Utilities

Evidence Topic Paper

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Notes:

- Narrative in italics is a quote from source material.
- Each section will have a reference for the source of the information, organisation and contact details at the end, and where feasible referenced in the text.
- Local sites for development have not been identified – none of the evidence has been mapped to proposed development.
- Dorset Council Policies in appendices

Review

Name	Version	Date	Action
P Bullen	Draft 4	Sept 2025	Author

1. Utilities (Infrastructure)

This evidence topic paper will primarily focus on energy renewables, telecommunications, but also include reference to the ability to scale up energy supplies, drainage, sewerage and sewage treatment provision when new development is suggested.

2. Local Plan

In planning for the area, both councils will work with utility service providers to assess the quality and capacity of energy supplies, water supplies, telecommunications, drainage, sewerage, and sewage treatment provision, and their ability to meet forecast demands. Where adequate capacity is not available within existing systems, assurances will be required that the necessary infrastructure will be provided.

3. Community Feedback

The community feedback November 2023 Drop-In Sessions highlighted the following:

- Enhance mobile phone signal & broadband was a common theme in parts of the community where these services are poor at best.
- Burden of new developments on an already pressurised infrastructure, limited parking,[1] roads, processing of sewage, water and power.
- The residents engaged in this topic agreed to renewables, solar power, and in one case wind farms.
- It was thought that any **development should consider insulation and solar power as components of any new build**.

4. Telecommunications

Mobile reception is particularly poor in some parts of the parish, impacting the vulnerable, local economy, safety and peoples access rights. The issue was addressed in the form of a small survey (2022 – Appendices c) undertaken by the Parish Council to better understand the impacts on the community. The survey was primarily taken up by people directly impacted with varying results, but clearly people are without the means to communicate, particularly in an emergency.

a) National Context

There is recognition at both a local and national level that rural mobile (and broadband) coverage is poor. UK government in March 2020 initiated the Shared Rural Network (SRN) £1 billion initiative (funded by government through four major mobile providers) set to deliver 95% 4G mobile coverage in the UK by December 2025 (from all four providers).

In March 2022, to compliment this initiative the government published 'Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure.' The changes were made to Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning, part16 (general permitted development), in April of the same year, to speed the implementation of network masts.

[1] Parking is covered in Transport Topic Paper

Mobile masts need power and good fast fibre broadband to operate, linking both the mobile network and broadband issues in rural areas. The power and broadband are expensive to install, and in rural areas the communities are small and commercial returns limited. West Dorset currently has 70-80% coverage – but this varies between urban and rural areas, and it is difficult to get accurate detail on 'not spots' (no mobile coverage).

When the programme started in 2020 the mobile coverage was 9.4%. By Autum 2023, 92.7% of the UK landmass had 4G coverage, with only one provider announcing that it had met its interim coverage target.

The Shared Rural Network last reported its progress in September 2024 where it claimed 94.9% coverage of UK landmass for one operator. 4G coverage for all four operators has increased to 78% from 66% in 2020. It is worth noting that the role out of 260 'not spots' is exclusively on the highlands.

b) Local Plan (West)

Modern telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element in the life of the local community and the national economy. New technology has spread rapidly to meet the growing demand for better communications at work and at home. Within the plan area, there are currently a number of sites that accommodate transmitters, masts and antennas.

Public interest and anxiety over telecommunications has made it a contentious planning issue. Operators of communication technology have a duty to abide by codes and regulations in terms of public health. Where telecommunications development is proposed, the following information will normally be sought:

- *a statement that self-certifies that the cumulative exposure, when operational, will not exceed International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines;*
- *the outcome of any consultations with organisations with an interest in the proposed development, in particular with the relevant body where a mast is to be installed near a school or college.*

Proposals which involve the installation of additional equipment to an existing mast or tower will need to consider the cumulative impact upon the width and height of the existing structure. Existing masts, buildings and other structures should normally be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified, ***or the impact of the additional equipment leads to unacceptable visual harm****. Where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate and removed when no longer required.*

The Dorset Council Plan (2024) states:

- continue to implement our digital Infrastructure and Inclusion strategy, working with government and industry to improve connectivity across the county, tackling those hard-to-reach areas where digital connectivity inhibits economic growth

c) Summary of Service by Village/Area

The Ofcom checker is split into the four providers – EE, Three, Vodaphone & O2. Coverage is broken down into 'inside' and 'outside,' followed by voice and data. In the main, inside is 'limited' cover for both voice and data, and outside is 'likely' for voice, and data. There are some areas where one or more of the providers have no service. Labour in Vain, for example, has no service from Vodaphone. Whilst an indicative survey of mobile receptions in and outside homes has been carried out the pattern is too similar to break down into village profiles. The details in Fig 1 below illustrates the coverage – which is focused on residential, with varying strengths, which is again dependent upon usage in the area.

