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To: All Members
of the Dartmoor National Park Authority

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Date: 26 August 2026

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 04 September 2026

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on the above date, **commencing at 11.00am, or on the rising of the Development Management Committee, whichever is the later, in the Ian Mercer Meeting Room at Parke, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9JQ** to consider the following matters.

Registered speakers are able to participate remotely or in person by following our procedure.

Members of the public may attend in person or can follow proceedings by listening to the live audio of meetings: Channel content - YouTube Studio

Tom Surrey
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Access to Information - Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Agenda and Reports
Copies of the Agenda and Part I reports are available for inspection by members of the public on the Authority's website: Authority Meetings | Dartmoor. They are also available at the Authority's main office at Parke, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9JQ during office opening times five clear days prior to the meeting.

Background Papers
The Background Papers relating to Part I reports, except any containing exempt information, are available on our website Meetings and committees | Dartmoor.

AGENDA

PART I - OPEN PROCEEDINGS

1 Welcome and Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any pecuniary, registerable or personal interest relating to any agenda item at this stage in the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Authority meetings held on 3 July 2026 (Pg.3)

Please raise any issues or questions with the relevant officer **before** the meeting.

4 Chair's Report

5 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

6 Public Participation

To answer any questions or to receive any statements, representations or petitions which relate to the published reports in Part I of the Agenda. Representations will be heard immediately prior to the item to which they refer.

7 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Programme Update

Report of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Manager NPA/26/016 (Pg.16)

8 2026/27 Policy for Signing and Waymarking Public Rights of Way, Permissive Paths & Access Land

Report of the Head of Recreation, Access & Estates NPA/26/017 (Pg.19)

9 Financial Management 1 April to 30 June 2026 and Forecast of Financial Outturn 2026/27

Report of the Chief Finance Officer & S151 NPA/26/018 (Pg.33)

10 2026/27 Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29

Report of the Chief Finance Officer & S151 NPA/26/019 (Pg.39)

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

None

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership: W Dracup, M Fife Cook, J Galbenu, G Hill, M Jeffery, R Keeling, J Major, S Morgan, C Mott, J Nutley, M Owen, G Pannell, M Renders, S Rogers, M Seddon, P Smerdon, D Thomas, M Williams, P Woods

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Public Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 03 July 2026

Present: Will Dracup, Michael Fife Cook, Julia Galbenu, Gay Hill, Mike Jeffery, Jack Major, Sally Morgan, Caroline Mott, John Nutley, Mark Owen, Guy Pannell, Mark Renders, Stuart Rogers, Mary Seddon, Catherine Shewan (Independent Person), Peter Smerdon, Dan Thomas, Mark Williams, Pamela Woods

Apologies: Richard Keeling

Officers in attendance: Dean Kinsella (Director of Spatial Planning), Neil White (Head of Organisational Development), Penny Bailey (Business Support – Minutes), Jad Kozuch (Business Support – Minutes)

The Acting Chief Executive, Dean Kinsella, welcomed Members to the Annual Meeting and advised that, in accordance with Standing Orders, he would preside over the first item of business, namely the election of Chair. He informed Members that, once elected, the Chair would preside over the remainder of the meeting. He invited the Monitoring Officer, Neil White, to announce the valid nominations received for the office of Chair.

3769 Election of Chair

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mr Dracup. No further nominations were received.

Mr Dracup confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Authority until the next Annual Meeting.

Upon taking the Chair, Mr Dracup thanked Members for their continued support. He stated that it had been a privilege to serve as Chair during the previous twelve months and that he looked forward to continuing to represent the Authority to the best of his ability over the coming year.

3770 Election of Deputy Chair

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to announce the nominations received for Deputy Chair.

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mr Renders. No further nominations were received.

Mr Renders confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Renders was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Authority until the next Annual Meeting.

3771 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Keeling.

No declarations of interest were made.

3772 Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels

Development Management Committee

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Development Management Committee comprises all Members of the Authority unless they notify the Authority in writing that they do not wish to serve. One written notification had been received from Miss Galbenu indicating that she did not wish to serve on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

All Members, with the exception of Miss Galbenu, were appointed to serve on the Development Management Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Audit and Governance Committee

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Committee comprises ten Members, including at least one local authority Member and one Secretary of State appointed Member. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority serve as ex-officio Members.

Expressions of interest had been received from Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Owen, Mr Renders, Dr Seddon, Mr Smerdon and Mr Williams. Following a request for further expressions of interest, Mr Major indicated his willingness to serve. Together with the ex-officio appointments of Mr Dracup and Mr Renders, this completed the Committee membership.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup (ex-officio), Mr Renders (ex-officio), Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mr Major, Mr Nutley, Mr Owen, Dr Seddon, Mr Smerdon and Mr Williams were appointed to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Standards Sub-Committee

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Standards Sub-Committee comprises six Members of the Audit and Governance Committee, together with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority as ex-officio Members. It was noted that expressions of interest had been received from Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Renders, Mr Williams, and Dr Seddon, together with the ex-officio Members.

During discussion, it was identified that the Sub-Committee required one further Member to complete its membership. Mr Major indicated his willingness to serve on the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup (ex-officio), Mr Renders (ex-officio), Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Williams, Dr Seddon and Mr Major were appointed to serve on the Standards Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Park Management Working Panel

The Monitoring Officer advised that expressions of interest had been received from Mrs Hill, Miss Galbenu, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Mott, Mr Pannell, Mr Renders, Dr Seddon, Mr Owen, Mr Williams and Mr Nutley to serve on the Park Management Working Panel. The Chair reminded Members that any Member of the Authority could attend meetings of the Panel. The Chair also expressed an interest in serving on the Panel.

No further expressions of interest were received.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup, Miss Galbenu, Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Mott, Mr Nutley, Mr Owen, Mr Pannell, Mr Renders, Dr Seddon and Mr Williams were appointed to serve on the Park Management Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel would meet on four occasions during the forthcoming year to support the preparation of the Authority's Local Plan. He encouraged Members to consider serving on the Panel in view of the importance of the work programme.

Expressions of interest had initially been received from Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Pannell, Mr Renders, Mr Smerdon and Mr Williams. During the meeting, the Chair, Mr Thomas, Mr Rogers, Miss Galbenu, Dr Seddon, Mrs Hill and Mr Owen also expressed an interest in serving on the Panel.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup, Miss Galbenu, Mrs Hill, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Owen, Mr Pannell, Mr Renders, Mr Rogers, Dr Seddon, Mr Smerdon, Mr Thomas and Mr Williams were appointed to serve on the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

3773 <u>Election of Chair and Deputy Chair – Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels</u>

Chair – Development Management Committee

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mrs Mott. No further nominations were received.

Mrs Mott confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Mott was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Development Management Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Deputy Chair – Development Management Committee

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mr Pannell. No further nominations were received.

Mr Pannell confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Pannell was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Development Management Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Chair - Audit and Governance Committee

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mrs Morgan. No further nominations were received.

Mrs Morgan confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Morgan was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Deputy Chair – Audit and Governance Committee

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Dr Seddon. No further nominations were received.

Dr Seddon confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Dr Seddon was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Chair – Standards Sub-Committee

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mrs Morgan. No other nominations had been received.

Mrs Morgan confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Morgan was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Standards Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Chair – Park Management Working Panel

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Dr Seddon. No further nominations were received.

Dr Seddon confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Dr Seddon was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Park Management Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

Chair - Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one valid nomination had been received for Mr Smerdon. No further nominations were received.

Mr Smerdon confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Smerdon was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

3774 Appointments to Working Groups

Chair's Advisory Group

The Monitoring Officer advised that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the membership of the Chair's Advisory Group is normally comprised of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority together with the Chairs of the Authority's Committees and Working Panels. Members indicated that they wished to continue to apply this convention.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup, Mr Renders, Mrs Mott, Mrs Morgan, Dr Seddon and Mr Smerdon were appointed to serve, alongside the Chief Executive, on the Chair's Advisory Group until the next Annual Meeting.

Chief Executive Performance Review Group

The Monitoring Officer advised that the membership of the Chief Executive Performance Review Group is determined annually by the Authority and traditionally comprises the

Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority together with the Chair of the Development Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

Mr Dracup, Mr Renders and Mrs Mott were appointed to serve on the Chief Executive Performance Review Group until the next Annual Meeting.

3775 <u>Appointments to Outside Bodies 2026/27</u>

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that, where an appointed representative was unable to attend a meeting of an outside body, they should contact the appointed substitute Member at the earliest opportunity to arrange attendance in their absence.

This was in addition to the requirements of Standing Order 5.3, which requires Members to notify Parke of their apologies not less than three days prior to the meeting. He advised Members that the Authority would contact all external 'outside bodies' to advise of Member representation and would provide Members with relevant contact details in order that they could be advised of meetings.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Authority would notify each outside body of the appointments made and provide Members with the relevant contact details. Members were also reminded to confirm their attendance at meetings of outside bodies either shortly after the meeting or when completing their quarterly attendance returns.

