



Urban Heaths Partnership Heathland Mitigation Delivery Report April 2018 – March 2019



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1. Introduction

The Local Planning Authorities continue to take a partnership approach to heathland mitigation. The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015 -2020 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been adopted by the individual Local Planning Authorities (LPA) across South East Dorset.

From April 2018 to March 2019 the Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP) delivered heathland mitigation on behalf of 14 partner organisations. However, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has meant that 9 councils including district and borough councils became 2 Unitary Councils and UHP, from April 2019 will consist of 10 partners as below:

- ◆ Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- ◆ Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council
- ◆ Dorset Council
- ◆ Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
- ◆ Dorset Police
- ◆ Dorset Wildlife Trust
- ◆ Natural England
- ◆ National Trust
- ◆ Forestry England
- ◆ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

While reporting on delivery during 2018/19 for future comparison this report provides figures and evidence in relation to Local Authority areas both before and after LGR.

2. Background

2.1 The Heathland SPD

Under the SPD the Local Planning Authorities collect developer contributions from development within 5kms of heathland sites. These contributions are used to fund heathland mitigation in the form of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) and Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs) which include development of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs).

The UHP team of core staff is responsible for co-ordinating and delivering elements of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM). This team continues to be employed by Dorset Council on behalf of the UHP – see Appendix 1 for Team structure.

The wardening element of SAMM is delivered and funded by the Local Planning Authorities along with HIPs and SANGs.

This report concentrates on the SAMM elements of heathland mitigation delivered by the UHP Core Team during the financial year April 2018– March 2019.

2.2 Structure of UHP

The current working and reporting mechanism for UHP is as follows:

- **Dorset Heathland Advisory Group** - this Group has not met since 2014. The Group consisted of one appointed elected member from each of the Local Authorities. The Group was to make recommendations to the local authorities on appropriate measures to avoid and or mitigate the adverse effects of urban pressure on the Dorset Heaths international sites that result from planning decisions, be a vehicle for joint working, liaison and information sharing between local authorities and other partners with an interest in the Dorset Heaths International sites.
- **Dorset Heathland Officer Group** – this Group has not met since 2014. The Group consisted of a representative from both the local planning authority and the heathland management service of the local authorities, a representative from each of the other partner organisations, the UHP Team Manager and the chair of the Implementation Group. The Group provided advice and technical briefings along with overseeing strategic management, policy, partnership and monitoring with delivery progress reported back to The Group
- **UHP Implementation Group** - The UHP Implementation Group oversees the delivery of SAMM, including the work of the core team and of mitigation staff providing wardening employed by the Local Authority partners. The group is made up of partner representatives with meetings at least biannual and is facilitated by the UHP Team Manager. Terms of reference for the meeting have been agreed by the Group
- **UHP Staff Management** - The core team is managed within the Coast and Countryside Team at Dorset Council under the Environment Advice Team Manager, The UHP Team Manager holds line management responsibility for the eight members of staff within the team. Team meetings are held every 6 weeks and include the wardens employed by Local Authorities to maintain consistent approach and understanding of delivery and issues across the whole area.

2.3 Agreements Plans and Strategy

The UHP works to a framework of formal plans, strategies and service level agreements:

- **The UHP Heathland and Mitigation Strategy** - The UHP Heathland Mitigation Strategy was written by the UHP Team Manager in consultation with the Implementation Group and adopted by the Group.

- **UHP Annual Delivery Business Plan** - The UHP Business plan sets out delivery of the strategy and provides the delivery framework for the core team. Progress against the plan is monitored by the UHP Team Manager and reported to the Implementation Group
- **SAMM Wardening Service Level Agreement** - A Service Level Agreement is in place agreed by Local Authority partners covering delivery of the wardening element of SAMM delivered by themselves.
- **Purbeck Area - Wardening Service Level Agreement** - As the Purbeck District Council did not have capacity for employing a warden, this is carried out on their behalf and the part-time member of staff is managed as part of the UHP team.
- **West and North Dorset Service Level Agreement** - West and North Dorset District Councils have not been part of the UHP, however agreement for delivery of heathland mitigation on behalf of these councils continues on an annual costed basis, a part-time member of staff is employed to deliver this work. A Separate detailed report of this work is produced and available from the UHP office.

2.4 Area

The area that is covered by direct UHP mitigation support is over 2500 ha, however much of the education, engagement and project work provides consistent messages for a much wider area of heathland. Figure 1 and 2 gives an approximate percentage split of this heathland area between the 'old Local Authority areas for 2018/19 and the current Local Authority Areas (April 2019 onwards). Please note that this only includes areas/sites where UHP provide direct mitigation support.

Figure 1 Chart showing heathland area by Local Authority areas pre- April 2019

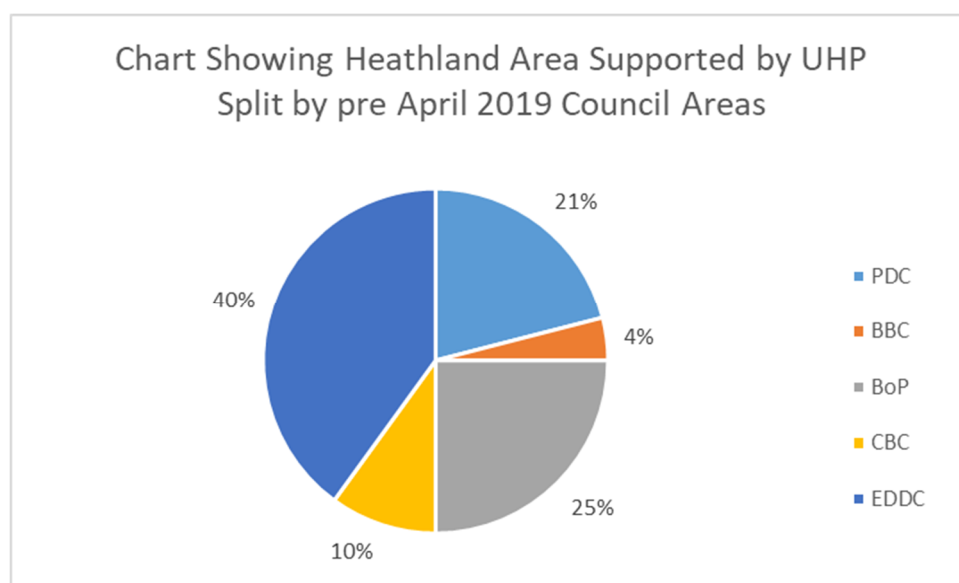
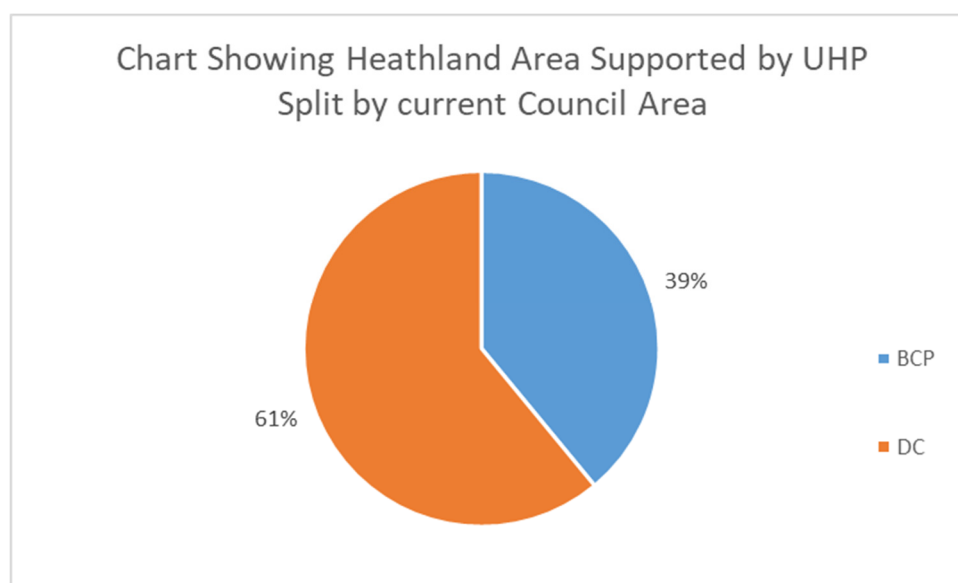


