Energising Dorset's Economy

developing the future

Dorset Council

Clean Energy

Energising Dorset and the UK by accelerating green growth and strengthening energy security.

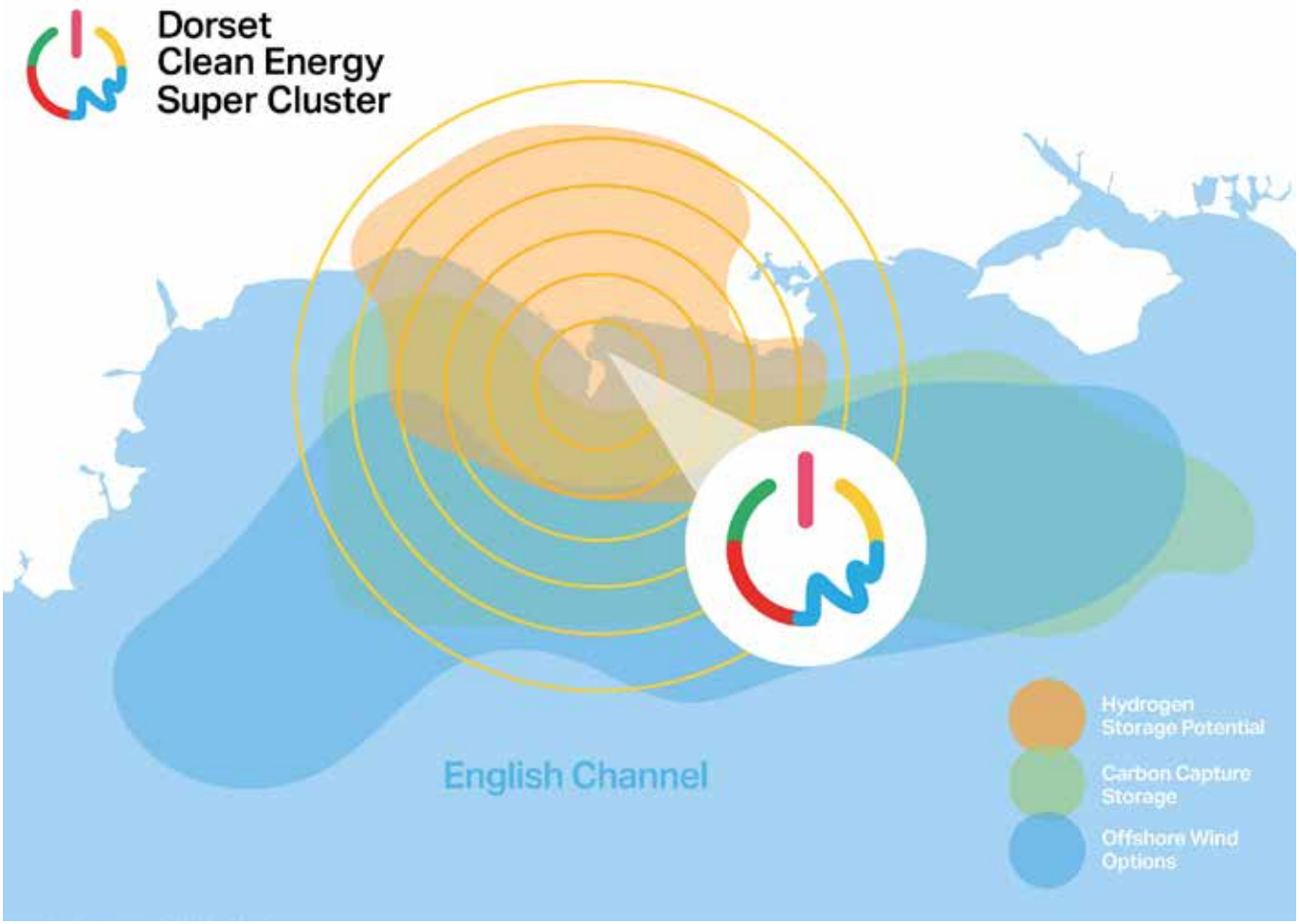
Dorset's famous natural assets and its unique geography and geology together with its deep-water port at Portland make it a prime location in the South of the UK for offshore wind, carbon capture and storage, hydrogen technologies and energy innovation.

Quietly operating as the largest onshore oil field in Western Europe and home of nuclear innovation at Winfrith, Dorset is pivoting to look to the future.