Members considered the appointments to the Authority's outside bodies.

RESOLVED:

Members were appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies until the next Annual Meeting as per the attached schedule.

3776 <u>Calendar of Meetings 2026/27</u>

Members considered the Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27

RESOLVED: Members APPROVED the Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27.

MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2026/2027

Please Note: When an appointed Member representative is unable to attend a meeting, that Member will be required to contact the appointed substitute Member direct, at the earliest opportunity, to arrange for the substitute Member to attend the meeting in their absence.

Body/Group	2026/27 Member
Campaign for National Parks (1) The Campaign for National Parks is a charity that works to protect and enhance the National Parks and areas that merit national park status, and to promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them. (The member is invited by the Campaign, but approved by the Authority)	Mrs Caroline Mott Mr William Dracup (Substitute)
Dartmoor Access Forum (2) The Local Access Forum is a statutory advisory body established by the DNPA in accordance with the requirements of the CROW Act 2000. The Forum meets four times a year. At least one member should be a serving member of the Park Management Working Panel.	Ms Julia Galbenu Mr Mark Owen
Dartmoor Commoners' Council (1 Member plus a substitute) The Dartmoor Commoners' Council was set up under the provisions of the 1985 Dartmoor Commons Act, to regulate agricultural use of the commons. It consists of representatives of the commoners, the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, common land owners and a Veterinarian Surgeon. It meets eight times a year.	Mr William Dracup (it was agreed not to appoint a substitute Member)
Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Steering Group (1) The DNPA has secured funding from a variety of sources to extend work of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project. The overall aim of the project is to contribute to the viability of farm businesses on Dartmoor in ways that help sustain the special qualities of the National Park. In the coming year there will be a review of the project and associated steering group.	Mr Mark Williams
Dartmoor Rural Crime Initiative (5) A joint initiative with Devon and Cornwall Police and other partners. It is recommended that the four Secretary of State Parish Members are appointed as 'community representatives' plus the Chair of the Authority. It is proposed to meet twice a year.	Mr William Dracup Mrs Gay Hill Mr Mark Renders Mr Peter Smerdon Mr Mark Williams
Dartmoor Steering Group (3) The Steering Group was set up by Parliament following the 1975/76 inquiry conducted by Lady Sharp into the military training use of Dartmoor. Its purpose is to reconcile the (sometimes) competing interests of military training and national park designation and to seek ways of minimising the adverse impact of the training requirement at any one time. More recently the Group has focussed in a positive way on conservation and access benefits of the Defence Estate on Dartmoor. It consists of representatives of all the military interest, the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, Natural England, Historic England and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council. It is served by the Dartmoor Working Party comprised of officers of the DNPA, MoD and other bodies. The Steering Group reports to the Department for the Environment,	Mr William Dracup Mrs Caroline Mott Mr Mark Renders

Body/Group	2026/27 Member
Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry for Defence. It meets annually. **(It is customary for the Chair and Deputy Chair to take two of these seats)**	
Dartmoor Trust (1) The Dartmoor Trust has one DNPA Member representative on the Board of Management. The purposes of the Trust closely reflect National Park purposes. The Trust was established by the DNPA as an independent charitable Trust in the early 1990s in order to harness public and other donations for the good of Dartmoor.	Dr Mary Seddon
Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscapes Executive Board (1) DDL is a partnership bringing the Authority together alongside a number of partners to deliver the National Lottery heritage funded programme from 2025 until 2030. The partnership has a landscape focus on Dartmoor's river catchments of the Okement, the Dart and the Erme & Yealm. The programme also has a particular focus on the communities of Okehampton, Princetown and Ivybridge. **Requirement:** **Chair of the Authority to Chair the Executive Board which meets four times per annum. A named member should be identified as a substitute**.	Mrs Caroline Mott Dr Mary Seddon (Substitute)
Devon Communities Together (1) Devon Communities Together (former Community Council for Devon) exists to promote local community interests. Member representation is required only at the Annual Conference and the Annual General Meeting.	Mr Peter Smerdon
Joint Advisory Committee on Provision of Housing for Local Needs (3) This is a joint advisory committee of the three District Councils in the National Park, the DNPA, Devon Communities Together and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). It exists to co-ordinate the planning functions of the NPA with the housing functions of the other bodies. It meets twice a year and is chaired by an Authority Member.	Mrs Gay Hill Mr Guy Pannell Mr Mark Renders Mr Mark Williams Mr Jack Major
Land Availability Assessment Panel (2) The Land Availability Assessment (LAA) Panel is set up to consider land submitted to the Call for Sites for the Local Plan. The Panel comprises professionals in their field such as land and estate agents, small and large developers, the Environment Agency and Highways Agency. Three Community Representatives, appointed from the Authority, may also attend the Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to consider whether a potential housing or employment site may be technically deliverable.	Mrs Gay Hill Mr Guy Pannell
Meldon Viaduct Company (1) In February 1999, the Meldon Viaduct Company was set up for the sole purpose of safeguarding and maintaining the Viaduct to ensure its future as a monument to Victorian engineering and as a valuable recreational resource. The appointed member will sit on the Board of Directors along with representatives from the Aggregate Industries Limited, Dartmoor Railway, Sustrans, and the County and Borough Councils. The group meets quarterly.	Mrs Caroline Mott
National Parks England (1)	Mr William Dracup

Body/Group	2026/27 Member
A limited Company established by the ten English National Park Authorities to represent their views and promote their needs at a national level. The Directors of the Company are the respective Chairs of the National Park Authorities.	
National Parks Partnerships Limited (1) *A limited liability partnership established by all 15 UK National Parks as a vehicle to secure commercial sponsorship to fund conservation and recreation projects in the National Parks. It is recommended that the Chair of the Authority is formally appointed to the Partnership Board, as the Authority's representative, with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) acting as a deputy. The Board will meet once a year.*	Mr William Dracup Mr Mark Renders (Substitute)
Team Devon Joint Committee (1 plus a substitute) Team Devon (Leaders and Chief Executives) have established this Joint Committee to formalise the existing partnership that would create opportunities to strengthen joint work, partnership and collaboration. The Joint Committee will focus on how Devon's National Park Authorities, parish, town, district and county councils will work jointly on shared priorities for the benefit of people and places across the county. The functions of the Joint Committee will be to: Support continuous improvement and value for money in the ways that Devon's National Park Authorities, parish, town, district and county councils exercise their duties and responsibilities through, for example, aligning performance measures and sharing or integrating services. Contribute strategically to the environmental, economic and social wellbeing objectives for Devon's people and communities. **The Chair of the Authority will be the Authority's representative on the Team Devon Joint Committee and that the Deputy Chair of the Authority will substitute for the Chair on the Team Devon Joint Committee.**	Mr William Dracup Mr Mark Renders (Substitute)
Dartmoor Partnership Plan Board (1) The Dartmoor Partnership Plan outlines the strategic oversight to shape the future of Dartmoor, aiming for a climate-resilient and nature-rich environment by 2045. The Board's role includes ensuring alignment with statutory purposes, collaboration, monitoring, and promoting the plan effectively. The Partnership Board, comprising representatives from various organisations, focus is on strategic leadership, collaboration, monitoring progress, data collection, and consensus building to support the Dartmoor Partnership Plan's development. The Board meets quarterly (4 meetings per year) to discuss the plan's progress, with the Dartmoor National Park Authority facilitating the meetings and maintaining oversight of the plan's production and monitoring. **The Chair of the Authority will be appointed to the Board, with the Deputy Chair acting as substitute.**	Mr William Dracup Mr Mark Renders (Substitute)

Body/Group	2026/27 Member
Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Assessment Panel (2) FiPL is a ring-fenced grant from DEFRA which is administered by the Authority. It offers grants to farmers and farmer groups and has been extended for this financial year.	Mr Mark Owen Mr Mark Williams

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 03 July 2026

Present: Will Dracup (Chair), Catherine Shewan (Independent Person), Michael Fife Cook, Julia Galbenu, Gay Hill, Mike Jeffery, Jak Major, Sally Morgan, Caroline Mott, John Nutley, Mark Owen, Guy Pannell, Mark Renders, Stuart Rogers, Mary Seddon, Peter Smerdon, Dan Thomas, Mark Williams, Pamela Woods

Apologies: Richard Keeling

Officers in attendance: Dean Kinsella (Director of Spatial Planning), James Sharpe (Strategic Planning and Project Manager), Penny Bailey (Minutes), Jad Kozuch (Minutes)

3769 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the Independent Person, Mrs Catherine Shewan as well as any members of the press and public who may be listening in. He also welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

3770 Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared a personal interest in the update on the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes (DDL) programme, due to the fact that Shallowford was a beneficiary of the programme.

