

Applications are invited from artists to work on the concept and installation of an 'orientation point' and other interpretation for the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership in west Dorset.

1. Welcoming people to the SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY

With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership wants to encourage local residents and visitors to explore this fairly unknown and unique area of west Dorset.

The South Dorset Ridgeway is a remarkable ancient ceremonial landscape, as significant as Stonehenge for its culture and heritage and yet remarkably unheard of. It bares the marks of continuous human occupation of 8,000 years. It has an incomparable density of Bronze Age round barrows but is also home to Neolithic henges, spectacular Iron Age hill forts, Celtic field systems and Medieval villages. Despite this wealth of culture and it's proximity to large towns of Dorchester and Weymouth, the riches of the Ridgeway are not widely known or understood.

We are undertaking a range of access improvements at Black Down, which is a key countryside site within the South Dorset Ridgeway. The site occupies an elevated rural location with excellent views of the surrounding countryside, including the Bride Valley and Jurassic Coast. We are converting a disused space into a new car park and have already constructed new paths to link the forthcoming car park to the wider footpaths, including those leading to Hardy Monument. Together with 10 new circular walks within the wider South Dorset Ridgeway area, this presents a great opportunity to develop an inspiring and holistic approach to welcoming visitors to this unique landscape area.

We therefore want to use the creative skills of artists to help put this little known landscape on the cultural map. We want to use the creative skills of artists to develop a welcoming

place on Black Down which will encourage them to explore and understand Black Down and the wider South Dorset Ridgeway landscape.

We are inviting applications for two related commissions - for either one Lead artist or two artists and possibly a craftsperson - to develop innovative ways to encourage visitors to explore, understand and conserve the landscape. They will work on the concept development and delivery of a 'welcome and orientation point', situated centrally at Black Down and also innovative interpretation based on 10 new circular walks exploring the wider South Dorset Ridgeway landscape.

2. THE TWO COMMISSIONS

The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership has identified two related projects where the skills of artists could greatly enhance the Heritage Lottery Fund supported programme of work, using their creativity to attract and inspire local people and visitors and help develop an emotional connection to the area.

With additional support from Arts Council England, The Arts Development Company will work with the Landscape Partnership to commission an inspiring Welcome and Orientation Point for visitors to start their visit on the South Dorset Ridgeway and encourage wider exploration of the South Dorset Ridgeway area as well as repeat visits.

COMMISSION 1: Design and install Welcome and Orientation Point at Black Down

Black Down is the highest point on the South Dorset Ridgeway, popular for walking and for its dramatic panoramic views over the Jurassic Coast, England's only natural World Heritage Site. The Landscape Partnership is working with Dorset County Council, who own / lease an area of land at Black Down, to create a new car park and easy access trails intended to increase the number and diversity of visitors to Black Down over coming years.

Within the car park environs, space has been created for a new Welcome and Orientation Point adjacent to the new car park and at the start of the new easy access trails. Incorporating sculptural and interpretive elements into this Welcome and Orientation Point

would significantly enrich the experience of visitors to this place and their appreciation of the wider South Dorset Ridgeway heritage, both natural and cultural.

We envisage that the Welcome and Orientation Point will be a collaboration between an artist and craftsperson, possibly featuring dry stone walling which is traditionally used locally and therefore appropriate to the surrounding landscape or timber from the site. We envisage that the lead artist will work on concept development with a craftsperson / or will have the skills needed to implement it practically themselves.

However, we do not want to be prescriptive, instead allowing for a number of creative solutions to be developed and presented. Three artists will be shortlisted and be paid to work up a broad outline concept. The Selection Panel will select from that shortlist, of which one artist will be awarded a contract to design and deliver the work.

COMMISSION 2: Design and produce effective interpretation to accompany ten new circular walks

Visitors will be encouraged to explore the South Dorset Ridgeway more widely through a set of 10 circular walks of varying lengths that explore different elements of this unique landscape. The Landscape Partnership's initial research identified 3 themes (see Appendix 1) that represent the heritage and culture of the South Dorset Ridgeway that can be showcased through these circular walks.

We want an artist to take these circular walks as a starting point and interpret them using the 3 themes and the routes & sites included in the walks for inspiration. In doing so we hope to move away from traditional graphic panels and leaflets and instead create interpretation that is innovative, inspirational, enjoyable and site sensitive (though it may include printed matter). Through this interpretative material, we want to provide informal learning opportunities for all ages and abilities that will increase understanding, appreciation, pride, ownership and excitement for the South Dorset Ridgeway's heritage.