Figure 2 Chart showing heathland area by current Local Authority areas



2.5 Work areas of UHP

There are five main strands to the work of the UHP Core Team and they are discussed in detail in sections 3 – 7:

- Co-ordination and management of UHP
- Education and engagement
- Monitoring
- Dorset Dogs Project
- Firewise

3. Co-ordination and management of UHP

3.1 Key elements

Key elements of coordination and management of the UHP are:

- Develop and deliver an annual business plan in line with the UHP Heathland Mitigation Strategy.
- Co-ordinate the UHP team delivery of SAMM elements that have been agreed by the UHP Implementation Group in line with the approved budget.
- Support co-ordination of the wardening element of SAMM across the area on all heathland sites.
- Monitor delivery of SAMM and report annually.

3.2 Results of 2018/19

During the 2018/19 financial year key points include:

- Funding for the UHP Core Team extended from March 2019 to March 2020 which brings staff delivery in line with the current SPD.

- Capacity for monitoring increased, the Monitoring Officer returned from maternity to work 2 days per week while keeping the Monitoring Warden working at 4 days per week.
- An extension of funding for the Firewise Communities Project was secured from DWFRS along with funds from UHP to allow the project to extend until March 2020.
- Business plan produced and agreed by Implementation Group, progress has been monitored and delivery throughout the year has been on track with this.
- Two Implementation Group meetings facilitated progress on delivery and budget reported at these.
- Eight Team meetings facilitated, attended by Core Team and wider mitigation staff maintaining area wide knowledge across all staff.
- Annual Report for Financial year 2017/18 produced July 2018.
- All elements of Business Plan completed for financial year.

4. Education and Engagement

4.1 Context of UHP Education

The Education programme is delivered by an Education Officer (37hrs) and Education Assistant (15hrs). The programme continues to develop new resources and adapt to gain highest take up by target schools.

The aims of UHP Education are:

- Deliver a co-ordinated approach to education across the Partnership.
- Identify and contact Target Schools offering heathland related activities tailored to age and subject.
- Increase awareness of the importance of heathlands for their wildlife and biodiversity.
- Increase awareness of the consequences of heathland fires to the wildlife and the community along with other potentially damaging or antisocial activities.
- Encourage individual and community responsibility for the protection of heathlands for the future and provide a sense of ownership.

The key messages within the aims with are delivered within all UHP Education activities. All education activities have been developed to deliver the key messages and fall within the National Curriculum. Activities carried out this year include:

- (ACD) sessions delivered to Key Stage 3 students (year 7 & 8) to reinforce the importance of heathlands due to their wildlife and biodiversity and highlight the consequences of heathland fires to the wildlife and the community. The sessions are interactive sessions with students acting out parts within a courtroom setting discussing the issues and crime
- Heathland related activities to Key Stage 1 and 2 students including visiting heathland sites and learning about the wildlife and habitat. with the aim of increasing understanding of the habitat.



The UHP Education Officer and Partners have agreed that targeting Key Stage 3 is given priority to ensure local young people understand the consequences of fires on heathlands and to promote the reasons why heathlands are considered important, and targeting Key Stage 2 students is important to raise awareness of the heathland habitat. This is considered an important educational aim as the child will develop an understanding and awareness of the heathlands at a younger age to enable them to identify the importance of heathland sites when reaching year 8 and taking part in the ACD.

Target Schools have been agreed with partners as those to offer UHP education activities to as a priority. These are chosen mainly due to proximity to a heathland site and is reviewed annually. See Appendix 2 for the 2018/19 target school list.

4.2 Results of 2018/19

There has been a significant increase from the previous year in the numbers of students reached through the education programme. Across south-east Dorset 5942 students have been engaged through UHP education activities. This represented a 13% increase on 2017/18 figures.

Figure 3 and 4 shows the total number of students who were involved with UHP Education activities during the period April 2018 to March 2019.

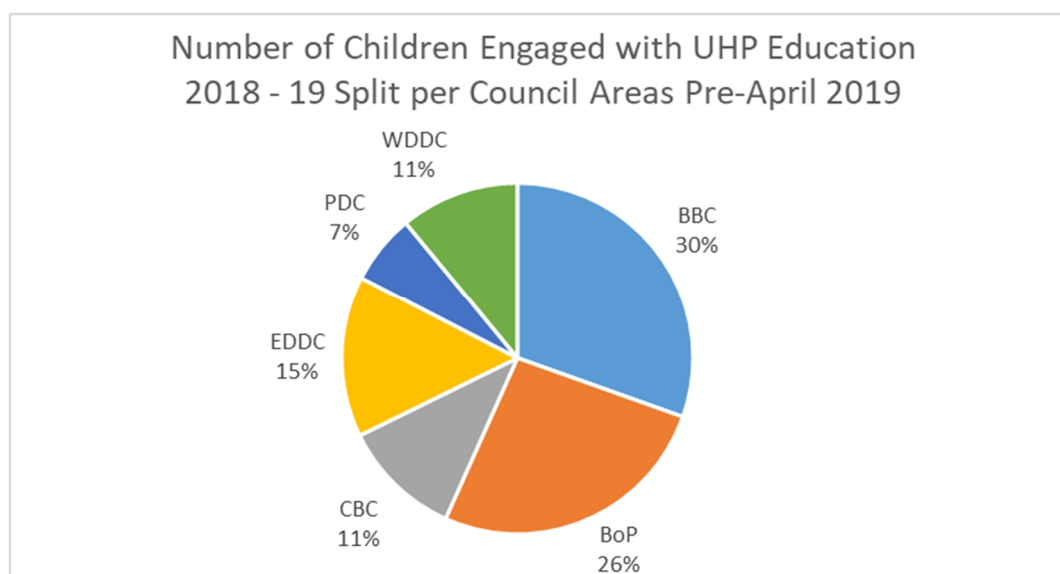


Figure 3 chart showing number of students engaged in the Local Authority areas pre-April 2019

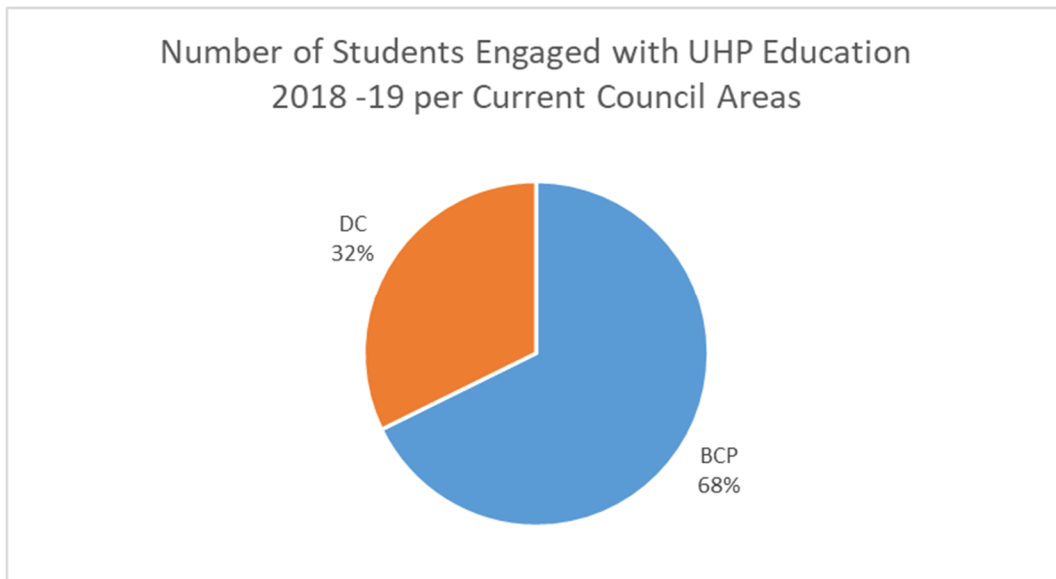


Figure 4 chart showing number of students engaged in the current Local Authority areas

The table in figure 5 shows the number of students involved and engaged with UHP Education over the last four financial years.

