

# Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Management Plan 2020-2025



1. Do you support the new vision for the management of Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Vision?										
									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								100.00%	8
2	No								0.00%	0
3	Don't Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1	Std. Deviation	0	Satisfaction Rate	0	answered	8
	Maximum	1	Variance	0	Std. Error	0			skipped	0
Comments: (2)										
1	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	The reserve is a site of geological interest because of the exposure of the Jurassic Forest Marble and the DIGS group has been looking after it for the last 10 years although it was designated as a site of geological interest in the mid 1990s. Roger Snelgrove, one of our members, has spent countless hours keeping the site in good condition. Perhaps he is the "old man" referred to in the circulated information. The western end of the site and the lime kiln are of particular interest us. Remember the geology is the basis for the site forming the soil and associated ecosystem.								
2	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	I like the idea of a balance between safe and accessible paths and semi wilderness. Looks like a new path is being proposed up to near the bench on the ridge - but am assuming (hoping) that no current paths are being removed completely.								


2. Do you support the new objectives for the management of Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Objectives:										
									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								87.50%	7
2	No								12.50%	1
3	Don't Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1.12	Std. Deviation	0.33	Satisfaction Rate	6.25	answered	8
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.11	Std. Error	0.12			skipped	0
Comments: (5)										
1	<a href="#">31/07/2020 16:13 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 145910861</a>	My wife and I would be interested in joining workdays in Bothenhampton nature reserve.								
2	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	The DIGS group would be happy to work with other volunteers to protect the site and explain the interest we have.								
2	<a href="#">10/08/2020 17:42 PM</a>	While I agree with most of these proposals I think we should be slow to remove								


**2. Do you support the new objectives for the management of Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Objectives:**

			Response Percent	Response Total
	<a href="#">ID: 146332754</a>	plants just because they are considered ""invasive"". This is likely to affect the biodiversity of the site. At the least, knowledgeable groups such as the Dorset Wildlife Trust should be consulted on the specifics.		
4	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	Definitely support volunteer days re-introduction! Happy to help/co-organize...		
5	<a href="#">27/08/2020 12:22 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147171111</a>	Some of these proposals - encourage calcareous grassland and scrub clearance etc. - were done when I was part of the previous volunteer working party. Unfortunately things were then abandoned and it was disheartening to see our hard work going to waste. Although many of the orchids were lost when Wessex Water widened the bridleway along the ridge, after we started clearing there they did start to come back, but this year when it was all overgrown I could find none, just four at the rear of the parking area adjacent to the reservoir.  It is important that this is regarded as a long-term project or the same will happen again.		

**3. Do you agree with the proposal to commission a specialist survey of the Semi Natural Deciduous Woodland to better inform the new management plan?**


			Response Percent	Response Total				
1	Yes		87.50%	7				
2	No		0.00%	0				
3	Don' Know		12.50%	1				
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1.25	answered	8		
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.44			Std. Deviation	0.66
			Std. Error	0.23	Satisfaction Rate	12.5	skipped	0
Comments: (1)								
1	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	As long as it is resource well spent and there are specific answerable questions that need addressing. i.e. not just a descriptive study leading to no specific, helpful conclusion						

4. Do you agree with the proposal to experiment with restoring defined areas of calcareous grassland?										
									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								100.00%	8
2	No								0.00%	0
3	Don' Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1	Std. Deviation	0	Satisfaction Rate	0	answered	8
	Maximum	1	Variance	0	Std. Error	0			skipped	0
Comments: (3)										
1	<a href="#">31/07/2020 16:13 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 145910861</a>	Great. It's a good idea. It's unusable at the moment being covered on brambles mostly.								
2	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	As a retired geography teacher I think it is very important to protect natural grassland flora for the benefit of the fauna.								
3	<a href="#">27/08/2020 12:22 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147171111</a>	See comment above.								



5. Do you agree with the proposals to maintain and enhance the core footpath network?										
									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								100.00%	8
2	No								0.00%	0
3	Don' Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1	Std. Deviation	0	Satisfaction Rate	0	answered	8
	Maximum	1	Variance	0	Std. Error	0			skipped	0
Comments: (3)										
1	<a href="#">31/07/2020 16:13 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 145910861</a>	Paths need widening especially at the top of the reserve and hardcore added in the muddy areas. It will be interesting to see if opening up the canopy to allow drying is successful.								
2	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	Access is necessary for all.								
3	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	I like the paths - especially the little ""lay-bys"" that allow us to reverse our crazy dog into so it doesn't disturb other passing walkers and their dogs. i.e. please no long narrow paths if possible. We would do this for social distancing anyway I guess.								