While we would like to move away from traditional interpretation panels at the start of each of the circular walks, it is important that visitors know they have arrived at the start point for these walks and that it is clear that each walk is part of a family of walks that relate to

each other and to the Welcome & Orientation Point at Black Down. Likewise, while we are happy to move away from traditional interpretation leaflets, there needs to be a clear and accessible interpretation that are available beyond the life of the Landscape Partnership. This commission may include some site appropriate badging of the routes or start points but we do not want to be prescriptive, instead allowing for a number of creative solutions to be developed and presented.

Up to 3 artists will be shortlisted and be paid to work up broad outline concepts. The Selection Panel will select from that shortlist, of which one will be awarded a contract to design and deliver the work.

COMMISSIONS 1 AND 2

Both commissions will be partly **directional** in helping people to orientate themselves in and around the South Dorset Ridgeway, so that they know where they are and where they can go to explore more.

The commissions also need to impart creative information about the **land, geology and the people** who lived and worked the land.

There are **fantastic views** across the South Dorset Ridgeway and we hope these can be a source of inspiration for the artists as well as feature in the interpretation.

The artist(s) will need to consider the site **holistically** - the area it is placed in; the surrounding landscape; work with the team creating the adjoining car park and paths; to understand what physical & intellectual barriers there might be when accessing the countryside.

The design of these commissions needs to reflect the nationally important landscape of the South Dorset Ridgeway, whilst being **sensitive** to the area as a whole. The project therefore recognises the importance of the artist, who can have an alternative, creative and innovative input whilst being sensitive to the surrounding environment and helping to ensure an exceptional quality of design. Whilst it needs to be in keeping with its environment, there is scope for **modern and innovative** interpretation about this beautiful area.

3. The South Dorset Ridgeway

The South Dorset Ridgeway lies between Dorchester and Weymouth, within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Black Down is located on high ground centrally on the South Dorset Ridgeway, perhaps best known as the land surrounding Hardy's Monument. This land is owned and leased by Dorset County Council, who have invested time and resources to improving access as well as well as managing the land for wildlife. The land we refer to in this Brief excludes Hardy's Monument and car park which is managed by the National Trust, though the National Trust will continue to be a consultee throughout this project.

Dorset County Council (Coast and Countryside) and the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership are working on plans to renovate an area of land as a car park which will be opened to the public in autumn 2016. Approximately 580m of accessible paths starting from the proposed car park have already been installed. See more information about Black Down in Appendix 2.

The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership is an ambitious 5 year scheme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and led by the Dorset AONB Partnership, more details of which can be found in Appendix 3.

A SDRLP Team are based in the Dorset AONB Team, hosted by Dorset County Council in Dorchester. This is achieved through a diverse and dynamic partnership of arts, heritage and environmental organisations, which are detailed in Appendix 3.

4. Target audience

The Landscape Partnership has done significant research into the potential audience for the scheme, which will provide a firm foundation for the artist and craftsperson working on this project (see audience development plan). Our estimated audience size is based on visitor numbers of 50,000/year to the Hardy monument on Black Down. It's important that this project reaches a diverse range of local people, especially those who don't already visit the countryside. We aspire to encourage a wide range of people from this local area to visit, talk about and be proud of the amazing landscape on their doorstep.

Black Down and the wider South Dorset Ridgeway is easily accessible to a significant number of people in Weymouth, Portland, Dorchester and Bridport, many of whom are not aware of how remarkable the historic landscape on their doorstep is. And this population is as diverse as the landscape that surrounds them. The current audience contains above average numbers aged 65 years and over; though Weymouth and Portland has a much younger age profile. Likewise, levels of wealth vary significantly amongst the South Dorset Ridgeway area, with Weymouth and Portland including areas of high socio-economic deprivation.

Getting messages across to a wide range of people requires imagination and creativity, particularly in finding the relevant points of connection that can draw people in. We therefore want to utilise artists to take a creative approach to countryside access & interpretation. Testing their approach with our target audience as part of the design process is an important step.

5. Artist Brief

The appointed artist (s) will be required to

- Work very closely with the design team of the car parking area so that the orientation point that the artist designs can be effectively integrated into the site design. The orientation point will be situated within the boundaries of a new car park and accessible paths will run from the car park to Hardy's Monument and other key sites.
- Liaise with and present ideas to the Dorset County Council Coast & Countryside staff, the Dorset AONB team, particularly those who work on the South Dorset Ridgeway, The Arts Development Company and other stakeholders.
- If two artists are appointed for the different briefs, to ensure that both projects (ie the Welcome and Orientation Point and the Interpretation for the walks) are dovetailed together, so that they are seen as aesthetically and functionally holistic as opposed to piece meal. If the artist for Commission 1 does not have the skills to build, they will need to be able to oversee the building of it by a craftsperson and they will need to evidence that skill in their application.