	All 2015 -16	All 2016 -17	All 2017 -18	All 2018 -19
TOTAL	4,108	2927	5217	5942

Figure 5 table to show numbers of students engaged over the last four financial years

During 2018/19 2894 students were engaged in an ACD session, a 56% increase from last year. The reason for this considerable increase is due to persistence with contacting target schools and successfully marketing the activities. Every school on the ACD Target list has received sessions this year plus extra schools put forward by partners identified where fires had occurred on nearby heathlands, these extra Schools included Verwood School and Westmoors Middle School.

Figure 6 and 7 shows the split of the 2894 students which were engaged in an ACD session split between Local Authority areas.

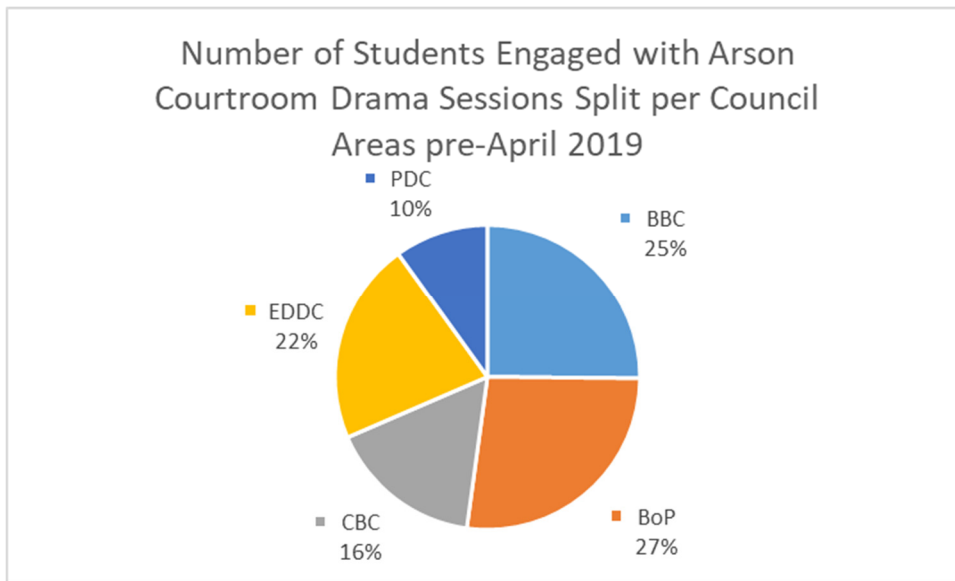


Figure 6 students which were engaged in an ACD in the Local Authority areas pre-April 2019.

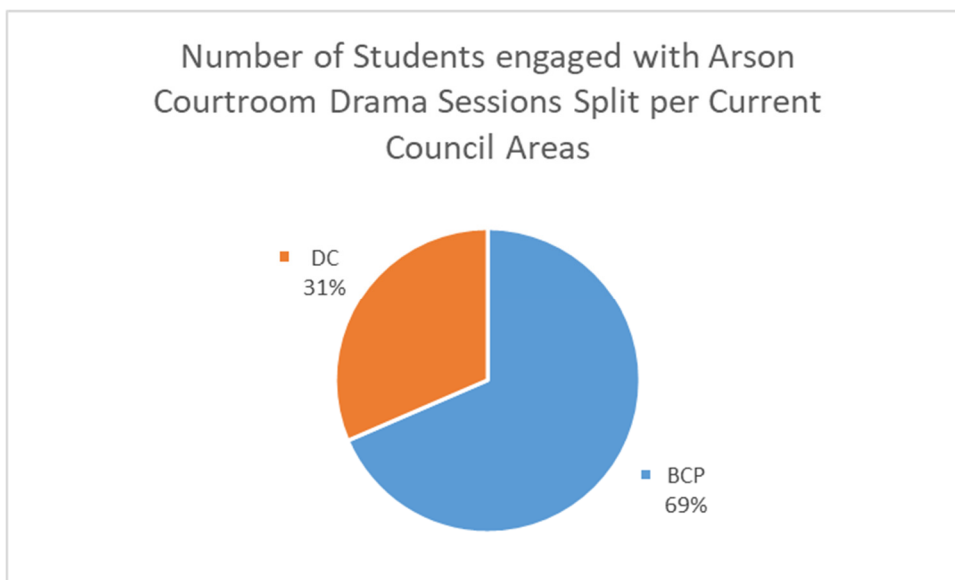


Figure 7 students which were engaged in an ACD in the current Local Authority areas

4.3 Events

Two large events were attended this year, the Heathland Hullabaloo and the Dorset Dogs Festival with different activities carried out at each. The number of children and adults engaged was 3100.

4.4 Heathland Life Newsletter

The Heathland Life newsletter details the work of the UHP team. It is sent out to Councillors and Partners through email as a PDF every 6 months. The newsletter reflects the previous six months events and activities, Partner's heathland projects and information from mitigation staff.

For copies of the UHP Heathland Life, please go to www.dorsetheaths.org.uk or contact the UHP Project Office.

4.5 Nature Tots

The UHP education staff have continued to support Bournemouth Borough Council Nature Tots by delivering weekly activities at the successful Nature Tots club. The activities carried out this year include pond dipping, mini beasting, naturally resourced craft activities, scavenger hunts, theme based nature trails amongst others. The engagement also includes parents and guardians who are always present. During 2018/19 The average attendance at 34 sessions was 21 children and 22 adults, this equates to approximately 332 children and 341 adults as new engagements through Nature Tots.

4.6 Other Engagement

Young People - Three youth organisations have been worked with this year, delivering sessions on heathland sites.

Libraries - This year 12 activities have taken place in Libraries, these have included activities and talks, reaching children and adults.

In total these other engagements have reached 380 children and 1105 adults

4.7 Educational activity feedback

Feedback is extremely important and is used to shape the activities and have improvement moving forward. During 2018/19 we received written feedback responses from teachers and others.

Written comments include:

"A huge thank you for today from all of my students..... I have been round their Form Times during lunch today and they were buzzing – loving the theatrics, laughing over each other's' performances and... discussing the heaths which is clearly the main aim!" Magna Academy, Poole.

"We were delighted at the way the morning went and thought the sessions were fantastic. The students really enjoyed themselves and learned very valuable lessons along the way. Thank YOU so much - we look forward to setting this up again next year!" Lytchett Minster School, Purbeck.

"thank you for enabling us to have a wonderful experience exploring Kinson common with you yesterday (23.5.19). My children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were able to retell their experiences in detail once we had returned to school. I felt that you aimed the experience at the level of the children really well and you judged their levels of concentration very well too. The activities were informative and exciting which made the visit a pleasure. They were suitably worn out when we got back to school but are still talking about it this morning." Kinson Primary School, Bournemouth.

“I would just like to say a very big Thank You for the fascinating and engaging talk and activities you gave to our Beavers last night. They really enjoyed the evening and the activities were the perfect mix of fun and facts! I think it is fair to say that myself and the other adults learnt a lot too about the very unique habitat we have right on our doorstep.” All Saints Beaver Scouts, Branksome, Poole.