6. Do you agree with the proposals to manage the Regionally Important Geological site known as Wanderwell Quarry?										
									Response Percent	Response Total

**6. Do you agree with the proposals to manage the Regionally Important Geological site known as Wanderwell Quarry?**

									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								100.00%	8
2	No								0.00%	0
3	Don' Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1	Std. Deviation	0	Satisfaction Rate	0	answered	8
	Maximum	1	Variance	0	Std. Error	0			skipped	0
Comments: (3)										
1	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	Yes, for reasons outlined above. The quarry provided stone for local buildings and an understanding of the geology helps to explain the characteristics of the buildings in and around Bridport.								
2	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	of course but there needs to be clear division and coordination of responsibilities and authorities re: RIGS volunteers and general volunteers otherwise disagreements and uncoordinated management will ensue								
3	<a href="#">27/08/2020 12:22 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147171111</a>	The lime kiln has been covered in tarpaulin for several years awaiting repair and I think should be dealt with sooner rather than later.								

**7. Do you agree with the proposal to organise volunteer workdays to take on regular site management tasks?**

									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								87.50%	7
2	No								0.00%	0
3	Don' Know								12.50%	1
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1.25	Std. Deviation	0.66	Satisfaction Rate	12.5	answered	8
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.44	Std. Error	0.23			skipped	0
Comments: (3)										
1	<a href="#">31/07/2020 16:13 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 145910861</a>	Again my wife and I would be interested in helping. We live about 100 MTRS away from the Valley rd entrance and although in our 60's are physically fit and healthy. We have long experience of maintaining large gardens and orchards with use of garden machinery								
2	<a href="#">05/08/2020 16:03 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146122727</a>	DIGS will be happy to help.								
3	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	Happy to help.								

**8. Do you agree with the proposal to control non native species found in the woodland; Himalayan Honeysuckle, Buddleia and Sycamore?**

									Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes								71.43%	5
2	No								28.57%	2
3	Don' Know								0.00%	0
<b>Statistics</b>	Minimum	1	Mean	1.29	Std. Deviation	0.45	Satisfaction Rate	14.29	answered	7
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.2	Std. Error	0.17			skipped	1
Comments: (3)										
1	<a href="#">04/08/2020 09:27 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146032649</a>	<p>Especially the very tall &amp; expansive breadth Sycamore, Oak behind it and an Ash tree alongside all of which spread 3/4's of the width of my back garden (20 Howard Road) blocking the light. Tall branches overhanging the lane, and my bank and garden. Not to mention the fall of millions of Sycamore seedling all over my garden and bank also blocking my gutters (house &amp; conservatory). Plus the growth of many Sycamore seedling growing along the roadside boundary of Jellyfields in this particular area.</p> <p>If I had anything growing from my bank the Council would contact me to cut it back!</p> <p>Please do not get me wrong, they are all lovely trees and contain may bird species, it is just that they need some trimming treatment.</p>								
2	<a href="#">10/08/2020 17:42 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 146332754</a>	<p>This is the one aspects of the plan I do not agree with. This is likely to affect the biodiversity of the site. Expert advice should be sought.</p>								
3	<a href="#">27/08/2020 12:22 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147171111</a>	<p>Although the ivy is native it seems to invade everything and should I think be limited to some extent.</p>								

**9. Any other comments you'd like to make about the Bothenhampton NR management plan:**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	3
1	<a href="#">31/07/2020 16:13 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 145910861</a>	<p>""Jellyfields"" ????? Thought we were talking about Bothenhampton!</p> <p>Have not seen any mention of providing dog poo bins!! They are needed as the reserve is a favourite amongst local dog walkers, many of whom are averse to removing their dogs deposits.</p>		
2	<a href="#">27/08/2020 11:52 AM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147167912</a>	Happy to help in any way. david.pencheon@gmail.com Jasmine, Main Street, Both' Tel: 301346		
3	<a href="#">07/09/2020 17:28 PM</a> <a href="#">ID: 147745394</a>	<p>The plan with footpaths and bridleways seems incomplete and inaccurate. The plan should mention the reservoir located in the reserve and responsibilities of Wessex Water. There is no mention of the locked access gate and it's maintenance.</p> <p>It needs urgent repair and locking. The handrail on the quarry stairway is damaged too and needs urgent repair.</p>		
			answered	3
			skipped	5

## **Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan 2020 - 2025 Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group Response**

This response to the Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan has been written in consequence of the Meeting held at the Nature Reserve on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 between David Dixon, Community Projects Manager, Bridport Town Council, Jim Basker, Chair Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council, Alan Holiday, Chairman, D.I.G.S. Group and Roger Snelgrove, D.I.G.S Group member.