5.1 Issues to consider

- The Black Down car park designs are being drawn up with ground works scheduled for April / May 2016. There are a number of physical constraints on the site which will be incorporated into designs which present both opportunities and constraints including:
 - There are two areas of knotweed management, the northernmost of which restricts the location of the space available for orientation. Consequently most of the space north of the track leading to the new paths, as shown on the attached plan, is not suitable for use. The area will be subject to ongoing knotweed management and there will be restrictions affecting soil disturbance.
 - Entrance area include width restricting boulders to restrict unauthorised use
 - Dry stone walling will be included into the car park design, alongside path linking car park with Welcome & Orientation Point and carving could be incorporated into this

- Space for the Welcome and Orientation Point will be at the upper level of the car park and will be levelled. This area has good views across the South Dorset Ridgeway.
 - There will be an additional 3 small level areas at car park level then one level above which could accommodate picnic tables / seats
 - A 4m wide metal gate will be installed in the car park to stop vehicles moving from car park up the track but this could be clad in timber and incorporated into the overall design, as could the gateposts depending on materials used
 - Douglas Fir, of varied size and quality, has been felled as part of the land management of the wider site and is available for use
 - The area is highly sensitive and so the orientation point and the interpretation needs to fit aesthetically within that environment.
 - The car park and Welcome and Orientation Point links directly to the start of the new easy access trails at Black Down
 - A noticeboard is required at the Welcome and Orientation Point for Dorset County Council Coast and Countryside staff to post news and events
 - Dorset County Council Coast and Countryside will be responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the car park area.
 - The potential to promote the site at Black Down as a place to appreciate Dorset's Dark Skies (and link to archaeoastronomy) in the future is being considered
- Both Commissions must take into account the themes that need interpreting.
 - Both the orientation point and the interpretation for the walks will need to be accessible, both physically and intellectually.
 - Digital media and the use of the SDR Landscape Partnership website could be considered as a platform for interpretation.

5.2 Process and Timescale

There are three parts to this process:

A. Broad Stage – short listed artists

Following the initial application process and based on the artists submission for the whole process, 3 artists will be shortlisted for COMMISSION 1 and an additional 3 artists for COMMISSION 2, by a selection panel consisting of representatives of AONB South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership, Dorset County Council and The Arts Development Company.

The short listed artists will be paid **£750** each to submit a broad stage outline. The fee will include a site visit on the **24th March 2016** where the Project Team will present the important environmental, historical, cultural and geological context of Black Down and the wider South Dorset Ridgeway.

The shortlisted artists (up to six in total) will present their concepts to the selection panel on **26th April 2016** and will outline:

- a) Initial thoughts on inspirations, material opportunities
- b) Outline concepts of what could happen
- c) How they envisage working with the design team and any avenues and approaches they'd really like to explore

B. Concept Design

Following the Selection Panel on 26th April, the successful candidate(s) for both commissions will be paid a fee to work up their Broad Stage design into a fully costed Concept Design which will be presented to the Project Team, and with agreement, implemented. The artists will be working very closely with members of the South Dorset Partnership and the Arts Development Company, until the implementation of the project.

Timescale

Concept Designs for Commission 1 should be completed by **30th June 2016**
Concept Designs for Commission 2 should be completed by **30th July 2016**

Budget

A flat fee of £250 per day is available for this Concept Design stage:

COMMISSION 1: 10 days for concept development for appointed artist = Up to £2500

COMMISSION 2: 10 days for concept development for appointed artist = Up to £2500

C. Implementation

COMMISSION 1: Welcome and Orientation Point at Black Down.

Artist fees: 25 days for build / delivery: Up to £6250

Materials and implementation: Up to £13 500

Timescale:

Timetable to be agreed with Selection Panel.

All works to be completed by **September 2016**

COMMISSION 2: Interpretation for circular walks.

Artist fees: 17 days for build / delivery: Up to £4250

Materials and implementation: Up to £13 500

Timescale:

Timetable to be agreed with Selection Panel

All works to be completed by **December 2016**

This contract could go to one artist or a number of artists

Budget and payment schedule to be agreed with section panel before commencement

6. Application Process

Please include with your application:

- Statement of Interest which includes an outline of your approach and experience (if any) of working with a design team,
- CV, including details of relevant / similar projects. Please also send contact details for at least two referees who know your work and working methods;
- Selection of images of examples of your work- preferably on photo or digital printouts. Alternatively send a disc or jpegs. Please make sure they are compressed jpegs, and that they are clearly marked with full details of candidate, date, place, and short explanation. Please include a website address, if you have one.