We also re visited 3 schools to test the knowledge of students after the sessions had taken place in the previous year. The schools involved were Canford Junior School, Haymoor Junior School and Ferndown Middle School. The results of this indicated that the students demonstrated very good retention of the information they had received during outdoor learning sessions the previous year.

5. Monitoring

5.1 UHP Monitoring context

The aims of UHP Monitoring as set out in The Revised Monitoring Strategy for the Dorset Heathlands SPD (Fearnley and Liley 2014), adopted as part of the SPD.

They are to:

- Organise the collection and collation of different data sets to be analysed by Footprint Ecology and stored by DERC as part of the Monitoring Strategy.
- Support and advise partners as required in monitoring of new access management projects or Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG) development.

A review of the Monitoring Framework was carried out by Chris Panter (Footprint Ecology) and Rachel Pearce (UHP) as requested by the Implementation Group in 2016/17. The report is available on request at the UHP office.

5.2 Methods of monitoring

Monitoring is carried out using various methodology including:

- **Car Park Counts** - car park transects provide a robust comparison between car parks over time across the heaths and related sites. This survey method involves 5 or 6 UHP and Partner Mitigation staff recording the number of cars parked at agreed car parking sites across the area. These range from small informal car parks or laybys, through to large car parks accessing or adjacent to heathland sites and also including a handful of “honeypot” sites. All data is collected and passed to Footprint Ecology for analysis and reporting.

2018/19 car park count surveys - 14 Co-ordinated car park counts were organised by the Monitoring Warden. The car park surveys are carried out over 2 hour periods, either at 7-9am, 10am-12pm or 2-4pm on a variety of week, weekend and Bank Holiday days spread across the year.

- **People Counting Sensors** - remote people counting sensors are installed at entrances across a suite of sites they comprise of devices that count the

number of passes either by using heat sensing beams that are broken when people pass or pressure pads in the ground that record passes when stepped on. The data is collected by the devices and downloaded every 3 months. The data provides trends of visitor numbers.

2018 - 19 people counting sensors - 32 core heathland sensors and 33 others have been maintained throughout this year. The 33 other sensors include sensors on SANG sites, Heathland Infrastructure Projects, and at visitor attractions. The sensors include pyros, long-range pyros, pressure slabs and one induction loop (used to record bicycles).

The number of project and SANG sensors will continue to vary as new SANGs are created and other mitigation project monitoring is carried out.

The Monitoring Warden collects data from and maintains the sensors. This includes regular checks and repairs or replacement, due to malfunction, vandalism or theft. Data is collected approximately every three/four months, downloaded and checked before forwarding to Footprint Ecology for analysis and reporting. A separate report will be available to provide results of 2018/19.

- **Incident recording – Dorset Explorer**

The Monitoring Warden coordinates reporting and recording of any illegal or destructive activities which will impact of the heath. 'Incidents 'are recorded by mitigation staff and officers on the Dorset Country Council's 'Dorset Explorer' system and cover a range of activities including; fires, motorcycles/off-roading, fly tipping and vandalism. Fire data is gathered to record the number of fires and area of damage to the heathland SPA.

Other incidents such as motorbikes on site, fly-tipping and drones on site for example are recorded to inform and focus the resources for SAMM delivery.

2018/19 incident recording results

The table in figure 8 shows the number of fires recorded on heathland sites across south east Dorset from 2007/08 – 2018/19 financial years. Although the trend has shown that fires are decreasing over the years there is a significant increase in fires from 2017/18 to this year, however when compared to the area burnt the rise in 2018/19 was not inline with the number of fires. This shows the fires were smaller in area and extinguished quickly, this is a result of partnership working and also there is evidence from wardens that the number of camp fires and BBQs on site have increased.

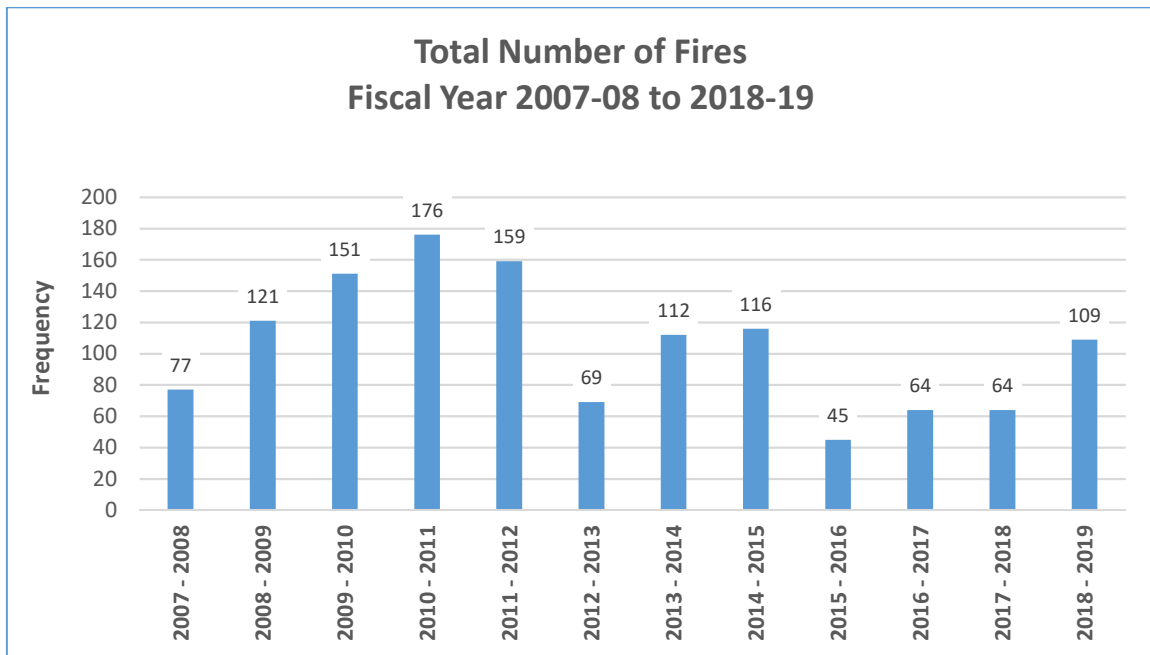


Figure 8 shows the number of fires recorded on heathland sites across south east Dorset from 2007/08 – 2018/19.