3771 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2026

The Chair noted a correction to the list of attendees – that Catherine Shewan was the Independent Person who had attended the meeting.

With regard to Minute 3765 – Annual Review 2025-26 – clarification was sought regarding the use of the term ‘evolving’. Officers advised Members that this referred to feedback received and the ongoing development of future iterations of the document.

A further minor correction was noted on page five, replacing “exercised” with emphasised”.

Save for the amendments detailed above, the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 1 May 2026, having been printed and circulated, were approved as a correct record.

3772 Chair’s Report

The Chair reported:

- Members’ thanks and congratulations to Ms Woods for agreeing to continue for a further three months during the recruitment process for a new Secretary of State appointed Member;
- that 18 applications had been received for the vacancy and that the selection process was underway;
- Congratulations to Mr Jeffery on 50 years’ service on Moretonhampstead Parish Council;
- Work on the Local Plan, alongside the Partnership Plan, was progressing; an important time for the Authority and Dartmoor’s future;

- He had attended the UK National Park Partnership Board meeting in the South Downs, which included discussions on green finance, biodiversity net gain, and wildfire preparedness across National Parks;
- He, together with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), would be attending the 75th anniversary celebration event in the Peak District; the Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh CBE MP, is expected to attend.

3773 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None.

3774 Public Participation

The Chair welcomed Mr Grayson, speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony and the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association.

Mr Grayson raised concerns regarding the future of Dartmoor Hill Ponies, stating that they are different to other livestock; they are a genuinely localised a semi-wild population dating back three and a half millennia, into the Bronze Age. There are now fewer that a thousand left on the moor; there are risks associated with reduced breeding populations and genetic bottlenecks. He added that these issues are due to “bureaucratic tidying” of stock levels.

Plymouth City Council had, he stated, passed a motion ‘Protecting the Dartmoor Ponies; it was also understood that Devon County Council has a similar motion proposed for September. He requested that the Authority, as a central stakeholder, writes to the Secretary of State for DEFRA and Natural England, urging the continuation of the HLS scheme for a further year, allowing the Fursdon Review to conclude and that Recommendation 27 within the Review (separating ponies from cattle) be implemented. Protection of current here numbers was imperative.

The Chair thanked Mr Grayson for his presentation and confirmed that a written response would be provided in the near future.

No questions were raised by Members.

3775 Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes (DDL) Programme Update

Considered: The report of James Sharpe, Strategic Planning and Project Manager (NPA/26/015)

Members were advised that the DDL programme is a five-year partnership programme funded primarily by the National Lottery Heritage Fund; the programme is now in its second year, with just under four years remaining and comprises nine partner organisations and 15 projects, with a total programme value of approximately £5.5 million.

Members discussed:

- The importance of capturing community and participant feedback;
- Opportunities to broaden engagement beyond existing audiences;
- The importance of legacy and long-term outcomes beyond the life of the programme;
- The value of citizen science and volunteer contributions;

- Concerns raised regarding volunteer support and communication in some project areas, including equipment provision and responsiveness;
- The importance of ensuring that partner organisations are effectively supporting volunteers; and
- The need to ensure school engagement is sustained and expanded.

Officers confirmed:

- That a “Champion Schools” pilot is underway, with 12 of 13 local schools engaged;
- A coordinated engagement model is being developed to strengthen school relationships;
- A partner meeting will take place on 3 August at YHA Bracken Tor, with opportunities to engage local groups;
- Community grant funding (“Moorscapes”) is available, with up to £5,000 per project and a total budget of £145,000;
- Engagement with volunteer groups is ongoing, with opportunities for further collaboration and support.

Members further discussed:

- The need to strengthen links with existing volunteer networks across catchments;
- The importance of ensuring coordination with existing initiatives led by partner organisations;
- Opportunities to improve evaluation of events and community impact;
- The success of recent festival activity and community engagement;
- The importance of aligning DDL activity with the wider National Park Partnership Plan and long-term strategic outcomes.

Resolved: Members:

i. noted the report and welcomed the update on the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes programme; and

ii. agreed that a further update on the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes Programme be presented to the Authority at its November meeting, to provide an end-of-summer progress report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.12 pm.

NPA/26/016

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Friday 4 September 2026

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Programme Update

Report of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Manager

Recommendation: **That Members note the contents of this report**

1 Background

1.1 As identified in previous reports, the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme originally formed part of Defra's (Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs) Agricultural Transition Plan. Through the programme, Protected Landscapes offer funding to farmers and land managers in Protected Landscapes that:

- Support nature recovery
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- Protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place.

1.2 The Farming in Protected Landscape scheme is a flexible, applicant led, competitive local grant programme that was launched in July 2021 for an initial three-year period and has received subsequent annual extensions. The programme is currently scheduled to operate until March 2029.

1.3 Since 2021, over £3.5 million has been delivered through more than 200 projects across Dartmoor with a further £2 million to be allocated between now and March 2029. Examples of projects funded on Dartmoor in years 1-5 can be found here: Farming in Protected Landscapes: Example Projects | Dartmoor

2 2026-29 Grant Allocation and Funding Update

2.1 Dartmoor's annual allocation for the next three years is £922,104 of which £153,574 is dedicated to staffing and administration costs and £768,530 is for direct project delivery. Of the project funding allocation, £615,835 is capital funding and £152,695 is revenue funding.

2.2 Defra has not provided any uplift in the dedicated revenue staffing budget for the programme and instead has indicated that any increase in staff costs over the next three years should be met using the project revenue funding allocation.

2.3 For 2026-27 the current project and budget situation is as follows:

- 89 project enquiries submitted since 1 April 2026.
- Allocated £209,752 (27% of budget) across 18 projects.
- 8 projects nearing final submission with a grant value of £255,488 (33% of budget).
- Further 39 projects at various stages of development but indicative costs suggest an over allocation. Any projects not funded in 2026-27 will be prioritised for funding in 2027-28.

3 Staffing and Local Assessment Panel Membership

3.1 Following the Secretary of State's announcement of the extension to FiPL, a new team structure was proposed to increase capacity and support for project application development, reporting and most significantly external communications primality focussed on promotion and celebration. In March 2026 the proposed structure was presented to Leadership Team who supported the approach and requests to recruit. The team is now composed of a part-time programme officer (0.6 FTE), two advisers (1.9 FTE) and one part-time manager (0.4 FTE).

3.2 Internal recruitment for an additional FiPL adviser post was completed, and Kaitlin Perryman was appointed to the role having been promoted from her position as FiPL Programme Officer. External recruitment was then completed for a part-time Programme Officer role which led to the appointment of Gemma Eales.
Bea Dunscombe retains her post as FiPL Adviser.

3.3 As a result of the three-year extension to the FiPL programme, employment contracts have been agreed until 31 March 2029.

3.4 The Local Assessment Panel continues to offer valuable scrutiny, insight and advice on project applications. Four panel meetings have been held in 2026/27 with a further three scheduled before the end of the financial year.

3.5 Membership of the Local Assessment Panel has undergone significant change in the past six months with the loss of four experienced and engaged members, including the Chair of the panel. On behalf of the Authority the FiPL team would formally like to note our thanks to Russell Ashford, John Howell, Ann Willcocks and Will Dracup for their valuable contributions during their time as serving members. Five new members have successfully been appointed, and the team looks forward to working with the panel to support farmers and land managers on Dartmoor over the coming years.

4 Multi-Year Projects and Agreements

4.1 The FiPL programme's support of multi-year projects has altered this year for the remainder of the programme. Support is now offered to multi-year projects through phased project development in contrast to the format of multi-year agreements operated in years 1-3 of the programme.

Project outcomes must deliver on an annual basis linked to annual agreements and review by the FiPL team and Local Assessment Panel. This ensures funding is managed fairly and that projects demonstrate delivery before funding is committed for subsequent years.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The team is on track to deliver the budget by the end of March 2027.

5.2 FiPL continues to be a well-received programme by the farming community. In particular, support from advisors and officers is complimented and identified as a key enabler of access to funding that might otherwise be inaccessible to many of Dartmoor's farmers.

5.3 The new team structure will provide capacity to improve external communications about the programme, particularly focussed on promoting and celebrating FiPL on Dartmoor

5.4 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

JAMES WRIGHT

NPA/26/017

Dartmoor National Park Authority

04 September 2026

2026/27 Policy for Signing and Waymarking Public Rights of Way, Permissive Paths & Access Land

Report of the Head of Recreation, Access & Estates

Recommendation: **That the draft policy for signing and waymarking, attached at Appendix 1, is approved.**

1 Background

1.1 Under an agreement with Devon County Council (DCC - the highway authority), Dartmoor National Park Authority protects and asserts the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of public rights of way within the National Park. This Agreement includes responsibility for the maintenance and enforcement of most of the rights of way within the National Park, on behalf of the County Council.