The six shortlisted artists will be asked to present their Broad Stages. The final decision will be made on the strength of those submissions. Artists must be able to attend all dates as below:

- Shortlisting will take on the **17th March 2016**
- **Shortlisted** artists will be notified by **18th March 2016**.
- A site visit for the 6 shortlisted artists will take place on the **24th March 2016**.
- Presentations will be made on **26th April 2016**.

Selection will be made on the following criteria

The appointed artist should:

- Be able to collaborate with a range of professionals working in other disciplines
- Have an awareness of environmental impact of their work, be sensitive to the ecology of the area and aware of environmental issues
- Have proven experience of being able to produce commissioning plans, and deliver them to set deadlines
- Have proven track record / awareness of feasibility of all aspects of the proposal, including budget, longevity of materials/media, landowner/site approval, delivery schedule

- Be able to relate their work to the South Dorset Ridgeway landscape and the themes identified for interpretation
- Experience of successfully engaging target audiences and awareness of social impact and accessibility of their work, both physically and intellectually
- Be able to show value for money in their proposals

Submit applications to Jo March, The Arts Development Company no later than **11TH March 2016**. jo@theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk. PLEASE PUT 'ARTIST APPLICATION FOR SDR' IN THE SUBJECT MATTER.

For further information about the brief, please contact Sue Dampney on s.dampney@dorsetcc.gov.uk . She will be taking queries until Cleo Evans returns in March. Cleo@theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk

Timetable of project

Timescale	Activity
3rd February 2016	Final Artists Briefs for Black Down and SDR Interpretation, including selection criteria published for Closing date 11th March 2016
Wk beginning 14th March 2016	Shortlisting for both contracts: Selection Panel meet and shortlist 3 artists for each contract
Week beginning 21 st March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory meeting for short listed artists: presentations on SDR and what the commission aims to achieve, opportunity for artists to access experts and commissioners with questions, site visits to Black Down and key sites for interpretation • Shortlisted artists begin development of proposals.
Week beginning 25 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection Panel meeting: Artists submit their concepts • Final decision on artists made • Successful artists appointed and begin work
By 25 th April 2016	Routes, sites and information for interpretation contract finalised
Mid May – September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Down concept finalised • Site meeting with stakeholders to sign off design • Black Down concept created

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation contract concept finalised • Black Down interpretation developed and tested
August 2016	Chance for small exhibition of Black Down shortlisted concepts, or online exhibition to invite public response
	Opportunities for a public day or two to meet artists/see craftsperson at work
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works completed at Black Down • Launch event on Black Down • Carry out 1st evaluation
October – December 2016	Interpretation contract completed
Easter 2017	Interpretation launched
Summer 2017	Follow up evaluation of Black Down and Interpretation

APPENDIX 1: KEY INTERPRETATION MESSAGES FOR SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY

A. The vision of the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership

“Our vision is for a South Dorset Ridgeway that is recognised as a truly special landscape to live in, work on and to visit. One where the unique wildlife is thriving and the ancient ceremonial landscape is conserved.

This has been achieved by us – residents, workers and visitors – coming together to not only conserve and restore the built and natural heritage, but also to discover and understand more about this beautiful, unique place and learn skills to care for it in the future”.

This vision will be achieved by:

- Conserving and restoring the character and diversity of the South Dorset Ridgeway landscape, enhancing and retaining its inspirational and special qualities of tranquillity, remoteness and unspoilt panoramic views.
- Improving and expanding the understanding of the South Dorset Ridgeway’s iconic and internationally important historic resource; from its barrows, stone circles and hillforts to the distinctive features of its picturesque villages.
- Working to protect the wildlife of the South Dorset Ridgeway, so that its mosaic of heathland, grassland and woodland supports a variety of distinctive native plants and animals.
- Bringing local communities, businesses and visitors together to play an active role in the management of the South Dorset Ridgeway, through involvement in decision making, volunteering and practical tasks.
- Creating pride in the rich built and natural heritage, with local communities actively engaged in celebrating and researching the South Dorset Ridgeway’s special qualities and sensitively shaping its future.
- Improving access to the South Dorset Ridgeway and encouraging those less familiar with the built and natural heritage to make the first step in getting out and enjoying it.
- Providing exciting and varied opportunities to learn about the special qualities of the South Dorset Ridgeway and train in the skills necessary to look after it in the future.

