Implementing the vision of making Dorset the Inclusive Blue Space Capital of the UK

Will Behenna
The Beach Access Project

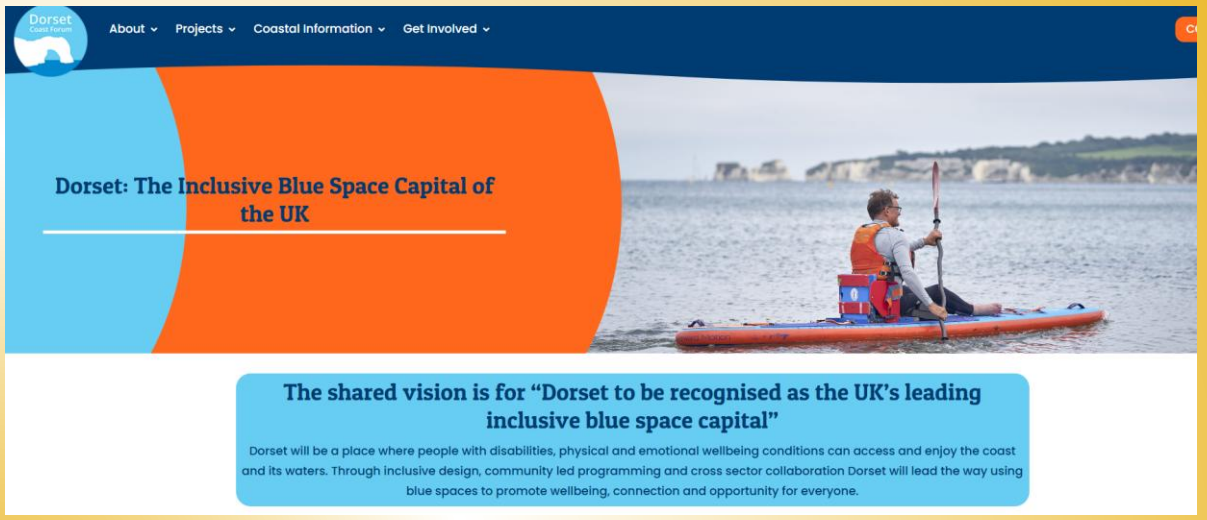
Vision

“enhance and improve beach and blue space access to enable people with medical/mental health conditions and disabilities to play a meaningful and active role in beach life and blue space.”



Progress in the past 12 months

- Launched the Beach Access Survey "A Coast For All" in Parliament
- Launched network webpage
- Delivered at the National Landscapes conference
- Presented to Access for All team at DEFRA
- Connected with Natural England to influence Access to Nature Green Paper