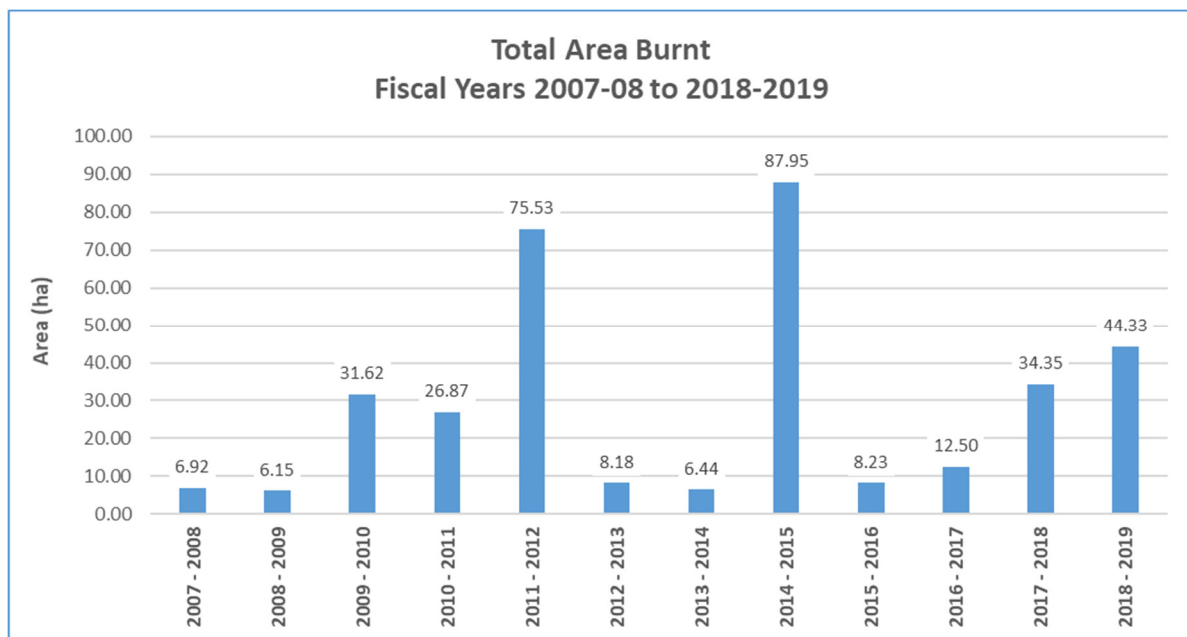


Figure 9 shows the total area of heathland burnt across south east Dorset from 2007/08 – 2018/19.

5.4 Monitoring of SANGs

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) are new or enhanced greenspaces of a quality and type suitable to be used as mitigation for development likely to affect the Dorset Heathland European and internationally protected sites. They are designed to absorb recreation pressure that would otherwise occur on these fragile sites.

SANG monitoring methodology follows principles set out in the Dorset Heathlands SPD and may include onsite tally counts, onsite interviews, installation of automated people counters and car park monitoring in line with the Dorset Heathlands Monitoring Strategy.

The Monitoring Officer has continued to assist partners, developers and ecologists in developing SANGs and their monitoring programmes.

2018/19 monitoring of SANGs – this included the monitoring for:

- The new Frenches Farm SANG.
- Upton Country Park second round of monitoring for Phase 1 of the SANG and initial surveys for Phase 2.
- Leigh Road SANG (in process).

Summary reports from these are available from the UHP Office.

Advice and consultation regarding SANG monitoring and project monitoring has been given to a number of partners, ecologists and developers working with SANG development within the project area, work with partners and developers continues. For example the Canford Park SANG.

5.5 Wildlife Monitoring

Monitoring of three key heathland indicator bird species, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar is commissioned annually by UHP and carried out by the RSPB, the data is sent to Footprint Ecology for analysis and reporting.

The full 2018 -2019 UHP Monitoring Report produced by Footprint Ecology which reports on and summarises data collected is available on line or from the UHP Office.

6. Dorset Dogs Project

6.1 Context and aims of Dorset Dogs

Dorset Dogs aims to address both issues and opportunities relating to people with dogs out and about in countryside and greenspace. Funding to set up the project came jointly via heathland development mitigation funding and the Natural England (NE) Access Management Grant Scheme, with the scope of work extending across the whole of Dorset. AMGS funding was phased out in 2011; since then funding has primarily been through the heathland mitigation funding that is available mainly for work in the south-east area of Dorset.

The aims of the UHP Dorset Dogs project are to:

- Raise awareness amongst dog owners and others of the important management issues and opportunities in relation to heathlands.

- Provide effective and consistent information on and off site for dog owners to support and promote responsible ownership and behaviour through targeted events, signs, leaflets, and online information.
- Provide support and advice to land managers on positive access management for people with dogs alongside effective engagement and education.
- Work across the project area ensuring that negative impacts are not transferred from one site to another; discouraging management that will displace problems elsewhere.
- Promote existing non-sensitive sites such as SANGs and areas where dogs are allowed off-lead.
- Support at the development stage of new safe areas and SANGs for off-lead exercise.
- Provide a broad and balanced coverage of dog-related issues, both positive and negative; avoiding a narrow focus to maintain the widest engagement.

The project is delivered by the Dorset Dogs Officer, employed for 30 hours per week and the Dorset Dogs Assistant, 22 hours per week. The work includes engagement, education and liaison with dog owners, children, charities, dog tourism, dog-related businesses, conservation, countryside and wildlife organisations and landowners including local authorities. Engagement methods include:

- Information 'pit stop' events; either stand-alone or as part of bigger community events.
- An annual Dorset Dogs festival.
- Guided walkies.
- On-site guidance such as 'Doggy do code' signs and 'paw print' roundels.
- Website www.dorsetdogs.org.uk,
- Interactive forum www.facebook.com/dorsetdogs & Instagram.
- Membership group for people with dogs who live in or visit Dorset.
- Partnership working and canine access advice provision, with conservation and land-managing organisations and projects.
- Printed literature.
- Seminars/workshops for specific interest groups.
- Training and supporting Volunteers.
- Running an ambassador group.

Dorset Dogs work is important in promoting responsible canine access and behaviour with partners and contributes to additional benefits felt by land managers and dog owners:

- Dog owners are often the biggest group of visitors at many sites & routes and may be volunteers or more casual eyes and ears, helping with management, monitoring and care. As a peer group the responsible owners have the capacity to have a positive impact on others.
- Presence onsite acts as a deterrent or barrier to anti-social behaviour and issues such as arson, fly-tipping and vandalism.

- People with dogs place great value on the places where they walk. Some already have a great interest in or knowledge of the wildlife or history of a site and enjoy sharing this with others. This may be important in ongoing protection and maintenance of sites.
- People's quality of life is enhanced by dog ownership, as is our ability to relate to and have empathy for others.
- There is an increasing body of evidence demonstrating the significant physical and mental health and well-being benefits of having a dog and being motivated to access the outdoor environment.

6.2 Results of 2018/19 Dorset Dog Engagement Events

During 2018/19 the number of Dorset dog events (Pit stops, Festival and Guided Walkies) were 69. The total numbers engaged directly (face-to-face) at these events was approximately 9000 and include:

- **Dorset Dogs Annual Festival** - The Festival was held at Upton Country Park (UCP) in August 2018 and was attended by approximately 2500 visitors throughout the day. The Festival is an excellent platform to engage with people including those who might not attend other events, and to spread Dorset Dog messages. Holding the Festival at UCP provided an opportunity to promote the new off-lead SANG there as well as raising the profile of Dorset Dogs. Many conservation and business organisations were involved in the festival, giving them a platform for positive engagement with dog owners and other organisations.



- **Pit stops** - 38 pit stops took place at a variety of sites, at some events (eg at SANGs or community events) and at some targeted at the early morning walkers on sensitive sites. Pit stops continue to be effective in targeted engagement and ongoing liaison as people discuss site issues face to face. The website and Facebook and Dorset Dogs membership also provides ongoing dialogue and the opportunity for continuing engagement. Demand for

pit stops has once again been greater than capacity to deliver. When possible 2 people have attended pit stops allowing one person to run the stand at a key location and the other to cover further areas of the site, engaging people with giveaway Dorset Dogs goodie bags. At some pit stops a dog trainer has also been on hand offering fun dog activities to owners.

- Guided Walkies** - 30 guided walkies took place over the year. They are popular and effective and are an opportunity for local wardens and rangers who join or lead the walks to engage positively and in some detail with the people using their sites, including those who may be less likely to engage in other circumstances. The high numbers engaged with this year have been achieved with a very successful festival and good attendance at community events, such as pull-a-pine at Arne and dog days at Moors Valley and Durlston as well as fun dog shows elsewhere. More targeted events that reach smaller numbers of people are also important in reaching key site visitors, for example engaging early morning heathland site visitors via a pit stop or a guided walkies.

