

STOUR VALLEY PARK

—
MAKING THE MOST OF OUR
LOCAL LANDSCAPE



Ruth Wharton Project Manager BCP Council

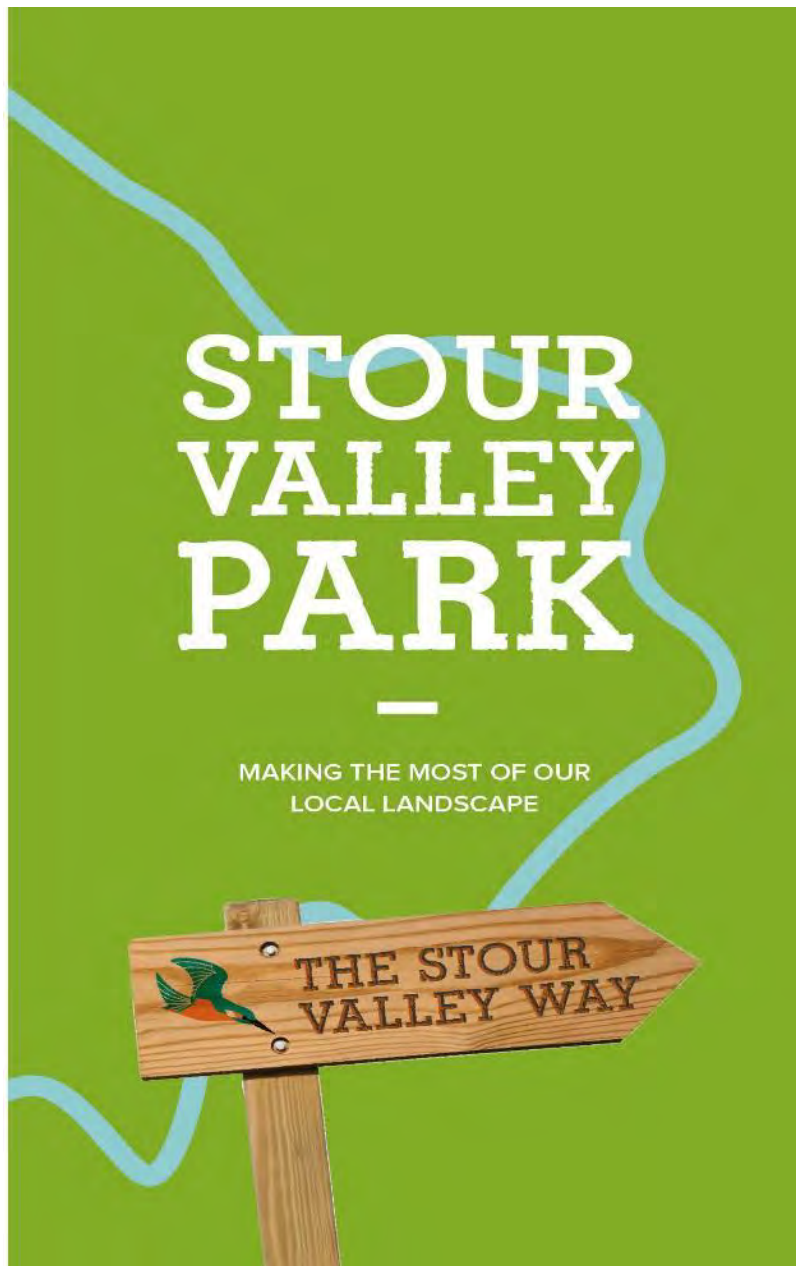
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Timeline overview

- 2013** Stour Valley Masterplan conceptualised and adopted by Bournemouth Council, route improvements made
- 2015** Greenbelt report for Dorset Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
- 2016** Stour Valley Report by Dorset Environmental Records Centre for Dorset LNP
- 2017** Establishment of Partnership Group, inclusion in Local Plans
- 2019** Strategy, Project document and supporting leaflet/map
- Local government restructure, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole District Council (BCP), and Dorset District Council formed (DC).
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Declared by BCP & DC
- 2020** FPA funding and HLF funding to create consultant's role, Landstory appointed.
- 2021** Evidence gathering, public workshops and engagement by Landstory Design
- 2022** Delivery of the Stour Valley Park Strategy