QR Code to new Inclusive Blue Space webpage

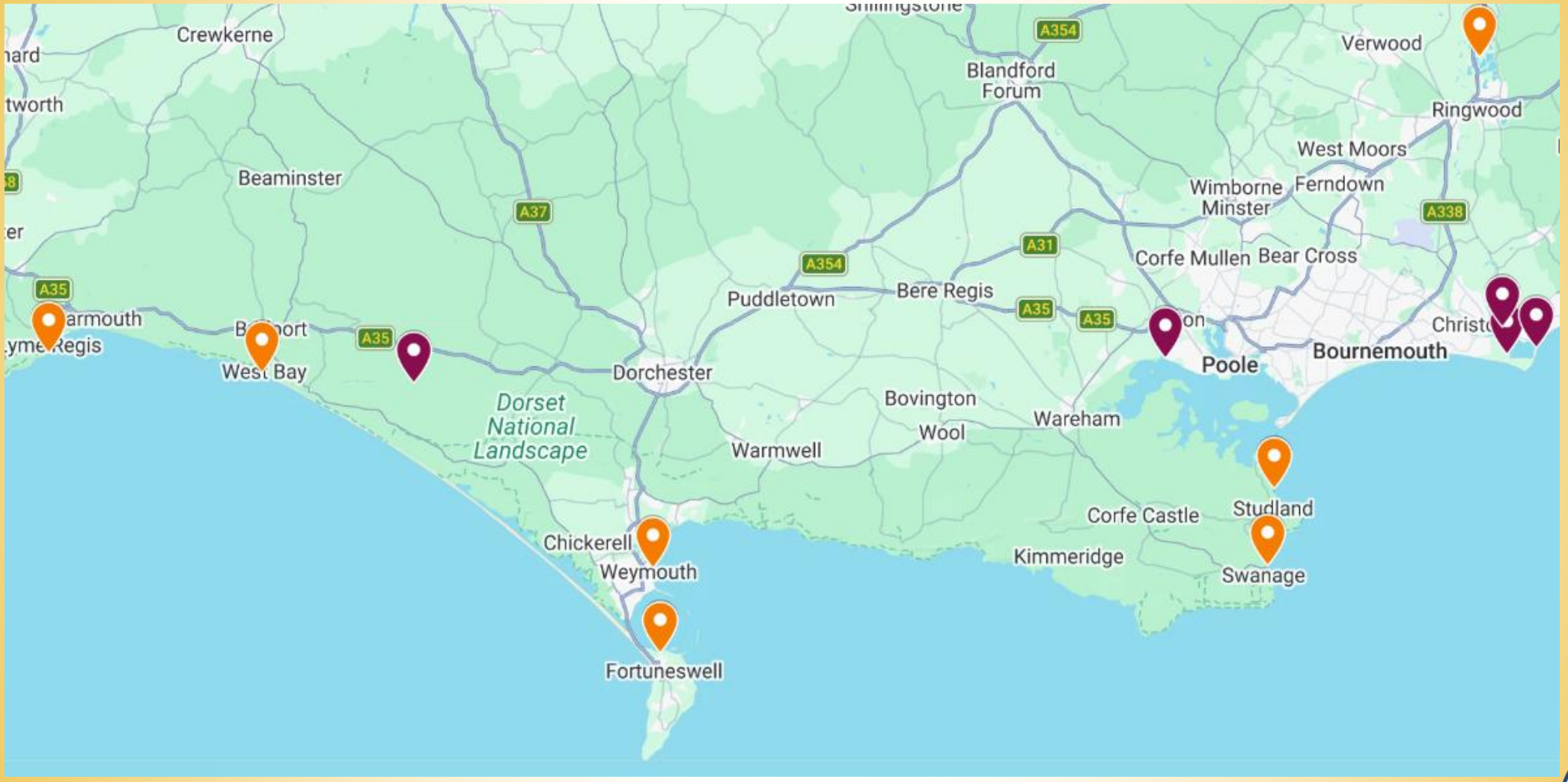
- Connected with South West Coastal Path Association Team
- Presented at England's Inclusive Tourism Action Group
- Focus area for the Dorset Local Visitor Economy Partnership
- Funding from Dorset Council, Sports England and the Crown Estate to develop beach and blue space projects in Dorset
- Media: ITV News, BBC News, The One Show, Pier Journal, Mobility Lifestyle magazine, Dorset Echo, Dorset View





