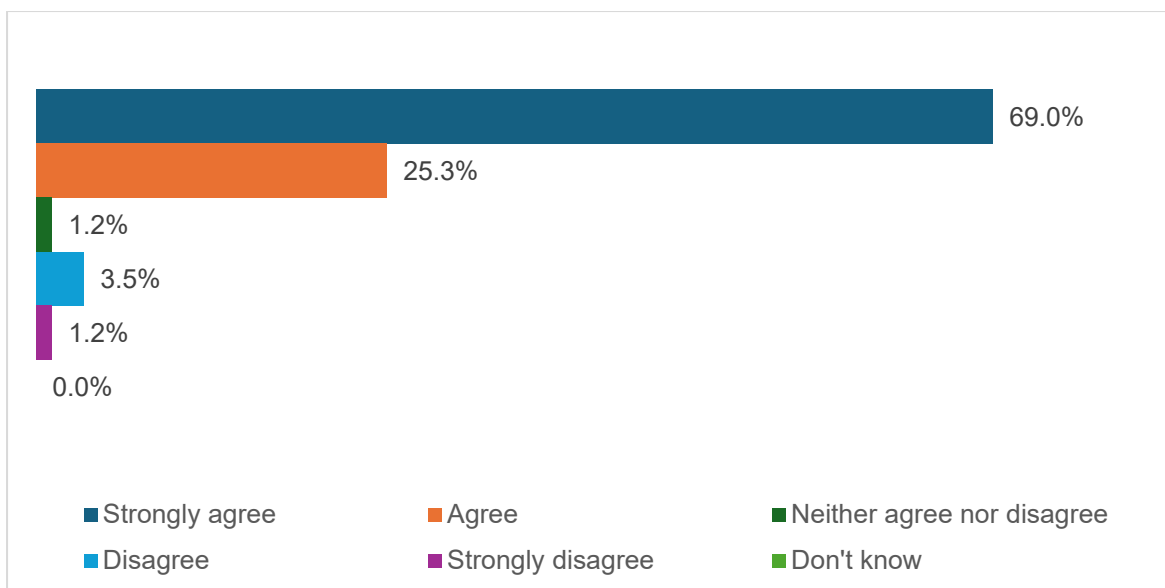
Theme	Number of times mentioned
Encourage and educate communities to get involved	13
Protecting/maintaining green spaces	12
Encourage/educate residents on environmentally friendly practices	7
Conflicting Council priorities	7
Urban tree planting	7
Wildlife friendly features	6
Other	6
Encourage animals into urban green spaces	5
Rewilding	4
Reduce light pollution	4
Mental health and nature	3
Car pollution	3
Use of pesticides	3
Barriers for community groups to work on greenspaces to develop	2
Climate friendly energy	2
Sustainability action plans	2
New developments working alongside nature recovery	2

Priority 7 – Farming

Sustainable farming practices are widely adopted to produce good quality food in harmony with nature.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n=87)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	60	69.0%
Agree	22	25.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	1.2%
Disagree	3	3.5%
Strongly disagree	1	1.2%
Don't know	0	0.0%

The data is unanimous for the farming priority, with an overall agreement of 94.3% (82). Of that figure, 69% (60) strongly agreed too, further underlining the level of support.

3.5% (3) disagreed and 1.2% (1) strongly disagreed. 1.2% (1) also remained neutral.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	94.1%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	97.4%	2.6%
Public bodies	80.0%	20.0%
Nature and environment sector	100.0%	0.0%
Live in DC	93.1%	5.6%
Live in BCP	100.0%	0.0%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-17); Communities and individuals (n-39); Public bodies (n-10); Nature and environment sector (n-14); Live in DC (n-72); Live in BCP (n-8)

Across the 6 respondent types, there was again a very strong level of overall agreement for the priority. This will be an especially important priority for farmers and

landowners and notably, in this case, is that farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers agreed at a rate of 94.1%, with no disagreement.

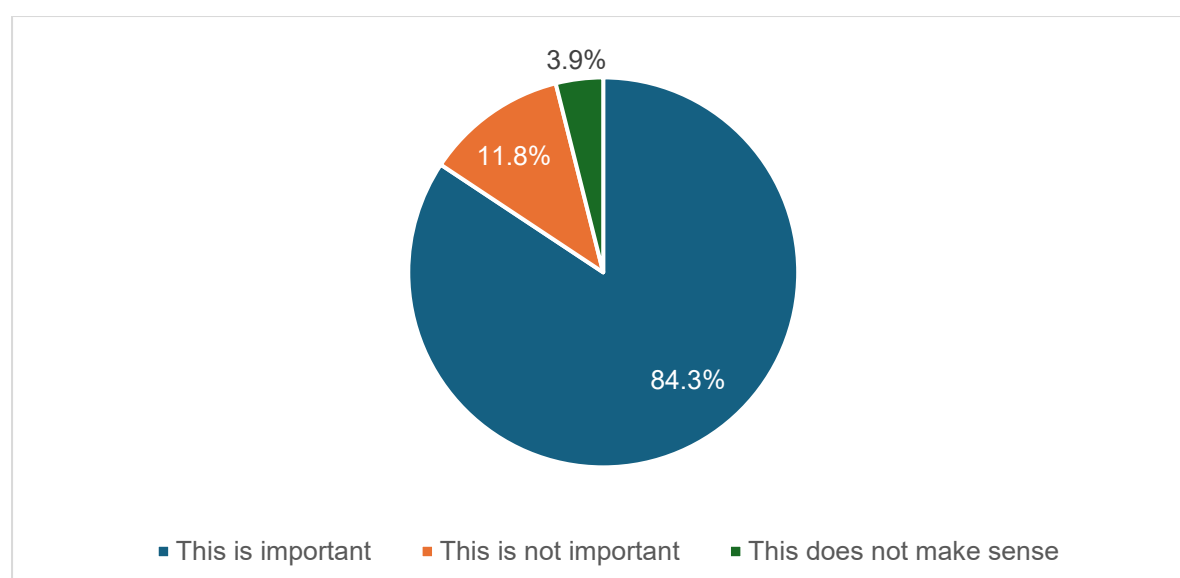
Continuing the trend, both respondents in the nature and environment sector and those in BCP had an agreement rate of 100%. Communities and individuals also had a unanimous agreement rate of 97.4%.

Public bodies – though with a small sample size – had the lowest overall agreement at 80%, with 20% disagreeing.

Youth survey response

Q. “Take care of nature as we take the things we need from it, like food and wood”

(n-51)

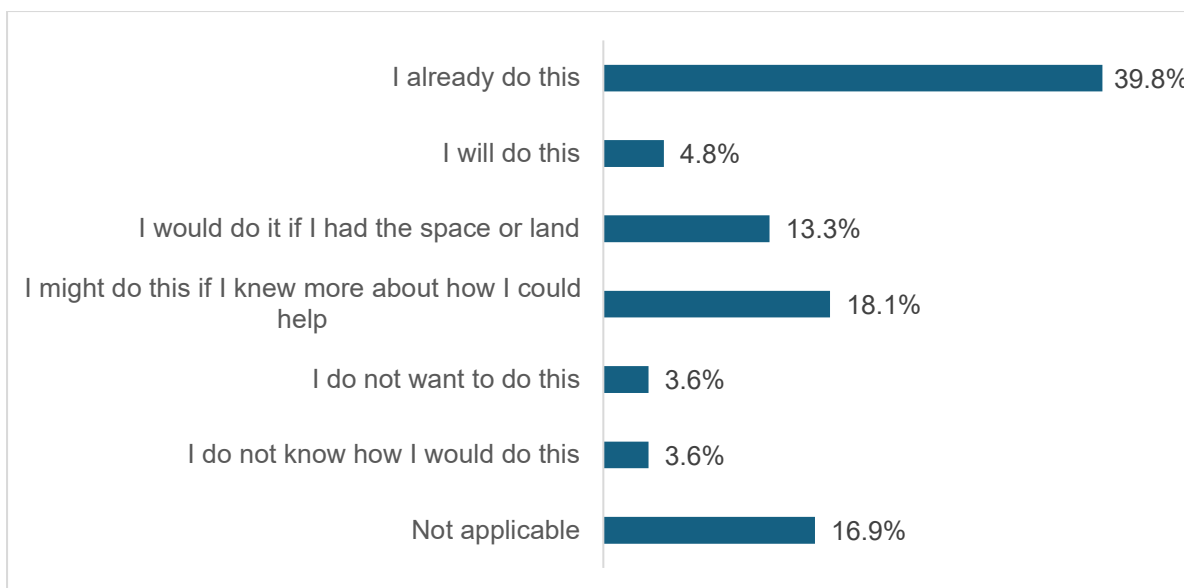


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	43	84.3%
This is not important	6	11.8%
This does not make sense	2	3.9%

Although framed differently, a high proportion of the youth respondents indicated the statement for farming was important. 84.3% (43) answered so, which is a clear majority. 11.8% (6) said it was not important and 3.9% (2) thought it did not make sense.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the farming priority?

(n-83)









Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	33	39.8%
I will do this	4	4.8%
I would do it if I had the space or land	11	13.3%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	15	18.1%
I do not want to do this	3	3.6%
I do not know how I would do this	3	3.6%
Not applicable	14	16.9%

Overall, there is a moderate level of current action with 39.8% (33) already participating in farming-based activities. Potential participation levels could be lower compared to other priorities, however.

18.1% (15) might do more if they knew how to support, and 13.3% (11) have physical limitations in terms of space or land. Just 4.8% (4) said they will do this in the future.

For 16.9% (14) of respondents the activities were not applicable and 3.6% either did not know how they would support, or did not want to.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	88.2%	19.4%	20.0%	35.7%	38.2%	12.5%
I will do this	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	7.1%	2.9%	25.0%

I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	19.4%	10.0%	21.4%	14.7%	12.5%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	14.3%	19.1%	25.0%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	5.6%	10.0%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	5.9%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%
Not applicable	5.9%	16.7%	30.0%	21.4%	16.2%	25.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-17); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-36); 3 - Public bodies (n-10); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-14); 5 – Live in DC (n-68); 6 – Live in BCP (n-8)

Unsurprisingly, farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers almost all already do farming activities, with 88.2% responding so.

Across the other groups, respondents in the DC area (38.2%) currently partake in activities, with nature and environment sector specialists also doing so at a similar level (35.7%).

Communities and individuals (19.4%) – including those in BCP (12.5%) – and public bodies (20%) currently have fewer respondents involved in farming actions, which could be linked to land being inaccessible and privately managed.

On the other hand, there could be opportunities for future participation across these groups. Public bodies (30%), communities and individuals (25%), nature and environment sector groups (14.3%), DC residents (19.1%) and BCP residents (25%) might do more if they knew more about how they could help.

Q. If you have any comments about the farming priority, let us know here.

There were 50 responses to this question which have been coded and themed. Some of the main topics were:

- farming practices, both generally and specifically (like intensive farming)
- positive comments showing support for farmers
- commenting on food production and farmers markets (including a separate theme on organic farming and production)

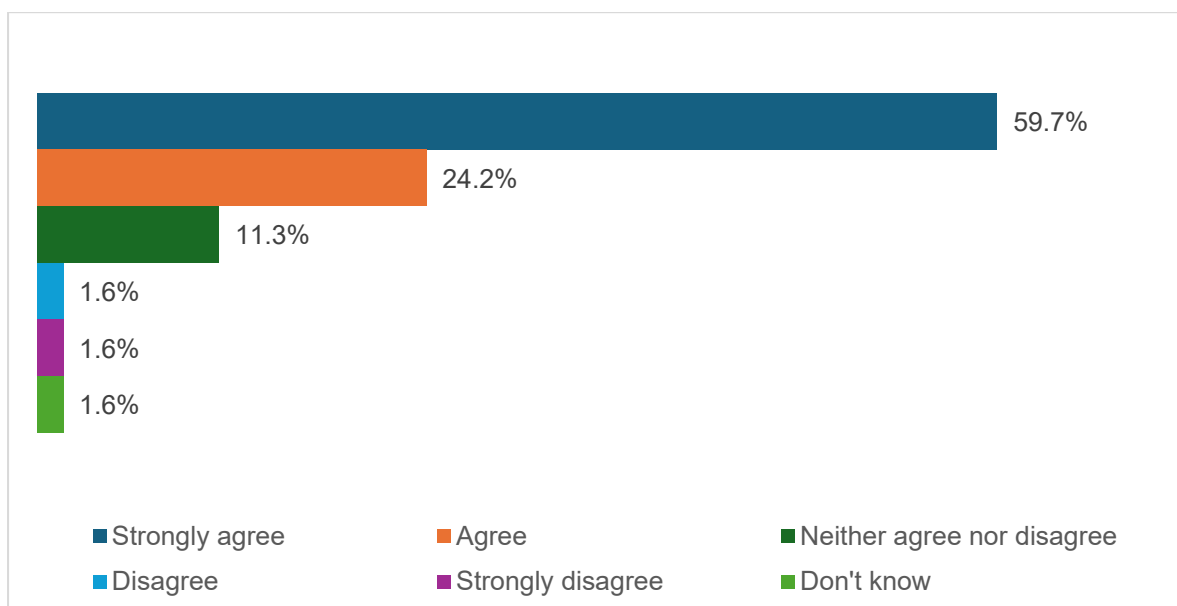
Theme/comment	Total
Farming practices - general comments	15
Farming practices - very specific / technical e.g. intensive farming	14
Positive - Support for farmers and farming	10
Food production / farmers markets	9
Organisations mentioned in narrative	9
Hedgerows	7
Technical and specialist comments	5
Organic farming and production	5
Agricultural pollution - pesticides etc	5
Other	4
Rewilding	3
Negative - general	2
Mention of specific species / animal	2
Comment on specific geographical area	2
Grazing	1

Priority 8 – Natural processes

Natural process-led conservation approaches are used more widely to support functioning ecosystems and shape an ever-changing landscape.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n=62)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	37	59.7%
Agree	15	24.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	11.3%
Disagree	1	1.6%
Strongly disagree	1	1.6%
Don't know	1	1.6%

The Natural Processes priority had the fewest number of responses overall compared to the others, but that still translated to a high level of total agreement from respondents. 83.9% (52) broadly agreed, with 59.7% (37) of that total strongly agreeing, highlighting a definitive majority.

A further 11.3% (7) responded neutrally, and 1.6% (1) disagreeing, strongly disagreeing and not knowing respectively.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	80.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	84.6%	3.9%
Public bodies	87.5%	0.0%
Nature and environment sector	85.7%	7.1%
Live in DC	84.4%	2.2%
Live in BCP	75.0%	12.5%

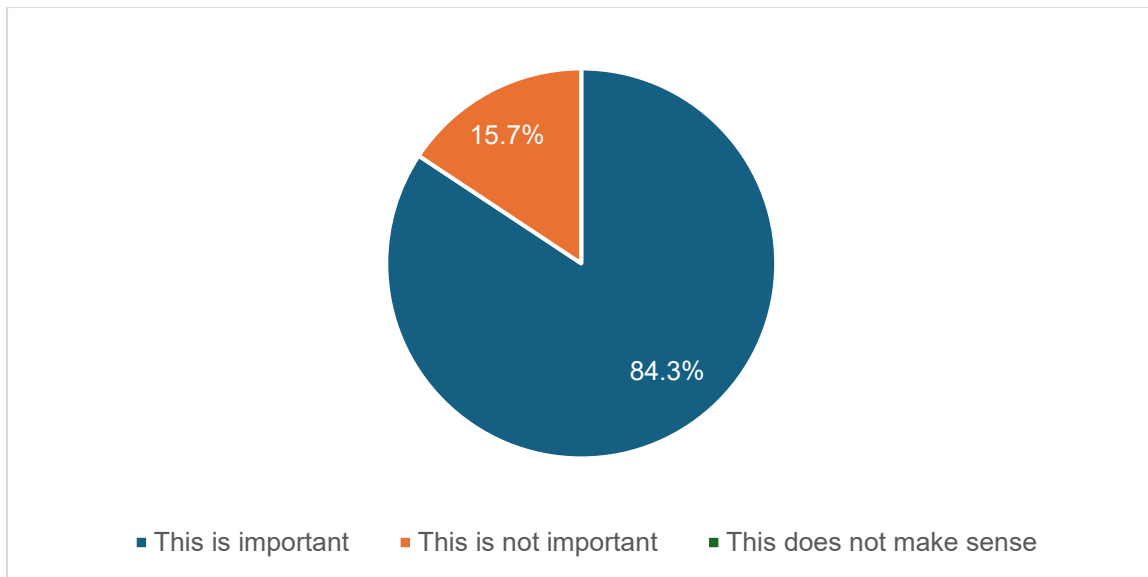
Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-10); Communities and individuals (n-26); Public bodies (n-8); Nature and environment sector (n-14); Live in DC (n-45); Live in BCP (n-8)

Across the 6 different respondent types, they are all generally in alignment with the overall data. One potential noticeable difference, which should be considered with caution due to a very small sample size, is that BCP respondents had lower levels of agreement (75%). In turn, it resulted in a higher level of overall disagreement (12.5%) when compared to the other groups and overall, too.