Summary of achievements

- ✓ 19 Statutory and Non-statutory partners
- ✓ Mailing list of 1000+ 894 survey submissions
- ✓ 35 + workshops with partners, councillors, 40+ landowners and public
- ✓ Mapped landscape of 2832 ha / circa 45km (Middle & Lower River Stour)
- ✓ Included in DC and BCP Local Plans
- ✓ Delivered SVP Strategy & Governance & Business Plan Docs
- ✓ Identified Heritage – Prehistory and History Heritage Report
- ✓ Identified Carbon Sequestration potential & Funding opportunities
- ✓ Working with TCF Transforming Cities Fund
- ✓ Working with Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)
- ✓ Identified Potential for biodiversity, thriving wildlife and recreational
- ✓ Identified potential 'Gateways' onto the Stour
- ✓ Links to BCP Council Green Infrastructure Strategy – identified
- ✓ Links to the BCP Council Green Tourism Economy
- ✓ Delivering Objectives of the Government's National Environment Plan
- ✓ Potential mitigation for Housing Development (Developers' contributions / SANGS via the Planning process)
- ✓ Identified recreational and health and wellbeing opportunities for the South-East Dorset Conurbation c. 500,000 pop.
- ✓ Important contribution to the Dorset Nature Recovery Network
- ✓ Have the attention of the Heritage Fund, National Trust and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a key project nationally
- ✓ Agreed appointment of Programme Manager



Sculpture Trails

Continuing the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre theme in showcases art in nature.



Major Gateways

Provide facilities and stopping points along the route to establish the Stour Valley Way as a vibrant destination.



Wildlife Trails

Excursion of the route from the Stour Valley Local Nature Reserve via Berry Hill to Throop Mill to include a wider range of wildlife viewing opportunities.



Minor Gateways

Easy access to the Stour Valley Way will have a clearly marked entry point. This gives the route a recognisable character. Clear waymarks give visitors confidence to explore.

Hicks Heritage Farm (Proposal)



Example of how we can enhance the Stour Valley Corridor for people and wildlife alike



Sturminster Marshall

Kingston Lacy

Pamphill

WIMBORNE MINSTER

Merley

Canford Magna

Longham

Dudsbury

West Parley

Kinson

Redhill

Throop

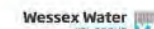
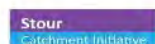
Holdenhurst

Iford

Wick

CHRISTCHURCH

Hengistbury Head



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THE STOUR
VALLEY WAY

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

By working with developers from the concept stage we can:

- Reduce delay and uncertainty
- Help them to deliver enhancements to the local environment through SANGS and BNG
- Make developments more desirable and sustainable



TRANSPORT

By working with landowners, planners and developers we can:

- Maximise opportunities to create joined up sustainable travel through schemes such as TCF
- Create new routes for cycling and walking
- Provide off-road routes and greenways for commuting
- Improve access = better physical and mental wellbeing



ECONOMY

An integrated approach to future sustainable growth (housing, health, transport & biodiversity & culture) including:

- Creation of a sense of place in South East Dorset
- A new Green Economy to build in resilience locally
- Rural and semi-rural regeneration
- Diversification – Farm shops & Cafes, local produce
- Make the area a great place to live, work and play
- Renowned internationally as a model for health & sustainable wealth



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THE STOUR
VALLEY WAY

ENVIRONMENT

By being bold, learning from international best practice and harnessing opportunities including:

- Improve flood alleviation, water quality, carbon capture
- Recreate lost habitats and create new ones
- Link fragmented habitats
- Help species to be recolonise or be reintroduced
- Contribute to the Nature Recovery Network
- Exemplar contributor to the Government's Environment Plan
- Improved access and education for all ages and abilities



HERITAGE

The Lower Stour is awash with heritage and history from Stone Age Hunters to Iron Age Fort builders. There are opportunities for:

- New Gateways to explore, learn and discover
- Linking Heritage assets to Museum Services & Cultural events
- Enhance the Green Tourism Economy
- Integrate with Health and Wellbeing initiatives



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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Stour Valley Park offers a once in a generation opportunity for increased health and wellbeing benefits for the South East Dorset conurbation of circa 500,000.

A landscape scale opportunity for:

- Increased life expectancy & reducing health inequality
- Improved physical and mental wellbeing
- Reduction in costs of public health, reduced sickness
- Healthier and happier residents = Improved productivity
- Lower Crime rates and greater community cohesion
- Social Prescribing
- A workforce of Volunteers, Young People and Local Community groups to get involved – feel pride

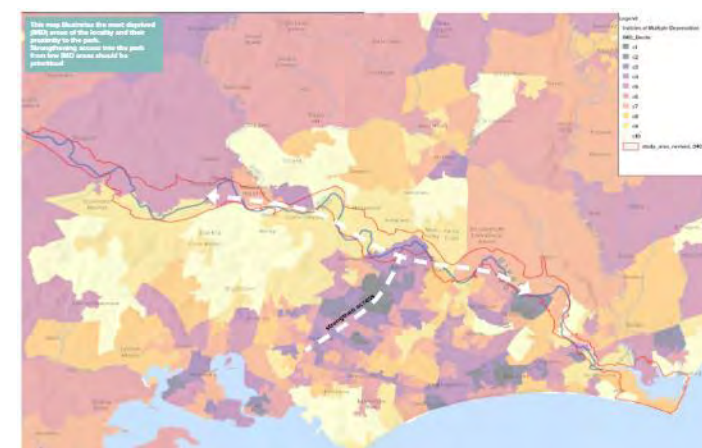
Quick Fact

When asked “What are your motivations for getting out into the Stour Valley?”¹:

- 74% of people answered “To support your mental health and wellbeing”

1

Source: SVP Survey 2021



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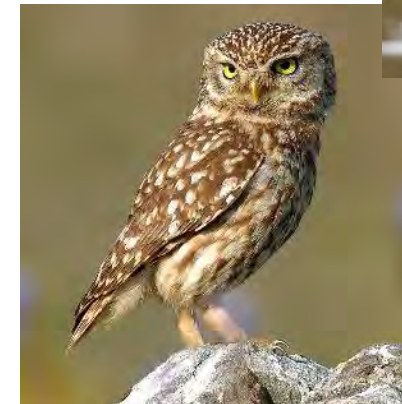
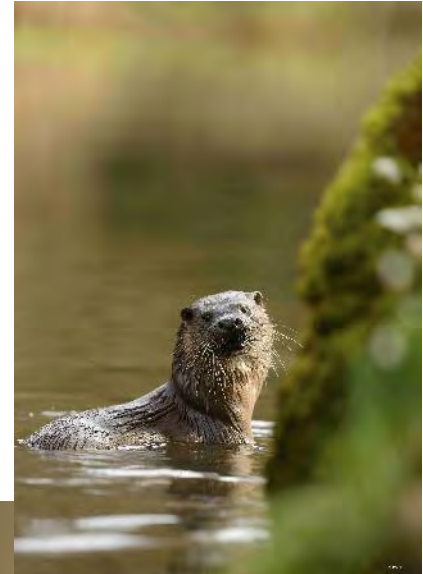