Its commitment to sustainability and support for clean energy businesses makes it a strong location for those looking to develop and invest in clean energy and net zero transition solutions.

We are working collaboratively with the recently formed Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster which brings together private sector businesses focused on fostering collaboration across industry, regulators and government. Its mission is to align processes, accelerate delivery of the UK Industrial Strategy and create real growth benefits to the local community.

With emerging projects centred around the operations hub of Portland Port, investors are set to transform Dorset and help Britain in becoming a clean energy superpower.



The Cluster's aim is to attract £28 billion of international investment into the UK through nationally significant infrastructure projects, to be unlocked in this parliament, in order to deliver the Government's UK Industrial Strategy and its commitments to clean power by 2030 and Net Zero by 2047.

Driving this scarce international investment into the UK, will establish new businesses, stimulate training and new jobs, supply chain development and export opportunities through advancing clean power and energy infrastructure delivery directly by:

- £15 billion in offshore wind to generate up to 3GW at no cost to Government
- £2 billion in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in close proximity to Solent cluster and UK – Southwest and Wales, enabling industrial decarbonisation of key emitters
- £1 billion in hydrogen import, storage and generation in South Dorset to offer alternative clean energy solutions for homes and businesses
- establishment of a pipeline site at Winfrith to host Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to power commercial (data/AI) and housing growth
- expanding port infrastructure as national asset to expedite clean power – with the construction of HQ, operations and export
- supporting a wider innovation network of SMEs who see opportunities in a forward facing, clean energy cluster

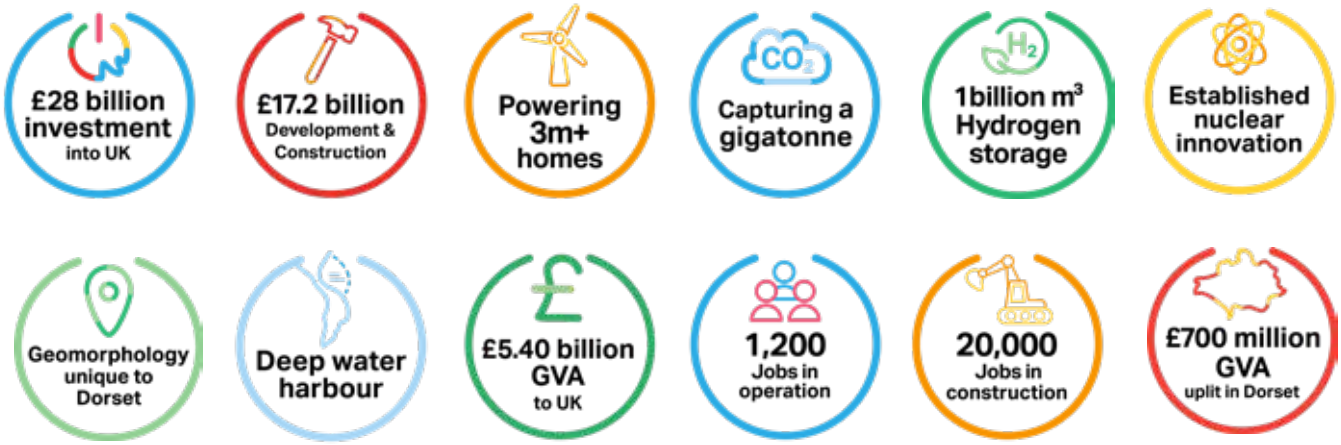
This transition towards a more sustainable, clean energy economy that drives growth, creates the opportunity for significant investment enabling the re-purposing of nuclear and naval sites in Dorset. Plus, a new era of training, job creation and business growth opportunities to re-energise economic and community wellbeing for both Dorset, the UK and beyond.

Accelerating Green Growth & Transition to Net Zero

The opportunities in Dorset provide a live lab on transition to net zero: from oil and gas to offshore wind renewable energy generation, capturing carbon from key industrial emitters (a gigatonne of CO2), generating and storing hydrogen (1 billion cubic metres) as a clean power source and participating in the SMR programme.

Benefits of Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster

- transforming Portland as a Green Energy Island hosting UK supply chain development, stimulating future growth and export potential, in conjunction with local labour and business opportunities
- elevating economic confidence in Dorset as a destination for investment
- powering data / AI across Dorset and up to 3 million homes, and boosting defence sector growth
- economic restructuring: 40-60 ha deep water wind hub
- 20,000 construction jobs in the UK
- £5.4 billion GVA boost
- 50% - 100% supply chain from UK
- export potential of CCS solutions
- indirect benefits through area uplift and supply chain mobilisation, revitalising commercial and housing investors in wider locality including Weymouth
- generating social value through energy investment



Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Summary

PortWind, 2GW Offshore Wind Scheme by Source Galileo - £15b over 35 years. No Government funding required.