Youth survey response

Q. “In some places, leave nature to take care of itself. For example, let wildflowers grow and let rivers flow in a wiggly path across our land”

(n-51)



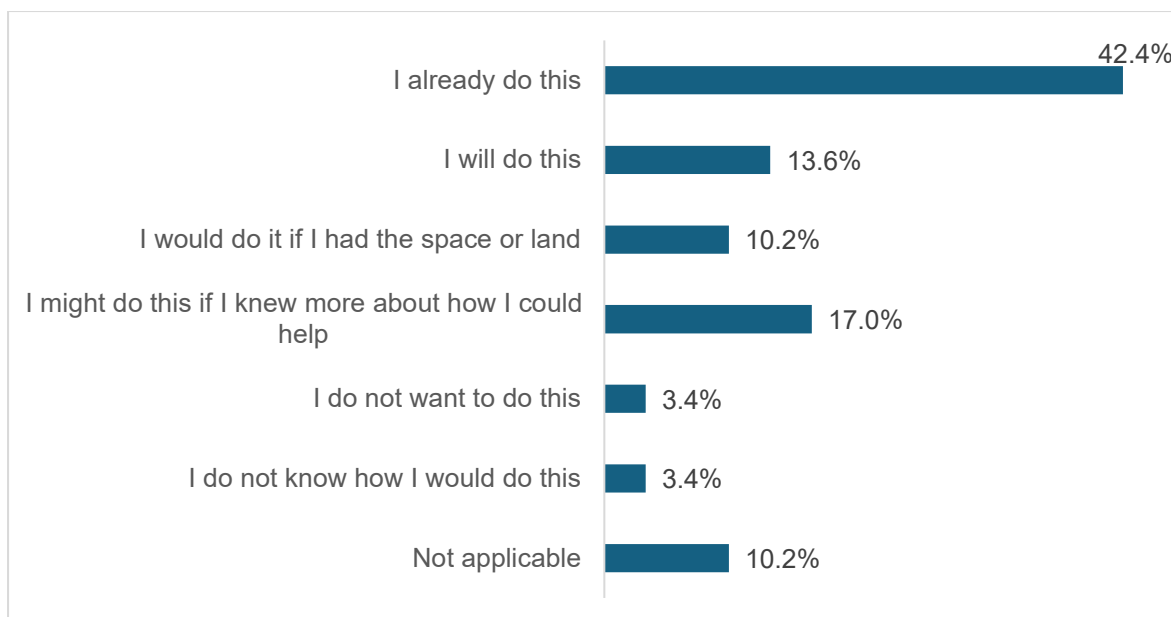
Option	Total	Percent
This is important	43	84.3%
This is not important	8	15.7%
This does not make sense	0	0.0%

Of the 51 responses from the youth survey, 84.3% (43) thought that more natural processes were important for nature recovery. This indicates that the priority is seen as valuable amongst younger people in Dorset.

The remaining 15.7% (8) thought that it was not important.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the natural processes priority?







(n=59)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	25	42.4%
I will do this	8	13.6%
I would do it if I had the space or land	6	10.2%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	10	17.0%
I do not want to do this	2	3.4%
I do not know how I would do this	2	3.4%
Not applicable	6	10.2%

The natural processes priority has moderate levels of current activity, with 42.4% (25) respondents already involved in activities. Participation could also grow in this area, with 13.6% (8) saying they will in the future, and a further 17% (10) stating they might do some if they knew more about how they could help. Like with the other priorities, there is an appetite for support, but potentially a gap in information being readily available to allow people to do so.

10.2% (6) had physical limitations but would do so without those barriers, and 3.4% (2) either did not want to take part in activities, or do not know how they would.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	50.0%	29.2%	50.0%	53.9%	40.5%	25.0%
I will do this	30.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.7%	14.3%	12.5%
I would do it if I had the	0.0%	12.5%	25.0%	7.7%	11.9%	12.5%

space or land						
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	20.0%	8.3%	25.0%	15.4%	19.1%	12.5%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	7.7%	2.4%	12.5%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	12.5%
Not applicable	0.0%	20.8%	0.0%	7.7%	9.5%	12.5%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-10); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-24); 3 - Public bodies (n-8); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-13); 5 – Live in DC (n-42); 6 – Live in BCP (n-8)

Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (50%), public bodies (50%), and those in the nature and environment sector (53.9%) already substantially take part in natural process activities. Interestingly, though, is that 30.0% of the farmers and land management group said they would partake in activities in the future, with the remaining 20% saying they might do more if they knew how to. This indicates a strong willingness from this group to further their participation.

The data indicates similar for public bodies too, with 25% currently restricted due to physical limitations, and a further 25% potentially doing more with more information available.

Once again, communities and individuals and residents of BCP have lower levels of current participation at 29.2% and 25% respectively.

Q. If you have any comments about the natural processes priority, let us know here.

21 responses were received for this question, which can be seen verbatim below.

I have created a pollinator friendly garden and formed a group with like minded people in my local community
I can't reconcile in my mind the concept and ambition of boundary-less 'dynamic habitats' requiring larger areas with the fixed boundaries of private land ownership and local government jurisdiction (e.g. Dorset into Devon, Somerset, Hampshire). Furthermore, and in relation to private land ownership, when private land is developed by private land developers (this is the dominant model), both have to adhere to planning rules but planning rules, by definition almost, are biased to building things for humans. Planning rules increasingly have rules for biodiversity

but, presumably particularly in urban developments, developers have the option of biodiversity credits which allows them to compensate for biodiversity impacts, with biodiversity gain credits in other areas. So the planning system feels like a major potentially disruptive mechanism that can cut right across the ambition of encouraging dynamic habitats over large areas, especially when they span urban, semi-urban and rural as they would do in Weymouth for example.

there seems to be a conflict of interest between the DC Recovery Strategy, the Bridport Town Council and the Environment Agency. Asker Meadows Local Nature Reserve for example is a prime location for all the activities that fall under this section, including formation of wetlands and scrapes, enhancing raparian edges for Water Voles, planting winter bird food crops etc but the EA insist on moving water as fast as possible, destroying banks in the process and Bridport Town Council are too worried about upsetting dog walkers to undertake anything constrictive to enhance wildlife.

This priority seems less clearly defined or described than others, although this is potentially the point!

promote natural process led conservation as a member of friends of radipole park and gardens

One of the geology groups I'm in is struggling to conserve the regionally important geological sites inland in Dorset. We are all retired and need younger, fitter volunteers to help. If there is more joined up thinking in voluntary organisations this could be more easily achieved

More beavers would be the best way to improve the natural processes of rivers and wetlands.

Ensuring that farmers and landowners leave at least 20 meters either side of rivers to scrub up as wild places for nature.

Restore oyster, muscles and other shellfish beds on a masive scale both inside and outside Poole Harbour. Restore sea grass and natural creatures to Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch bays.

The kaleidoscope model is laudable. But on the scale it can work in Dorset it might as well be called the Patchwork model.

One measure by which you can compare a 150 acres of traditional farmland with 150 acres of kaleidoscope land would be the ratio between the amount of CO2 captured and the amount of food produced. Another measure would be: which is more aethetically pleasing? Value could be judged on how much mental health benefits are provided. Arguments can be made using other measures.

I think a Permaculture approach might help. This can be applied at all scales but is particularly good at the smaller scales that occur in Dorset. The large estates can club together and get HMG funding.

It mentions wet woodland in the overview of the priority, but I cannot find wet woodlands mentioned in what the different audiences could do. Is there any advice we can point the audience to for wet woodland creation? e.g. planting trees which favour wet conditions such as alder, willow and aspen in wetter areas.

Natural processes often lead to areas which some find "untidy and neglected". Explaining to the public may be difficult but essential.

This priority is a prime candidate to help expand and improve on how the LNRS incorporates geodiversity. Natural processes will largely be driven and dictated by the underlying geodiversity of a given area, so mapping geodiversity characteristics and features is crucial to understanding what kind of natural processes will be active in a given area. Again, climate change is a key factor here too. This could greatly help landowners and farmers in particular know what the opportunities are on the land that they manage. For example, recreating wet areas based on drainage could have an affect on land stability, which itself could create new complex habitat types in the event of mass movement (many inland valley slopes in Dorset include relic landslides that may reactivate or become more mobile under the right conditions). In the case where man made rock exposures exist, allowing them to degrade naturally over time rather than be buried as part of restoration would also help retain varied habitats.

Maybe an email update from the council on this - in your mailouts - about why this is important what you are doing. I would read it and appreciate it.

There isn't enough detail in the description about what this policy will entail in practice. To what extent will your end goal of 'restoring natural processes' overrule other stakeholders' land use plans, who may have legitimate beliefs and aims which are different from your own? You are in effect seeking to make yourself the sole arbiter of what landscape changes are acceptable and what means are to be used to achieve it, with a single objective of 'restoring natural processes' as opposed to a more balanced model which takes into account other considerations.

Ownership and management responsibilities need to be clear and agreed

DCP is working with partners and stakeholders to restore natural processes along rivers. The work includes re-connecting rivers to floodplains, ditch blocking, stage 0 restoration, installing large woody debris, re-introduction of beavers and removing artificial barriers etc.

I'd like to see (more of) the rotation of pigs, cattle & horses into appropriate areas to encourage wildlife. Also the protection for them from people's aggressive dogs.

The Dorset National Landscape team:

- facilitates the Purbeck Heaths NNR partnership and supports its joint intent to restore ecosystem function, led by natural processes
- leads the Brit catchment Natural Flood Management initiative
- supports a wide range of NFM measures

A concern is that recognising natural processes as a priority is that it could compromise other priorities i.e. A problem on many calcareous grassland areas is the encroachment of scrub and secondary woodland from successional processes to the detriment of the grassland which is often far more valuable. An ongoing theme through many of the priorities is the need to recognise areas where other priorities may not be appropriate or desired - I don't really get this from the mapping either (but see late comments)

[redacted] working carefully with the scrub on the hill where the ancient monument of smacam down is. clearing the scrub that is on the settlement but allowing it to flourish in certain areas around the edge of the fields. but making sure there is still access to the trees themselves for the animals (sheep and horses) to get shelter and shade

Nature having the space to follow natural processes, with all the ecological niches this provides is important. In this section we noted the following points.

- Allow trees and woodlands to establish through natural colonisation where seed sources are present or through succession, rather than planting

- Ensure the grazing pressures of endemic deer and introduced livestock are balanced, delivering the ecological improvement of woodland, scrub and open habitats

To achieve this, there is an element of wildlife management needed. Deer, wild boar and grey squirrel populations are all thought to be increasing from the best available data. A range of non-lethal and lethal interventions are required to achieve the desired ecological balance for native deer and boar and to minimise the impacts of the non-native deer species and grey squirrel.

The shooting community are a critical part of both the lethal and non-lethal measures. Much of this is unpaid or costs the person shooting to lease shooting rights. Moreover, they assist farmers in delivering deer and grey squirrel management funded under countryside stewardship.

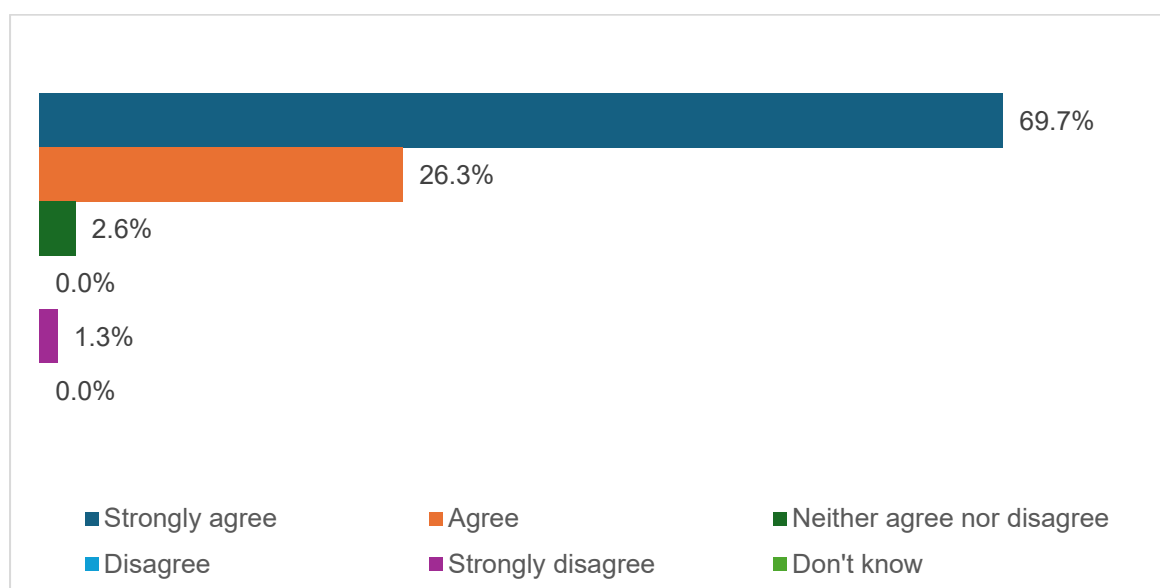
It should be noted that such activities may often carry an opportunity cost of other ecosystem services such as food provision. So the selection and design of sites needs to consider such an important trade-off.