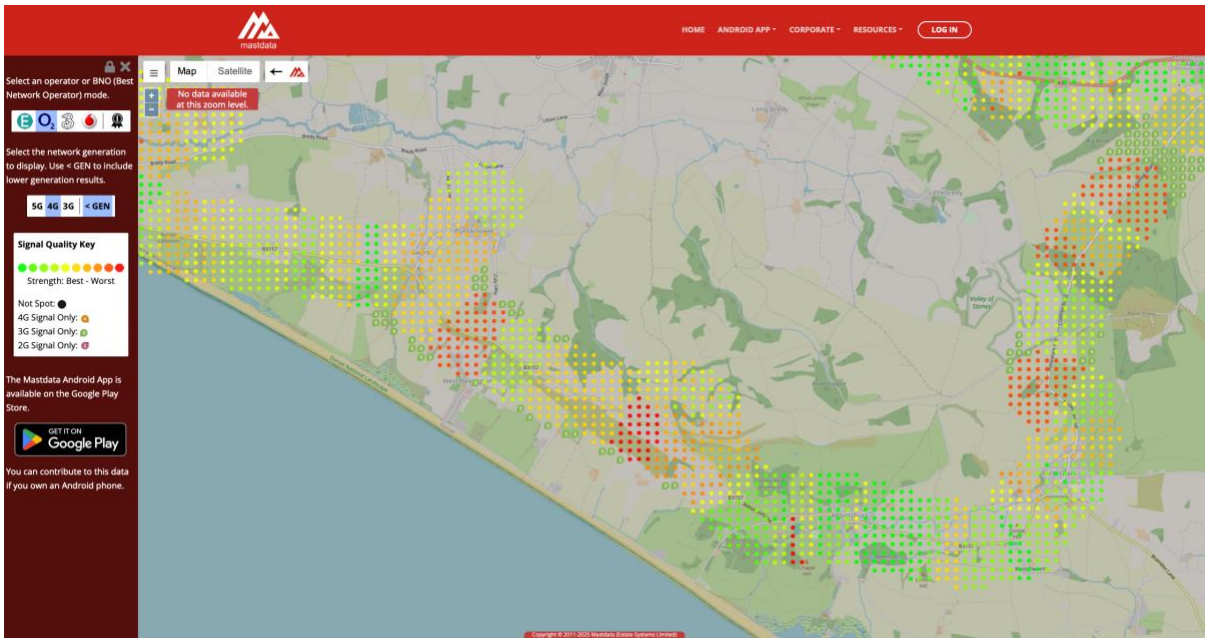


Fig 1: Mobile coverage

Telecommunications Policy – NOT REQUIRED
Access improvements to internet and mobile is not something that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. Future improvement needs should be actively monitored by residents and the parish council who should report service failures and, where possible, lobby Dorset Council and service providers. The requirement for telecommunications in any new development is covered in policy COM12 in Dorset's Local Plan.

Source	Reference
Dorset Local Plan West Dorset	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan
Changes to permitted	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-technical-

development rights for electronic communication	consultation/outcome/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-government-response-to-the-technical-consultation
House of Commons Report – Mobile Coverage	https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07069/SN07069.pdf
Dorset Council Plan – Grow our economy	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/grow-our-economy
Rural Shared Network	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shared-rural-network-srn-progress-update-september-2024/shared-rural-network-srn-progress-update-september-2024
National Audit Office	https://www.nao.org.uk/press-releases/mobile-connectivity-programme-behind-schedule/
Ofcom Broadband	https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/broadband-coverage#
Mastdata	https://mastdata.com/resources/coverage-map.aspx?mnc=10&gen=4&lat=50.6827287612316&lng=-2.6390556813425l7&z=13.97

5. Broadband (internet)

a) Local Plan (West)

The provision of broadband and electronic communications in some villages and rural areas remains very poor, particularly in terms of capacity and coverage. However, one of the government's top priorities is to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe. Monies have been allocated by government to support broadband provision in Dorset. The first priority is to improve broadband connectivity and speeds for businesses, particularly those in rural areas. The ultimate goal is to achieve 100% superfast broadband coverage at speeds in excess of 30 megabits per second for all premises in Dorset.

b) Summary of Service by Village/Area:

There are three categories of speed in the Ofcom checker: Standard (2mbps), Superfast (80mbps) and Ultrafast (1800mbps). Where the service is Standard the speed varies, same for Superfast although not significantly. Below is a summary of the service for each village:

Village	Summary
West Bexington	Both Swyre Road (south of the Coast Road) and Beach Road, including the Chalets are serviced by Standard and Superfast. Labour in Vain has standard except for Marco Polo House and Pencroft, but this might be proximity to Beach Road.

Swyre	Swyre Road and Back Road are serviced by Standard and Superfast, this includes Seaview, Hillview and the Lemon Tree – all technically in Puncknowle.
Puncknowle	Puncknowle is well services by Standard and Superfast as options. The West Side of the village – all the bungalows (as the Timberyard and Knapp Barn have the two options. This is both sides of the road until Boundary Cottage and Oaklands.
Outside of Villages	Hazel Lane Farm House has only standard below 2 mbs, the same for Looke Farm.
Ultrafast	The only area in the Parish with Ultrafast is DT6 4NE (no superfast!) – this is Berwick, Fish Farm, Modbury area.

What isn't known is whether the stated speeds hold up consistently over a day/evening, or they are as reported. Much like telecommunications, there are a few outlying homes that need better service, and surprisingly some in Puncknowle – although the east side of the village is serviced by the Swyre junction box.

Over the past ten years there have been significant rises in the level of services from telecommunications, and all indications are that to maintain the local economy Dorset Council need to ensure vital communication networks are maintained and enhanced where needed.