Figure 10 and 11 shows the number of Dorset Dog events between the Pre-April 2019 and the current Council areas

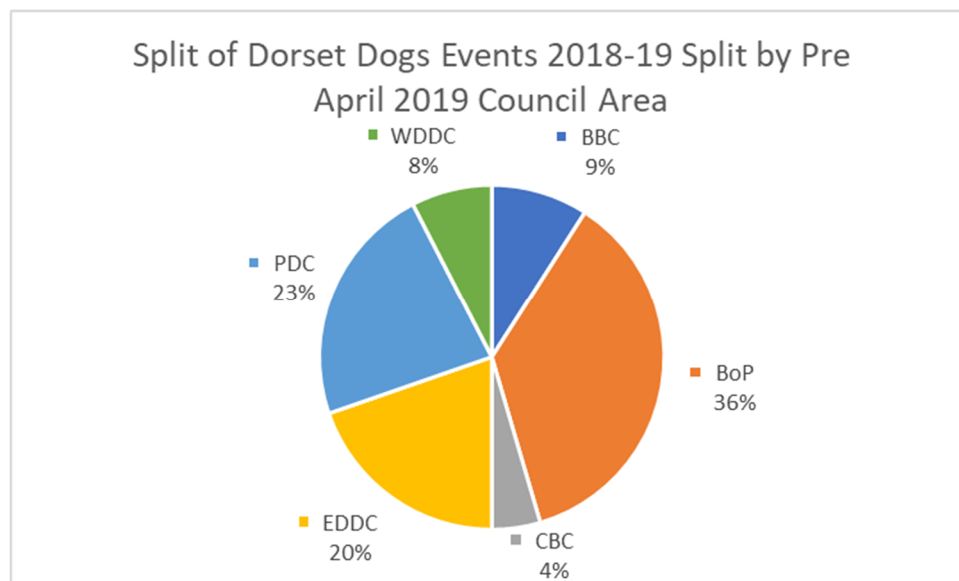


Figure 10 showing number of Dorset dog events over pre April 2019 Local Authority areas

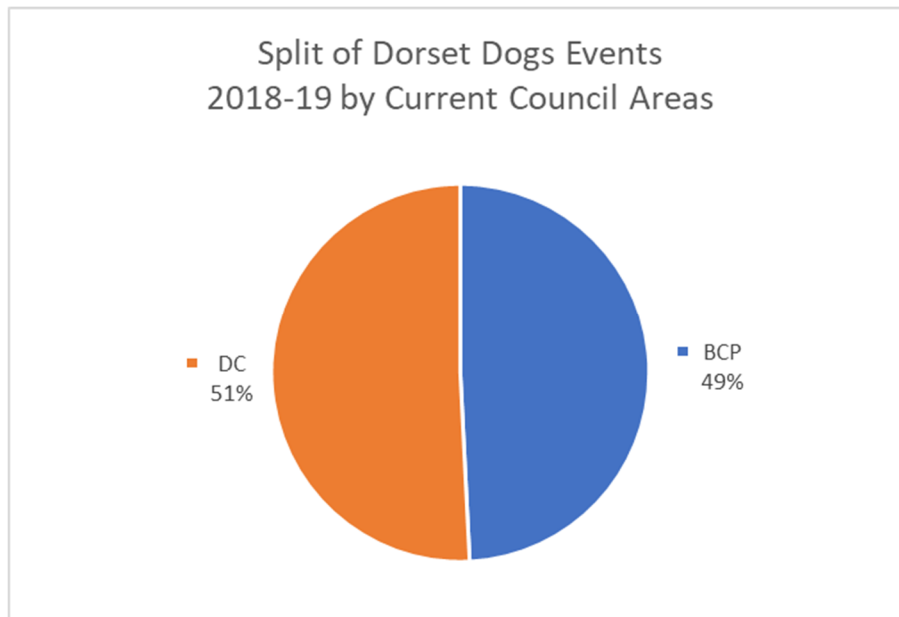


Figure 11 showing number of Dorset dog events split between current Local Authority areas

- **Dorset Dogs Website** www.dorsetdogs.org.uk The website continues to see high volumes of use and is an invaluable tool for promoting responsible canine access and raising awareness of issues and opportunities for dog owners (and others with a canine and/or conservation interest) in Dorset's towns, coast and countryside. The website has undergone redevelopment throughout February and March and is no longer hosted by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Analytics figures for the month of January showed:
 - 5072 page views with:
 - 883 visits to the 'Out & About' pages providing extensive information about sites.
 - 870 visits to 'dog-friendly' pages, these are provided in association with businesses/attractions and help fund the website.
 - 865 visits to the home page which always maintains a 'key message' such as ground-nesting birds and links to more detail within the website or Facebook.
 - 514 to the 'events & training page'.
 - 128 visits to the doggy do code home page, of which 70% were new visitors.

- **Facebook & Instagram** www.facebook.com/dorsetdogs - Facebook is popular and engaging and is a very effective way of directing people onto the website and getting people to participate in Dorset Dogs events. Facebook analytics for 2018/2019 include:

- 3505 Facebook followers, this is has increased by over 100 on last year.
- Posts added on Facebook are regularly viewed by over 1000 people and on nine occasions during the period were viewed by over 2000 people. with a peak viewing figure for a single post of 3482 people.
- An average of 15 posts are added each month on Facebook, these detail events, photographs and information.

Facebook feedback gives DD the highest rating (5 stars) and includes the following comments:

- *‘Amazing events and lovely people’*
‘Our two love the doggy company. And we enjoy the very well-organised informative walks. Can’t wait for next year’s.’
‘It was good fun and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Very well organised and all the people and their doggies were all very good company. Looking forward to the next one...thank you...for the goody bag’
- *‘Really great guided walk across the Purbecks, really enjoyed it, everyone’s so friendly and all the dogs had a great time together’.*

Dorset Dogs is also on Instagram and has a growing number of followers approximately 400, this is used to raise the profile of Dorset Dogs with a wider audience including the younger age groups. Promotional photos are used to attract audiences and direct them to facebook and the website for further engagement. An average of 1 post per week is added.

- **Volunteers** - Volunteers are vital to the delivery of the Dorset Dogs project. During 2018/19 over 600 hours of volunteer time has been given by volunteers. This breaks down into 360 hours by admin volunteers carrying out essential administration, new member processes and making up goody bags, and 240 hours by event volunteers supporting pit stops and guided walkies. Volunteers were essential to the annual Festival and take on responsibilities including stewarding, manning DD stand and taking promotional photographs.

6.3 Liaison and Promotion

The high level of engagement with Dorset Dogs means that there continues to be a constant increase in the volume of enquiries and liaison with land managers and staff, dog and countryside organisations, businesses and dog walkers.

Bournemouth Borough Council employs a team member funded by heathland mitigation to cover canine access management work across Bournemouth, the Dorset Dogs officer and Bournemouth Dogs officer worked together on several occasions during the period to support the work each carries out.

Dorset Dogs advised on the development of the Canford Park SANG during 2018/19 which achieved positive outcomes for both developer and Dorset Dogs. Consultation was carried out on other SANGs but this has been inconsistent. It is recommended that Dorset Dogs are involved in the early development of any SANGs.

6.4 Other Work

Dorset Dogs has continued to receive additional funding to carry out work on other projects including:

- Heathland mitigation work in West Dorset including 3 guided walkies and 2 pitstops (included in stats above).
- Poole Harbour mitigation work for Natural England and the Poole Harbour Commissioners. Providing mitigation for bird disturbance of migrating and over-wintering birds including 9 guided walkies and 12 pitstops (included in stats above).

6.5 Dorset Dogs Review

As part of continuous delivery review a meeting was held in March 2019 with all partners to discuss dog related issues and the future needs from the Dorset Dogs project.