Priority 9 – Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions are used as the first choice to address wider environmental issues, such as flooding, climate change and pollution.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-76)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	53	69.7%

Agree	20	26.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2.6%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly disagree	1	1.3%
Don't know	0	0.0%

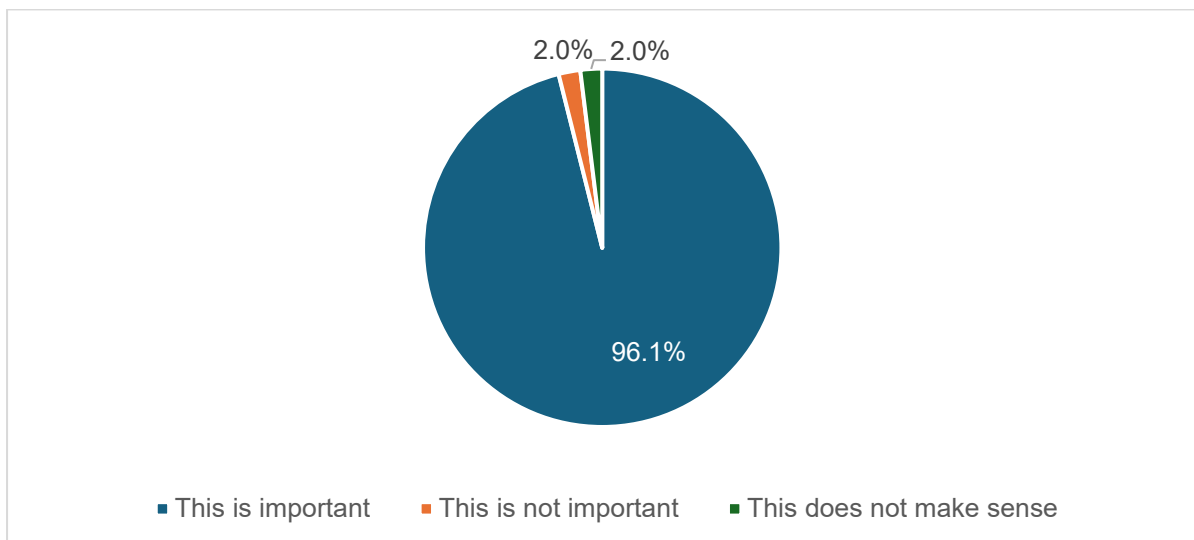
As evidenced by the data, the nature-based solutions priority has a unanimous level of overall agreement. 96% (73) agreed, with a high proportion of that figure (69.7%) strong agreeing.

2.6% (2) were neutral in their response and 1.3% (1) strongly disagreed. This indicates a majority support for nature-based solutions.

Youth survey response

Q. “Use nature to help people. For example, plant trees to help clean our air and fight climate change”

(n=51)



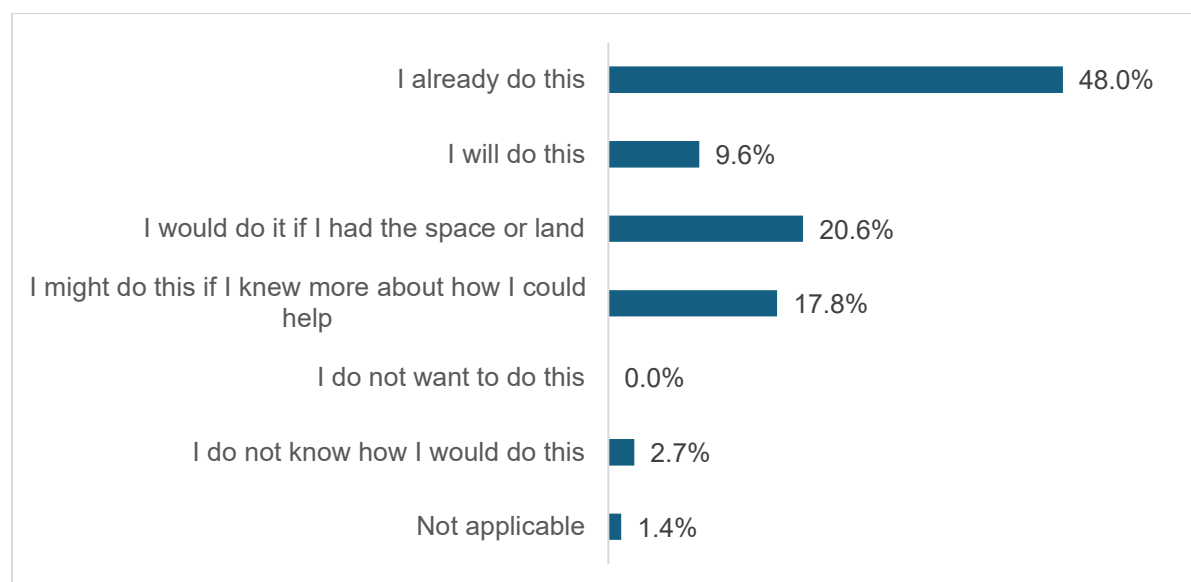
Option	Total	Percent
This is important	49	96.1%
This is not important	1	2.0%
This does not make sense	1	2.0%

The youth response for this priority almost exactly mirrors that of the main survey. 96.1% (49) thought the above statement is important, highlighting this as significant to the young people that took part.

The remaining 4% (2) was divided equally between this is not important (2%) and this does not make sense (2%).

Q. Would you do any activities to support the nature-based solutions priority?







(n-73)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	35	48.0%
I will do this	7	9.6%
I would do it if I had the space or land	15	20.6%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	13	17.8%
I do not want to do this	0	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	2	2.7%
Not applicable	1	1.4%

As with the natural processes priority, just under half (48%, equating to 35 respondents) are already committing to actions meeting a nature-based solution. There is scope to increase participation once again with 17.8% (13) saying they might do more if they knew about how they could help and a further 9.6% (7) stating they will do moving forwards.

What is slightly different is the increase in respondents having physical limitations acting as barriers. 20.6% (15) would do activities if they have the space or land.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Option						

I already do this	85.7%	45.0%	14.3%	35.7%	44.7%	38.9%
I will do this	14.3%	10.0%	28.6%	0.0%	8.5%	16.7%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	27.5%	28.6%	14.3%	21.3%	27.8%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	0.0%	12.5%	28.6%	42.9%	25.5%	5.6%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%
Not applicable	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-7); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-40); 3 - Public bodies (n-7); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-14); 5 – Live in DC (n-47); 6 – Live in BCP (n-18)

The responses across the 6 groups also have some noteworthy differences compared to the overall, but also other priorities, too. Communities and individuals (45%), people living in DC (44.7%) and respondents living in BCP (38.9%) all currently do activities related to the priority. This is higher than both public bodies (14.3%) and those in the nature and environment sector (35.7%).

The responses potentially indicate that this is a priority with activities that are accessible and realistic for individuals, resulting in an increase in participation, both now and in the future.

Interestingly, 42.9% of those in the nature and environment sector said they would do more if they knew more about how they could help. This highlights that there are gaps of information and support even for those involved in nature and with a vested interest.

Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers already overwhelmingly took part in activities, with 85.7% confirming so.

Q. If you have any comments about the nature-based solutions priority, let us know here.

32 comments were received for this question and then can be seen verbatim below.

Priority planting on flood plains rather than building on them.
Has the strategy included Dorset Wildlife Trust in the consultation? I haven't as yet seen any reference to the Trust. They do an enormous amount of work and own quite a lot of land. Their mission seems to me to equate exactly with the strategy.
<p>An easy solution which seems to falter each year is mowing of verges and destruction of habitats when the council sends contractors out to knock back vegetation at the time of year species are thriving and young birds and mammals are needing the cover.</p> <p>Twice in the past fortnight I've seen verges being decimated by heavy duty equipment and it's May!!! This should not happen.</p> <p>Whatever people might moan that it looks untidy - we should have a firm policy of no mowing or hedge cutting between April to August. Let wild flowers flourish, grasses provide seed for wildlife. People need to go along with wilder vegetation in Spring and Summer.</p> <p>Being tidy is killing insects, butterflies, birds and mammals.</p>
improving radipole lake, park and gardens can help bring money to the town even though beach has lost a water quality star
Build this more strongly into local planning and bylaws and policies.
Natural green spaces in the urban environment are imperative. These green spaces act as lungs within urban environments helping to control climate risks. If we lose these environments we will just accelerate towards climate catastrophe. They urban nature spaces need to be enhanced and protected.
Essential but must be taken seriously to bring about sustainable change
Nature-based solutions should not be used to provide nitrogen offset allowing damage to nature elsewhere.
<p>I am 100% in favour of Nature Based Solutions. I disagree that they should be the 'first choice.' That means Every Time. And that is ideological. Or axiomatic. Each case should be judged on its merits.</p> <p>That would be a cop-out.</p> <p>[redacted] a volunteer in the Brit Valley Project. I approve of its aims. This includes nature based solutions to flooding and soil loss. And I am more than willing to join in constructing leaky dams. I am slightly concerned at the prices that contractors will charge for their services.</p> <p>I quite like the idea of beavers doing it for free. They will also be a reason for people to leave their TV screens to watch wildlife. But I have qualms about unintended consequences.</p>

But in other places it might be an idea to build dams that can store water in the upper catchment to be used for irrigation in the summers to come, and to slow down the run-off in the expected storms of winters to come
Local authorities and infrastructure companies such as water companies and national grid, could look to put in place frameworks so that when they identify a problem, they look at whether nature based solutions could be used first to ensure that they are considered in the round against other grey and hard engineering solutions. This can be for traffic calming, rain water capture, noise alleviation and would improve neighbourhoods.
The use of natural stone as a resource has a much lower carbon footprint than importing or using synthetic materials like concrete. Should we be advocating for the use of local stone where possible, which supports jobs associated with quarrying in places like Purbeck and creates various opportunities such as bare rock habitats and connectivity to geodiversity features?
Nature needs to form the foundation of every single priority of the strategy
we are already planting trees in our garden, we have ripped up the previous owners all-concrete driveway, replaced it with block paving and a border with plants, shrubs and a tree. We are growing 2 trees in the back garden. We would do more
Kindly explain to the public how tarmacing over the verges to make cycle lanes which no-one asked for, which haven't been risk-assessed, which don't go anywhere and which increase the urban heat island effect is compatible with this policy.
Statutory Agencies and LPA support is essential for this. Nutrient mitigation, BNG, Landscape Recovery Schemes and other voluntary and statutory funding are currently the main facilitation mechanisms for this, which therefore needs full support.
Stop using fossil fuels. Stop supporting leaders who carry on carbonating. Stop pretending this is all manageable. For 50 plus years the King has fought for a habitable planet. I'm his age and have done the same thing. People are not listening. Crimes against humanity are being perpetrated by big corporations, complicit politics and media. If we don't wake up we're toast.
we support this, but more information and resources are required
The Partnerships champion using nature-based solutions within established constraints to improve hydrological and ecological connectivity within the catchments. This includes supporting partners to develop work which provides rivers capacity to behave naturally, improve water quality, habitats and support species biodiversity and reduce flood impacts on downstream communities.

I am outraged you have used Wessex water as an example as Wessex water is actively polluting our rivers and seas. DC should be holding polluters to account rather than facilitating the greenwashing of their polluting activities.

Again, this policy seems to be about what others are doing and not DC. What are DCs plans? What are its targets? What is the timetable?

Why isn't the expansion of seagrass beds in Poole Harbour listed in this section given their capacity to sequester carbon ? Rather than focus on seahorses in Studland look at the benefits in the harbour , seagrass can not only sequester carbon but improve water quality and maybe mitigate the impact of the eutrophication caused by the sewage and the nitrates etc from farming ? We are getting a bigger and bigger issue with algal mats , where else could seagrass be planted before it's too late and the algae takes over ? Maybe charge a seagrass levy on every mooring in the harbour and allocate areas for restoration ?

We have installed solar panels and have an electric car and to date, we generate more electricity than we use. We have installed a large tank to collect water from our waste water system which we use to water the garden. We do use mains water to supply the house.

The Dorset National Landscape team:

- leads the Brit Catchment NFM programme and a wider range of NFM interventions
- is developing the Dorset Nature Buddies network to facilitate green prescribing

Nature-based solutions should include our diets and the food system - as well as this obviously being linked to the farming priority. Changing our diets must be a major part of nature recovery. As well as health and wellbeing (it will save Dorset NHS £millions). Food choice is one of the few things in which the vast majority of Dorset people can engage. It is also a powerful, largely untapped, vehicle for re-connecting us with nature on a daily basis and for expanding the county's food system with the bonus of more jobs. A better food system is by definition a nature-based one.

as a medical herbalist I have always turned to nature for solutions and help

Please plant hedges to avoid flooding and stop farm run off. Trees are needed to reverse climate change. Also some non natural solutions are needed - sustainable energy production with solar and wind power. Please give permission for wind turbines.

1) Could there be a stand alone section on Hedges please - an essential part of nature recovery, and projects such as the Great Big Dorset Hedge plus free resources from the Woodland Trust could be highlighted.

<https://www.dorsetcan.org/hedge/>

(https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=PPC&utm_campaign=CTP24&utm_content=CTP2&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=17300783008&gclid=Cj0KCQjw4qHEBhCDARIsALYKFNO-EDyCEjOiEz6E8INPs0_JGd_E9cBwv4mi3Pk1kuui7UN61AlkWM4aAh1-EALw_wcB)

2) Rainwater harvesting systems for community and residential use should be a priority please, and a Council led initiative and funding support toward installing IBC systems into all relevant Council managed land (e.g. parks & nurseries, allotments, community food grow spaces), as well as for residential users (water butts) would be welcome.

It is unclear exactly what will be done to achieve this priority

Nature based solutions are essential to help tackle the nature and climate crises. The maintenance and funding of such schemes is vital if they are to continue to function as intended. This is particularly the case for urban sustainable drainage schemes, where long term ownership for their management needs to be agreed before allowing the development to be built.

There are many benefits provided by the shooting community in the woodland and wetland sections that connect to potential actions in this section. Therefore, what I want to focus on here is the health and wellbeing benefits that shooting brings.

At the start of the document, I described our Natural Capital benefits account and that it estimated that at the England scale shooting is saving the NHS and local authority budgets over £22 million a year in avoided care costs. This is because someone who participates in shooting is more physically active and more socially connected than the average person. Much of that activity is based around being engaged and active in the natural environment.

Therefore, when developing work under the potential action of maintain and increase green social prescribing, supporting people to take part in nature-based activities that can help improve health and wellbeing, it is essential that shooting are included in the suite of activities people can benefit from.

Through our Greenspaces team and CEE working group we will look to develop projects where we have opportunity to do this.

Mostly supportive of the activities but very concerned that we could be considering using wetlands to treat discharges of untreated sewage. This would create large area of open raw sewage which could be considered an major health hazard. This would be particularly acute in hot dry summers where the flow of water would restrict the bacterial activity needed to break down sewage.