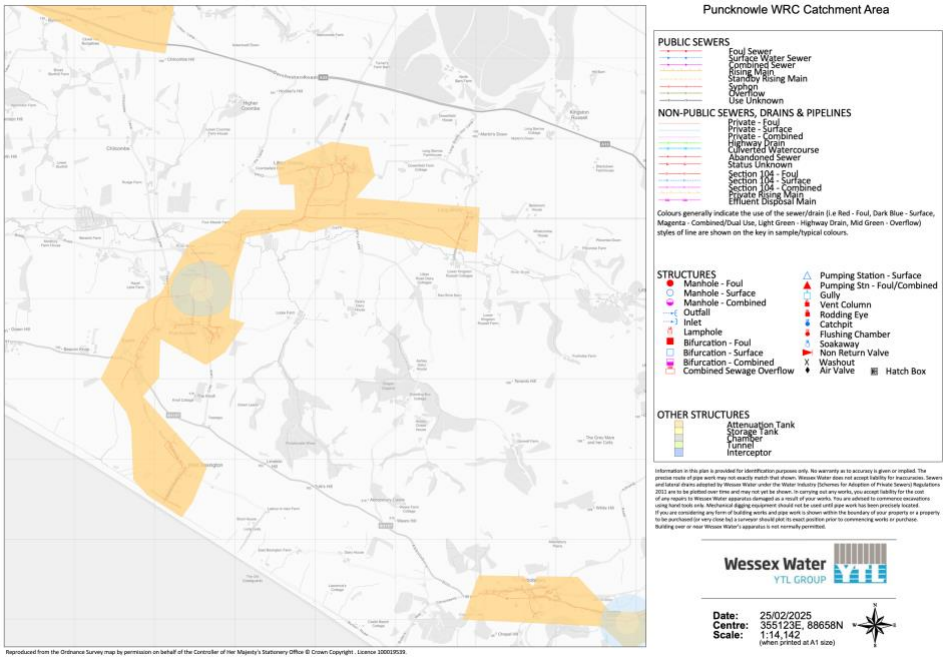
Broadband – NOT REQUIRED
Access improvements to internet and mobile is not something that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. Future improvement needs should be actively monitored by residents and the parish council who should report service failures and, where possible, lobby Dorset Council and service providers. The requirement for telecommunications in any new development is covered in policy COM12 in Dorset's Local Plan.

Source	Reference
Dorset Local Plan West Dorset Plan	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan
Ofcom Broadband	https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/broadband-coverage#

6. Water Supply – Sewage & Waste

Wessex Water (WW) are the sole provider of mains water supply and sewage in the parish. They were contacted to clarify the capacity of the system and location of assets.

Wessex Water have an existing water mains network in the village. As the Statutory Undertaker we are required to provide connection into our network by developers.



At this stage we have not provided an indication of the location of likely development sites. Once development sites are allocated in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, WW will undertake a preliminary assessment of proposed points of connection to assess the impact on the network and identify potential network reinforcement works that may be required to service the development.

WW noted that no Neighbourhood Plan Housing Requirement is identified within the Draft Dorset Local Plan. As a Tier 4 village they do not anticipate problems serving the likely low level of growth (subject to what is proposed/the location).

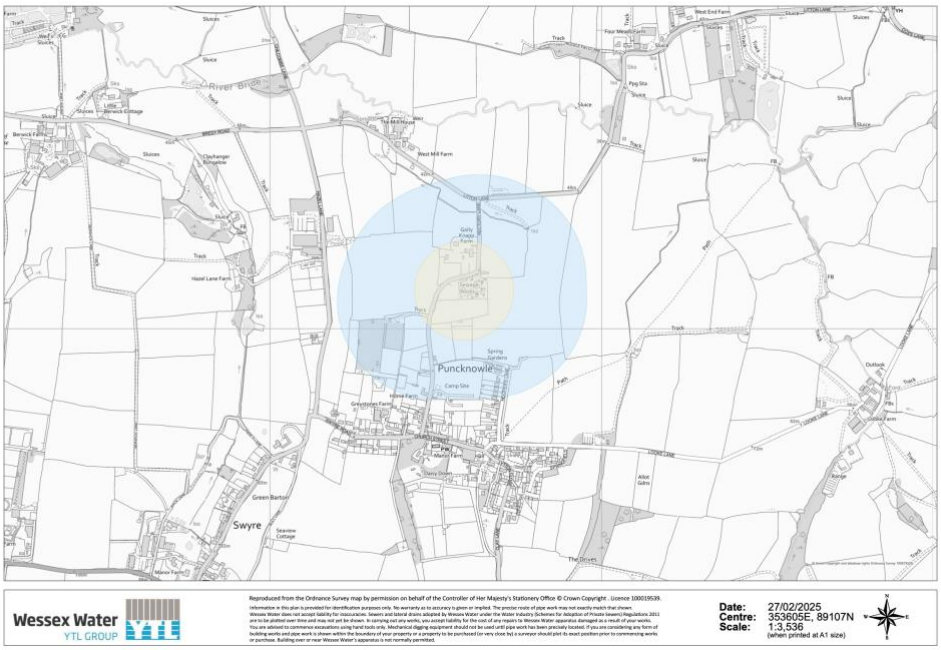
If they required to construct new infrastructure in environmentally sensitive areas, WW would need to obtain the necessary consents ahead of works. Underground water mains and sewers will not impact on the landscape but where above ground infrastructure such as pumping stations are needed these will need to be sensitively located and designed.

WW have a reservoir at the top of Knackers Hole in Puncknowle. WW have confirmed, after reviewing their asset plan map against the Neighbourhood Plan Area and do not have any other reservoirs.

WW have confirmed, 'The Water Recycling Centre is compliant with its permit. As a Tier 4 village with a likely low level of growth we would not anticipate being any issue in accommodating additional flows at the Water Recycling Works and within the network (subject to what is proposed/the location).'

'We would require new development to have separate systems of drainage for foul and surface water.'

Puncknowle Odour Consultation Zone



WW would like to identify the Odour Consultation Zone which is indicated around the Water Recycling Centre. The attached plan shows this zone. Within this zone there is the potential for residents to experience odour from the processes undertaken at the WRC. As such WW may object to development proposals within this zone unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant that future residents will not be adversely affected by odour.

WW supplied links to source detailed plans of water and sewage supply throughout the parish

Water & Sewage Policy – NOT REQUIRED
Current and future services are covered by statutory requirements. WW see their responsibilities in the context of Tier 4 Neighbourhood Planning Area and would undertake a more detailed response if land were identified for development. The requirement for utilities in any new development is covered in policy COM12 in Dorset's Local Plan.