The aim of the response is to identify and redress a perceived bias in its contents, to propose further actions to be included in the Management Plan, to correct factual inaccuracies and to raise relevant matters which were not discussed at the Meeting.

### **1. Balance in the Plan**

The view of the D.I.G.S. Group, based on our close association with the Nature Reserve since 1996, is that the Management Plan should be built on three criteria, the flora and fauna, local users, and the geology and industrial history. 75 % of the location has been created or extensively altered by quarrying. However there is very little in the Draft about improving the presentation and condition of either the geology or industrial history features and only one related and somewhat vague objective. In contrast, the five objectives which refer to the other two elements are very specific.

In order to restore some of the balance, the following changes are suggested:

- (a) Page 6. Management Plan Consultations. Para.1 should be amended to read 'that the interests of wildlife and local users and the protection of the geology and local history features are balanced.'
- (b) Page 8. Vision for Bothenhampton Nature Reserve. Para 1 should be amended to read 'including contact with nature, geology and heritage connections to the former quarry industry.'  
In addition, the Limekiln should be added to the right hand map and 'Interpretation Board' amended to 'Interpretation Boards'.
- (c) Page 3. What People like about Bothenhampton Nature Reserve. There should be separate boxes for 'Views' and 'Quarry Heritage' as there is no link between the two in users' appreciation.
- (d) Management Plan 2020 – 2025. There should be included in the Plan '4.4 Geology and Industrial History Features' with sections for 'Regionally Important Geological Site', 'Limekiln', 'Tramway Track' and 'Agricultural Dry Stone Walls'.

### **2. Further action to be included**

This will ensure that important recent or current initiatives by D.I.G.S. Group and Dorset Council are carried forward.

- (a) Page 13. Regionally Important Geological Site.  
The last Forest Marble Quarry in South Dorset accessible to the public and a contributor of the building stone which makes Bridport and Bothenhampton so distinctive.
  - (i) 'D.I.G.S. Group will improve the scientific and educational value of the site by extending the main rock exposure eastwards, completing the dry stone wall

designed to prevent excavated material from encroaching on the upper steps, clearing invading vegetation to complete the arc of visible high level rock in the south east corner, and by erecting a geology interpretation board.' An accreditation for the wall from the Dry Stone Walling Association will be sought to verify its quality and reliability.

- (ii) 'D.I.G.S. Group will conserve and maintain the area of rock exposure and its environs twice a year or as required, including the removal of intrusive vegetation to ensure the quality and integrity of the site.'
- (iii) Amend the Draft first statement to 'Work with D.I.G.S. Group to ensure the site is safe for educational visits without detracting from its integrity, appearance and tranquillity.'
- (iv) Amend the Draft second statement to 'Agree with D.I.G.S. Group the joint occasional scrub clearance in the R.I.G.S. area. Removing Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Lycistra Formosa*) and some Buddleia, and controlling the spread of Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*).' To this list D.I.G.S group would like to add dock, ground ivy and surplus ash saplings.
- (v) Include the premise 'The geological interest within the R.I.G.S. will take precedence over the flora'.

(b) Limekiln

The only remaining limekiln in the Bothenhampton area, refurbished by Dorset C.C. in the early 1990s.

- (i) 'Undertake a structural survey and subsequent remedial measures, if necessary, to ensure its survival.'
- (ii) 'Replace the existing temporary cover over the pot and surrounds with a permanent one to prevent water penetrating and destroying the walls.'
- (iii) 'Complete a twice yearly removal of vegetation from the walls and top and unwanted vegetation and fallen branches from the area to the front and immediate surrounds.' D.I.G.S. group will be willing to undertake this in accordance with their 'shared interest' in the feature.

(c) Tramway Track.

This is a section of the route of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century tramway, unique in the Bothenhampton Quarries and discovered with its ash foundation in 2017.

- (i) 'Maintain its integrity by removing vegetation and fallen branches twice a year.'