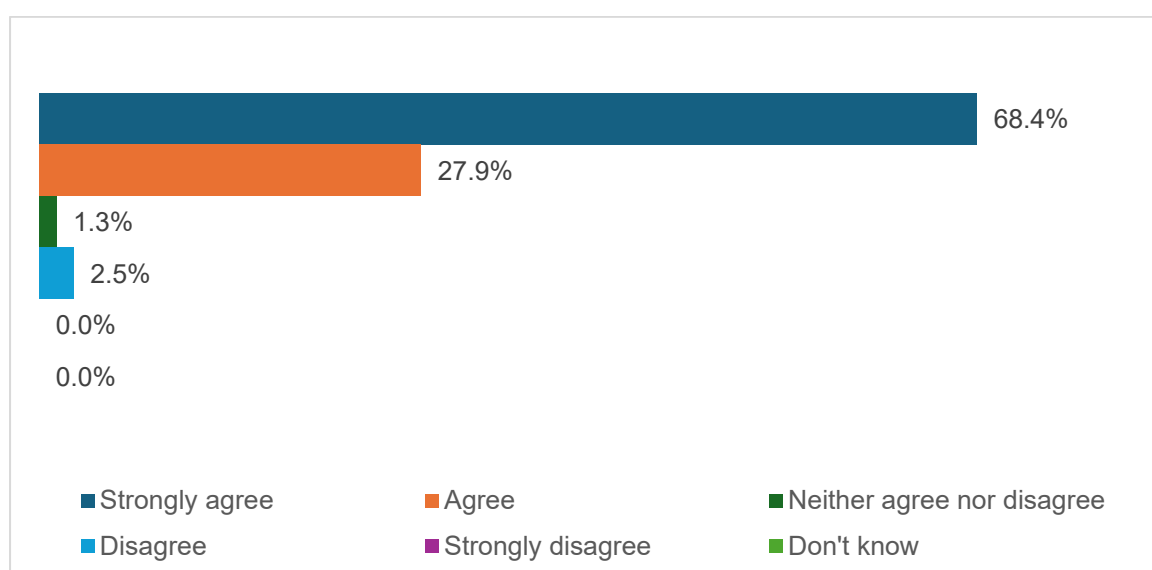
It's just not going to be enough. although commendable where it is happening. Again, hedges are a useful solution, but not mentioned (in the video)

Priority 10 – Nature connection

More people are informed on nature recovery in Dorset and are actively doing something to make space for nature.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-79)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	54	68.4%
Agree	22	27.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	1.3%
Disagree	2	2.5%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%

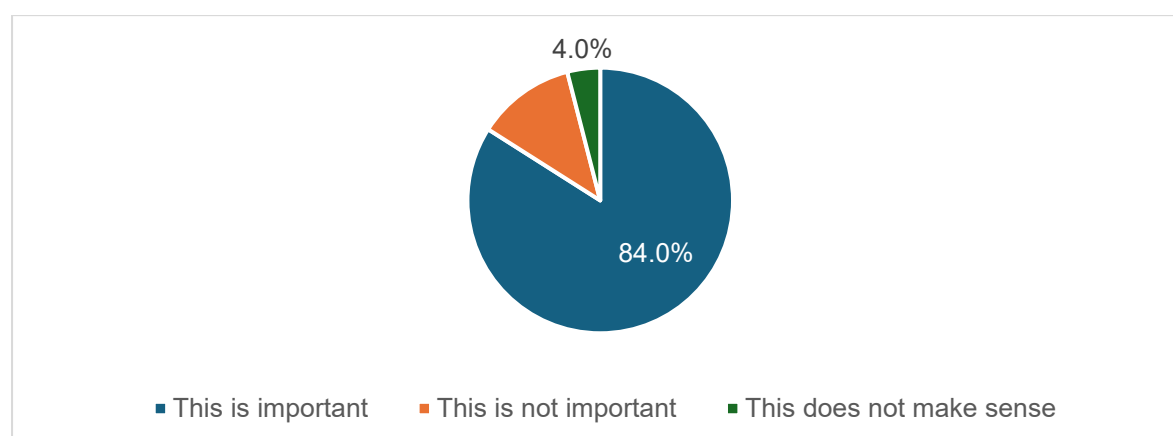
Across all 12 priorities, nature connection has the second highest overall agreement. 96.3% (76) agreed overall, with 68.4% (54) strongly agreeing, further exemplifying the level of support amongst respondents.

2.5% (2) disagreed and 1.3% (1) remained neutral, neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Youth survey response

Q. “Give people more ways to help nature”

(n-50)

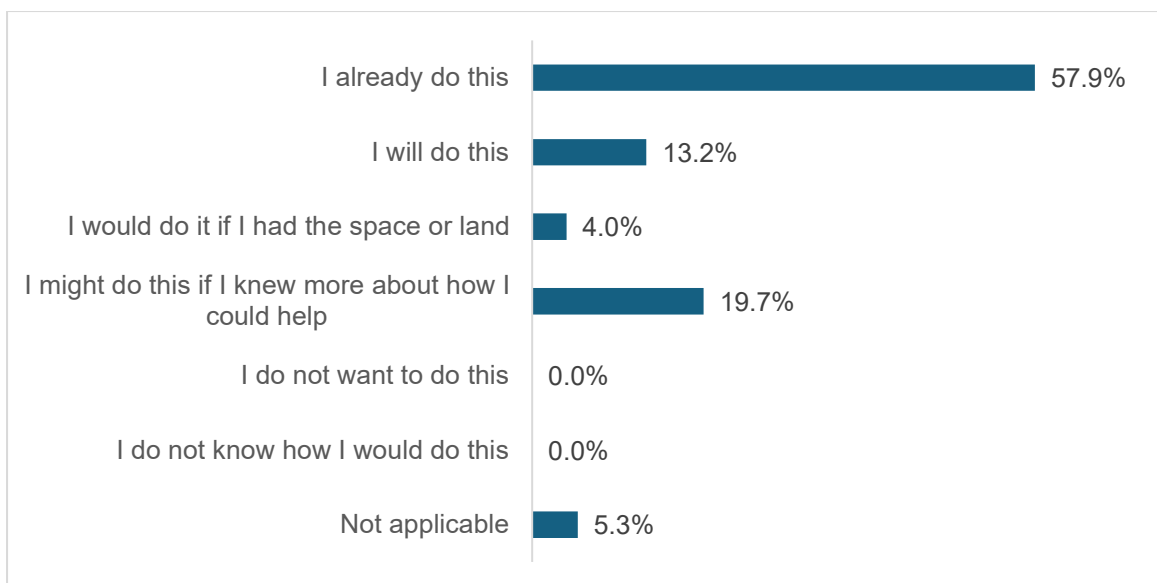


The youth response to this priority shows that a vast majority think giving people more ways to help nature is important. 84.0% (42) responded so, which is lower than the main survey response, but still highlights that young people consider it a valuable proposition.

12.0% (6) thought this idea was not important and 4.0% (2) thought it did not make sense.

Q. Would you do any activities to support the nature connection priority?







(n-76)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	44	57.9%
I will do this	10	13.2%
I would do it if I had the space or land	3	4.0%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	15	19.7%
I do not want to do this	0	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0	0.0%
Not applicable	4	5.3%

Building on the previous priority, nature connection appears to either be more accessible to respondents, or that – as shown by the agreement for the priority – it is a popular part of nature recovery.

57.9% (44) of respondents are already actively involved in nature connection-based activities, which is the second highest current participation level across all the priorities. 13.2% (10) responded that they will take an active role in the future, and a further 19.7% (15) might do so if they had more information and guidance.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	76.9%	52.8%	36.4%	66.7%	59.3%	35.7%
I will do this	7.7%	13.9%	27.3%	8.3%	14.8%	14.3%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	2.8%	9.1%	8.3%	1.9%	14.3%

I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	7.7%	27.8%	18.2%	8.3%	20.4%	28.6%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not applicable	7.7%	2.8%	9.1%	8.3%	3.7%	7.1%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-13); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-36); 3 - Public bodies (n-11); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-12); 5 – Live in DC (n-54); 6 – Live in BCP (n-14)

Continuing the trend across most priorities, farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers have the highest levels of current participation, with 76.9% stating they already commit to activities.

Public bodies (36.4%) and respondents in BCP (35.7%) have the lowest levels of current engagement with the priority activities when compared to the other groups and the overall data. However, 27.3% of public bodies that responded said they will play a more active role in activities moving forward, and 28.6% of those living in BCP also said that they might do more if they knew more about how they could help. So, although the current levels of participation are lower for these groups, through the other answer options, there does appear to be an inclination for future involvement.

27.8% of communities and individuals also responded that they might do more if they knew about how they could help, which is higher than the overall average, and in-line with the pattern across most priorities that there appears to be uncertainty in how people can support.

If you have any comments about the nature connection priority, let us know here

There were 33 responses to this question, which can be seen below verbatim.

Planting new hedgerows
We already make sure there are 'wilder' places in our garden but joining the pockets of habitat together is very important to wildlife and ourselves.
The more people are involved in community nature activities, the more they care about the topic. It would be a great start if people stopped using herbicides and

pesticides. Also understanding why the council has left more areas for nature on verges.
neighbour having different ideas on gardening in shared space
Connecting People with nature is key to nature recovery as this leads to them to take action.
I don't think a lot of people are informed on the subject of nature initiatives such as this one. Normally nature spaces are lost due to development and people only react when it is too late. Unfortunately there appears to be a lot of apathy in the community. It is important that such initiatives are more widely promoted and nature projects are implemented, providing volunteering opportunities to members of the local community.
Urbanisation and Farming has degraded the countryside in Dorset to a point where it is just a monoculture of various grasses all of which are devoid of nature. The Wildlife Trust and Local Authorities need to stop congratulating themselves on a biodiverse county when 90% of the land is under intensive farming and urbanisation particularly in the South East conurbation. High quality Greenspace must be reinstated to benefit wildlife and people alike. Urbanisation has broken up the wildlife rich areas into small patches which require reconnection with greenways.
As someone who monitors butterflies, river health and birds in my garden I strongly agree with the need to collaborate with citizen scientists to provide the data necessary to measure progress in achieving these priorities. If the strategy is to be a success I think there should be a big drive to encourage more people to take part.
Town and parish councils as the level of local government closest to residents need to be involved in this.
Whilst people are aware of our resources in the parish, we need to publicise much more widely and effectively.
In finalising the strategy please don't forget that having access to nature helps people connect with, and care for the natural environment, with nature disconnect a key driver of biodiversity loss. Walking in nature delivers multiple benefits, contributing towards numerous policy objectives and several of central government's missions. NHS England could save £2.1bn a year in treatment costs if everyone had access to green space. Spending by visitors accessing the outdoors is significant, particularly in rural areas, e.g. £17bn in 2015.
The 'nature connectivity' priority is therefore crucial to the nature recovery strategy. If people can access the natural environment they will understand and appreciate it and help to protect it. Walking is a key means of accessing nature. The public rights of way network, areas of open access land and country parks are all means of doing this so signage and information are important.

This section is weak and is always the after thought. more drive and means of delivery is needed. If people are not deeply connected to the purpose, then it will always be an uphill struggle

National Trails UK requests the mention of the South West Coast Path and King Charles III England Coast path (and associated coastal margin) in their ability as National Trails to support people's connection with nature. In addition we would engage engaging with the Coastal Wildbelt national initiative to gain inspiration and best practice solutions for amplifying opportunities for people to meaningful engage with nature/balance positive opportunities for both people and nature, together.

My Nature priorities are:

1. Ecological
2. Human health (mental and physical) benefits
3. Aesthetic

They are all good.

I agree with this priority but with the caveat that the definition of nature must encompass geodiversity in order for this to be complete and effective. For example, advocating for natural processes, soil health, river restoration and many other activities outlined in the plan involves an understanding of geomorphology and geology. Or, put another way, we want to encourage people to 'do the right thing in the right place', and both 'the right place' and 'the right thing' are intimately connected to and influenced by geodiversity. Coastal change is a particular hot topic where geodiversity is fundamental to both action for and connection with nature.

In addition I would highlight the work of groups such as Dorset Important Geological Sites group, who are very active in managing and conserving local geological sites as well as providing interpretation at some sites. Dorset Geologists' Association Group is also very active in the community and runs events and produces engagement resources celebrating Dorset's geodiversity.

Museums are another key asset here, not only as hubs for public engagement around nature in Dorset but as holding collections that record and demonstrate change across time to habitats, biodiversity, land use and cultural connections to nature. They can operate in a truly cross-cutting way for nature recovery if supported to do so, potentially running collections based community research projects about Dorset's nature and supporting other organisations pursuing nature recovery as a means to promote and engage people with their work.

I cannot see an action plan here to generate engagement among those not already involved in one of your examples. If the desired outcome is 25% public involvement I am not sure how describing potential activities delivers people doing them.

Existing conservation bodies will continue to do their good works, hopefully even better connected, but how are those outside the influence of these to see, or more importantly be motivated, to become actively involved?

One avenue outside the conservation silos is possible by engaging with Town And Parish Councils with incentives rather than suggestions of possible activities.

Engagement and motivation is always the key. People can find out information, and your strategy provides plenty in careful detail but only when motivated.

It would be really helpful to ensure decision makers (County, Town and Parish Councillors) get to grips with the principles and detail of what is needed. The work of Community Partnerships helped with this but expertise shared at the time has been lost because people do not stay in their roles for long and do not pass it on to those that take over.

The LA needs to support, empower and enable schools to offer and deliver on and off site nature based educational activities.
Educational establishments need to adopt a 'nature first' approach to teaching, where the abundant natural and nature based resources in Dorset underpin educational programmes.

Connecting with the community can be quite difficult for the Parish council with scarce staff resources and an elderly population.

I would like to engage more people in activities on understanding about nature.

...and we'd like to do more

Citizen Science / volunteer activities in the DCP area include Water Guardians and Riverfly Monitoring. There is a great deal of community engagement and volunteering happening in the West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams catchment.

Other DCP partnership projects that are shovel-ready for delivery have the potential to increase citizen science and volunteering activities to connect people to nature, raise awareness of the issues and provide information and opportunities to take personal responsibility adopt more environmentally friendly life choices. A key issue is resourcing to support volunteers.

Dorset's catchments are living landscapes where people need space to live, work, travel and play alongside and within natural spaces including river corridors and floodplains. To achieve the best outcome for wildlife, this human need must be factored in and a catchment-scale solution found that will support both together. The balance of benefits in a given location may tip in favour of either people or wildlife, and will be constrained in some locations by legal obligations and planning policy.

People need to be told their actions are causing problems, and need to re-think how they view nature.

The emphasis in this section feels like it's about people getting actively engaged in nature recovery. While this is entirely laudable, it could have a bit more on simply connecting with nature - for the health and wellbeing benefits as well as its likelihood to increase pro-environmental behaviour.

1) Nature Connection is by far the most important priority and should come first. It is profoundly important to the success of the county's ambition. It will unleash the immense assets, skills, experiences and enthusiasm of individuals, communities and organisations.

2) A more sophisticated approach and process are needed. For example, "Informing" needs to be accompanied by creating opportunities for change; expanding cultural support for these changes; and deploying solutions. These 4 steps - joining together in an ongoing and repeated circular process - offer a wide range of opportunities for people with different skillsets to make the most of their unique potential to contribute.

2) The above 4-step process will be substantially informed by understanding what LNRS success will look like. In particular, who will be doing what across Dorset society in 1 /3/5/10 years? How do you make those numbers happen? This is a culture x logistics challenge. It needs a structured, ongoing and agile plan.

3) Achieving success will require a more imaginative and bolder effort to inspire and organise the number of people needed (this is way beyond just "informing"). Scale is vital. AFC Bournemouth have 1m followers on facebook. That is the ambition and challenge which the county's Nature Recovery should rise to and strive for. Dorset is high in nature's Premier League, isn't it? Take on that status, be a bold front-runner.

I lead herb walks and nature walks on the hill (smacam down) for different groups of people. the walks bring connectedness and grounding to the participants. people find them healing and heart opening. I would be happy to do more of these

We need to learn to appreciate and love the natural world, and know that we are a part of it.

DC needs to get organised stop saying and start doing

DC needs to empower others to get to work on these shared visions

At the community farm we grow food but also encourage people to be aware of the wildlife supported on our plot

We were pleased to see the support for farmers and land managers in their request to government to support sustainable farming and forestry practices. The promotion of

citizen science is also most welcome. BASC runs it's our own schemes in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and international partners, for example: on disease monitoring in waterfowl; gathering data on waterfowl age and sex profiles to better understand productivity; to improve and record the breeding success of mallard. We also promote engagement with other citizen science schemes run by other organisations such as the BTO. BASC is also a longstanding member of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime and led the Poaching Priority Delivery Group for many years.

We will aim to develop ways in Weymouth to try and do this engaging, educating and bring people together to take actions locally.

We welcome the intention to "support local farmers, landowners and land managers in their asks to government regarding support for sustainable farming or forestry practices"; linking through to the response to question 38, conveying concerns about current government direction.