Source	Reference
Wessex Water	planning.liason@wessex.water.co.uk

7. Energy Supply and Renewable Energy Schemes

The Parish or Puncknowle and Swyre rely on electricity, gas is not available in the parishes other than bottled. Solar power is used on some properties and in some cases clusters of housing, although not at the time the homes were developed. Oil (kerosene) is the primary alternative to electric for heating and cooking

a) Electric Supply - SSE

SSEN are the supplier of electricity to the parishes. In essence they are an A to B supplier managing the link with individual customers and the supply of their electrical power needs from the grid. They were unable to supply answers to the questions, preferring to supply links to resources such as network maps. These unfortunately give limited insights to the questions raised regarding interrupted service and little feedback on development other than

SSEN are not responsible for renewable capacity, this is managed through the grid, although it is assumed SSEN know the percentage of renewables supplied. Again, links have been supplied to Dorset Climate team, see renewables below.

Electrical Power Policy – SSEN – NOT REQUIRED
The requirement for telecommunications in any new development is covered in policy COM12 in Dorset's Local Plan.

Source	Reference
SSEN	katie.vanzyl@sse.com
SSEN	https://www.sse.com/about-us/our-campaigns/uk-campaign/

b

b) Renewable - National Context

Most of the energy used in UK (about 80%) is still derived from fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, which release carbon dioxide (CO2) when burnt. The remaining 20% comes from a combination of renewable energy, nuclear power, and bio-heat.

Fossil fuels are used either directly for transport in the form of petrol and diesel or for heating (mainly gas). A small proportion of gas is burnt to generate electricity (power) through gas fired power stations. Electricity (power) currently only accounts for about a fifth of the total energy use in the UK.

On the 8th July 2024 the new government reversed *Delivering our clean power mission will help boost Britain's energy independence, save money on energy bills, support high-skilled jobs and tackle the climate crisis. We are therefore committed to doubling onshore wind energy by 2030. That means immediately removing the de facto ban on onshore wind in England, in place since 2015. We are revising planning policy to place onshore wind on the same footing as other energy development in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).*

Currently, planning policy includes two tests, set out in footnotes 57 and 58 to paragraph 163 of the NPPF, that apply only to onshore wind. Together they say that development can only be considered acceptable: in areas either allocated in a development plan or through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. This sets a higher bar than is set for other forms of development.

With the narrow exception of proposals brought forward by Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders, where the proposal has proved community support. In practice

this has often been interpreted to mean that any opposition means the proposal cannot be considered acceptable.

These policy tests no longer apply. The removal of these tests from planning policy means that onshore wind applications will be treated in the same way as other energy development proposals. These changes take effect today (8 July 2024). The government will confirm this position to Parliament on 18 July, following the State Opening. These changes will also be reflected in the forthcoming NPPF update.

The change in policy levels up on shore wind farms, setting in in the same context as other forms of development. National Landscape will still be a considered as part of the planning permissions process.

c) Dorset (extract from Dorset Renewable Energy Technical Paper -15th July 2020).

Dorset is one of the best counties in the Uk for Solar and has good resources for wind and biomass. Theoretically, it has enough available resources to be self-sufficient in energy, taking into account landscape and planning constraints.

For both Dorset Council and Dorset county, delivery at scale is required. This needs to be at all levels, such as large-scale developments (solar and wind), and at organisation, individual household, and community level. Every opportunity to utilise renewable energy to meet current demand needs to be taken and large-scale deployment projects need to be developed.

Dorset Council's renewable energy capacity needs to increase by a factor of 60. Dorset County's capacity needs to increase by a factor of eight (though a much higher factor, possibly of 20 or more, may be sensible, since BCP have large energy demands and little opportunity to generate themselves). However, deployment of onshore renewable energy has essentially stagnated since 2016, and the Navitus Bay offshore wind farm was not given permission.

This stagnation has occurred for two reasons, both of which are out of Dorset Council's control. Firstly, the planning system does not actively encourage renewable energy installations (indeed, it actively discourages wind turbines). Secondly, the removal of all subsidies for onshore renewable electricity generation, the reduction and imminent closure of the subsidy for heat (RHI), and a less favourable view of renewable energy by the tax system have meant that investing in renewable energy is no longer financially attractive in any but a very few cases.

In the small set of conditions where investment is financially viable, decision makers are not always aware of the opportunity. Some technologies are still not clearly understood, and much more needs to be done to demonstrate technologies, provide advice, and support organisations.

Dorset County has many opportunities to improve the renewable energy situation. The most important is the largely untapped resource of solar, onshore wind, offshore wind, and possibly some tidal energy. We can feasibly meet all of our own needs once the national planning and economic climate allow it.

d) Renewables - Local Plan (West)

Whilst the West Dorset Local Plan is active from 2011 – 2031 (published in 2020, can't be practically be used in the context of this topic. The data is incorrect from the outset, but the principles and

sentiments and ambition carry through to the emerging Dorset Local Plan which updates the data on renewable energy use.

The two councils fully support the need to generate more than 15% of all energy demand from renewable energy sources by 2020 to meet the national target. In practice, much of this will be from national renewable energy projects such as the offshore wind programme. Locally generated renewable energy projects will need to generate 7.5% of all energy demand, which in combination with the national scale projects across the country will meet the national target. It is therefore important that the opportunities are taken for generating renewable energy and low-carbon energy from new development, for example by co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers, wherever this would be acceptable, and supporting community led initiatives.