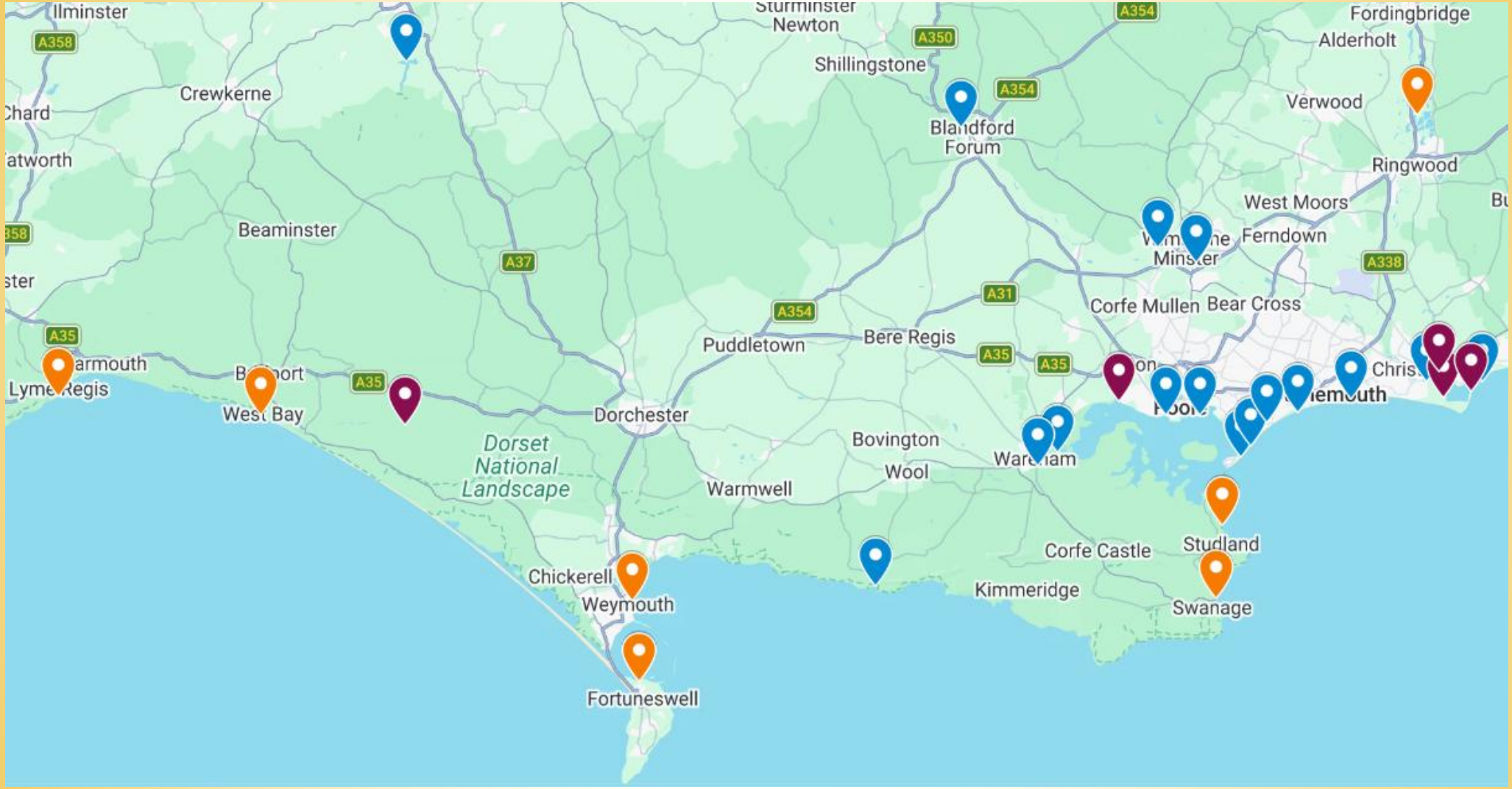
BEACH ACCESS PROJECT

2027 Dorset inclusive Blue space locations



The Beach Access Project

Potential Dorset inclusive Blue space locations



The Beach Access Project


dmvw

Embedding the Vision: 2027 and Beyond

- Launch Weymouth beach access site June 2027
- Develop Inclusive Blue Space communities
  - Open water swimming
  - Paddleboarding
  - Cold water therapy
- Develop an inclusive Blue Space Community HUB
- Create a South West Accessible Coast Strategy



Weymouth Beach Access Project

- Dorset Council Funding = £147K
- Weymouth Project Delivery Group set up in June
- Genuine Partnership Approach

WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

BEACH ACCESS PROJECT

Dorset Coast Forum

Surf Life Saving GB

WEYMOUTH S.L.S.C.

Dorset Council

Accessible Changing & Beach/Water Access







Shaded Areas & Water Accessible Chairs





Weymouth Surf Life Saving Club



Weymouth Accessible Beach Zone

03 Weymouth Beach - Proposal Overview



Location Plan



Site Plan

1. Accessible Parking
2. Accessible Access Route
3. Accessible WC
4. Composite Boardwalk
5. Aluminium Frame Shelter & Changing Gazebo
6. Portable Beach Matting

dmw ARCHITECTS



What it might look like?