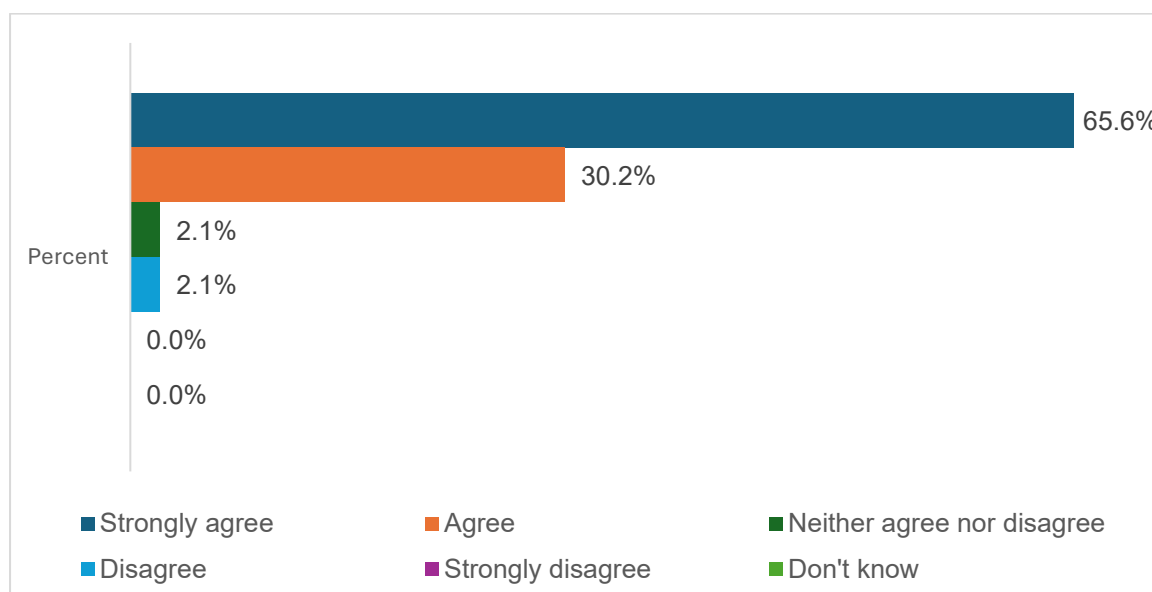
As a Parish Council we would try to influence residents' behaviour to encourage this

Priority 11 – Species abundance and diversity

Abundance and diversity of local species increases so that sustainable populations are reached and maintained, while invasive non-native species are controlled.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-96)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	63	65.6%

Agree	29	30.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2.1%
Disagree	2	2.1%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Most respondents showed a strong level of agreement with the species abundance and diversity priority, with 95.8% (92) expressing support. Of these, 65.6% (63) strongly agreed, indicating a high level of enthusiasm for protecting and enhancing biodiversity. A small proportion, 2.1% (2), neither agreed nor disagreed, and the same number expressed disagreement. No respondents selected 'strongly disagree' or 'don't know,' suggesting the priority was clearly understood and widely supported. This reflects a broadly unified response in favour of the priority.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	100.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	91.7%	4.2%
Public bodies	100.0%	0.0%
Nature and environment sector	100.0%	0.0%
Live in DC	95.5%	3.0%
Live in BCP	95.0%	0.0%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-13); Communities and individuals (n-48); Public bodies (n-11); Nature and environment sector (n-20); Live in DC (n-67); Live in BCP (n-20)

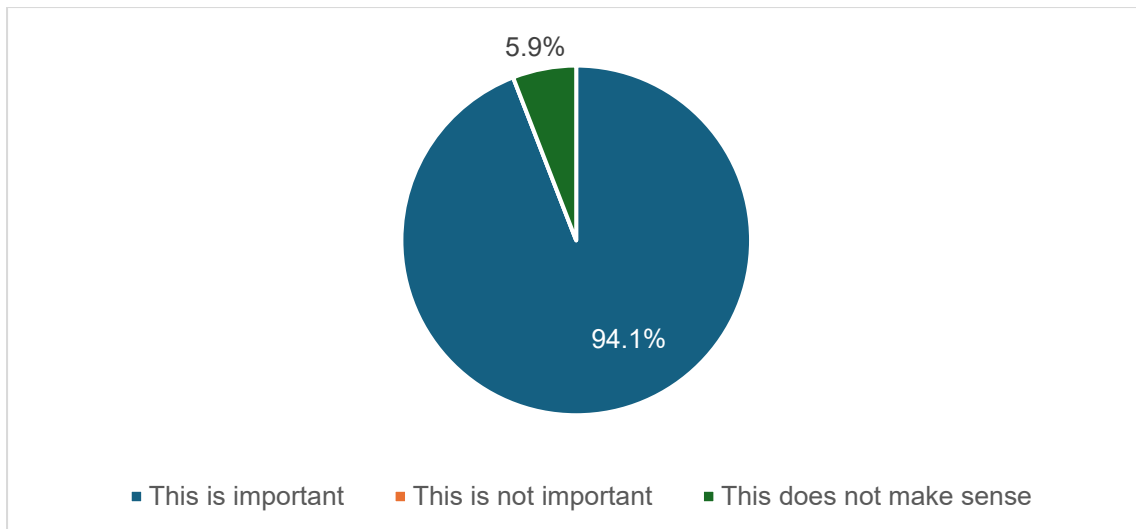
Support for the species abundance and diversity priority was consistently high across all respondent groups. Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers, public bodies, and the nature and environment sector all showed 100% total agreement, with no recorded disagreement, indicating strong alignment among those directly involved in land and environmental management.

Communities and individuals also showed high support at 91.7%, with a small proportion (4.2%) expressing disagreement. Agreement was similarly strong among those living in the DC area (95.5%) and BCP area (95%). There was a low level of disagreement at 3% for the DC area.

Youth survey response

Q. "Help more plants, animals and other wildlife live happily in Dorset"

(n-51)

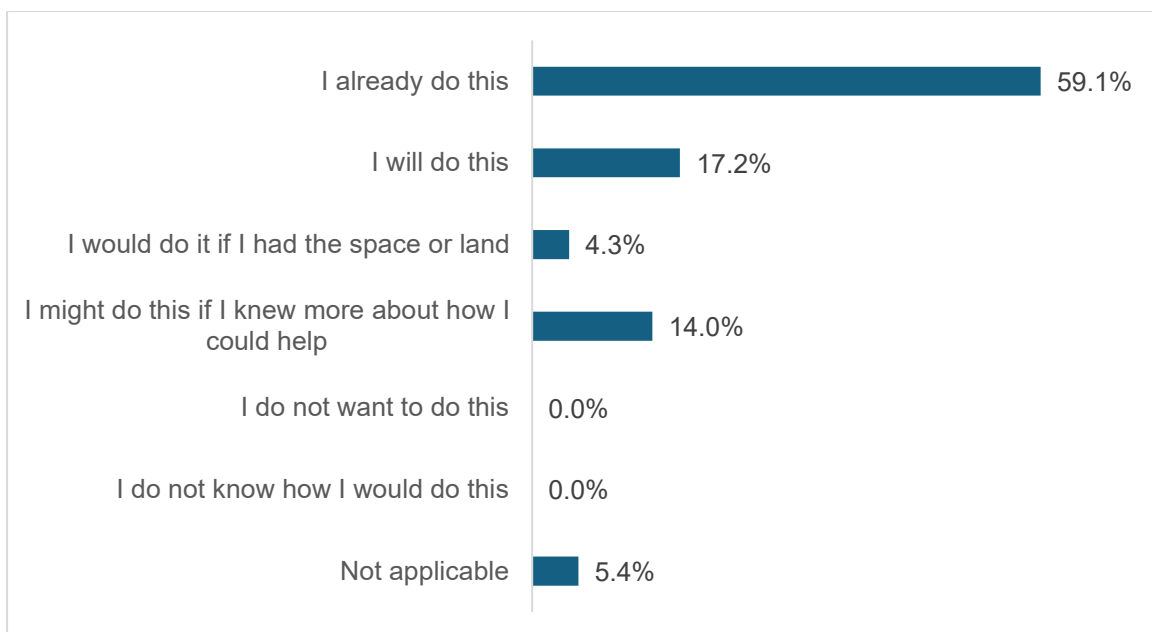


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	48	94.1%
This is not important	0	0.0%
This does not make sense	3	5.9%

Youth survey responses show very strong support for the priority to “help more plants, animals and other wildlife live happily in Dorset.” 94.1% (48) said this is important, while 5.9% (3) indicated the statement does not make sense. No respondent said it was not important, suggesting that young people clearly value biodiversity and understand the importance of supporting wildlife in their local area







Q. Would you do any activities to support the species abundance and diversity priority?

(n-93)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	55	59.1%
I will do this	16	17.2%
I would do it if I had the space or land	4	4.3%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	13	14.0%
I do not want to do this	0	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0	0.0%
Not applicable	5	5.4%

Responses for this priority show a high level of engagement, with 59.1% (55) of respondents already involved in activities that support species abundance and diversity. 17.2% (16) said they 'will do this,' and 14% (13) said they 'might get do this if I knew more,' suggesting that further awareness could encourage additional participation. A smaller proportion, 4.3% (4), would support the priority 'if I had the space or land.' Notably, no respondents said they 'do not want to' or 'do not know how,' indicating strong interest and clarity around this priority.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	69.2%	54.4%	36.4%	73.7%	63.1%	40.0%
I will do this	23.1%	23.9%	18.2%	0.0%	15.4%	30.0%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	4.4%	9.1%	5.3%	3.1%	10.0%

I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	7.7%	13.0%	27.3%	10.5%	15.4%	15.0%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not applicable	0.0%	4.4%	9.1%	10.5%	3.1%	5.0%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-13); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-46); 3 - Public bodies (n-11); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-19); 5 – Live in DC (n-65); 6 – Live in BCP (n-20)

Farmers, foresters, landowners, and land managers (69.2%) and the nature and environment sector (73.7%) show the highest levels of current engagement, demonstrating strong involvement. Communities and individuals also show solid participation (54.4%), with 23.9% showing intention to engage and 13% expressing a need for more knowledge. Public bodies show lower engagement (36.4%) but a higher proportion (27.3%) indicate they might participate if they knew more. Space constraints are most notable among public bodies (9.1%).

Residents in DC show stronger current engagement (63.1%) compared to those in BCP (40%). However, BCP residents are more likely to say they will participate (30% vs. 15.4%) and are more affected by space constraints (10% vs. 3.1%). These findings indicate that while DC residents are more involved, BCP residents may need more support to take part.

If you have any comments about the species diversity and abundance priority, let us know here.

40 respondents answered this question and their answers have been themed and coded. Some of the main themes were:

- references to specific projects and sites related to the priority
- omissions from the priority, or other things that haven't been considered, but should be
- comments on specific wildlife being present or noticing them more
- comments around an invasive species initiative, or work involving tackling invasive species

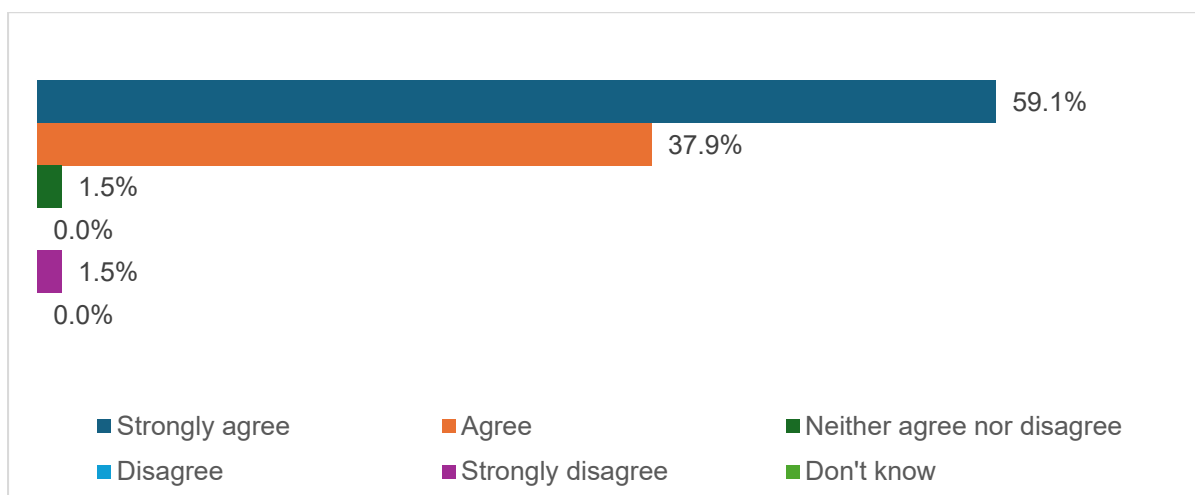
Comment/theme	Total
Specific site/project	8
Other	8
Omissions from the priority/other things to consider	7
Comment on noticing/specific wildlife	6
Invasive species initiative	5
Some areas need to be protected/not accessible to people or dogs	4
Reduce spread of damaging plants (and ideas on how to do so)/geographically appropriate plants and shrubs	4
Comment on individual support/provide more visibility/information for ways to get involved	4
Comment on use of chemicals	3
Concern for development impacting wildlife	3
Wording suggestions	2
Support and resources for land managers	2
Need to focus on illegal hunting, shooting, and badger cull	2
Joined up piece of work	2
Activity ideas/tweaks	2
Education and incentivisation to support essential	2

Priority 12 – Priority species

Dorset's priority species needing bespoke conservation action are supported and sustained.

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority?

(n-66)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	39	59.1%
Agree	25	37.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	1.5%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly disagree	1	1.5%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Most respondents expressed strong support, with 59.1% (39) selecting 'strongly agree' and 37.9% (25) choosing 'agree', reflecting widespread approval of the priority." Only 1.5% (1) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 1.5% (1) strongly disagreed. No respondents selected 'disagree' or 'don't know,' suggesting the priority was clearly understood and widely accepted. This shows a high level of shared support for the protection of priority species.

Respondent type	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	100.0%	0.0%
Communities and Individuals	100.0%	0.0%
Public bodies	100.0%	0.0%
Nature and environment sector	89.5%	5.3%
Live in DC	95.5%	2.3%
Live in BCP	100.0%	0.0%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-9); Communities and individuals (n-27); Public bodies (n-7); Nature and environment sector (n-19); Live in DC (n-44); Live in BCP (n-11)

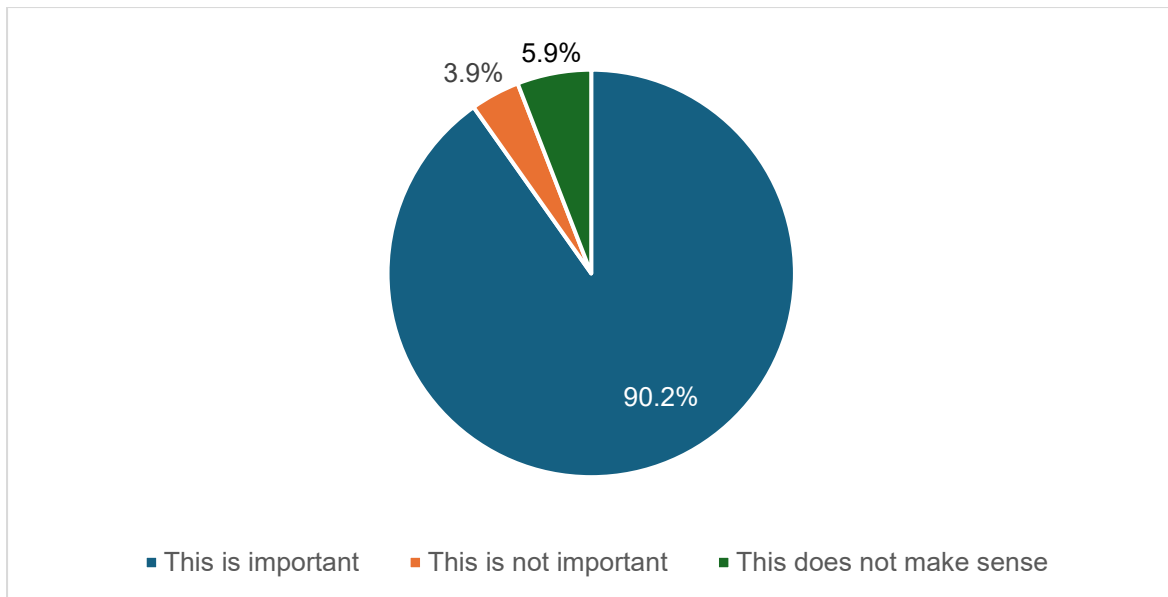
Support for the priority species priority was exceptionally high across all respondent groups. Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers, communities and individuals, public bodies, and those living in the BCP area all showed 100% agreement, with no recorded disagreement. Respondents from the nature and environment sector also demonstrated strong support at 89.5%, with a small proportion (5.3%) expressing disagreement.