The emerging Dorset Local Plan states: *Currently in Dorset about 5.5% of the energy we use is from renewable energy sources. Locally generated renewable energy projects will be needed to increase this figure and to help meet the national net zero target. It is therefore important that opportunities are taken to generate renewable and low-carbon energy and create efficient energy networks through new development, for example by co- locating potential heat customers and suppliers, wherever this would be acceptable, and supporting community led initiatives.*

The emerging Local Plan goes on to state the following: *A neighbourhood plan may seek to identify suitable areas for small scale wind energy development. However, it is not considered appropriate for neighbourhood development plans to identify areas suitable for larger scale wind energy development. This scale of development is considered strategic because the impacts of development are likely to extend beyond the neighbourhood plan area.*

The Werst Dorset Plan goes on to state: *demand will require some larger scale renewable energy projects being built in the area. The high-quality environment of the plan area is a major asset and presents challenges in ensuring that renewable energy systems are carefully planned. Their individual or cumulative impact on the local environment, including the impact on the landscape character and rural amenity of the countryside or resident population will need to be considered, particularly in areas sensitive to change.* ***The potential impact of any large-scale project means that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) covering these specific points is likely to be required. Smaller-scale renewable energy proposals across the plan area are likely to be easier to integrate with the highly valued natural and built*** **environment and will make an important contribution towards the target for installed capacity**.

It finally states: *Until such time as the Local Plan is reviewed, proposals for wind energy development will be considered against national policy and guidance.*

Dorset Council also realise the role of Biomass in meeting its renewable targets and has include the opportunity through the various iterations, not just in terms of energy, but also the rural economy. Little appears to have been done to date, as the focus has been on solar and wind.

The emerging Dorset Local Plan has more to say on the issue of biomass and local energy initiatives: *There may be the potential for the growth of energy crops and the use of agricultural or forestry residues for biomass boilers or for neighbourhood-scale decentralised renewable or low-carbon energy sources, such as combined heat and power schemes. There are also potential opportunities for new developments to fund investments in renewable schemes off-site which will help deliver carbon emission reductions that are difficult to achieve on-site.*

e) Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE)

The emerging Dorset Local Plans highlights the viability of large-scale renewable energy projects in areas with high valued natural and built environment will require smaller scale renewable energy proposals. CPRE advocate and promote the policy of *rooftop solar panels for our landscapes and wildlife, too.* They go on to say: *We have huge competing demands for the use of land in this country. We've got to consider new homes, growing food, space for nature, and generating the energy we all use in our daily lives. Putting solar panels on the millions of roofs across the country means that we don't need to use as much extra land to meet our energy needs. This saves land from industrialisation and paves the way for regenerative agriculture that will produce food and provide a much-needed home for declining wildlife species.*

Finally, we wouldn't be living up to our heritage at CPRE if we didn't make the case that placing solar panels on urban rooftops protects the beauty of our landscapes. After all, it's unspoiled views of green fields and rolling hills that make the English countryside so special. Whether the land outside a village or town is considered 'high grade' or not, the loss of green fields to metal and glass is so strongly resisted by local communities because it would transform a part of the countryside that matters intimately to them.

Our rooftop stance doesn't mean that we oppose all proposals for ground mounted solar panels in the countryside. Our Community Energy Visioning projects show that rural communities are often able to propose suitable locations for solar farms when they are empowered to have their say on their scale and design. However, it's also clear that rooftop solar offers the best opportunity for a triple win for climate, community and countryside. This is where we want to see the government put a lot more effort.

Whilst the Dorset Council proposal recognises the need to protect the landscape, it hasn't precluded the use of land for the purpose of solar power, it does specify smaller scale proposals, whereas CPRE takes the issue a step further, realising that whilst the approach is logical funding of such an enterprise to scale will not be without challenge, and will take longer to implement.

f) National Landscape (AONB)

The Dorset AONB (National Landscape) Management Plan states: *Support renewable energy production where compatible with the objectives of the AONB designation, taking into account the relative sensitivity of the landscape.*

National Landscape understand the need for the at scale aspect of solar and wind, that is to say the move from fossil to renewable is a present issue and larger installations are required to meet the demand. It also recognises that there are sites that will have less impact and collectively produce the same effect.

g) Wind Farms

The National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty has a position statement for renewable energy, with regards wind development it states the following:

"Smaller-scale turbines for community or individual use within or adjacent to an AONB may be acceptable where they would not, individually or in conjunction with other existing installations,

be to the detriment of the natural beauty, character, amenity and/or nature conservation interest of the AONB through visual intrusion, noise, activity or associated infrastructure such as overhead lines.

In assessing the appropriateness of scale (height and number of turbines) and of a proposed development, regard should be had to:

- *the topography and character of the landscape*
- *the zones of visual impact of the proposals*
- *the proximity and likely effect upon rights of way and open access land*
- *the likely effect upon species or habitats of nature conservation interest*
- *the likely effect on any below or above ground historic assets*
- *the existence of other turbines in the locality and the potential cumulative effect*

AONB boundaries rarely present a sharp border of landscape quality or character. Therefore in some cases, developments outside an AONB may adversely affect the special qualities and characteristics of an AONB. For these reasons, the above criteria should apply to wind energy developments in adjacent land or sea. The extent of the impact of developments will depend on visibility to and from the AONB and the precise character of the countryside or seascape."

In considering wind development the AONB team will base its responses around the primary purpose of the designation to "conserve and enhance natural beauty." As such, it will be led by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, relevant national planning policy7, the current Dorset AONB Management Plan,8 the Dorset AONB Landscape Character Assessment9 and where appropriate the Dorset Coast Land and Seascape Assessment (Sept 2010).

d) Solar

Large, centralised solar PV power systems, mostly at the multi-megawatt scale, have been built to supply power for local or regional electricity grids in several countries including Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the USA. In the UK, the southwest region is experiencing a surge in applications for large scale solar PV arrays due to the area having a high yearly sum of solar irradiation.