B. Core messages at the heart of the project

Land: Contemporary life in the South Dorset Ridgeway draws on the past and builds the foundations for the future. The concept of Landscape is centred around the interaction of place and people, the meeting point between the actions of man and impact on the environment.

Bones: The South Dorset Ridgeway is 'a landscape of our ancestors', a rich and ancient ceremonial landscape that gives us insights into how people have lived here for over 6,000 years.

Stone: Geology is the foundation of this landscape and determines the distinctive South Dorset Ridgeway landscape and influences how people live here.

APPENDIX 2: INTRODUCTION TO BLACK DOWN

Black Down is the highest point on the South Dorset Ridgeway and one of the few public sites on the Ridgeway with car parking provisions. It is popular as somewhere to go for a walk, ride or cycle and to enjoy long views out to sea, along the Ridgeway to East or West or North to the Dorchester Downs.

Current access provision is mixed, the topography is detailed and steep with some tracks in the woods having been made up to forestry standard but the trails are of inconsistent gradient and surface, many being quite muddy.

The site is an ideal location to provide for those who are not physically able or confident enough to explore the high ground of the Ridgeway by foot. This project will deliver access improvements to an existing parking area, link this area with the existing trail network via a surfaced path with a manageable gradient and then surface some of the existing paths to create a circular route of consistent gradient and surface to provide for a greater diversity of countryside visitors.

What is there

Black Down is the area surrounding Hardy's Monument, near Winterbourne Steepleton, 6 miles west of Dorchester situated in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Black Down is popular for walking and for its dramatic panoramic views of the rolling farmed Dorset Downs to the north and the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Coast to the south. It is also of national importance for its archaeology, and of national significance for wildlife. Black Down Woods comprises of 124 hectares (306 acres) of mixed woodland and heathland, soon to be restored to lowland heath and semi-natural woodland. The landscape importance of the site is further emphasised by the imposing Hardy Monument tower (commemorating Rear Admiral Thomas Masterman Hardy, Flag Captain to Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, who was born in Portesham) made of Portland Stone and belonging to the National Trust. Black Down circles the highest point (239m above ordnance datum) on the western section of the South Dorset Ridgeway and its position in relation to the wider landscape is also significant.

The Valley of the Stones National Nature Reserve is located to the west and to the east Bronkham Hill is an important ridge of heath and downland, holding a major Bronze Age barrow cemetery.

Black Down is a popular area for walking and is especially important for recreation and enjoyment. The site lies on the inland section of the South West Coast path National Trail and many long-distance walkers use the inland route in preference to the path through Weymouth for the spectacular views it affords of Lyme Bay, Weymouth Bay and the Devon, West Dorset and Purbeck coastlines. It is a key area for access to the countryside for people in Weymouth and Dorchester and is connected by existing Rights of Way from both Poundbury and Upwey.

APPENDIX 3: SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY Landscape Partnership

The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership, made up of 14 local organisations led by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is an innovative mix of archaeologists, artists, historians, landowners, naturalists, teachers and, most importantly local people. Everyone has come together to safeguard the South Dorset Ridgeway landscape, help people enjoy it and feel pride for an area that many experts consider as important as that around Stonehenge.

The Partnership will deliver a range of activity between 2013 - 18, valued at nearly £3 million, including: support for landowners to help wildlife, such as butterflies and Grey Partridge; create better access to the high ground of the Ridgeway so that more people can enjoy the breathtaking views; an exciting events programme including 'Inside Out Dorset' in 2014; help for schools to use the landscape as an 'outside classroom'; cutting edge digital media projects to fire the imagination and breathing life back into local song and traditional crafts.

APPENDIX 4: THE SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership area takes in the high ground between Dorset's county town of Dorchester and the Georgian resort town of Weymouth. The roughly rectangular area is approximately 7km from north to south and 17km from west to east.

The South Dorset Ridgeway provides an introduction to the best that the British countryside has to offer. It is home to a remarkable ancient ceremonial landscape, mixed with some of the most spectacular scenery in the UK. The South Dorset Ridgeway deserves to be explored further and for its rich heritage; to become more widely understood.

The challenge for the Landscape Partnership Scheme is to engage the wider population so that many more are aware of the remarkable landscape that lies on their doorstep.

[Landscape Partnerships](https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/landscape-partnerships) are a flagship programme of The Heritage Lottery Fund (<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/landscape-partnerships>), their intention is for local, regional and national organisations work together to make a real difference to landscapes and communities for the long term.