1.2 This policy builds on work by the Authority in recent years to improve the quality of access signage and has been developed following work undertaken by the Dartmoor Access Forum's (DAF) signage sub-group and taking into account the advice provided by them to the Authority. Its development assists rangers, access teams and volunteers to provide a consistent approach for the signing and waymarking of public paths, permissive routes and access land.

1.3 This policy re-affirms our current working practice over recent years, whilst clarifying and updating the Authority's practices for signing and waymarking within Dartmoor National Park. Alongside this, officers are developing a related Promoted Routes policy which will include the management and promotion of routes (including signage requirements).

1.4 This policy ensures that the National Park Authority delivers the best possible experience for people visiting and enjoying the National Park. If approved, it will offer clarity and consistency of signage ensuring that the public understand and enjoy the National Park.

1.5 In developing the policy, Officers have taken account of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Devon County Council, the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, and Guidance published by Natural England for waymarking public rights of way.

2 Key changes and amendments to existing practices

2.1 Key changes to existing practices include the following:

- Finger blade designs include Public Rights of Way (PROW) status, destination and distances (where practical), user symbols (walking person / horse / cycle) dependent on category of route.
- Addition of DNPA logo.
- Intermediate signposts to be replicated where appropriate at path junctions where a waymark post is not used.
- Introduction of roadside granite posts or boulders, engraved with a directional arrow and route status (where paths leave the road onto Dartmoor Commons) within Landscape Recovery Areas initially and then wider across Dartmoor's PROW network, subject to available funding.
- Roadside signing of Unsurfaced Unclassified County Roads (UUCRs) within the National Park, in a similar style to PROW network signage. This is subject to agreement with DCC.

3 Financial implications for the Authority

3.1 The provision and maintenance of path furniture on public rights of way (including signing and waymarking) is met from the funding received from Devon County Council through the Agreement for the maintenance of public rights of way. In 2026/27, the total grant received from DCC for public rights of way work was £43,000. In 2025/26, approximately £15,000 of this revenue budget was spent on signing and waymarking. The Authority will continue to provide this service, in line with the financial resources available.

3.2 More recently, the Authority has had access to DCC's capital budget for public rights of way and it is proposed that some of this will be used for signage works on the access network where improvements and enhancements are being made, for example, by going beyond the statutory minimum for signage by additions of destinations, distances and user category symbols. There is also the potential for funding signage improvements through funding received to implement the three Landscape Recovery Areas on Dartmoor (East Dartmoor, Central Dartmoor and the Walkham Valley). This is dependent on submissions to DEFRA being successful and confirmation of capital funding.

3.3 The production cost per roadside signpost (excluding installation) is approximately £90 and it is intended to continue a signage improvement programme, with the aim of completion over the next five years. This timescale will be reliant on increasing production in-house, with greater use of volunteers. More recently installed roadside signage, currently without additional information, will be replaced as infrastructure comes up for renewal.

3.4 The production costs for signing all Unsurfaced Unclassified County Roads (UUCRs) within the National Park is estimated at £18,000. This would be subject to securing capital funding from the Authority and/or Devon County Council.

4 Equality and Sustainability

4.1 The aim of the policy is to increase accessibility to the countryside which supports the Authority's statutory purposes. The provision of good quality, clear signage and waymarking across the access network, with the additions of destinations, distances and user category symbols, increases confidence of users. The Authority uses local suppliers wherever possible, subject to financial regulations around procurement and ensuring good value for money. It is intended that a greater proportion of locally sourced timber (softwood and hardwood) for signpost production will become available in future, with more signage produced in-house.

ANDREW WATSON

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Draft policy, Signing and Waymarking Policy for Public Rights of Way and Access Land

Appendix 1 to Report No. NPA/26/017

Signing and Waymarking Policy for Public Rights of Way and Access Land

Date	Version	Editor/Author	Notes
August 2026	Draft	A Watson	Draft for Authority Meeting 4/9/2026

Purpose of the Policy

To clarify and update the Authority's practices for the signing and waymarking of public rights of way and access land within Dartmoor National Park. This policy applies to all new work carried out. Existing signage and waymarking will be updated and proliferating signage will be removed as part of ongoing maintenance work, and as access improvements and enhancements are undertaken to the access network.

Introduction

Signposts and waymarks indicate the existence of public rights of way as recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. Signposting shows where a public right of way leaves a metalled road, its legal status and initial direction. Waymarking enables users to follow a path accurately and confidently at points where they might otherwise have difficulty.

Signposts and waymarks are important navigation tools for users of public rights of way and can aid visitor management. They can also be visually intrusive and have an adverse impact on the landscape in remote areas, which is an important consideration within a protected landscape. The Authority has a long-standing principle of not waymarking public rights of way over the remote moorland areas within the national park. Whilst widespread use of intermediate waymark posts along paths and trails could be out of keeping in such areas, it is considered that some sympathetic waymarking at key points would be beneficial (e.g. use of granite posts on parts of the Two Moors Way).

This policy and the associated designs have been developed to provide a clear and consistent approach for Rangers and volunteers, for the signing and waymarking of public paths, permissive routes and Access Land within the national park.

The responsibility for signing and waymarking rests with DNPA through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Devon County Council. Where a legally required signpost is missing, of incorrect status, pointing in the wrong direction, or is not legible / visible (overgrown) it fails the "easy to use" condition criteria for public rights of way.

Signposts

Signposts are erected at the roadside and ***the Authority (through the SLA)* has a <u>statutory duty</u> *under section 27 Countryside Act 1968 to signpost all footpaths, bridleways and byways where they leave a metalled road to the specification at Appendix 1.***

Where public rights of way leave a metalled road and lead onto common land (within the meaning of Dartmoor Commons Act 1985) then a waymark post conforming to the specification at Appendix 2 may be used as an alternative.

- The design of signposts to be used is shown at Appendix 1
- Signposts should normally be used at the point where a path leaves the metalled road
- Fingers should point accurately in the direction of the path
- Signposts should be visible from the metalled road and kept clear of vegetation

- Signposts should be sited so as not to obstruct the road, access to services or interfere with maintenance of hedgerows
- The finger is to be attached to a timber post
- Destinations and distances should normally be included where appropriate (conforming to The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016)
- Appropriate user symbology to be included
- Installation of signposts into footways (pavements) must not be undertaken without prior agreement from Devon County Council

Signing at path junctions

The approach to be followed is to install a waymark post with the relevant waymark(s) attached. If it is considered appropriate, (e.g. where the route is not clear and it would be appropriate to indicate destination and distances) an intermediate signpost may be installed as an alternative to a waymark post. Intermediate signposts should be to the same design standard as roadside signposts (Appendix 1). The decision on the approach to be used at individual locations is left to the discretion of the sector ranger.

Waymarks

The Authority has the power to erect and maintain signs along any footpath, bridleway or byway where it is considered necessary to have one to assist users unfamiliar with the route.

- The design of waymarks to be used is shown at Appendix 3
- Landowners or occupiers should be consulted about any new waymarking
- Waymarks must not be attached to private property such as fences and walls without the prior consent of the owner or occupier
- Where appropriate, waymarks should be fixed to existing field furniture (stiles, gates, bridges etc)
- Waymarks must not be attached to trees
- Old waymarks should be fully removed before new ones are added
- The number of waymarks should be kept to the minimum number necessary to make the route clear, avoid confusion and reduce signage clutter
- If the status of the path changes along its length, (e.g. a footpath becomes a bridleway at a parish boundary) so do the waymark arrows
- For PROW that cross large fields, with land that rises in the middle obscuring the far boundary, then a taller post with a painted white top may be used for a walker or rider to aim for

Granite posts

Granite posts (upright kerbstones) may be used as an alternative to a timber waymark post where a PROW leaves a metalled road onto common land within the national park. Granite boulders may also be suitable for use as a waymark post at path junctions in specific circumstances where the route is not clear and there is evidence of users "losing their way" to aid navigation.

Granite posts or boulders installed on public rights will have a directional arrow as a minimum with additional text where appropriate or practical to do so. Trial locations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This approach is to be trialled initially within Landscape Recovery Areas, subject to external funding and evaluated for its effectiveness. Wider use of granite posts or boulders for waymarking will need to be agreed with Devon County Council and conform to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

Permissive Paths

Permissive paths are not public rights of way, but routes which the landowner has agreed can be used by the public. Some permissive paths are under a formal agreement with the Authority and those should be signposted and waymarked accordingly.

Signposts and waymarks will normally only be erected on permissive paths where there is an agreement in place between the landowner(s) and the Authority, in accordance with a signed Agreement. For agreements that have terminated or lapsed (with no prospect of renewal), signs and waymarks should be removed. Further advice should be sought from the Access Team.

Promoted Routes

Promoted routes (e.g. Two Moors Way, Dartmoor Way, Templer Way) should be signposted and waymarked in line with the latest design standards.