The Dorset National Landscape, AONB has received enquiries regarding potential large scale solar PV arrays that lie within the designation or near its boundary. They have produced guidance to expand on the current National Planning Policy Framework and highlight the specific issues that should be considered when considering large-scale solar PV developments that affect the Dorset AONB. Much of the guidance is in line with the approach to wind farming, with obvious departures given it is ground based.

There are subsidies linked to these projects which has increased the interest/applications, but there are alternatives – large brown field sites, on top of car parks, air strips and other suitable areas, roofs of industrial sites, large agricultural buildings and other large roofs.

e) Challenges

As it stands there are several challenges with renewable energy that need to be resolved, *firstly a clear strategy (which impacts the local policy framework), the current grid can't allocate the renewal targets, technology is still developing – which will slow the deployment (EV Charging).*

To address the climate emergency all energy currently provided by fossil fuels for heating, transport and electricity will need to come from a low-carbon source. This will need to be through electricity or hydro- gen generated from renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro, biomass) or nuclear.

This will mean switching all heating to low-carbon alternatives such as biomass, heat pumps or hydrogen, and switching all transport to electric batteries or hydrogen. It will then require an enormous increase in renewable electricity generation and low-carbon hydrogen generation to meet the demand.

It will also be essential that we can store energy locally and manage our energy in a smarter way to meet peak energy demand and make the most of the renewable energy we produce.
Given the uncertainty about heating and hydrogen in national policy; it is difficult to estimate how much renewable energy will be needed to meet the challenge in Dorset (although presumably more than 10%). Under the greenest scenario energy demand in the Dorset Council area will be around 4 billion kWh/yr. So, for Dorset to play its fair share and generate 100% of its own energy demand we will need around 4GW of solar (around 19,000 acres) or 2GW of wind (around 700 big turbines), or a combination of the two.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council will need as much again, if not more, and is unlikely to be able to within its own boundaries. For Dorset Council alone it is estimated that we will need 60MW of solar PV (or 30MW of wind) to cover our own energy demand once efficiency measures have been taken.

Whilst the Government has removed the planning obstacle's preventing on shore wind over half the land in Dorset is AONB (National Landscape) added to the fact that neither Bournemouth or Poole have land to meet their renewable targets, subsidies have been dropped and the value in investing in renewables has been removed. Dorset are looking at the available land they have for the installations for these projects, but it needs to be seen in the context of a 90% shortfall in renewable targets with little funding available to achieve the uplift.

f) Local Level Initiatives

Community energy initiatives are a growing area of sharing renewables. Bridport is currently running an initiative that distributes surplus wind turbine energy to other users, matching the rates of traditional energy suppliers. There are a number of imitative models, some are run by local businesses that have greater areas of roof space for solar to generate their energy needs and supply the surplus to the local community at an agreed tariff. Whilst small projects they enable independent local energy supply.

This could also compliment the CPRE initiative to keep solar out of fields and on buildings, which would also support maintaining the AONB whilst contributing to the Dorset Council renewables target (albeit in a small way) and potentially reducing energy costs for households.

Low level adoption of renewables

- Healthy Homes Dorset – council funded resource for advice on heating homes, insulation etc.
- Heat Pumps – confidence in heat pumps is lower in rural areas due to the age of buildings – (see Appendix b) which seems to be dependent on several factors, size oif

the pump, installation and insulation upgrades. Dorset Council don't seem to reference heat pumps specifically, other than in their Climate Emergency Strategy.

- Solar – the inclusion of solar energy in any new build for the villages – Dorset Council's policy covers this but doesn't insist) and the possible inclusion of a community energy initiative.

Development – Sustainable Energy – Policy 01SE
Energy Efficient Technologies: The neighbourhood plan seeks to reduce the use of fossil fuels through the promotion of renewable energy resources. 1. An Energy Efficient Technologies Statement should be included in **any** development application over the period of the plan. 2. Sustainable technology (such as solar panels and heat pumps) should be clearly shown on the planning application to demonstrate how these are successfully integrated into the property. Dorset Local Plan COM11: does state that any contributions to renewable energy benefits outweigh any harm – adverse impacts on local landscape, detrimental emissions, wildlife etc. This would need to be include in the policy or referenced.

Source	Link
Dorset Local Plan/West	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan
Onshore Wind Policy Statement 8th July 2024	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policy-statement-on-onshore-wind/policy-statement-on-onshore-wind
Dorset AONB (2011) small windfarm guidance	https://dorset-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DAONB-Wind-Turbine-Guidance-November-2011-1.pdf
Dorset Renewable Energy Paper (2020)	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/renewable-energy-technicalpaper?p_l_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dwind%2Benergy
CPRE – Renewable Energy	https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/climate-change-and-energy/renewable-energy/
The AONB Management Plan	https://dorset-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DAONB_Managmentplan.pdf
The AONB – Wind Turbine Guidance	https://dorset-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DAONB-Wind-Turbine-Guidance-November-2011-1.pdf
Dorset Climate Emergency Strategy + action plan	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/climate-ecological-emergency-strategy-renewable-energy https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/35024/285213/Climate+Change+Action+Plan+-+Renewables.pdf/315f80ef-7818-b900-7c31-3236f581e501

Healthy Homes Dorset	https://www.healthyhomesdorset.org.uk

8. Electric Vehicle Parking Points

a) Local Plan

In July 2018 the government set out its ambition that at least half of new cars would be ultra-low emission by 2030 and reduce emissions from the vehicles already on the UK's roads and drive the uptake of zero emission cars, vans and trucks. In 2017 the UK government announced a ban on the sale of all new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2040. The planning process provides a mechanism to assist in the delivery of the electric vehicle recharging infrastructure. ***National planning policy indicates that applications for development should be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.***

The need for infrastructure for electric and other ultra-low emissions vehicles is growing to meet changing transport requirements and technologies. Differing levels of electric vehicle provision may be suitable in different circumstances. These are:

- *Active provision, where parking spaces are fully wired and connected, ready to use from the outset*
- *Passive provision, requiring the provision of necessary underlying infrastructure (e.g. capacity in the connection to the local electricity distribution network and electricity distribution board, as well as cabling to parking spaces) to enable the simple installation and activation of a charge point at a future date.*

The local plan doesn't talk to the wider need for EV charging points in the Local Plan. It is assumed that in the short to medium term this would involve cables hanging out of windows for residents or designated built in points, and dedicate infrastructure to enable charging points in new builds.