The Partnership that has come together to meet this challenge is led by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and comprises:

[Activate](#)

Activate is the only strategic organisation in Dorset with the sole focus on producing and developing contemporary theatre, community dance and outdoor celebrations and festivals. Activate work with venues, programmers, the education sector, artists, social services, environment, and economic development, among others, who all play a part in the sharing and delivering of their aspirations.

Artsreach

Artsreach is Dorset's rural touring arts organisation, giving rural communities the opportunity to see and participate in high quality arts events in their own villages, covering

small and large-scale theatre, live music, dance, comedy, literature, film and puppet shows.

<http://www.artsreach.co.uk/>

Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University is the only university within Dorset, and has a long history of collaboration and research on the South Dorset Ridgeway through their archaeology department, which is rated 'World Leading' according to the most recent Research Assessment Exercise in 2008.

<https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/>

Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1959 and is the 5th largest in the country; it covers 1,129 km², including 95% of the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape partnership area. The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The Dorset AONB is one of the more heavily populated AONBs with 1.4 million people living within 20 miles of the boundary. It also has a high visitor footfall, which brings about many opportunities, as well as impacts. A partnership of 20 organisations oversees the production and implementation of a statutory management plan, and a staff team help prepare and implement this.

[Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership](#)

Dorset County Council

The expertise within the coast, countryside and historic environment staff will be integral to the successful delivery of the Landscape Partnership. Dorset County Council (DCC) also acts as host for the Dorset AONB Partnership and Dorset Environmental Records Centre, and leads the Dorset Loves Art collaborative network.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/>

Dorset Environmental Records Centre

Dorset Environmental Records Centre was established in 1976 as an independent organisation to collate information on all of Dorset's wildlife. The Records Centre provides a valuable link between local naturalists and professionals.

<http://www.derc.org.uk/general/welcome.htm>

DIVAcontemporary

DIVAcontemporary is an artist-led, not for profit organisation committed to creativity and experimentation in the arts and practice based research. Founded by artists, DIVAcontemporary has focussed on developing innovative and engaging new work, supporting practitioners and opening up opportunities for young people to explore their creativity using digital media. [DIVAcontemporary](#)

Dorset County Museum

Dorset County Museum is an independent museum owned and managed by the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society with financial support from Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council. Open to anyone with an interest in Dorset's past to join, the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society is an educational charity with over 1800 members.

<http://www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/>

Dorset Forest School Community Interest Company

Dorset Forest School is a community interest company whose core aim is to facilitate young people's engagement with their natural surroundings. It does this primarily by delivering the national curriculum through forest school sessions throughout Dorset. Forest School aims to provide positive learning experiences where tasks are achievable and individuals are motivated and inspired within an outdoor environment. The

Forest School process also develops children's personal, social and emotional skills such as independence, self-confidence and self esteem through hands-on learning.

<http://www.dorsetforestschool.org/>

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) is the county's leading charitable membership body committed to ensuring that there is a secure future for Dorset's nature – its distinctive wildlife and natural spaces. DWT uses a sound evidence base, influence and wide practical experience of land management and marine conservation to inspire, inform and engage people in Dorset. Through their guidance they help others to carry forward policies that are beneficial for nature within both the rural and urban economy.

<http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West

Farming and Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) provides independent environmental advice to farmers and landowners to help them farm more sustainably and improve habitats, landscape, historic environment and water quality of the farm in a practical way that fits with the core farm business. FWAG SW has 15 advisers located across the region who provide advice which is tailored to farm businesses and local environments.

<http://www.fwagsw.org.uk/>

Kingston Maurward College

Kingston Maurward College is a vibrant and growing college set in the heart of Dorset on the south coast. They specialise in education and training for land-based industries and have been graded by Ofsted as 'a good college with outstanding features'.

They offer hundreds of courses taught within a 750 acre estate with landscaped gardens, lake and Georgian Mansion house together with brand new teaching facilities.

<http://www.kmc.ac.uk/>

SATSYMPH

SatSymph is a partnership between composer and artist Marc Yeats; poet, writer and context-aware media director and producer, Ralph Hoyte; and coder, composer and audio engineer Phill Phelps. Together, they compose context aware sound and learning worlds – locating high quality sound, word and media experiences outside in the real world that are triggered by GPS satellite signals.

THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Arts Development Company is a social enterprise, leading arts development for Dorset and beyond. We work with partners across arts and culture and in other sectors to develop strategy and policy, to deliver collaborative programmes and projects, and to improve lives in our community.

We are a people based service with a fundamental belief in human potential. We know the power of the arts to change lives and increase achievement and the positive impact this has on the health of individuals and communities.

Our projects galvanise and inspire communities, engender confidence, strengthen resilience in a rapidly changing environment and contribute additional social, economic, environmental and health outcomes.