- Statutory waymarks must be used on promoted routes (where they follow footpaths, bridleways etc)
- All waymarks that do not meet the standard should be removed
- Relevant branded discs or plaques can be used to indicate the named path being followed

A separate policy for the management of promoted routes is being developed which will provide further guidance on signing and waymarking of these trails. Both policies should be referred to for signing and waymarking purposes.

Access Land

Under section 19 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) the Authority as the Access Authority, has powers to erect and maintain notices in relation to access land and details of any restrictions.

Before erecting any signs or notices the Authority will consult the landowner or occupier if it is reasonably practicable to do so.

There are two specified signs for Access Land for use at entry and exit points (examples shown at Appendix 3).

Access Land (positive symbol) discs should be attached to existing furniture or to new waymark posts at entry points.

The Access Land (negative symbol) discs should only be used where there is a real need to clarify that access land ends, such as an unsecured boundary.

Supplementary Access Signage

These can be used where appropriate to do so to provide additional information to users or to help with visitor management. We are continuing to develop a suite of in house signage with Dartmoor National Park branding to provide consistency. To avoid signage "clutter" these signs should only be used where necessary to help manage localised issues.

Approved set of supplementary signs (Appendix 3):

- Please close the gate
- Please keep your dog on a lead
- Please keep to the waymarked path
- Footpath only – No cycling
- *Mountain bikers – please give way to horses and walkers
- Route diverted – Please follow waymarked path
- No Unauthorised Vehicles beyond this point

*This will be updated to include the broader term "Cyclists" instead of "Mountain Bikers".

Requests for additional signs to the approved list must be approved by the Head of Recreation, Access & Estates prior to ordering

Seasonal and temporary signs

Temporary signage can be used to help raise awareness or for a specific issue. Temporary signs stop being effective if they are overused or left on site when no longer valid. Temporary signage should include the Authority's logo, website address and/or a contact telephone number.

- Only use signs where there is a clear need to do so
- Ensure signs are properly fixed / mounted and are only in place for as long as they are needed
- Replace if necessary if they become tatty or damaged
- Remove promptly when no longer valid

Temporary signage:

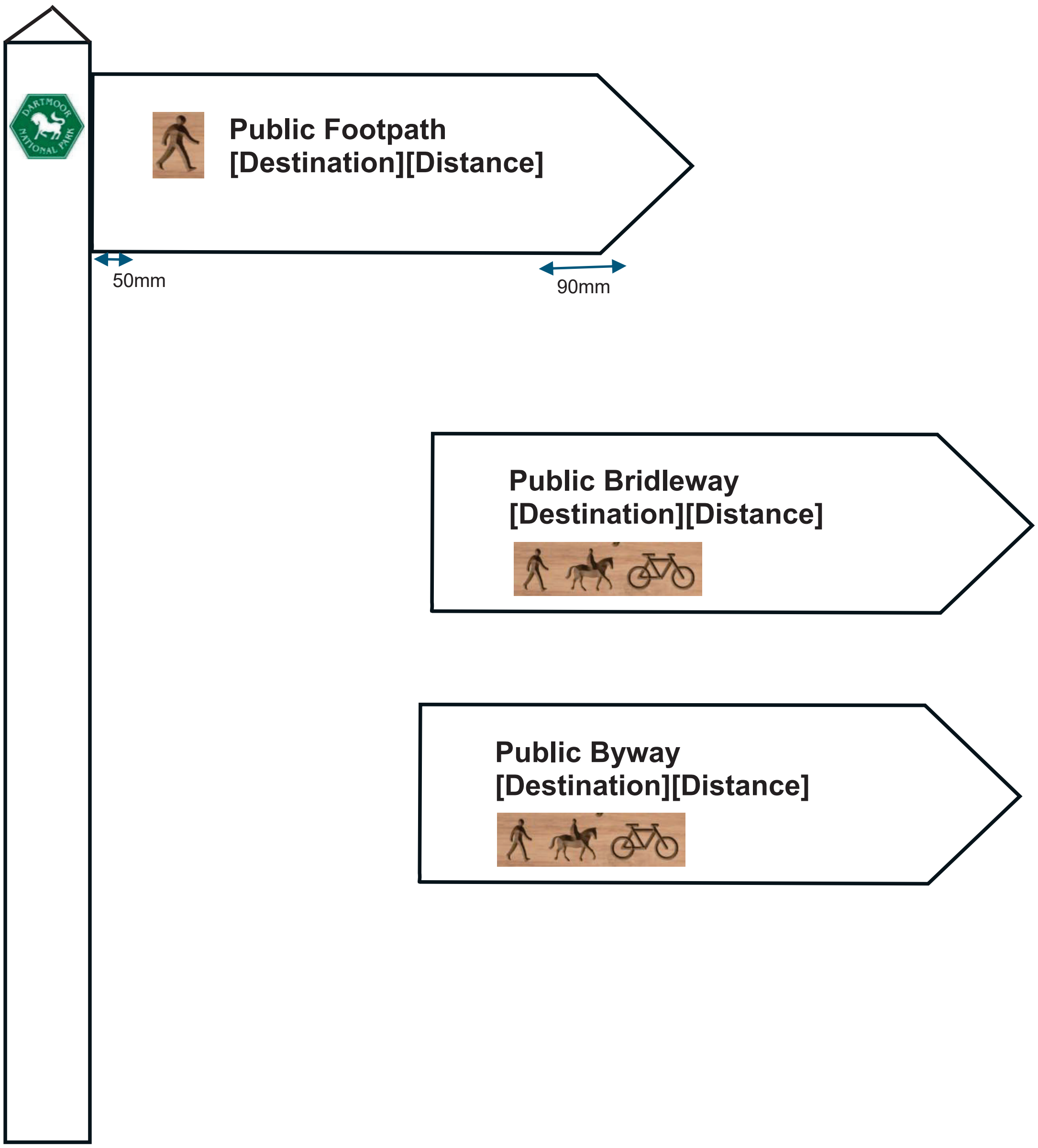
- Lambing signs (e.g. Love Moor Life branding)
- Path Closed
- Advance notice of works, erosion repairs etc
- Legal Order Site Notices (e.g. Path Diversions, Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders etc)

Other temporary signage is to be agreed with the Head of Recreation, Access & Estates on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix 1

Specification for timber Footpath/Bridleway/Byway Signpost for PROW

- Tanalised timber softwood post (4 Way Weather top)
- Planed oak pointed finger blade with chamfered edges
- Finger blades to be fitted to 100mm x 100mm x 2.4m posts with a through mortice and fixed with glue and dowel (tanalised softwood to British Standard or locally sourced hardwood)
- Multiple finger fitted to post 100mm x 100mm x 2.4m
- Must state path legal status (Public Footpath / Public Bridleway / Public Byway)
- DNPA Logo routed onto post (and black infilled)
- Routed lettering to be in-filled with black paint to in house font style
- Finger blade to be oiled / treated prior to installation



Visualisations of Typical Content Design for Fingerposts

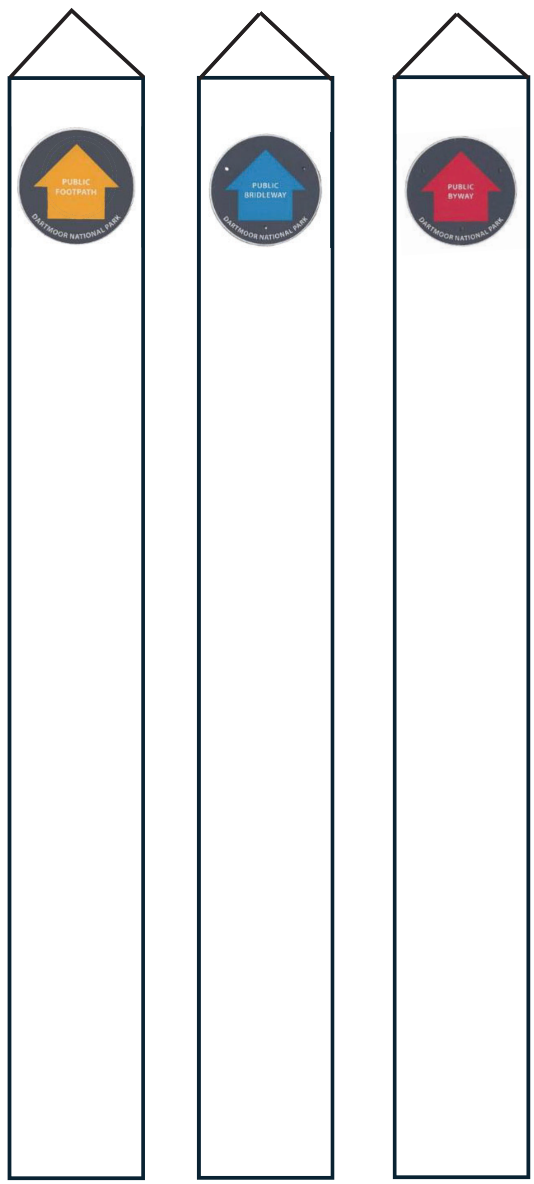
Public Footpath

Public Bridleway

Appendix 2

Specification for timber Footpath/Bridleway/Byway Waymark Post for PROW

- Tanalised timber softwood post (4WW top) 100mm x 100mm x 1.5m
- Must state path legal status with appropriate waymark disc (Public Footpath / Public Bridleway / Public Byway) and indicating direction of route



