

## Priorities within the Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-24

(Some of the indicative projects below would be dependent on the Landscape Character Area the project takes place within)

Plan Outcome	Indicative projects
<b>Conserving and enhancing: Outstanding Landscapes</b>	
<b>1. Landscapes:</b> The unique character, tranquillity and special qualities of the landscapes in the AONB are conserved and enhanced for future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gappy, unmanaged hedgerow removal in open chalk downland areas to enhance landscape character;</li> <li>- Removal of square blocks of coniferous woodland ('ivers') on chalk grassland slopes;</li> <li>- Selective felling and broad-leaf replanting of unmanaged woodland/hilltop copses;</li> <li>- Farmstead flint and brick, and rendered, walls restored and/or reinstated;</li> <li>- Traditional farmstead buildings reused for minimal impact / green tourism;</li> <li>- Chalk down track verges widened and managed for downland species and pollinators;</li> <li>- Eyesore removal / mitigation of 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings;</li> <li>- Removal of scrub from archaeological / historic sites;</li> <li>- Revitalising designed and parkland landscapes and vistas;</li> <li>- Introduce traditional management of hedges to be stockproof, have greater habitat value and facilitate views;</li> </ul>
<b>2. Natural Environment:</b> Natural resources are managed sustainably, are healthy and resilient to the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A straightened length of watercourse is returned to its original course mitigating flood risk, enhancing the landscape and increasing wildlife habitat;</li> <li>- Broadleaved, riparian tree planting that helps cool water, reduces sediment ingress, increasing wetland wildlife habitat;</li> <li>- Fencing cattle away from rivers edge and installing nose/pasture pumps;</li> <li>- Soil improvements through Increasing use of cover crops, monitoring organic content, yield success and reduction of inorganic fertiliser cost and sharing results with neighbouring farmers;</li> </ul>
<b>3. Natural Environment:</b> The AONB will be a place where all wildlife thrives and is able to move freely across areas of bigger, better managed and connected habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiate the 'Farmland Bird Package' of measures (nesting areas, spring food, winter food) providing improved, linked habitat for farmland birds across 4 neighbouring farms with agronomist advice;</li> <li>- Provide a series of shallow scrapes and encourage tall, thick hedgerows and foraging areas for Turtle doves;</li> <li>- Restore and/or create and maintain enhanced wildlife corridors using a network of banks, road verges and field margins linking otherwise isolated wildlife rich habitats;</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reversion of 5ha semi-natural grassland/arable (one or closely linked sites) to chalk grassland and managed scrub to encourage butterflies/birds;</li> <li>- Hedgerow/tree planting in relevant landscape character areas using Right Tree, Right Place Guidance and long term management / maintenance;</li> <li>- Cooperative landscape scale control / eradication of alien and invasive species across multiple land holdings [eg Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam];</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Historic and Cultural Environment:</b> The historic and cultural environment is conserved and enhanced; residents and visitors understand, value and enjoy it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At Risk in-field Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected and conserved through appropriate fencing, reducing cultivation depth, scrub management, and light summer sheep grazing during subsequent years;</li> <li>- Clearance of sight lines to enable a series of heritage features to be viewed in their combined context and explained/interpreted;</li> <li>- A local parish group works alongside farmers to develop a new walking route around the parish that explains the history, origins, myths and fables that surround the parish name;</li> <li>- Initiate and/or support a volunteer group in undertaking conservation work of historic features on neighbouring farms, an historic park or garden such as boundary markers, SAMs, Ha Ha, ice house or historic farm signage;</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Dark Night Skies:</b> The International Dark Sky Reserve status is retained through evidencing annual reductions in light pollution and ensuring the multiple benefits of dark night skies are understood, valued and enjoyed by all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replace all exterior farm and farmyard lighting with dark sky compliant fittings/bulbs and to reduce light pollution, erect several bat and bird boxes and offer as case study to other farmers and the public;</li> <li>- With Wessex Astronomical Society, determine prime stargazing site on farm and offer public stargazing events per year with parking and toilet facilities available;</li> <li>- Fit motion sensor switching to save energy and reduce surface reflected light where lights are already compliant;</li> </ul>
<b><i>Conserving and enhancing: Living and Working Landscapes</i></b>	
<p><b>6. Rural Land Management:</b> Rural land will be managed sustainably whilst meeting the demand for food and other produce in ways that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enlarge, link and buffer chalk grassland habitats, through wildflower restoration on semi-improved grassland, appropriate scrub management and management through an extensive and relevant grazing regime and use of conservation-grazing flock;</li> <li>- Local food producers form a group to explain and promote the links between their produce and landscape within which it is grown/reared;</li> </ul>

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conserve and enhance landscape character and deliver increased public benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A farmer cluster / neighbouring farm clusters are supported to learn about and then implement regenerative farming practices;</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Planning and Transportation:</b> Where development is necessary, it integrates with landscape character and sustainable transport options reduce effects on tranquillity and the natural environment</p>	<p><i>Less likely to be achieved entirely through FiPL funding although materials and/or design for example within a project would need to align with requirements regarding landscape character.</i></p>
<p><b>8. Sustaining Rural Communities:</b> Economic and social wellbeing is ensured through a thriving rural economy and as a high quality sustainable rural tourism destination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop cycle hire, repairs and spares facility and promote new cycling routes;</li> <li>- Develop an historic/archaeology based walking trail with leaflet across neighbouring farms, providing permissive access routes to join up existing Rights of Way and partnering with local B&amp;Bs to offer a package (start/finish overnight stays);</li> <li>- Provide ecologically sustainable, minimal impact, authorised camping facilities alongside led farm walks, self-guided trails and other on-site activities;</li> </ul>
<b>Conserving and enhancing: Special Landscapes to Enjoy</b>	
<p><b>9. Awareness and understanding:</b> Everyone understands and values the area's special qualities, landscape character, historic and natural assets, and its traditions and mythical qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where a PRow traverses or passes alongside the farm, provide interpretative boards to explain to users of the various work on the farm and its wildlife, during the different seasons;</li> <li>- Care home residents / dementia / rehabilitation patients (or other hard to reach groups) are supported to visit the farm for short guided walks and sensory activities that are a source for continued artistic, memory recall or plug plant growing activities back at their base;</li> <li>- Local schools, colleges or parish community groups are offered a programme of participatory educational visits to farms to understand where their food comes from, how it is produced and how that influences the landscape around them;</li> <li>- Specific facilities are made available for the less able / wheelchair bound visitor/groups to access, learn and enjoy the work of the farm;</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Wellbeing, involvement &amp; learning:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and offer a package for young care-givers, disadvantaged youngsters from neighbouring towns to spend time working, learning and gaining new skills on the farm at least twice a year;</li> </ul>

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<p>More diverse audiences, young people in particular, learn new skills and have improved physical and mental wellbeing through engaging with the high quality environment for physical activity, relaxation and inspiration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide basic facilities and access for an artist(s) to bring groups to paint/sketch on farm and provide display/sales area for their work;</li> <li>- Develop interpretative nature trail around the farm, opportunity for interaction/learning with livestock and how food is produced particularly aimed at disadvantaged groups from surrounding urban areas;</li> <li>- Provide R&amp;R opportunities (eg walks, mindfulness, forest bathing) for NHS staff and/or others suffering fatigue or stress related conditions;</li> <li>- Support or initiate a volunteer group to have access to farmland to learn new ID and practical countryside conservation skills.</li> </ul>