- rapid deployment of deep fixed offshore wind in the English Channel to supercharge clean energy production, power manufacturing and clean power investments in Portland, Dorset
- this will include construction and operations of offshore wind
- 22 km offshore, powering port, growth, construction HQ, new homes and jobs
- retaining grid connection at Chickerell 400 kv sub station

Channel Gateway Offshore Wind Hub Port by Morwind

- a sheltered, deepwater wind hub port on the south coast with capacity to expand and accommodate a new industrial cluster
- rapid response potential – design to delivery 5 years by 2030
- construction, operations
- investment potential

CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) scheme

- £1.5m with a further £2.5b over 25 years, no government funding required
- 20 KM offshore, close to Solent and South Wales emitters

- licence required from NSTA (North Sea Transition Authority)
- opportunity for Dorset restructuring, skills transition, new careers
- priority to secure licence

Hydrogen Import, Storage and Generation, by UKEn

- one billion m3 of salt cavern hydrogen storage. Enabling Hydrogen to Power, Green Hydrogen Imports via Portland Port and local Green Hydrogen Generation and Transportation
- decarbonisation of the Solent cluster- the UK's 5th largest CO2 emitter, and the wider marine and aviation sectors
- £2.28billion annual GVA over 30-year operational life
- £800m capex, £665 m GVA form 4-year construction
- 2,000-5,000 jobs during construction, and 135 during operations
- initiation to operation: 2025 – 2030/32

New Nuclear by UK Nuclear

- established nuclear innovation in Dorset will inform SMR (Small Modular Reactor) deployment at Dorset Innovation Park
- estimate £10 billion
- project development 2025-2028, construction to 2032

Investment opportunity

Investment Opportunity - Dorset Innovation Park

Dorset Innovation Park is a pioneering advanced engineering cluster and centre of excellence for the south west.

Leveraging strengths in marine, defence, energy, and cybersecurity, the park offers a unique proposition as Dorset's Enterprise Zone. Equipped with office spaces, workshop facilities, and fully serviced commercial employment land, the park provides businesses with an environment conducive to innovation and growth.

Dorset Innovation Park boasts a distinguished roster of tenants, including world leaders in defence technology such as Atlas Elektronik and QinetiQ, alongside the MOD Defence BattleLab facility, HM Coastguard, and Norco. Moreover, the region offers a vibrant supply chain supported by key trade associations, access to a highly skilled local workforce, and collaboration opportunities with universities and centres of excellence.

The park's strategic location within a one-hour radius of civil and military centres of excellence across the south west further enhances its appeal as a hub for innovation and collaboration across the region.

A new management company has been established to provide vision and leadership across the park and to drive a community of innovation in the defence and cybersecurity sectors. The company brings commercial expertise and innovation to the delivery of the park. With over 25 acres of developable land still available the company and Dorset Council are investing in new site infrastructure and facilities to ensure the innovation park benefits from readily available land supported by the best possible occupier experience.

Investment opportunities at the innovation park, including land for sale or lease, centre around ten large plot areas, that can be sub-divided into smaller plots starting at 0.5 hectares. Ancillary investment opportunities are also available for hotel, small scale retail and hospitality uses, plus other supportive developments.

The site benefits from a simplified, 28-day planning process, secure access and perimeter facilities and 24 hour security presence, access to research and collaboration space at the Defence BattleLab and MOD testing ranges, and secure dark fibre and 5G testing facilities.

BATTLELAB

Regeneration

Regeneration in Weymouth

Dorset Council is driving forward the regeneration of Weymouth, a popular seaside town brimming with potential.