Suggestions for consideration either as part of Dorset Dogs work, with additional resources or as separately funded projects included:

- Explore providing a suite of media that can be seen via the DD website e.g. videos of public: where, why, how they help wildlife, using recordings of diverse people and sites and examples of walks they go on.
- Working with partners such as Bournemouth University to look at media work on for example the DD code.
- Provide information on smart phones for wardens, such as areas of nesting birds possibly heat maps, and for the public information on the heaths/alternative areas etc.
- Expand the Doggy Do artwork e.g. using symbols or make the artwork tell exactly what each point means without words.
- Explore the use of enforcement in certain areas, provided by private organisations. Working in conjunction with Dorset Dogs methods.
- Support and provision for canine access management and SANGs are needed across Dorset but at the moment there is no mechanism for provision outside south east Dorset, Dorset Dogs delivery could be extended across Dorset and related to all countryside and greenspace as the methods are easily transferable - further resources would be needed for this.

7 Firewise Communities Project

7.1 Context and aims of Firewise

The Firewise Communities Project which started in January 2018 aims to create a sustainable network of community focussed groups concentrating on building resilience against wildfire damage to residential properties in south east Dorset. These are centred around communities on the urban interface with heathland sites. The groups will provide safer environments, reducing risk of wildfire through knowledge and practical improvements to reduce hazards. Improving community cohesion and general wellbeing. The project aims to deliver the following outcomes:

- Develop a consistent message and information pack (based on the international Firewise pack) through Consultation with stakeholders which can be used to support future groups.
- Design webpages with information on scheme (hosted by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service).
- Develop promotional information and events.
- Design a sustainable support mechanism for future groups.
- Identify communities who might benefit from Firewise
- Set up and support a local pilot group.

The Firewise Project Assistant works 2 days per week with funding agreed until March 2020



7.2 Results of 2018/19 Firewise

Initial work has concentrated on developing consistent messages and information for community packs as well as development of the website working with the USA Firewise Communities Programme in consultation with Lucian Deaton from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), who has been providing support. This year has seen the first community group established at the Beacon Road area of Corfe Mullen. This community group are currently very active. The project is being rolled out to other communities within the UHP area and will continue during 2019/20. Other areas of the country are very interested in the project as they are looking at rolling out similar scheme.

Further information at: www.firewiseuk.org

8.0 Budget

The budget for the financial year 2018-19 for the core team costs was £176,903.73 funded through Local Planning Authority Partners from developer contributions collected from development within 5Km of any heathland site.

Figure 12 shows the split of Core Team funding between Local Councils for the 2018 – 19 financial year.

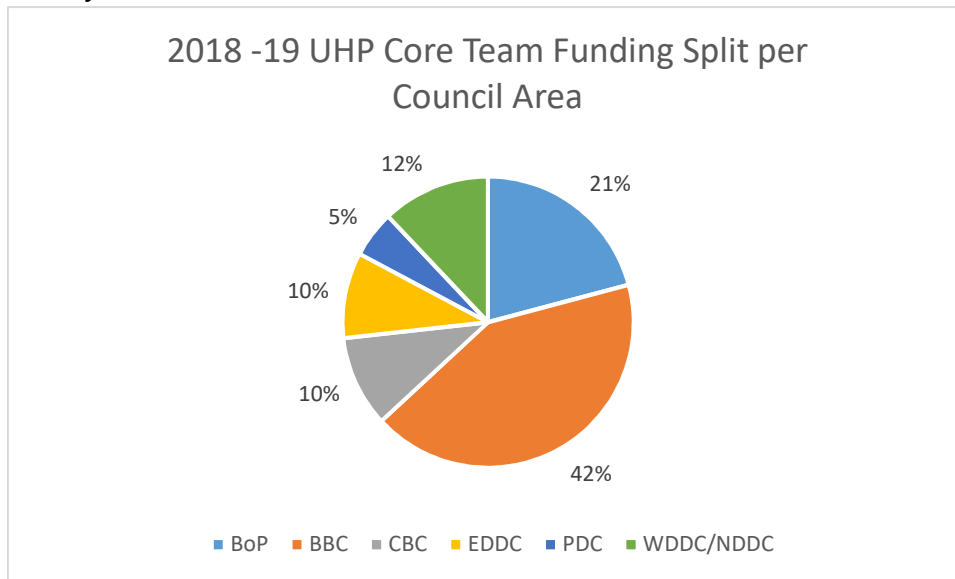


Figure 12 the split of Core Team funding between the Local Councils for 2018 – 19 Financial year.

The budget for the Core Team has been agreed for the 2019 -2020 financial year at £203,241.41, this budget will be split between the two Unitary Councils as shown in Figure 13.

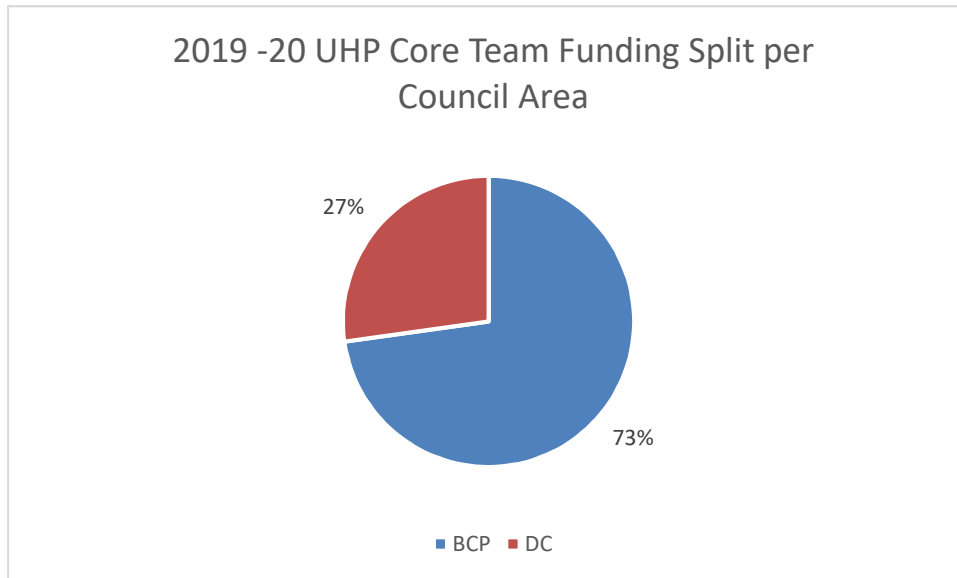


Figure 13 the split of Core Team funding between current Local Councils for the financial year 2019 - 2020.

The table (figure 14) shows the monitoring delivery costs as agreed by the Heathland Executive Group March 2014 and applied for each year since 2014.

Monitoring Revenue Expenditure 2018 -19	Amount
Footprint Ecology	£5,200
Dorset Environmental Records Centre	£6,170
Dorset Explorer GIS maintenance	£4,000
Bird Surveys	£8,500
Total	£23,870*

* This total is split equally between the Local Authority Partners

Figure 14 – the monitoring delivery costs for UHP

9.0 Wardening

The wardening element of SAMM is delivered by the Local Authority partners with Mitigation Staff employed within their own teams where possible.

A Service Level Agreement is in place between the Local Planning Authorities to agree a consistent approach to the wardening element of SAMM. The agreed key elements are:

- Provision of a presence on heathland sites within the Local Authority area including those managed by partners and privately owned sites to encourage appropriate behaviour and signpost users to alternative open spaces. This may include patrols, educational visits and on site activities or events where appropriate.
- Attending where deemed appropriate and resources allow local community events to promote responsible use of heathlands and alternative open spaces.
- Respond following agreed Partner or UHP protocol to fire incidents and assist DWFRS and Dorset Police at incidents as necessary.
- Supporting where necessary and resources allow, the UHP Education Officer in delivering the agreed heathland education programme.
- Supporting where necessary and resources allow, the UHP Monitoring Officer in contributing to data collection as defined in the Monitoring Strategy for Dorset Heathlands and recording incidents on Dorset Explorer.
- Provide reasonable support for staff working in other areas during emergencies or high incident occurrences.
- Maintain communication with partner staff to ensure consistent service delivery across Partnership area.
- Progress reporting of work to the UHP Team Manager to allow annual reporting to the Dorset Heathland Advisory Group.