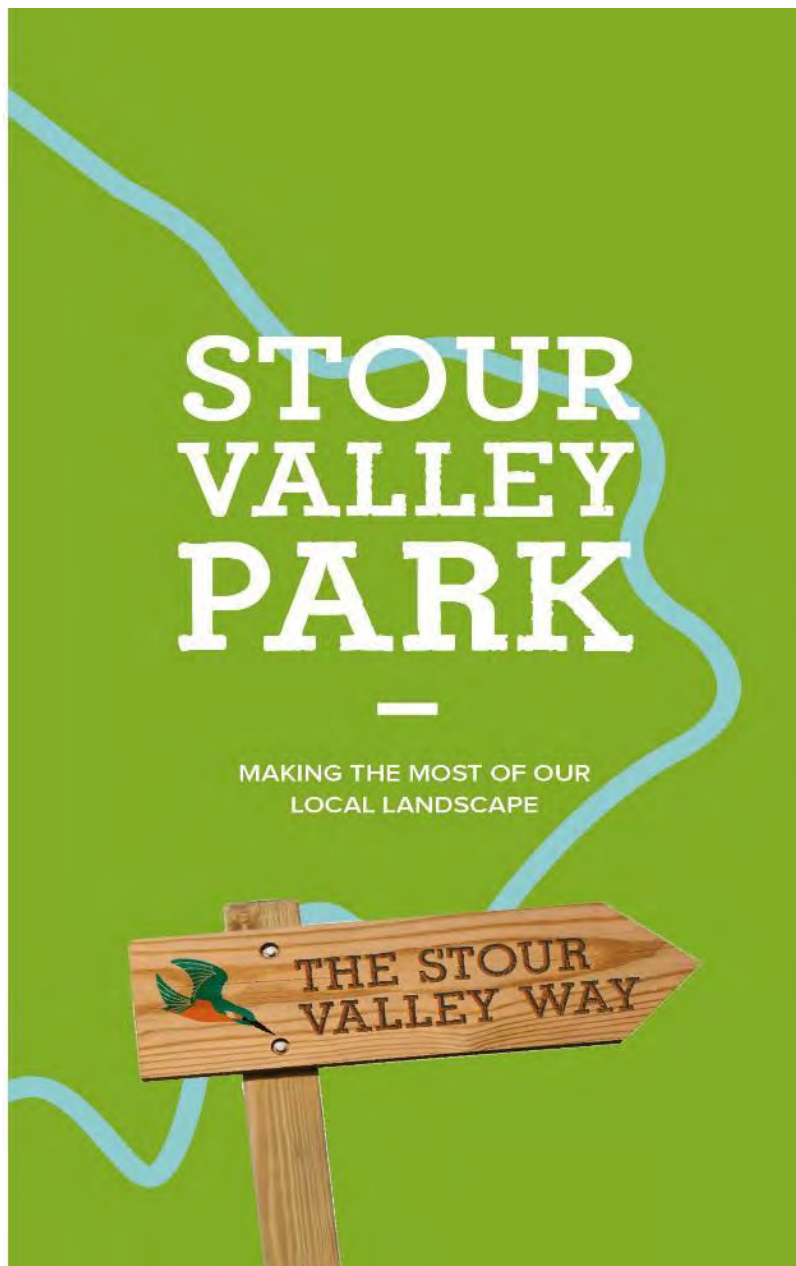
Funding & Delivery

As the options for creating additional greenspace dwindle and pressure for housing increase there is a need for alternative 'breathing spaces' for residents and wildlife alike.

The Stour Valley Park concept offers a range of new and sustainable blended funding options including:

- SANGS Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
- Biodiversity Net Gain – all planning permissions must deliver minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023
- Landscape Recovery Scheme - one of three funding schemes offered by DEFRA under ELMS
- Natural Capital, Habitat Banking and Green Finance – has investors and tens of £m available to invest in environmental schemes.
- We are working with National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Trust and partners to understand how and where we can access this investment.





WHAT NEXT?

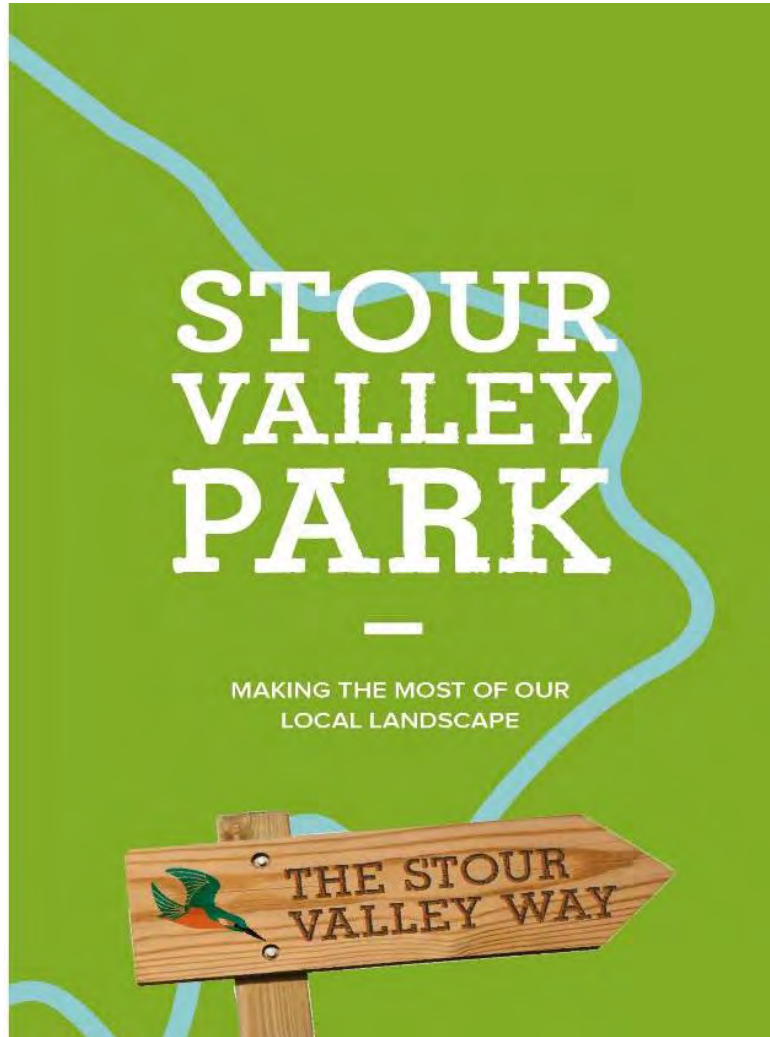
SVP, Throop Nature Park & Hicks Farm

- SVP partnership establishing level of interest and resource being offered by partners and how this develops alongside the LRS bid
- Throop Nature Park (Hicks Farm SANG); being delivered for Summer 2023
- Hicks Farm Buildings; set of crumbling buildings that are listed Council assets. Bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for grant funding to improve the buildings and create a SVP Gateway.
- Interest in the DEFRA Landscape Recovery Scheme (LRS): "...will develop a cohesive landscape scale 20-year delivery plan to ...restore the river Stour as an ecologically functional and naturally resilient wetland corridor that will deliver multiple benefits for nature, carbon and for people and the green economy"



"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living"

David Attenborough



Any questions?

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