Dorset Council, in partnership with Joju Charging and Mer are expanding the number of charging points which appears to be focusing on council owned car parks at this stage. It is assumed the revenues from the charging points fund the installation. It is unlikely, other than West Bexington that public charging points will be made available in the parish.

It is difficult to equate the ambition of scaling up EV with the speed of implementing the infrastructure required to support it outside of the home.

Source	Reference
Dorset Local Pan/West	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan

Dorset EV	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/electric-vehicle-charge-points
MER EV Point Map	https://driver.uk.mer.eco/findCharger?51.1989342,0.0028278,11z

Appendix

a) Local Plan Policy

COM9. Provision of infrastructure for electric and other low emission vehicles

Development proposals which include parking facilities, or which are likely to generate vehicle movements or vehicle ownership will be expected to integrate the provision of infrastructure to enable the charging of electric or other ultra- low emission vehicles into the design and layout of the development.

Residential Developments
Residential developments will be expected to include infrastructure suitable for charging electric or other ultra-low emission vehicles according to the following standards:

- for all residential development with communal off-street parking provision, at least 20% of car spaces will be expected to include active charging facilities and passive provision for all remaining spaces with the layout of the car park ensuring that all spaces can be activated as demand increases; and
- for minor residential development (all developments of less than 10 dwellings): • passive infrastructure provision for each dwelling.

For major residential development (all developments of 10 dwellings or more):

- at least 20% of dwellings will be expected to have active charging facilities, and the remaining 80% of dwellings will be expected to have passive provision; and
- at least one rapid charging point clustered with a fast-charging point for every 10 car spaces provided, or in accordance with local published guidance; and
- where appropriate, the provision of an electric or ultra-low emission car club, with its own dedicated spaces including active charging facilities.

In circumstances where off street parking is not provided within a residential development proposal, the design and layout of the development will be expected to incorporate infrastructure to enable the on-street charging of electric or other ultra-low emission vehicles to occur safely.

Non-residential Developments
In all non-residential developments providing 1 or more car parking spaces, ducting should be installed to enable provision of charging facilities for electric or other ultra-low emission vehicles.
Where 10 or more car parking bays are provided, at least 20% of those bays are required to provide active charging facilities for electric or other ultra-low emission vehicles, and passive provision is required for all remaining bays.

COM10. THE PROVISION OF UTILITIES SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Development will not be permitted where the problems associated with the lack of necessary utilities service infrastructure, including energy supplies, drainage, sewerage, sewage treatment and water supply, cannot be overcome.
- Proposals for the development of telecommunications or radio equipment will be permitted provided that:
    - the development will not be unduly detrimental to the appearance of the

locality, particularly in sensitive areas of landscape, nature conservation or townscape importance; and
- the applicant has demonstrated that there is a need for the technology and that all technically feasible alternatives have been explored and that the application proposal results in the least visual harm.

- The provision of infrastructure to support superfast broadband technology will be a requirement on all new site-specific allocations and on all other housing development of 50 or more units and on commercial premises where the site area is 0.5 hectares or more.

COM11. RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- Proposals for generating heat or electricity from renewable energy sources (other than wind energy) will be allowed wherever possible providing that the benefits of the development, such as the contribution towards renewable energy targets, significantly outweigh any harm. In addition, permission will only be granted provided:
  - any adverse impacts on the local landscape, townscape or areas of historical interest can be satisfactorily assimilated;
  - the proposal minimises harm to residential amenity by virtue of noise, vibration, overshadowing, flicker, or other detrimental emissions, during construction, its operation and decommissioning;
  - adverse impacts upon designated wildlife sites, nature conservation interests, and biodiversity are satisfactorily mitigated.

COM12. The provision of utilities service infrastructure

Development will not be permitted where the problems associated with the lack of necessary utilities service infrastructure, including energy supplies, drainage, sewerage, sewage treatment and water supply, cannot be overcome.

Proposals for the development of telecommunications or radio equipment will be permitted provided that:

- the development will not be unduly detrimental to the appearance of the locality, particularly in sensitive areas of landscape, nature conservation or townscape importance; and
- the applicant has demonstrated that there is a need for the technology, that all technically feasible alternatives have been explored, and that the application proposal results in the least visual harm.

All new residential and commercial developments should provide the infrastructure required to enable connectivity to the high-speed electronic communications network unless it is not practical to do so. For major developments (10+ dwellings or sites of greater than 0.5 hectares) this should be through direct fibre to the premise (FTTP) access.

b) Heat Pumps (Source – Guardian Article/Edit)

The belief that heat pumps will work only in newbuild homes is still widely held.

By 2025 heat pump installations in the EU are expected to climb from 2m a year in 2021 to more than 4m, according to data from the International Energy Agency (IEA). This global energy watchdog predicts that by 2030 annual installations could reach almost 7m.

Crucially, these forecasts suggest the majority of installations will be in existing buildings rather than modern properties. By the middle of the decade more than half of all new heat pump installations will be in existing buildings, and by the end of the decade almost three times more will be installed in existing buildings compared with newbuilds.