We work creatively and collaboratively, led by the needs of our customers and beneficiaries, and want to share the immense benefits the arts can bring to society.

Activities

We deliver a range of services around arts and culture including:

- Developing strategy and policy
- Delivering and managing projects, including collaborative work with Dorset Arts Together
- Managing grants to arts organisations
- Training and skills development for the arts and cultural sector
- Managing the Little Keep building in Dorchester, a creative hub of offices and co-working space for social enterprise, the creative industries, and the community.

www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk

Windrose Rural Media Trust

Windrose Rural Media Trust is a charity that uses video, television, film and radio for the benefit of the community, especially in rural areas – one of its main concerns is the effect of current changes on country life. Windrose works specifically with older and younger people, people with disabilities and other groups with special needs. Windrose is a development organisation; it creates experimental projects to advance community involvement in the media. Windrose is run by people with a wide range of experience in television and radio production and as well as rural concerns, journalism, community work, economic development and the arts. [Windrose Rural Media Trust](#)

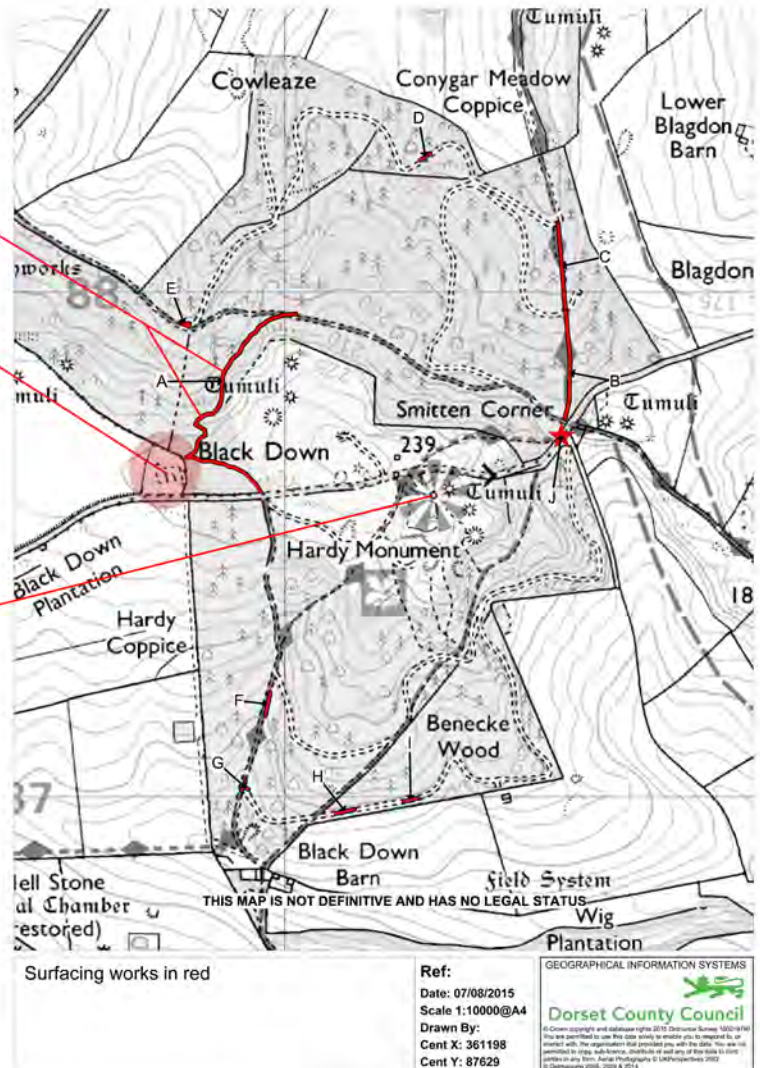
Black Down Car Park Location