Similarly, those living in the DC area showed high agreement at 95.5%, with only 2.3% disagreeing. These results reflect a consistently positive response across all groups and geographic areas, with overwhelming support for protecting priority species.

Youth survey response

Q. "Give an extra helping hand to wildlife that are most in need"

(n-51)

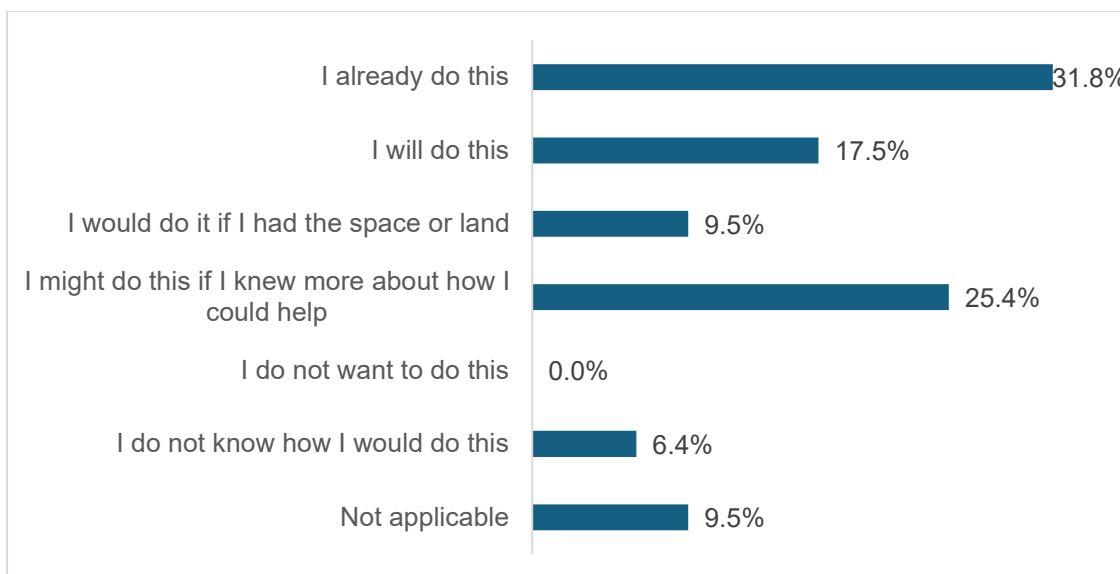


Option	Total	Percent
This is important	46	90.2%
This is not important	2	3.9%
This does not make sense	3	5.9%

Youth survey responses show strong support for the priority to “give an extra helping hand to wildlife that are most in need.”.2% (46) said this is important, while 3.9% (2) felt it was not. A small proportion, 5.9% (3), showed the statement does not make sense, suggesting a few needed clearer communication or framing. Overall, the results reflect a positive attitude among young people toward supporting vulnerable wildlife.







Q. Would you do any activities to support the priority species priority?

(n-63)



Option	Total	Percent
I already do this	20	31.8%
I will do this	11	17.5%
I would do it if I had the space or land	6	9.5%
I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	16	25.4%
I do not want to do this	0	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	4	6.4%
Not applicable	6	9.5%

The feedback for this priority shows a strong level of interest and willingness to take action, with 31.8% (20) of respondents already involved in activities that support priority species. 25.4% (16) said they might do this if they knew more, highlighting the potential impact of increased awareness and guidance. 17.5% (11) said they will do this, while 9.5% (6) would participate if they had the space or land. 6.4% (4) said they do not know how they would get involved. Notably, no respondents said they do not want to, indicating a generally receptive and engaged outlook toward supporting this priority.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
I already do this	55.6%	23.1%	0.0%	35.3%	28.6%	18.2%
I will do this	22.2%	23.1%	14.3%	11.8%	19.1%	9.1%
I would do it if I had the space or land	0.0%	15.4%	14.3%	5.9%	11.9%	9.1%

I might do this if I knew more about how I could help	22.2%	15.4%	57.1%	29.4%	28.6%	36.4%
I do not want to do this	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I do not know how I would do this	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	9.1%
Not applicable	0.0%	7.7%	14.3%	17.7%	4.8%	18.2%

Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-9); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-26); 3 - Public bodies (n-7); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-17); 5 – Live in DC (n-42); 6 – Live in BCP (n-11)

Farmers, foresters, landowners, and land managers show the highest current engagement (55.6%) and no reported barriers, indicating strong involvement. Communities and individuals have moderate engagement (23.1%) but face multiple barriers including lack of space (15.4%) and knowledge (15.4%). Public bodies report no current engagement (0.0%) but show the greatest potential for future involvement. 57.1% indicated they might participate if they knew more, alongside 14.3% who will be engaged (I will do this). The nature and environment sector shows moderate current engagement (35.3%), with potential for growth, as 29.4% might help if they knew more. This group also had a relatively high rate of 'not applicable' responses (17.7%), suggesting the activity may not fit well with what they currently do, or, that it may not be possible due to capacity.

Residents in the DC area show higher current engagement (28.6%) than those in BCP (18.2%). BCP residents are more likely to get involved if they had more knowledge (36.4% vs. 28.6%). Space constraints are similar across both areas, but BCP has a significantly higher rate of 'not applicable' responses (18.2% vs. 4.8%), which could be explored further to understand why the activity may not feel relevant or accessible to some residents.

Q. If you have any comments on the priority species priority, let us know here

25 respondents answered this question, and their responses can be seen verbatim.

Priority species monitoring working with local groups.
[redacted] Hazelbury Abuzz to save our bees/pollinators. We share bee sightings, research bees, plant pollinator friendly plants. I have shared details about three bee species included species recovery and only one would currently be applicable to our area - long horned bee. We plan to ensure we have suitable habitat in our gardens.

Flagship species tend to be atypical and chosen more for their visual appeal than ecological typicalness.
Our group was particularly interested in the 3 bee species which are part of 54 identified species in strategy. Only one of these bee species are relevant to our area currently but we plan to ensure habitats are available to it (great horned bee).
Please explain why Water Voles and Hedgehogs are not on your priority list, both of which are recognised as being endangered species in severe decline. Why is no priority being given to the Water Vole population that still exists within Asker Meadows when so few of our rivers support a thriving colony?
Ask company like Tesco to sponsor one of the priority species with a £1 from every meal deal.
Beavers up top of radipole lake they will create the swims which will then attract the fish and otters. We should work in harmony with the beavers, they can change the environment.
This section feels a little uncomfortable with the 'nature recovery concept and especially restoring 'natural processes- like the balance between 're-wilding' and 'conservation'. Some species have been lost through habitat damage, but others maybe relics of a period of historical land management, or br unsuited to our new climate. Has there been a prioritisation of restoring functioning habitat over species or are both indicated as equally important?
Priority species will benefit from landscape scale intervention on behalf of nature conservation. Not just nature reserves (which are not representative of the wider countryside) but wholesale. Changes to farming practices and urban planning.
'Swifts' in the Species Priority List Section Actions - please add: Protect existing nest sites. Reason: Swifts are nest faithful and if, on returning from Africa, they find their nest entrance is blocked they are often fatally injured whilst repeatedly trying to gain access. They are only in the UK three months of the year to breed and have little time to find a new site and breed in the same season.
not sure as an individual I would be able to contribute to many of these activities
In such a nature depleted country translocation introduces interesting opportunities and challenges.
Current references to swifts are welcome but too brief to be effective. Please include any comments from local groups e.g. Hampshire Swifts, and Salisbury/ Wiltshire Swifts. As a minimum, please make reference to the related update to the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) 2025 Natural Environment paragraph 017, which refers to swift bricks as a universal nest brick: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment As a minimum include the general aim across a development of a minimum of one nest box per unit. "How can developments incorporate features which support priority or threatened

species?

The National Planning Policy Framework expects development proposals to bolster wildlife by incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.

The use of swift bricks is particularly important in this context because swifts rely on urban cavities for nesting, and the national loss of suitable nesting sites through building renovation has been part of the reason for the species' decline. Developments should include integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) where possible, with the general aim across a development of a minimum of one nest box per unit. Nest boxes can provide important habitat for other species as well as swifts, such as starlings and sparrows.

Extensive guidance is available on wildlife friendly features, including the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code which illustrate how well-designed places can support rich and varied biodiversity by facilitating habitats and routes for wildlife. More specific support for the selection and installation of swift bricks can be found in the British Industry Standard BS 42021:2022 the Future Homes Hub Homes for Nature Guidance, and the RSPB's Guide to Nestboxes.

Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 8-017-20250609"

See also the "exemplar" published Isle of Wight LNRS (2025) which refers to artificial nest cups, and protection of existing nest sites in UGG1.6, and please as a minimum include these.

"Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species and should be installed in new developments including extensions, in accordance with best practice guidance such as the Brighton and Hove Guidelines which require at least three swift bricks for all appropriate new builds. Artificial nest cups for House Martins should be similarly considered.

Existing nest and roost sites for building-dependent and building- reliant species such as Swifts, House Martins, House Sparrows, Starlings and at least 4 species of bat must be protected and wherever possible augmented and enhanced by designed and built additional provision within ecologically relevant distances."

It is likely that specific priority species will be strongly associated with certain geofeatures e.g. atlantic salmon spawning in post-glacial gravel river beds or the micromoths associated with limestone cliffs. Identifying and encouraging bespoke and targeted action to create and preserve these features will help support priority species.

Use the local population to help you measure the priority list. A mass effort can really drive this work forward.

I am concerned that no reptiles have been included in the list. Is this because it is thought that habitat management will suffice. Should this be explained?

The Hampshire LNRS Species Recovery Prioritisation Workshop Report proposed four amphibians & reptiles as priority species needing more targeted management – Smooth snake, Sand lizard, Natterjack Toad and Adder, with the reptile species requiring targeted habitat management as a priority: it is somewhat surprising that none of these is identified in the Dorset LNRS. Clearly there must be targeted habitat management to at least conserve existing populations habitat maintenance and restoration to allow for population increase. The area within Ringwood Forest adjacent to Moors Valley Country Park that straddles the Dorset/Hampshire border has the only remaining viable native sand lizard metapopulation in Hampshire and is also significant for smooth snake and sand lizard at county and national level. As discussed under other topics within my response, previous post minerals extraction has failed to restore heathland as have attempts at species relocation locally. This must be addressed rather than blithely proceeding on the assumption that heathland restoration after minerals is possible: HCC are unable to provide any evidence whatsoever that it can be achieved and recent RSPB research highlights the problems associated with heathland restoration and the need for management in perpetuity.

These species are integral to the Dorset habitats and together will help to bring back diverse nature and improve environmental connections for the future. These enigmatic species will provide enthusiasm and interest from the public and could even add to local eco-tourism.

The work of DCP in improving water quality and enhancing our rivers and wetlands will have beneficial knock-on effects for aquatic priority species such as Atlantic Salmon, European Eel, White-clawed Crayfish. Other species are likely to benefit from the wide range of activities that the partnership engages in through nutrient management, habitat creation and enhancement.

The average resident has no idea about these critical species and what they can do to help. This information simply needs to be available in an easy, accessible format. Things like light pollution from houses and streets are not on people's radar at all, for example, a simple toolkit to let people know how they can take action to help is desperately needed if anything is going to change.

Lots of very good, well-informed information provided. There is however often reference to 'intensive grazing'. Agreed this could be a problem for many spp/habitats, but I can think of no existing priority habitats in Dorset (except woodland with high deer populations) where too much grazing is an issue. Far more problematic in reality in Dorset today is insufficient grazing! Grassland sites in particular are all too often in decline and under threat from lack of adequate grazing. Spp plans that advocate relaxing grazing, or even introducing scrub, on surviving high quality grasslands should be urgently reconsidered, as should plans that suggest, wrongly, that winter grazing of grassland is an adequate management practice.

There is a risk that enthusiasm for reintroductions could detract from core nature conservation priorities and resources. Some of the 'sexier' proposals may even be 'vanity projects' of questionable nc value.

The Dorset National Landscape team:

- supports a variety of species conservation actions
- supports the responsible translocation of species for conservation purposes

Priority species are important. But trees are even more important in reversing climate change, and in creating a sustainable environment for all wildlife. Therefore please,

for example, prioritise trees more than, say, butterflies. Likewise trees are more important than heathland species, especially as heathland is not a natural environment.

The choice of species is very limited and biased to a few groups and will not achieve the aims of the plan. There need to be more species assemblages from a wider range of organisms and habitats selected if the plan is to be effective.

The long and short listing of species was logical, as were the actions for them but I was surprised that curlew was not selected as it is widely accepted as the most pressing bird priority in the UK. In terms of quarry species, the grey partridge was a good summary of what the species requires in terms of habitat provision and legal, humane predator control. We will also look at the National Trust's black grouse reintroduction feasibility report when complete.

On reintroductions we endorse this statement from the Species Recovery document: Conservation translocations, or re-introductions, must adhere to the code and guidance for reintroductions and other conservation translocations in England, and be subject to scrutiny to ensure that proposals provide clear benefits, recognise any risks and avoid negative environmental, economic or social impacts.

BASC has been involved in several reintroduction programmes across the UK, especially pine marten and wildcat. What is important in the feasibility stage is to avoid the temptation to focus on the initial years of a reintroduction and consider what the species and its interaction with people will look like in the long-term. The experience of beaver release in Scotland and the subsequent legal challenges is testament to a lack of long-term consensus on would be required to avoid undesirable outcomes from a successful reintroduction. This needs to be properly considered and prepared for in the feasibility stages and if it moves to a reintroduction, worked on in tandem from the outset.

We are surprised that the brown hare is not listed. Could it be added?

Probably a good activity but these species should not be protected to the exclusion or detriment of other species.

Other youth consultation results

Q. Can you suggest better words to explain any of the priorities?

There were 16 responses to this question, which can be seen below verbatim.