Knoll Beach, Studland




Why wouldn’t we do this?
SOLA

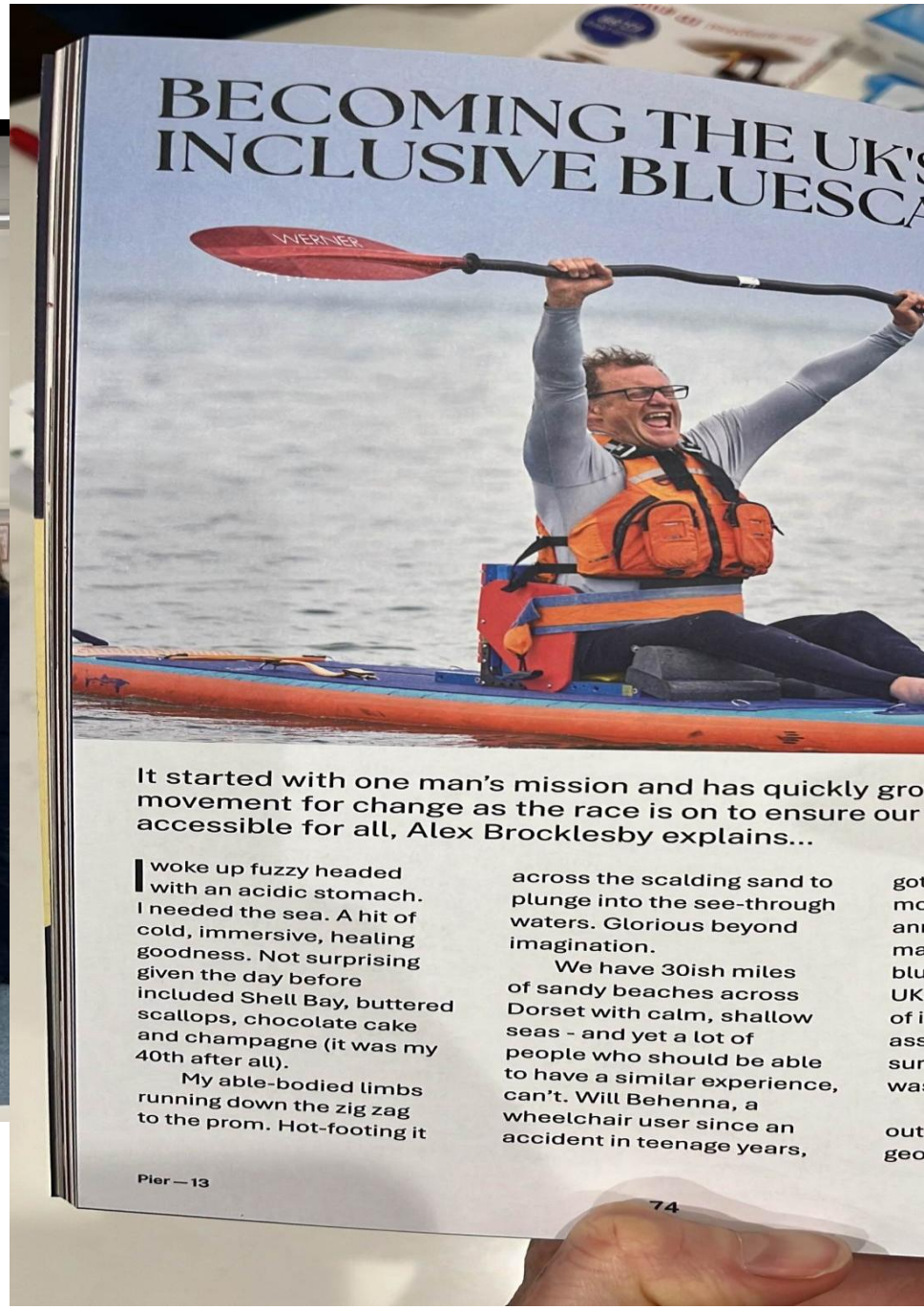

Why would we do this alone?

What can you offer?



Join us?





BECOMING THE UK'S
INCLUSIVE BLUESCA

It started with one man's mission and has quickly gro
movement for change as the race is on to ensure our
accessible for all, Alex Brocklesby explains...

I woke up fuzzy headed with an acidic stomach. I needed the sea. A hit of cold, immersive, healing goodness. Not surprising given the day before included Shell Bay, buttered scallops, chocolate cake and champagne (it was my 40th after all).

My able-bodied limbs running down the zig zag to the prom. Hot-footing it across the scalding sand to plunge into the see-through waters. Glorious beyond imagination.

We have 30ish miles of sandy beaches across Dorset with calm, shallow seas - and yet a lot of people who should be able to have a similar experience, can't. Will Behenna, a wheelchair user since an accident in teenage years,

Pier — 13

74