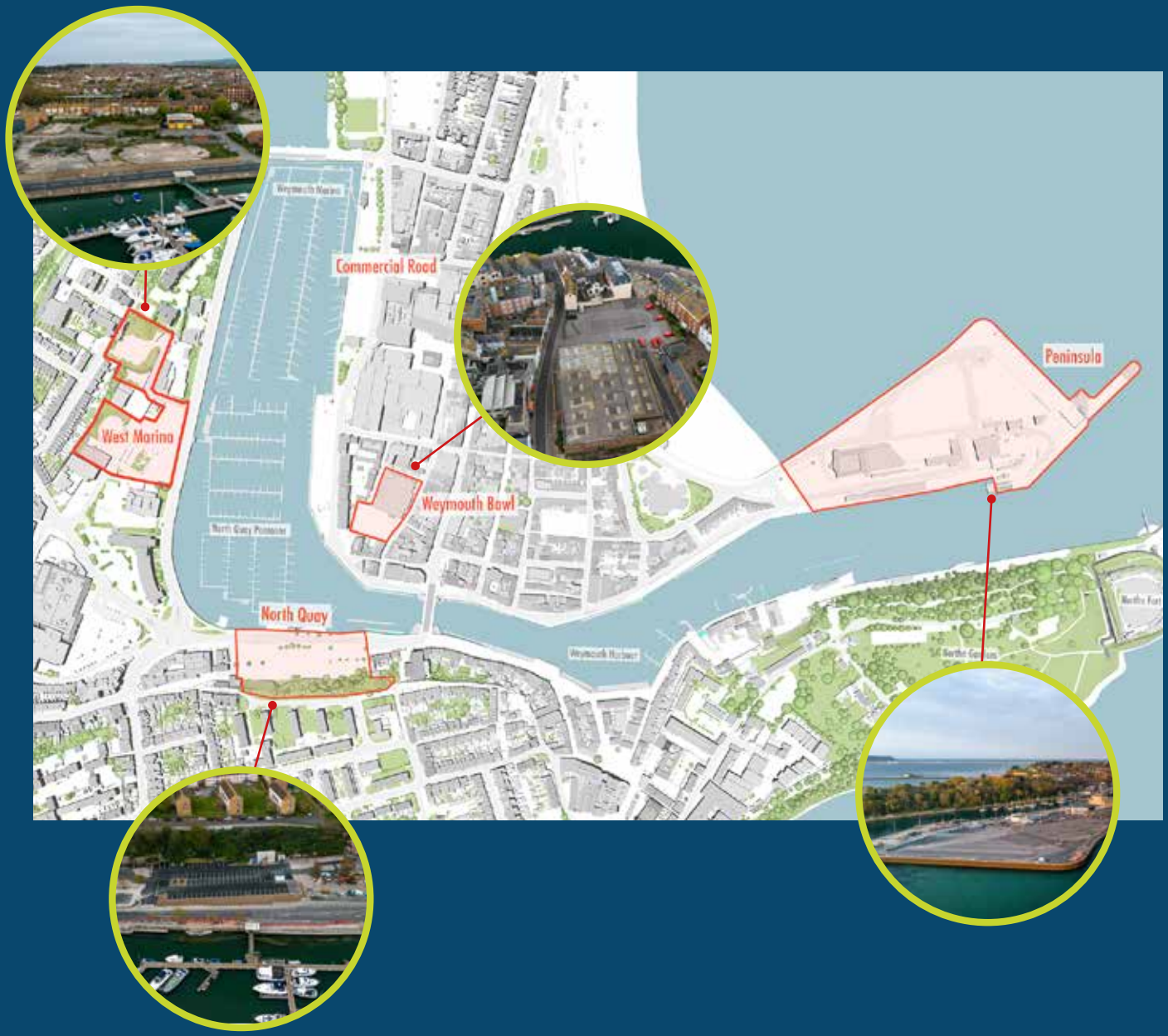
Boasting a multi award-winning beach, a magnificent Georgian seafront and a historic working harbour, Weymouth is strategically located 7 miles south of Dorchester, 5 miles north of Portland, and 10 miles west of Winfrith. It has a population of around 52,000 and has direct rail and bus links to London and Bristol.

Weymouth is at the centre of England's only Natural World Heritage Site, home to the National Sailing Academy and it's working harbour provides nearby Michelin starred restaurants with exceptional sea-to-plate dining experiences.

Within one square mile of Weymouth's beach and historic working harbour, we offer prime development opportunities featuring fantastic sea or marina views. These sites have unique and exceptional waterfront potential to deliver transformative improvements, enhancing the quality of life for residents and driving economic growth.

The development of these sites will act as a catalyst for attracting future investment and boosting productivity. Coupled with the clean energy prospects at Portland and Winfrith, this project positions Dorset at the forefront of the UK's clean, green energy sector.

Key sites for development



Contact details

Matthew Piles
Strategic Director - Weymouth 2040
matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Nick Webster
Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration
nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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