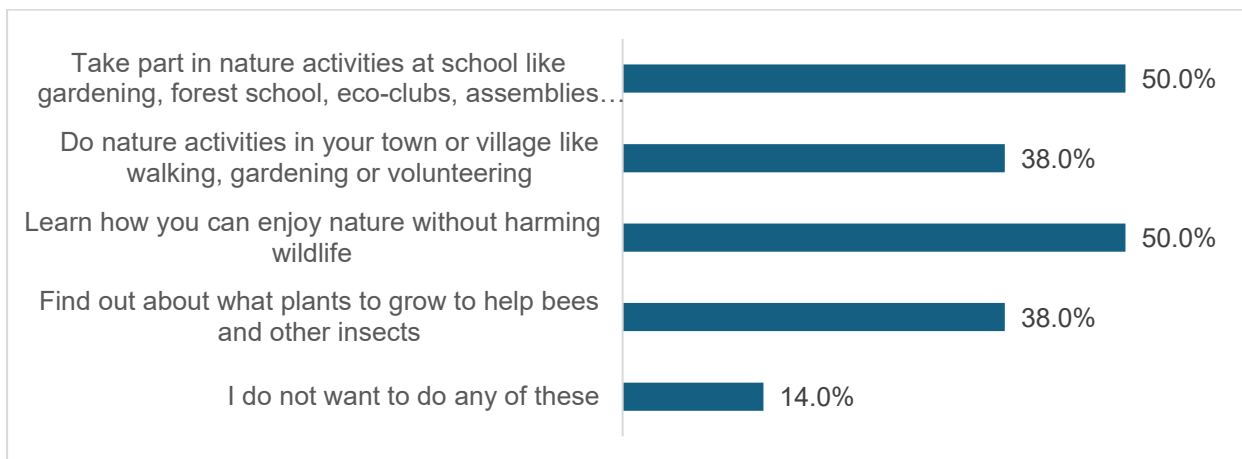
Use only environmentally friendly stuff and boom climate change - [redacted]

losing trees - deforestation. save the bees

heathlands - an explanation would be helpful / explain all the habitats more
dont cut down the trees because we need them to breathe and animals need them
Leaves
maybe make areas less with greenhouse gas by putting more trees and plants
tree
important
we need more woodland and grassland and wetland and walking routes
don't touch nature
Recovery of nature, improve the wildlife, protect nature
Afforestation
for Give people more ways to help nature also add encourage them to help/ promote helping nature
Essential
With this survey do a scale of 1 to 5 to gain a better understanding of what to do first
The survey doesn't seem to be age appropriate to teenagers - very basic. Very obvious statements, things that need to happen anyway. Not

Q. Would you like to do any of these activities to help nature?

(n=50)



Option	Total	Percent
Take part in nature activities at school like gardening, forest school, eco-clubs, assemblies or trips	25	50.0%
Do nature activities in your town or village like walking, gardening or volunteering	19	38.0%
Learn how you can enjoy nature without harming wildlife	25	50.0%
Find out about what plants to grow to help bees and other insects	19	38.0%

I do not want to do any of these	7	14.0%
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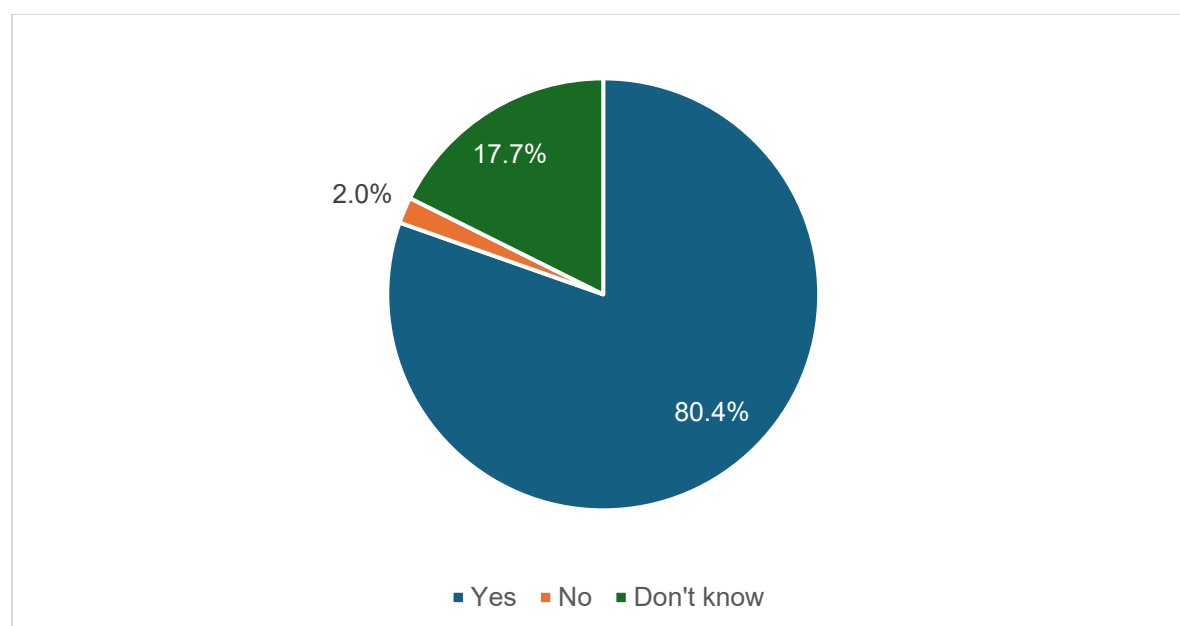
The response to this question indicates a strong interest among participants in engaging with nature through educational and community-based activities. Half the respondents (50%, equating to 25 young people) said they would take part in nature-related initiatives at school, while an equal proportion (50%) would learn about how they can enjoy nature responsibly, without harming wildlife.

In addition to activities within school, 38% (19) also stated they would be interested in nature-related activities in their local area, with the same number of respondents (38%) are also interested in learning more about plants and how they can support bees and other insects.

Notably, only 14% (7) did not want to participate in any of the listed activities.

Q. Do you think people should join in activities to help nature?

(n=51)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	41	80.4%
No	1	2.0%
Don't know	9	17.7%

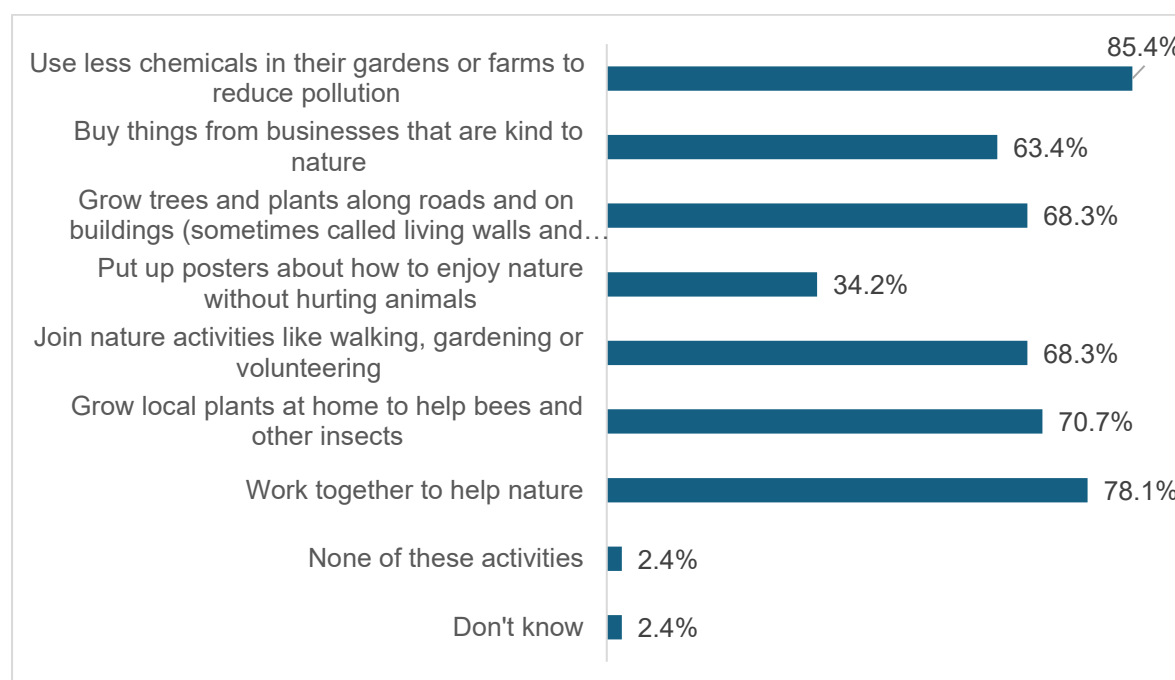
The findings show a strong level of support for people joining in activities to help nature, with 80.4% (41) responding 'Yes'. This indicates broad consensus amongst the young people that took part.

A small minority of respondents (2%) felt people should not join in activities to help nature.

17.7% (9) selected 'Don't know', which could suggest some uncertainty or a need for further information.

Q. What activities, if any, do you think people should do to help nature?

(n=41)



Option	Total	Percent
Use less chemicals in their gardens or farms to reduce pollution	35	85.4%
Buy things from businesses that are kind to nature	26	63.4%
Grow trees and plants along roads and on buildings (sometimes called living walls and roofs)	28	68.3%
Put up posters about how to enjoy nature without hurting animals	14	34.2%
Join nature activities like walking, gardening or volunteering	28	68.3%
Grow local plants at home to help bees and other insects	29	70.7%
Work together to help nature	32	78.1%
None of these activities	1	2.4%
Don't know	1	2.4%

Responses to this question build on similar themes identified previously, with the top 3 picked options relating to community-based activities, supporting nature responsibly, and growing plants to support bees and other insects.

85.4% (35) selected that there should be fewer chemicals used in gardens and outdoors to reduce pollution, 78.1% (32) said that there should be collaboration to help nature, and 70.7% (29) stated that people should grow plants to help pollinators.

Other options selected by many of the respondents were in relation to joining nature-based activities (68.3%), growing trees and plants along roads and on buildings (68.3%), and buying items from shops and businesses that have been sourced responsibly.

Around a third of respondents (34.2%) chose putting up posters to educate how to enjoy nature without hurting animals.

Once again, notably, just 2.4% (1) respondent identified no activities, and 2.4% (1) did not know.

Q. Are there any other activities that you would like to do or thing others should do for nature?

There were 30 responses to this question which can be seen verbatim.

Nature trips outside of the school.
Tree planting
Cycle/walk more. Don't be lazy.
Build fewer houses More focus on environment/climate change Stop littering - more bins
plant more trees go litter picking daily help the stray animals
plant flowers in your garden.
enjoy it
plant trees
-Building birdboxes, insect hotels and other habitats for animals -Make built up areas more eco-friendly
enjoy it
Just plant more trees and let them grow.
use less chemicals so it doesnt damage the nature
make the woods clean.
eco club
Forest and adventure stuff
i think we should do one massive clean up of dead trees and then we should plant new ones to help the enviermont

plant trees
Grow a garden
Maybe make allotments in some school grounds to get some people out and gardening
Walk round streets and pick up rubbish
litter pick
litter pick
grow more plants
plant more plants in our own gardens
No
Football pitches cinema and bring more good shops into town
Joining clubs that teach us how to be kind to wildlife, have a 5 key things you can do to help nature on magazines, newspaper or tv.
Litter picking. Sponsored swims and walks. [redacted]
Litter picks encourage the elderly - pamphlets Planting trees Pollinator Friendly plant Bug hotels Nature walks More bird nesting programmes in the town centres and countryside helping any birds/animals that look poorly or hurt Nature clubs in schools Volunteering around the town/village Learn more about plants/gardening hiring people to help out with the environment Everyone should be more aware of nature. Poster campaigns and radio broadcasts
- More opportunities to access volunteering with nature and animals - Teach people to appreciate nature e.g. walks without phones and headphones

Do you have anything else you would like to tell us?

There were 17 comments made for this question, which can be seen verbatim. Some of the comments have been removed as they simply stated 'No' or 'No comment'.

i dont want posters because you have to cut down trees for the paper
More ponds for water animals
more trees
I like flowers
I love what you are doing ❤️ 💙 💜 💖 [redacted]

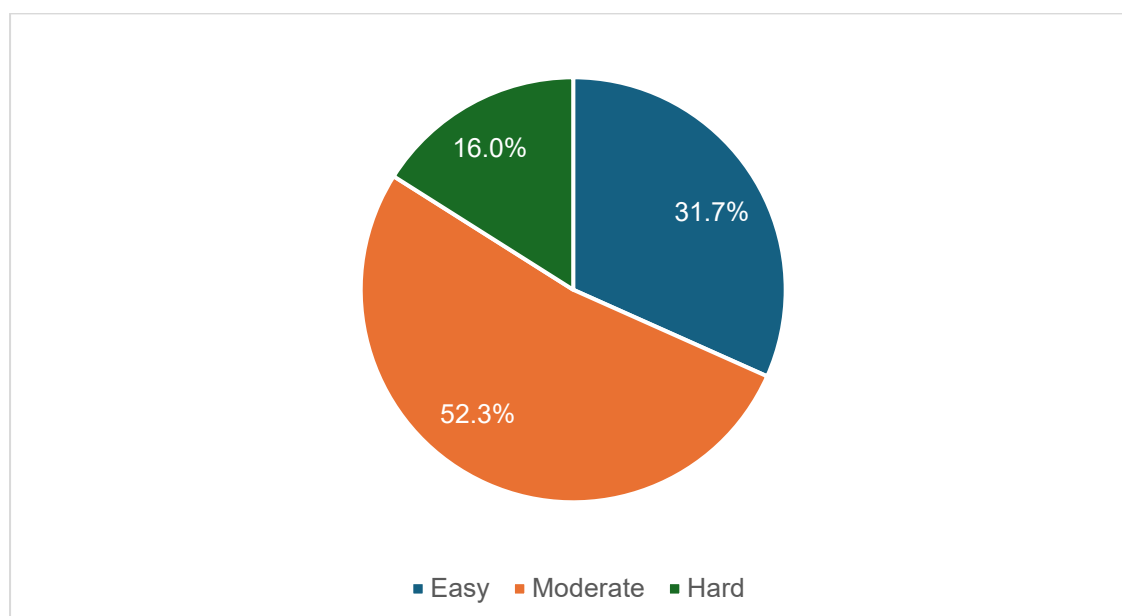
- Weymouth Youth Council is for 13-18 year olds and felt that the form was extremely basic. Some questions could do with more explanation of what they mean. Did not feel that the questions were specific enough. Young people did not know what area Dorset actually covers.

South Park is a complete desert that you have ruined, I am a keen ornithologist and this year there are no birds in South Park no Stonechats, warblers, nightjars
NOTHING YOU REALLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING!!!!

Local habitat map

Q. How did you find using the local habitat map?

(n=262)



Option	Total	Percent
Easy	83	31.7%
Moderate	137	52.3%
Hard	42	16.0%

As part of the consultation, respondents were able to view and use the local habitat map. This question details how they found the process.

Just over half of respondents (52.3%, equating to 137 people) described using the map as 'moderate', suggesting that while generally usable, there may be opportunities to improve the experience and make it more user-friendly.

31.7% (83) found the map easy to use, indicating it met their expectations in terms of functionality and content.

Conversely, 16.0% (42) found the map difficult to use, meaning there could be specific barriers or challenges making the tool inaccessible. Some of the reasons for this have been explained in the next question.

Q. Please feel free to provide a comment as to why you feel this

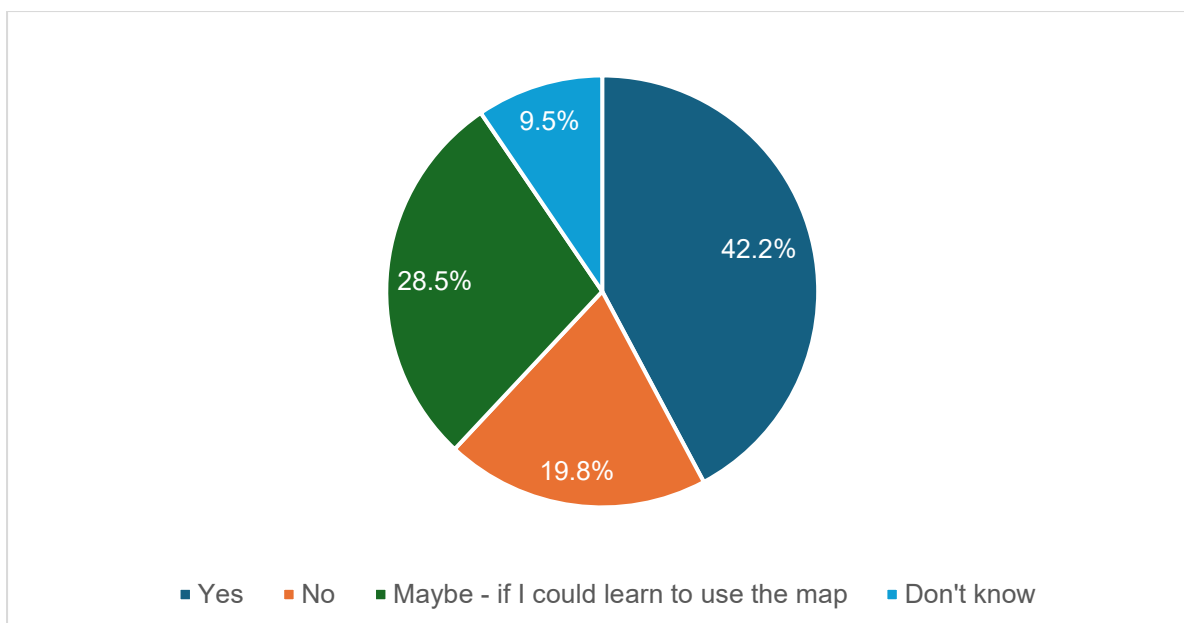
61 comments were left, allowing respondents to explain their response to the previous question. These have been coded and themed. Some of the main points raised were:

- the content being too complicated, either because of multiple layers being present, not understanding the information, or it just generally being complex to look at
- the guidance video, and lack of instructions/guidance within the maps, did not help the user experience
- it being difficult to access and obtain the information being looked for

Comment/theme	Total
Too complicated (too many layers, can't understand it, complex to look at)	12
Poor instructions	9
Difficult to access/obtain information	8
Poor functionality	6
Barriers to access	6
Missing information	6
Familiar with software	5
Problems with layers	4
Couldn't access the map	3
Too much information	3
Good functionality	2
Did not access the maps	2
Other	2
Comment on specific area	1

Q. Do you think the local habitat map, together with the written priorities and activities in the strategy, provide you with enough information to guide you in taking action for nature?