(d) Page 12. Interpretation Boards.

Both boards at the lower path junction were erected in 2017 by Dorset C.C., the natural history and wildlife panel a replica of the original and that of the industrial history researched and designed by D.I.G.S. Group Members in that year and produced with copyright.

- (i) The Draft statement is applicable to the natural history and wildlife board.
- (ii) Add to the statement 'Work with D.I.G.S. Group to update "Wanderwell & the Bothenhampton Quarries" board within the next 5 years.' This will probably only require the change of ownership and the new logo to be inserted.
- (iii) The proposed geology interpretation board is itemised under 2(a) (i) above.

**3. Draft errata**



A number of inaccuracies have been identified within the Draft Plan and, where appropriate, suggestions made for text alterations.

- (a) Page 5. Brief history of the site
  - Line 3 should be amended to read '1920s Quarrying activity ends.'
  - Line 4 should be amended to read 'From 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries quarrying activity for building stone.'
  - In addition, if preferred:
    - Line 2 the creation of the Local Nature Reserve was in 1994.
- (b) Page 11. 4.3 By Management Block. Paths. Para 2
  - The paths referred to are within the Nature Reserve. Marrowbone Quarry is not. It is now filled in and landscaped within a private field to the north and east of the Nature Reserve. The workings referred to are of un-named quarries, some of 12 identified on the hillside.
- (c) Page 15. Site Visit 2020. R.I.G.S. area
  - There is very little sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) within the R.I.G.S. except that seeded from outside during the last year. The main concentration lies between the Valley Road entrance steps and the foot of the steps leading to the upper path. D.I.G.S. Group have actively removed sedge from within the R.I.G.S. area and immediately around the limekiln.

#### **4. Matters omitted from the Meeting**

The following were not discussed at the Meeting and should be either included in the Management Plan or acted upon to ensure good relationship, trust and co-operation between Bridport Town Council and D.I.G.S. Group.

- (a) Page 7. Map of Bothenhampton Quarries
  - This map was created by a D.I.G.S. Group member and appears on the Interpretation Board 'Wanderwell and the Bothenhampton Quarries', at the Nature Reserve, on the D.I.G.S. website in an extended history and explanation with the same title, and on the second page of the hard copies of the latter presented at the Meeting.
  - It is covered by copyright. Should the map be included in the Management Plan, it will require to be accompanied by an acknowledgement '© Reproduced by permission of P.A. Snelgrove, D.I.G.S. Group'.
- (b) Agricultural dry stone walls
  - There are in the south western area of the Nature Reserve dry stone walls or their foundations built initially between the two World Wars after the demise of the quarrying. That most visible lies just within the northern boundary of the R.I.G.S. and was rebuilt in the latter half of the 1990s by Dorset C.C. The foundations of the original wall continue eastwards inside the northern boundary of the R.I.G.S. and cross the Nature Reserve path just above the steps. Just beyond the western end of the rebuilt wall, but with a gap between, is a further wall at right angles but overgrown. It is not known whether this is an original or rebuilt.
  
  - The R.I.G.S. area wall is in good condition but the second wall will need clearance and possibly restoration. A schedule for maintenance for each will be required and included in the '4.4 Geology and Industrial History Features' if this is implemented in the Management Plan. D.I.G.S. Group would be prepared to work with Bridport Town Council to clear and maintain these features.
- (c) Bridport Town Council/D.I.G.S. Group Working and Communication Agreement

- (i) A risk assessment to ensure safe working practices and the well-being of D.I.G.S. Group members, Bridport Town Council volunteers and the general public users of the Nature Reserve will require to be agreed.
- (ii) Annual times when work is not possible or is restricted within the Nature Reserve e.g. bird nesting season, will require formulation.
- (iii) The formal communication process will need to be established including the notification of activities, schedules and dates and the reporting of perceived problems.

**ADDENDUM: Wanderwell Quarry Designation**

The Regionally Important Geological Sites (R.I.G.S.) Scheme was initiated by English Nature, now Natural England, in 1993 to supplement Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.s) throughout the country. They are sites which are accessible to the public with the co-operation of the landowner and have particular scientific, educational and historical significance. That at Wanderwell Quarry was registered in 1996 and designated to complement the industrial history of the Nature Reserve and the surrounding area. These sites are now known as Local Geological Sites (L.G.S.). However, in the Draft Plan the origin nomenclature has been used and to avoid confusion this has been continued in the r