Appendix 3

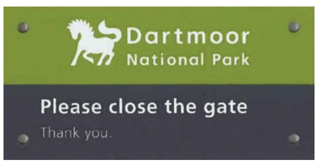
Waymarks and advisory access signage

	**Public Footpath**
	**Public Bridleway**
	**Public Byway**
	**Permissive Footpath**
	**Permissive Bridleway**

Advisory signage may be installed where deemed necessary to assist with access management

Please keep your dog on a lead

Where to use:
On PROW where there have been specific issues relating to dogs off leads

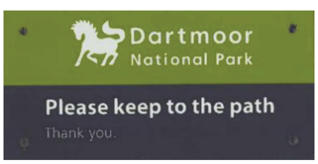


Please close the gate

Where to use:
On all new gate installations

***Mountain Bikers – Please give way to horse riders and walkers**

Where to use:
On bridleways or byways where there has been a history of issues or conflicts between users
*This sign is to be revised to say "Cyclists"

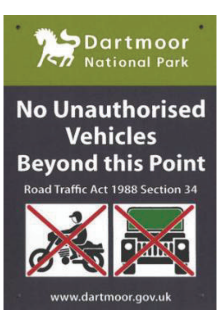


Please keep to the path

Where to use:
On PROW where users stray from the public right of way and can be used in conjunction with improved waymarking

No cycling

Where to use:
On footpaths where there have been issues with cyclists using these routes



No unauthorised vehicles

Where to use:
On paths where there are no public access rights for vehicles

Prescribed Signage for land designated under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

Access Point signage

Indicates the end of Access Land

References

- Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority Service Level Agreement 2009 and Deed of Variation 2011
- The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016
- Waymarking Public Rights of Way, Natural England NE68 2008

ANDREW WATSON
Head of Recreation, Access and Estates

NPA/26/018

Dartmoor National Park Authority

4 September 2026

Financial Management 1 April to 30 June 2026 and Forecast of Financial Outturn 2026/27

Report of the Chief Finance Officer & S151

Recommendation: **Subject to any amendment Members see fit to propose:**

(i) **that the content of this report be noted;**
(ii) **that the budget increase for grants awarded (2.3 & 4.1) be noted;**
(iii) **that the virements less than £30,000 in Appendix 1 be noted;**
(iv) **that the virements in excess of £30,000 at 5.3 be approved.**

1 Monitoring and Management of Revenue Budgets (April to June 2026)

1.1 This report enables Members to monitor income and expenditure variations against the approved budget. Effective budgetary control is essential to ensure priorities are delivered in accordance with the Authority's plans. Budget Management is a dynamic process, resulting in the budget being subject to many variations, both favourable and unfavourable throughout the year.

1.2 The Authority's Financial Regulations provide delegated authority for the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, to enact budget virement below £30,000. Above that sum, Members' approval is required and is requested within this paper.

1.3 Processes for sound budget management are well established within the Authority, with quarterly reports to the Leadership Team and detailed and continuous budget monitoring being conducted across all Directorates involving Heads of Service, spending officers and finance staff. This ensures the early identification of pressures and variances so that timely management action can be taken to adjust the budget and/or work programmes accordingly.

2 Forecast Outturn Position as at the 30 June 2026

2.1 The 2026/27 gross expenditure budget was set at £7,320,063 (NPA/26/003) funded by £3,532,028 National Park Grant (NPG), £3,259,745 in fees and charges and utilising £528,290 from Earmarked Reserves. Subsequently the Authority approved various transfers to and from reserves at the end of the 2025/26 financial year (NPA/AG/26/004) which has resulted in a revised opening reserves balance for

2026/27 of £3,314,088 Revenue and £955,760 Capital. (DDLP Reserves brought forward are excluded from these figures, at £84,899).

2.2 During the development of the 2026/27 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), Members were advised that it might be necessary to use reserves in order to set a balanced budget between 2026/27 and 2028/29. At that stage, there was uncertainty around the level of the National Park Grant (NPG) from Defra, as confirmation had been delayed.

2.3 Funding for 2026/27 has now been granted as follows and approval is requested to add this funding to the 2026/27 Revenue and Capital budgets:

NPG Revenue Grant	£3,532,028	Included in Base Budget
NPG Capital Grant	£1,453,837	Included in Base Budget
Additional one off Revenue Grant	£1,720,000	Added Q1
Bio Net Gain (BNG) Mitigation Grant	£29,100	Added Q1
Land Use Management Group (LUMG) Grant	£300,740	Added Q1
Access for all Capital Grant	£122,858	Move to Capital Prog
Total awarded to the Authority	**£7,158,563**	

2.4 Given the announcement of a one off Revenue Grant for the year 2026/27, there will be a significant reduction in the call on reserves. There is a requirement to spend the funding by 31st March 2027, and it cannot therefore be transferred to reserves if unspent.

2.5 An internal review of all funding sources, including reserves, has been undertaken. The forecast revenue budgets will be amended to fund in year spend from this one off source and transfer other non-ringfenced or unconditional income to reserves as unspent at year end.

3 Reserves

3.1 The following table (Table 2) is based on the current financial position and sets out what the call on the Annual Revenue Outturn reserve is forecast to be as at 31 March 2027.

3.2 This position reflects the shift between the need to drawdown outturn reserves to fund 2026/27 budgets (reported in March 2026) to instead utilising the £1.7 million one off revenue grant and transferring any unspent and un-ringfenced income to the outturn reserve.

3.3 The intention is to still proceed with capitalisation wherever qualifying expenditure occurs, and provided DEFRA continues to award Capital grant funding in future years.

Table 2 Forecast Call on Annual Revenue Outturn reserve, against March 2026 estimate

	Estimate Mar-26 Call on Reserves £	Estimate Mar-26 After *Capitalisation £	Forecast As at Jun-26 Call on / (Transfer to) Reserves £
2026-27	528,290	**234,452**	**(1,775,136)**
2027-28	825,623	521,099	878,489
2028-29	1,001,893	698,991	1,069,248
	2,355,806	**1,454,542**	**172,601**

Dependent on continued DEFRA capital grant award

3.4 The figures in Table 2 are reflected in Appendix 2 under the **Annual Revenue Outturn** section, which shows the movement from the previous net call on outturn reserve after capitalisation of £234,452, to a revised **transfer to** reserves of £1,775,136 in 2026/27.

4 Other Funding and Grant Awards 2026/27

4.1 Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) grant funding was also announced and 5approval is requested to add additional funding the 2026/27 Revenue and Capital Budgets as follows:

FiPL Project Delivery - Capital Grant	£615,835	£9,117 difference to budget - to be adjusted, and moved to Capital
FiPL Wildlife-Rich Habitat Capital Grant	£484,302	Requesting approval to add
FiPL Project Delivery – Revenue Grant	£152,695	Already included in budgets
FiPL Admin, Advice & Guidance Grant	£153,574	Already included in budgets
Total awarded to the FiPL Project	**£1,406,406**	

4.2 Within the budget the Authority set aside a **Project Fund** balance of £75,000. Full utilisation of the Fund is anticipated by year-end, although some balances may be carried forward as projects can span more than one financial year. Bids made to the Fund and approved by Leadership Team are set out in the following table:

Project Fund 2026/27	**£**
Opening Balance	**(75,000)**
Digital Photography	5,000 to max 10,000
Balance Remaining	**(65,000)**

5 Financial Position Q1 June

5.1 The financial position and forecast is shown at Appendix 1 across all directorates and services. The forecast position is a positive one, where at present there are no significant overspends forecast and underspends on staffing are being monitored, with posts filled, or temporary arrangements made wherever possible.

5.2 Underspends in programmes that are externally funded, will be offset by a reduction in grants claimed.

5.3 Virement to date are set out in Appendix 1. Any individual virements in excess of £30,000, requiring approval, are explained as follows:

- The transfer of £615,835 FiPL grant received as capital, over to the capital programme. A smaller revenue budget addition of £9,117 was also made to correct the FiPL base budget to the actual grant award.

- The transfer of £122,838 Access for All grant received as capital, over to the capital programme

- £78,000 relates to the appointment in April of the Interim Chief Finance Officer, this was approved by Authority 1st May 2026 (NPA/26/013).