(n-263)









Option	Total	Percent
Yes	111	42.2%
No	52	19.8%
Maybe - if I could learn to use the map	75	28.5%
Don't know	25	9.5%

Having reviewed the strategy documents and local habitat map, 42.2% (111) of respondents think it will provide them with enough information to guide them in taking action for nature.

While not definitive, 28.5% (75) also said that the documents and map could support them if they could learn to use the map. This suggests, which has been hinted at through various open comment sections, the mapping element of the consultation and project is proving to be a barrier for just over a quarter of all respondents. This could be due to technical limitations, or the general complexity of the information presented.

19.8% (52) said that all the documents as part of the consultation do not provide enough guidance, and 9.5% (25) did not know.

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
Yes	44.4%	42.4%	27.8%	46.8%	38.2%	48.0%
No	14.8%	15.8%	33.3%	29.8%	23.0%	12.0%
Maybe - if I could learn to use the map	25.9%	33.5%	33.3%	17.0%	32.7%	25.3%

Don't know	14.8%	8.2%	5.6%	6.4%	6.1%	14.7%
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Base: 1 - Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers (n-27); 2 - Communities and Individuals (n-158); 3 - Public bodies (n-18); 4 - Nature and environment sector (n-47); 5 – Live in DC (n-165); 6 – Live in BCP (n-75)

The response across the different groups is mainly aligned with the overall, but public bodies in particular – although it is worth noting it is the smallest sample size – were more cautious in their response. 27.8% said that it would provide them with enough information, which is a 14.4% drop compared to overall, and a 20.2% variation when compared to residents in the BCP area.

Public bodies (33.3%), communities and individuals (33.5%) and respondents in the DC area (32.7%) also had a higher proportion of those potentially having issues using the maps.

Q. Please feel free to provide a further comment as to why you feel this

68 respondents answered this question, and their answers have been coded and themed below. The main themes were:

- issues with the maps and documents. This varied from the maps omitting specific information, technical issues, to the language within the priorities
- ideas to improve the maps and documents, making them more accessible and user-friendly
- questions relating to the lack of an action and/or delivery plan. How does someone get involved from this information? Are there sources of information (like who is co-ordinating actions)? Or examples?
- in its current form, not a tool to engage the public, and needs to be simplified

Comment/theme	Total
Issue with the maps/document	17
Idea to improve the map/documents	13
Action plan not clear in how to get involved/where is delivery plan? Sources of information? Examples?	11
Other	11
Not a tool to engage the public/needs to be simplified	9
More information needed	4
Landowners key	3
Comment on specific location	3
Map covers so much information, so difficult to find what you need	2
Map lets you see where others are taking action, and their priorities. Help establish connectivity	1
Unsure how the mapping will help deliver priorities/activities	1

Not joined up	1
Expert advice/support	1
Make more areas for nature	1

Options A, B and C

Within the consultation, there were a few sections specifically for landowners, farmers, land managers and those working on nature recovery projects. This was to allow them to provide feedback on how their land or project is appearing in both sets of maps.

Comments relating to projects and specific points within the maps have been passed to the service to consider.

Option	Total	Percent
Option A - I am a landowner, farmer, land manager, or working on a nature recovery project and would like to add my land or project to the high opportunity nature areas	10	5.0%
Option B - I am a landowner, farmer, land manager, or working on a nature recovery project and would like to suggest a change to the primary activity shown for my land or project area	2	1.0%
Option C - I am a landowner, farmer, land manager, or working on a nature recovery project and have another comment or issue with how my land or project is shown on the map	11	5.5%
None of these options relate to me, I would like to skip to the next section	178	88.6%

Q. Would you like to comment on a primary activity shown in the potential activities map?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, I would like to suggest a change to the primary activity currently shown on the potential activities map layer	10	4.3%
Yes, I would like to suggest a primary activity in a place that does not currently have one in the potential activities map layer	14	6.1%
No, I do not have any comments	207	89.6%

Any other comments and making space

Q. If you have any further comments, please let us know here.

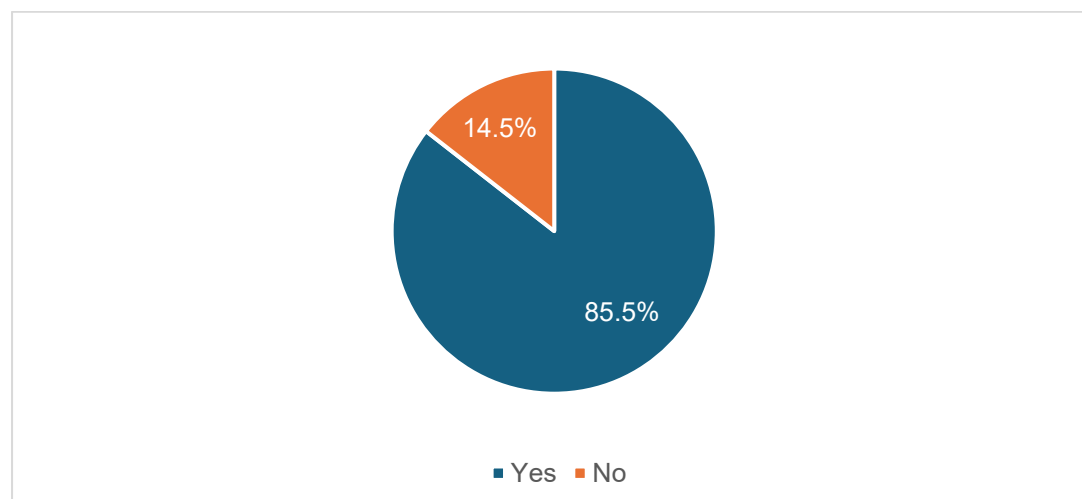
126 responses were received, which have been coded and themed. Some of the main narrative coming out of these comments are:

- generally positive comments about process, including the survey, wanting to help or already being involved in nature recovery projects
- commenting on specific areas of interest
- issues with the survey and/or documents in terms of inaccessible language and general negative comments

Comment/theme	Total
Positive comments about the survey / want more info / want to help / are already involved	45
Comment on specific area	25
Issues with survey (diff to understand/interpret/inaccessible language etc) and negative comments	24
Commentary on land use	22
General comments about development / length of the strategy (timings) and resourcing etc	21
Other	19
Organisations mentioned in narrative	14
Hedges and verges	13
Mention of particular species / animal	13
Issues with the maps	10

Q. Are you, or could you start, helping make space for nature in Dorset?

(n-242)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	207	85.5%
No	35	14.5%

Overall, current and potential participation in making space for nature looks to be high, with 85.5% (207) indicating they are, or could start, making space for nature.

14.5% (35) said no, and more understanding would be needed to see if it is because of lack of interest, or barriers preventing respondents contributing to nature recovery.

Respondent type	Yes	No
Farmers, Foresters, Landowners and Land managers	96.0%	4.0%
Communities and Individuals	82.4%	17.6%
Public bodies	76.5%	23.5%
Nature and environment sector	97.6%	2.4%
Live in DC	89.0%	11.0%
Live in BCP	77.8%	22.2%

Base: Farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers (n-25); Communities and individuals (n-148); Public bodies (n-17); Nature and environment sector (n-42); Live in DC (n-163); Live in BCP (n-63)

There are some notable differences between the respondent types for this question. 96% of farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers and 97.6% of those in the nature and environment sector responded 'Yes'. This suggests those with the land, space or interest can, and would like to, support nature in Dorset.

Agreement across the other groups was still high, but there appears to be some limitations in cases. 23.5% of public bodies, 22.2% in BCP, and 17.6% of communities and individuals responded they do not, and could not start, making space for nature.

Demographic data

Q. What is your age?

(n-268)

Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.0%
18 to 24	1	0.4%
25 to 39	20	7.5%

40 to 49	32	11.9%
50 to 59	53	19.8%
60 to 64	42	15.7%
65 plus	99	36.9%
Prefer not to say	21	7.8%

Q. What is your sex?

(n-267)

Option	Total	Percent
Female	131	49.1%
Male	114	42.7%
Prefer not to say	22	8.2%

Q. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

(n-262)

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	237	90.5%
No	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	25	9.5%

Q. The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

(n-263)

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	27	10.3%
No	201	76.4%
Prefer not to say	35	13.3%

If at the previous question you stated you consider yourself to have a disability, please state the type of disability which applies to you.

(n-37)

Option	Total	Percent
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	2	5.4%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	4	10.8%
Autistic Spectrum Conditions	4	10.8%
Blind	0	0.0%
Dyscalculia	3	8.1%
Dyslexia	4	10.8%
Dyspraxia	1	2.7%
Deaf	1	2.7%
Hearing loss	5	13.5%
Long term health condition	11	29.7%
Mental health issues	6	16.2%
Physical impairment	6	16.2%
Sign Language User	0	0.0%
Visually impaired	2	5.4%
Medical conditions	6	16.2%
Mobility issues	8	21.6%
Learning disability	0	0.0%
Specific learning differences	0	0.0%
Wheelchair user	1	2.7%
If you prefer to use another term, please write in the box below	4	10.8%

Q. What is your ethnic group?

(n-262)

Option	Total	Percent
White: British	222	84.7%
White: Irish	0	0.0%
White: Gypsy	0	0.0%
White: Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White: Other	4	1.5%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1	0.4%
Mixed: White and Black African	0	0.0%
Mixed: White and Asian	1	0.4%
Mixed: Other	1	0.4%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistan	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Other	0	0.0%

Black or Black British:	0	0.0%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group	2	0.8%
Prefer not to say	31	11.8%

Youth response - Age

- 80.0% (40) of respondents were 11 to 13 years old
- 10.0% (5) were 14 to 16 years old, and a further 10.0% were 16 to 17 years old

Youth response – How they responded

- 52.9% (27) responded as an individual
- 37.3% (19) as a school, class, college or nursery
- 5.9% as a youth club or activity group
- 2% (1) with their family
- 2% (1) other

Youth response – Nearest town

- 90.0% (45) selected Weymouth
- 4.0% (2) selected Dorchester
- 2.0% (1) selected Poole, Swanage and Verwood

Out of format responses – main survey

The main response platform for the consultation was the online survey. However, the service received several responses to the consultation in alternative formats such as emails, letters, and detailed reports. These are called out of format responses and will be considered by the service directly.

Out of format responses were received from (individuals have not been mentioned for privacy reasons):

- Gillingham Town Council
- Northfield Farm
- Wyatt Homes
- Ewens Farm
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
- Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN)
- Dorset Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
- Bloor Homes
- National Farmers Union (NFU)

- Dorset's Important Geological Sites group
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- East Dorset Friends Of the Earth (East Dorset FOE)
- Historic England
- Lead Local Flood Authorities
- National Trails
- National Trust
- Nightingale Land
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Shaftesbury Town Council & Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee (SuSAC)
- The Crown Estate
- Gorwell farm
- Dorset Catchment Partnerships
- Branksome Triangle Committee
- The Erica Trust
- Upper Frome Cluster
- Chalkstream and Salmon Restoration Project
- Cranborne Chase Farmer Cluster
- Lulworth Estate
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Planning
- Cranborne Estate
- Bumblebee Conservation
- Tamarisk Farm
- Brit Valley Project
- Mapperton Estate
- Dorset Downs Cluster

For this report, the service has themed the responses to show the main topics of discussion. They have also been considered by the service as part of the overall response.

Theme/topic of discussion	Total
Delivery and funding	46
Organisations mentioned in narrative	27
Commentary on land use	24
General comments about development / length of the strategy (timings) and resourcing etc	20
Targets, monitoring	20
Issues with the maps	19
Other	17
Nature in Dorset, pressures	13

Maps	13
Comment on specific area	11
Priority 6 urban	10
Priority 10 connection	10
Positive comments about the survey / want more info / want to help / are already involved	9
Priority 4 rivers lakes wetland	9
Priority 2 woodland	8
Historic environment	8
Priority 11 abundance diversity	7
Priority 12 priority species	7
Priority 3 heathland	6
Priority 5 coastal	6
Priority 9 nature based solutions	6
Mention of particular species / animal	5
Purpose	5
Priority 7 farming	5
Vision	4
Priority 1 grassland	4
Issues with survey (diff to understand/interpret/inaccessible language etc) and negative comments	3
Hedges and verges	3
Priority 8 natural processes	3
Mission	2
Health	2
Geological diversity	1

Out of format responses – youth consultation

The BCP Youth Forum held a couple sessions with groups asking them some questions related to the consultation. The officer running the sessions sent in the results, which will be showcased below.

Group 1 – looking at which actions/priorities are important

This is important

- Make our grassy areas better with more wildflowers
- Make our woods better and bigger with lots more trees
- Make our rivers healthy and have more wetland areas for wildlife that need patches of water covered land
- Use nature to help people. For example, plant trees to help clean our air and fight climate change

- In some places, leave nature to take care of itself. For example, let wildflowers grow and let rivers flow in a wiggly path across our land
- Give people more ways to help nature
- Help more plants, animals and other wildlife live happily in Dorset
- Create more wildlife-friendly spaces in our parks, gardens, along roads and on buildings
- Take care of nature as we take the things we need from it, like food and wood
- Give an extra helping hand to wildlife that are most in need

This is not important

- Take care of our heathlands and make them bigger
- Take care of our beaches, cliffs and rocks along the coast

Tweaks to wording for the priorities

- In some places, leave nature to take care of itself. For example, let wildflowers grow and let rivers flow in a wiggly path across our land. **Leave nature to be and let it take care of itself**
- Give people more ways to help nature **and encourage them to help/promote helping nature**

Group 2 – looking at which actions/priorities are important

- They're all important as nature and ecosystems are fundamentally interlinked with one another. It's like repairing a car, you can't fix some parts and leave others broken

Tweaks to wording for the priorities

- Give people more ways to help nature **and encourage them to help/promote helping nature**

Both groups

Are there activities that you would like to do or think others should do for nature?

- Everyone should be more aware of nature. Poster campaigns and radio broadcasts
- Litter picks

- Encourage the elderly – pamphlets
- Planting trees
- Bug hotels
- Pollinator friendly plant
- Helping any birds/animals that look poorly or hurt
- More bird nesting programmes in the town centres and countryside
- Nature walks
- Nature clubs in schools
- Helping any bees that have had too much nectar
- Volunteering around the town/village
- Eco clubs
- Learn more about plants/gardening
- Hiring people to help out with the environment