Research published in 2022 by the Energy Systems Catapult (ESC), an independent research and technology organisation set up by the UK government, appears to dispel this claim. "The project has not identified any particular type or age of property that cannot have a successful heat pump installation. The suggestion that there are particular home archetypes in Britain that are unsuitable for heat pumps is not supported by project experience and data," the ESC report said. Although the actual effectiveness of heat pumps has yet to be assessed. The Fraunhofer Society, Europe's largest application-oriented research organisation, finds that heat pumps outperform gas boilers even in buildings more than 100 years old. It monitored about 300 heat pumps over a period of 20 years.

The ESC report did not include how much insulation work was undertaken by the households before installing a heat pump. The ESC noted that it was not able to install as many heat pumps as it hoped in properties built before 1945 because of the "greater challenge" in designing successful systems for older homes.

A study for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero in 2021 found the move to very low or even zero-carbon home heating could be undertaken "without necessarily carrying out extensive deep retrofit work". It found: "Homes can convert to electric heating at a cost far lower than the accepted wisdom" and "with no threat to comfort". Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions would "fall very dramatically as a result".

For older buildings energy efficiency upgrades – such as loft and wall insulation, or replacement of old radiators with larger models and underfloor heating – may need to play a role in mitigating the challenges of installing a heat pump.

The ESC noted that it was not able to install as many heat pumps as it hoped in properties built before 1945 because of the "greater challenge" in designing successful systems for older homes. Still, it managed to install 163 heat pumps in pre-1945 properties, "clearly showing that such challenges are manageable", it said.

While some older homes will undoubtedly pose challenges to installers, field studies have shown that these challenges are not insurmountable. For example, basic insulation in older properties could improve energy efficiency.

There has never been a single heating solution to fulfil the needs of all housing types in the UK and other European countries, and the case with heat pumps will be no different. But for the majority of homes, it could be the easiest route towards a low-carbon future.

c) Mobile Network – Community Survey

Survey to Investigate Poor Cover for Mobile Phone users in Swyre and Puncknowle.

Your Parish Council would like to ascertain what standard of mobile phone service our residents are receiving. At the present time, it seems that this is variable and in some open spaces, there is no signal available at all. In order to take this matter up, we would appreciate your response to the following questions.

1	Looking at the map overleaf, which letter of the alphabet denotes the grid square that you live in?		
2	At your home address, do you receive mobile data (3G or 4G) inside your house?	Y	N
3	Do you receive mobile data (3G or 4G) outside in your garden / grounds?	Y	N
4	If not, roughly how far, in metres, must you go to pick this up?		
5	Do you receive your service provider's Mobile Signal for telephone calls and text messages inside your house?	Y	N
6	Do you receive your service provider's Mobile Signal for telephone calls and text messages outside in your garden /grounds?	Y	N
7	If not, roughly how far, in metres, must you go to pick this up?		
8	Who is your mobile phone service provider?		
9	Is your telephone line into the house still provided by copper cable?	Y	N
10	Is your telephone line into the house provided by fibre optic cable?	Y	N
11	Are you able to use your WI-FI at home to make calls on your mobile phone?	Y	N
12	Would you like to comment on the standard of mobile phone signal and mobile data in the area.	Y	N
13	Are you aware of any particular issues such as emergencies, where a lack of signal has presented problems? Please provide details.	Y	N
14	Would you like your parish council to arrange a meeting with a representative of Jurassic Fibre, about what they can offer?	Y	N

If you would like further help with any of these issues, the please contact The Clerk at
E mail: - puncknowle@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
Completed surveys should be e-mailed to the same address or posted to
The Clerk, Swyre Cross, Swyre, Dorset DT2 9DA

All personal data will be treated will the strictest confidence and will not be shared in accordance with the Data Protection Act

Swyre and Puncknowle Parishes

THIS MAP IS NOT DEFINITIVE AND HAS NO LEGAL STATUS

Ref:
Date: 26/10/2022
Scale:
Drawn by:
Cent X: 353,850
Cent Y: 87,948

Dorset Council

Amalgamation of Responses to PSPC Phone Survey Dec 2022

	Question 12: Would you like to comment on the standard of mobile phone signal and mobile data in the area	Question 13: Are you aware of any particular issues such as emergencies, where a lack of signal has presented problems? Please provide details.
Response 1	It's Terrible	Yes (No details provided)
Response 2		Problems if O2 signal and broadband both go down
Response 3	When out walking we have no signal at end of Swyre, or through Swyre Road and West Bexington. Have cover near beach, but intermittently	Yes (No details provided)
Response 4	The mobile service is extremely poor for EE. However, as we use our landline, this is not so relevant. Problems come when we get a power cut and the landlline is not usable.	Both my wife and I are disabled and require 24 contact. Mobilule services are vital to us.
Response 5	Mobile is poor but just about usable. Broadband is slow and intermittent.	
Response 7	Very Poor and unreliable	Our daughter has epilepsy. If the Wifi is own there is a risk we won't be ableto call an ambulance. There are oftenpowercuts resulting in the loss of landline and wifi
Response 8	Mobile Signal Generally very poor. I use Vodafone Wifi calling to make calls on mobile.	
Response 9	Signal Poor and often non-existent, even with a legal booster. Garden/outside (is) no better	No
Response 10	Very poor and unreliable	
Response 12	My system is satisfactory for my needs	
Response 13	Three is pretty poor, especially in bad weather and drops out around 6pm.	When father needed an ambulance neither the ambulance crew nor myslef could get a signal downstairs. Instead we had to borrow someone else's mobile who is with Vodafone
Response 14	OK for me	