6 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators

6.1 The Authority's current capital programme has been prepared and is presented for approval under a separate approval paper detailing the Capital Strategy and new projects for inclusion, utilising the Capital grant awards set out at 2.3 and 4.1.

6.2 Updated treasury management information and prudential indicators will be presented at the mid-year report for Month 6 (as at end of September 2026).

7 Sustainability and Equality Impact

7.1 Consideration is always given, when deciding which areas of expenditure should be supported, of the impact on under-represented groups, and the need to promote equal opportunities both as an employer and in respect of the services provided.

ESTHER THORPE
Chief Finance Officer & S151

Background Papers

NPA/26/003 2026/27 Net Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan & Capital Budget
NPA/26/003: Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2026/27
NPA/AG/26: Financial Outturn 2025/26
NPA/26/013: Appointment of Interim Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: **Appendix 1 – Q1 (Month 3) position as at end of June 2026/27**
Appendix 2 – Reserves – brought forward and forecast movements

20260904 ET2026-27 Monitoring April – June Forecast Outturn

Dartmoor National Park Authority Budget Monitoring Summary - 2026/27 Q1 June

Functional Strategy	Original Budget 2026/27 £	Virements In Year 2026/27 £	Revised Budget 2026/27 £	Actual Spend Month 3 £	Expenditure Budget Remaining 2026/27 £	Exp / (Inc) Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Over/(Under) Forecast £	COMMENTS
Biodiversity	132,007	0	132,007	25,699	(106,308)	129,582	(2,425)	Small underspend in staffing
Dartmoor Hill Farm Project	63,931	16,480	80,411	32,204	(48,207)	82,424	2,013	Utilise reserves to balance at year end
Farming in Protected Landscapes	912,987	(606,718)	306,269	(48,520)	(354,789)	306,269	0	Capital Awards to be transferred to Cap Prog
Headwaters Project	295,252	0	295,252	22,360	(272,892)	188,748	(106,504)	Underspend due to 5 staff vacancies, 100% funded project underspend - will be net nil
Land Management	36,739	9,761	46,500	6,731	(39,769)	45,825	(675)	Small underspend in staffing
Landscape Recovery	91,402	22,684	114,086	35,363	(78,723)	122,724	8,638	100% funded project for eligible expenditure, currently underspent on staffing
Peatlands Project	151,030	29,795	180,825	43,392	(137,433)	173,570	(7,255)	Underspend on staffing - 100% funded project so would not be claimed - will be net nil
Woodlands	62,890	0	62,890	10,531	(52,359)	42,124	(20,766)	Underspend on staffing
Natural Environment (excl LUMG & DDLP)	*1,746,238*	*(527,998)*	*1,218,240*	*127,760*	***(1,090,479)***	***1,091,265***	*(126,975)*	
Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape Partnership Project	251,773	(26,241)	225,532	46,170	(179,362)	184,681	(40,851)	Underspend on staffing - 100% funded project so would not be claimed - will be net nil
Land Use Management Group	300,740	0	300,740	35,306	(265,434)	313,298	12,558	Call on Reserves / check funding due to DNPA for staff support
Natural Environment (Inc LUMG & DDLP)	**2,298,751**	**(554,239)**	**1,744,512**	**209,237**	**(1,535,275)**	**1,589,244**	**(155,268)**	
Archaeology	157,504	0	157,504	36,888	(120,616)	154,946	(2,558)	Small underspend in staffing
Built Environment	52,818	(52,818)	0	12,739	12,739	0	0	Post moved to DEVM within Directorate, no appproval required
Higher Uppacott	12,048	0	12,048	2,344	(9,704)	9,377	(2,671)	Small underspend in staffing
Cultural Heritage	**222,370**	**(52,818)**	**169,552**	**51,971**	**(117,581)**	**164,322**	**(5,230)**	
Access	401,277	(122,858)	278,419	57,909	(220,510)	243,485	(34,934)	Underspend due to Capitalisation of Salaries. £122k capital grant moved to Cap Prog
Public Rights of Way (Capital works)	228,094	0	228,094	35,027	(193,067)	140,109	(87,985)	3 months capital/revenue split incorrect. To be corrected for Q2 see RANG
Sustainable Transport & Tourism	2,500	0	2,500	2,036	(464)	2,500	0	Budget almost fully spent, to be monitored
Visitor Management	240,488	(21,293)	219,195	40,482	(178,713)	141,574	(77,621)	Underspend on staffing
Recreation Management, Traffic & Transport	**872,359**	**(144,151)**	**728,208**	**135,454**	**(592,754)**	**527,668**	**(200,540)**	
Communications	198,308	0	198,308	47,574	(150,734)	201,594	3,286	Forecast overspend on subscriptions to be reviewed
Education	192,100	0	192,100	47,488	(144,612)	193,338	1,238	Small overspend on overtime - to be offset by vacancies overall
Retail	101,458	0	101,458	29,097	(72,361)	101,231	(227)	Small underspend
Visitor Centres	192,685	0	192,685	48,080	(144,605)	192,318	(367)	Small underspend
Education, Information & Communication	**684,551**	**0**	**684,551**	**172,239**	**(512,312)**	**688,481**	**3,930**	
Rangers	466,154	0	466,154	130,401	(335,753)	536,843	70,689	3 months capital/revenue split incorrect. To be corrected for Q2 see PROW
Conservation Works Service	142,341	22,684	165,025	32,762	(132,263)	152,955	(12,069)	Underspend on staffing
Rangers, Estates & Volunteers	**608,495**	**22,684**	**631,179**	**163,163**	**(468,016)**	**689,798**	**58,620**	
Development Management	**764,919**	**75,502**	**840,421**	**185,661**	**(654,760)**	**831,927**	**(8,494)**	Virement from Built Env within Directorate, and 1 new post less than £30k
Forward Planning & Community	**230,212**	**0**	**230,212**	**42,862**	**(187,350)**	**184,192**	**(46,020)**	Underspend on staffing, also investigating no budget allowance for recruit / subs
Corporate and Democratic Core	**484,478**	**(13,583)**	**470,895**	**66,684**	**(404,210)**	**416,818**	**(54,076)**	Underspend due to Capitalisation of Salaries
Administration and Finance	195,269	42,130	237,399	48,777	(188,622)	238,850	1,451	Virement £42k is £13k of backfill and £29k for 1 new post. Small overspend due to recharges not yet posted
Central Operating Costs	162,400	0	162,400	28,606	(133,794)	162,409	9	
Human Resources	273,651	78,000	351,651	90,204	(261,447)	344,647	(7,004)	Volunteer Co-ordinator post vacant
Information Technology	255,278	0	255,278	88,924	(166,354)	249,497	(5,781)	Small underspend in staffing
Legal & Democratic Services	75,000	0	75,000	8,278	(66,722)	75,000	0	
Office Accommodation (Parke)	117,330	0	117,330	33,117	(84,213)	117,330	0	
Office Accommodation (Princetown)	0	0	0	3,239	3,239	3,239	3,239	Residual costs post disposal - to be be funded from earmarked property reserves
Corporate Services	**1,078,928**	**120,130**	**1,199,058**	**301,145**	**(897,912)**	**1,190,973**	**(8,085)**	
Project Unallocated Budget	**75,000**	**0**	**75,000**	**0**	(75,000)	**75,000**	**0**	Planned use of £5-£10k for photography
Capital Budget	**1,453,837**	**1,213,878**	**2,667,715**	**0**	(2,667,715)	**2,667,715**	**0**	See capital Programme
Total Net Expenditure	**8,773,900**	**667,402**	**9,441,302**	**1,328,417**	**(8,112,885)**	**9,026,138**	**(415,164)**	

Funded By:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
National Park Grant - Revenue	(3,532,028)	(1,720,000)	(5,252,028)	(944,471)	4,307,557	(5,252,028)	0	Uplift in Revenue Grant award £1.7m
Ringfenced Revenue Grants	0	(329,840)	(329,840)	0	329,840	(329,840)	0	BNG £29k & LUMG £300k & ACCS £122
Earmarked Reserves (Planned use)	(528,290)	450,290	(78,000)	0	78,000	(78,000)	0	Planned use of earmarked reserves still needs to take place (project specific EG DDLP)
General Reserves (Planned use)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fees & Charges	(566,914)	0	(566,914)	(142,095)	424,819	(565,578)	1,336	Small decrease in forecast income
Sales	(151,000)	0	(151,000)	(53,969)	97,031	(151,008)	(8)	
Other Income & Contributions	(132,668)	0	(132,668)	(20,249)	112,419	(132,463)	205	Forecasting uplift in income
Grants Received	(2,409,163)	729,576	(1,679,587)	(167,634)	1,511,953	(1,493,739)	185,848	FIPL Capital Grants Removed / Overall forecasting lower grant claimable (due to vacancies)
Transfer TO reserves (set aside for future use)	0	1,416,450	1,416,450	0	(1,416,450)	1,647,472	231,022	Transfer underspends to reserves
General Reserve (UnPlanned use)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,239)	(3,239)	Residual costs relating to Princetown
National Park Grant - Capital	(1,453,837)	0	(1,453,837)	0	1,453,837	(1,453,837)	0	See capital Programme
Other Capital Grants	0	(1,213,878)	(1,213,878)	0	1,213,878	(1,213,878)	0	FIPL Capital Grants & ACCS Capital
Total	**(8,773,900)**	**(667,402)**	**(9,441,302)**	**(1,328,417)**	**8,112,885**	**(9,026,138)**	**415,164**	