10.0 Other Mitigation Work

During 2018/19 West Dorset District Council and North Dorset District Councils continue to fund a part-time (0.5 FTE) post to provide heathland mitigation for development in the Crossways and Bere Regis areas which impact on heathland sites within 5km.

This work includes:

- Education working with local schools to deliver sessions to raise awareness of the heathland habitat as well as attending local community events disseminating the same messages.
- Wardening that provides an extra presence on Winfrith, Tadnoll and Black Hill heaths working in co-ordination with the site managers, engaging with site visitors to encourage responsible behaviour and raise awareness of the heathland habitat.
- Monitoring where data is collected from people counting sensors, on site perception surveys and co-ordinated car park counts. The West and North Dorset Warden and Monitoring Officer has also been advising on the

development of SANGs and other mitigation projects at Frenches Farm, Upton and Bog Lane, Stoborough.

Other work includes working with Dorset Dogs to support land managers with dog related issues.

This work will continue with agreement until March 31st March 2020.

11.0 Dorset Urban Heaths Grazing Partnership

UHP hosts the Grazing Co-ordinator post and Casual Assistant on behalf of Dorset Urban Heaths Grazing Partnership (DUHGP). DUHGP is funded through Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements held by Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council and Dorset Wildlife Trust. DUHGP works together using grazing as a management tool across numerous sites to improve site condition and biodiversity.



During 2018/19 the work delivered to DUHGP members included:

- Daily checks of livestock and all welfare and husbandry related activities.
- Provision of a 24hr standby for emergencies - 17 callouts took place during the 2018/19 year
- Handling administration of cattle movements and TB testing.
- Practical help with TB testing and any livestock issues. Organising and undertaking 4 separate whole herd test for partners comprising presenting the cattle in a crush twice 3, days apart for vets to inject then read results.
- Maintaining stocking levels across partnership sites to achieve grazing requirements. 20 stock movements took place during the 2018/19 year involving moving stock in a livestock trailer.
- Planning for future of partnership.
- Working with partners to secure future Countryside Stewardship Schemes, funding and income generation.

12.0 Further Information

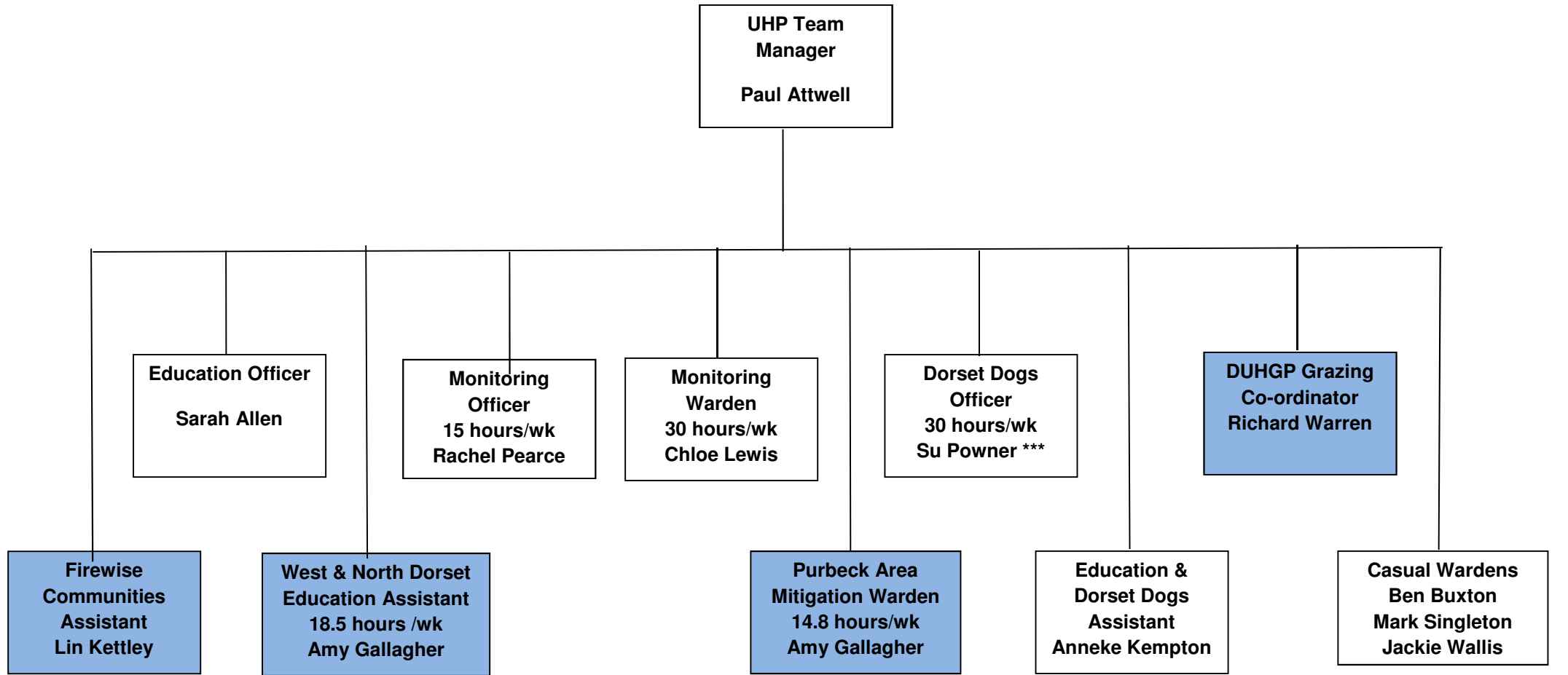
Further information on any of the work within this report is available on-line at:

Website: www.dorsetheaths.org.uk

Email: urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01202 642787.

Appendix 1 – the current Urban Heaths Partnership Staff Structure



Legend: Posts not funded through Core Team Funding



Appendix 2 - UHP Education Target Schools 2018-19

List showing the UHP target schools as agreed by the Partnership

School	Local Authority for 2018/19	Activity: HHA=Heathland Habitat Awareness. ACD= Arson Courtroom Drama
Heathlands Primary	BBC	HHA
Kingsleigh Primary	BBC	HHA
Christ The King	BBC	HHA
Elm Academy - Leaf	BBC	HHA
Kinson Primary	BBC	HHA
Bourne Academy	BBC	ACD
Oak Academy - Leaf	BBC	ACD
Glenmoor Academy	BBC	ACD
Winton Academy	BBC	ACD
Hamworthy Park Junior	BoP	HHA
Broadstone First	BoP	HHA
Canford Heath Junior	BoP	HHA
Merley First	BoP	HHA
Manorside Primary	BoP	HHA
Talbot Primary	BoP	HHA
Bishop Aldhelms Primary	BoP	HHA
Haymoor Junior	BoP	HHA
Upton Junior	BoP	HHA
Broadstone Middle	BoP	ACD
Carter Community	BoP	ACD
St Aldhelms Academy	BoP	ACD
Magna Academy	BoP	ACD
Highcliffe Primary	CBC	HHA
Highcliffe Comprehensive	CBC	ACD
The Grange	CBC	ACD
Twynham	CBC	ACD
Ferndown Middle	EDDC	ACD
Lockyers Middle	EDDC	ACD
West Moors Middle	EDDC	ACD
Sandford Primary	PDC	HHA
Lychett Minster	PDC	ACD
The Purbeck	PDC	ACD