N.B. There is presently no public access to the car park site

Newly constructed paths

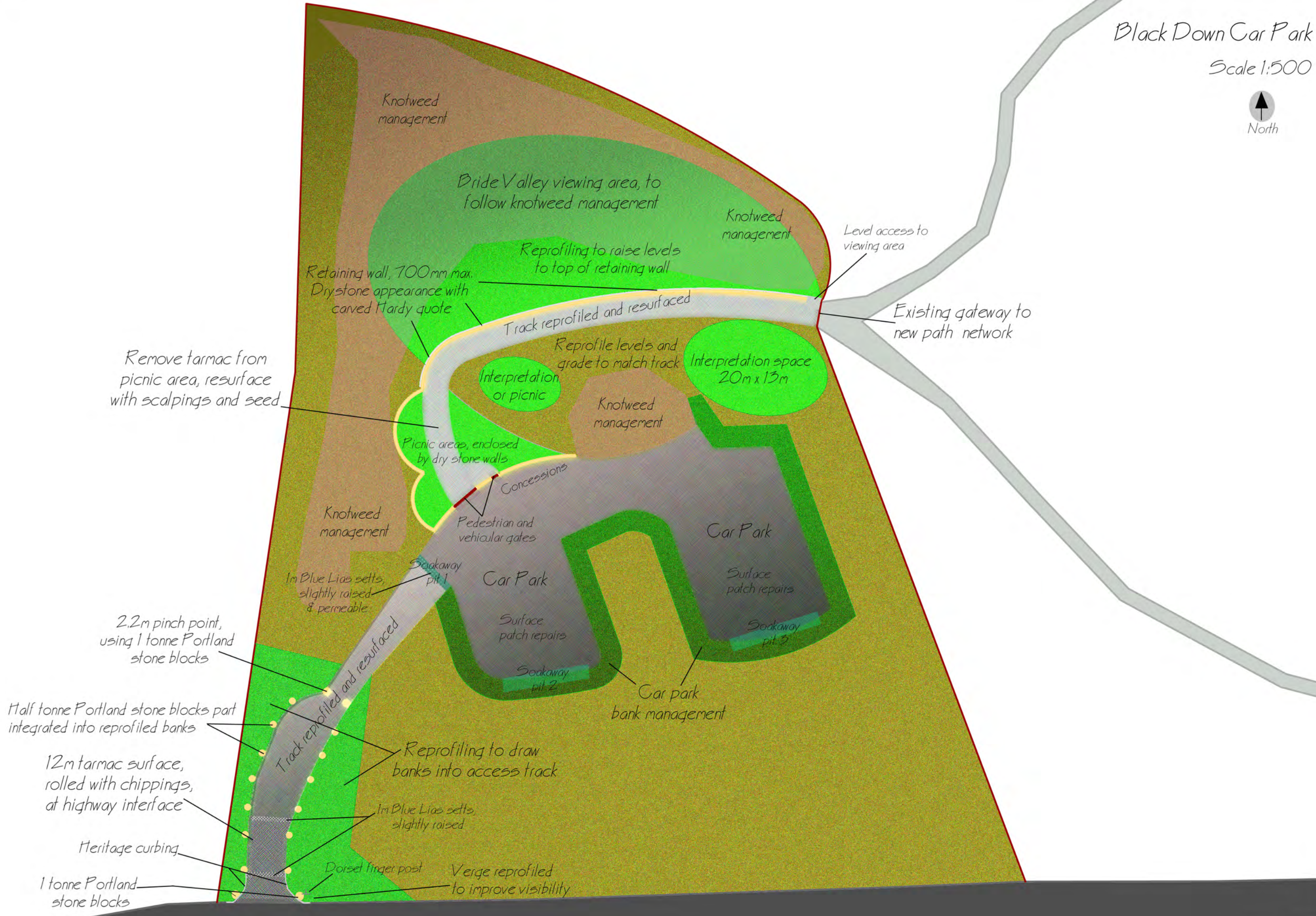
Location of car park

Hardy Monument



Black Down Car Park

Scale 1:500



Knotweed management

Bride Valley viewing area, to follow knotweed management

Knotweed management

Level access to viewing area

Existing gateway to new path network

Reprofiling to raise levels to top of retaining wall

Retaining wall, 700mm max. Drystone appearance with carved Hardy quote

Track reprofiled and resurfaced

Reprofile levels and grade to match track

Interpretation space 20m x 13m

Interpretation or picnic

Knotweed management

Remove tarmac from picnic area, resurface with scalplings and seed

Picnic areas, enclosed by dry stone walls

Concessions

Pedestrian and vehicular gates

Knotweed management

Car Park

Surface patch repairs

1m Blue Lias setts, slightly raised & permeable

Soakaway pit 1

Car Park

Surface patch repairs

Soakaway pit 2

Car park bank management

Soakaway pit 3

2.2m pinch point, using 1 tonne Portland stone blocks

Half tonne Portland stone blocks part integrated into reprofiled banks

12m tarmac surface, rolled with chippings, at highway interface

Heritage curbing

1 tonne Portland stone blocks

Track reprofiled and resurfaced

Reprofiling to draw banks into access track

1m Blue Lias setts, slightly raised

Dorset finger post

Verge reprofiled to improve visibility

*Black Down Car Park:
Draft Impression*