GENERAL FUND RESERVE BALANCES

Appendix 2 to Report No. NPA/26/018

GENERAL FUND RESERVE BALANCES	2026/27 Opening Balance £	Budgeted Use: 2026/27 Budgeted Use (In) / OUT (approved 060326) £	Updated Outurn /BP: 2026/27 Updated (In) / OUT As per outturn/BP £	Q1 2026/27: 2026/27 Revised Budget (In) / OUT £	Forecast Outturn: 2026/27 Forecast Outturn (In) / OUT £	2026/27 Total Movements £	2026/27 Closing Balance £	2027/28 Forecast Movements £	2028/29 Forecast Movements £	2028/29 Forecast Closing Balance £	Notes
Ringfenced External Grants & Contributions with Restrictions											
Hill Farm Project (Princes Countryside Fund)	(114,791)		47,931			47,931	(66,860)			**(66,860)**	Cash balances are carried forward at each year end as allocated to expenditure
Communities Fund Grant (from District Councils)	(47,783)					0	(47,783)	47,783	47,784	**47,784**	Staffing Costs - Project Officer
Beacon Park affordable housing historic S106	(102,200)					0	(102,200)		102,200	**0**	To be used for affordable housing within the next 4 years
Active Travel - DfT	(0)					0	(0)			**(0)**	Utilised as planned 2025/26
DCLG - Neighbourhood Planning Grant	(10,000)					0	(10,000)			**(10,000)**	Community planning referendums
DCLG - Unringfenced Grants	(84,940)					0	(84,940)			**(84,940)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Donate for Dartmoor Balances (public donations)	(68,756)					0	(68,756)			**(68,756)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Cave Shrimp S106	(3,000)					0	(3,000)			**(3,000)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Moor Medieval book sales	(3,027)					0	(3,027)			**(3,027)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Defence infrastructure - River Tavey bridge feasibility	(5,000)					0	(5,000)			**(5,000)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Legacy Income	(80,000)					0	(80,000)			**(80,000)**	Legacy income received
Dartmoor Preservation Association - Engagement Ranger	(50,000)				50,000	50,000	0			**0**	DPA funded engagement ranger, planned use 2026/27
Land Use Management Group	(74,722)				12,558	12,558	(62,164)			**(62,164)**	LUMG underspend carried forward
Budget Management Fund - Provisions (risk based)											
Employees	(28,348)					0	(28,348)			**(28,348)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Costs and Awards: Appeals/Public Enquiries/Litigation	(320,000)					0	(320,000)			**(320,000)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Loss of Income and Inflation	(34,500)					0	(34,500)			**(34,500)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Invest to Save and / or Generate Projects	(33,733)					0	(33,733)			**(33,733)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Climate Change /Emergency Declaration	(26,915)					0	(26,915)			**(26,915)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Annual Revenue Outturn	**(1,165,680)**	**234,452**	**86,556**	**(2,151,692)**	**55,548**	**(1,775,136)**	**(2,940,816)**	**878,486**	**1,069,248**	(993,082)	Forecast updated after use of Reserves revisited
Capital Expenditure Fund						0	0				
Vehicles - Replacement & Unplanned Maintenance	(50,000)					0	(50,000)			**(50,000)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
Property - Repairs & Maintenance	(143,197)					0	(143,197)			**(143,197)**	*Risk based - called on if required*
						0	0				
Known Commitments						0	0				
National Park Management Plan	(7,495)					0	(7,495)			**(7,495)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Conservation Volunteers - DNPA Commitment	(5,000)					0	(5,000)			**(5,000)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
Local Plan	(20,000)		(136,500)			(136,500)	(156,500)	(87,500)	(36,000)	**(280,000)**	Updated as per 2026/27 Business Plan
						0	0				
Match Funding Reserve						0	0				
Cash Flow management of external funding bids	(100,000)					0	(100,000)			**(100,000)**	Set aside in case of forwarding requirement
Archaeological Excavation on Dartmoor	(90,000)					0	(90,000)			**(90,000)**	NPA/24/23
South West Peatland Partnership	(125,000)					0	(125,000)			**(125,000)**	NPA/21/020
Dartmoor Trust digitising DNPA photographic archive	(20,000)					0	(20,000)			**(20,000)**	Carried forward at each year end, to be allocated as expenditure occurs
						0					
Total Earmarked Reserves	**(2,814,088)**	**234,452**	**(2,013)**	**(2,151,692)**	**118,106**	**(1,801,147)**	**(4,615,235)**	**838,769**	**1,183,232**	**(2,593,234)**	
General Reserve (unallocated emergency reserve)	**(500,000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(500,000)**			**(500,000)**	Emergency resiliance reserve - requires Authority approval for any emergency use
Total General Fund Balance	**(3,314,088)**	**234,452**	**(2,013)**	**(2,151,692)**	**118,106**	**(1,801,147)**	**(5,115,235)**	**838,769**	**1,183,232**	**(3,093,234)**	
Capital Receipts Unapplied	(52,711)	0	0	0	0	0	(52,711)	0	0	**(52,711)**	Historic Ranger vehicle sales
Capital Grants Unapplied	(903,049)	0	(1,453,837)	2,356,886	0	903,049	0	0	0	**0**	Planned DNPH Ltd Loan Drawdown 26/27 - assume £1.4 annually and spent in year
Total Capital Reserves Balance	**(955,760)**	**0**	**(1,453,837)**	**2,356,886**	**0**	**903,049**	**(52,711)**	**0**	**0**	**(52,711)**	
Total DNPA Reserves BALANCE	**(4,269,848)**	**234,452**	**(1,455,850)**	**205,194**	**118,106**	**(898,098)**	**(5,167,946)**	**838,769**	**1,183,232**	**(3,145,945)**	
Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape Partnership	*(84,899)*		*20,100*			*20,100*	*(64,799)*	*24,850*	*30,000*	*(9,949)*	*NPA/24/032 - use of Match Funding for Cashflow purposes 25/26*

NPA/26/019

Dartmoor National Park Authority

04 September 2026

2026/27 Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29

Report of the Chief Finance Officer & S151

Recommendation: **Subject to any amendment Members see fit to propose:**

- (i) **that the content of this report be noted;**
- (ii) **that the Capital Strategy principles be noted and adopted by the Authority;**
- (iii) **that the 2026/27 Capital Programme projects and financing be approved;**
- (iv) **that the indicative Capital Programme and financing be noted;**
- (v) **delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to manage delivery of the approved Programme within the agreed budget envelope for 2026/27 as set out at 4.2.**

1 Introduction

1.1 This Capital Strategy sets out how Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) will invest, manage and monitor Defra capital funding between 2026/27 and 2028/29. The strategy focuses exclusively on capital funding streams and the long-term assets, environmental outcomes and organisational benefits they are intended to deliver. It provides a framework for investment decisions, governance, risk management and performance monitoring.

1.2 The strategy is designed to support the objectives of:

- Protected Landscape statutory purposes through capital investment
- Defra's 30by30 ambition
- Nature recovery and climate resilience
- Accessible and inclusive public access
- Organisational resilience through invest-to-save and income-generating initiatives

2 Capital Funding – DEFRA

2.1 The Authority has been awarded £1.577 million of capital funding for 2026/27, comprising £1,453,837 of Core Capital funding and £122,858 of Access Capital funding, with indicative allocations at the same level for both 2027/28 and 2028/29.

2.2 The Core Capital allocation is intended to support capital expenditure that delivers long-term assets and outcomes through nature recovery, 30by30 delivery, innovation, invest-to-save projects, income generating initiatives, asset enhancement and climate resilience.

2.3 The Access Capital allocation is specifically provided to improve physical and digital access to Dartmoor through investments such as path improvements, accessible gates, bridges, visitor infrastructure, mobility equipment and inclusive access projects.

2.4 Together, these funding streams provide the Authority with a significant opportunity to invest in lasting environmental, community and organisational assets that strengthen the National Park's natural capital, improve accessibility, build long-term resilience and support the delivery of national environmental priorities.

3 Other Capital Funding

3.1 Under the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, the Authority has received capital funding through a separate Defra grant agreement which has been extended to March 2029.

3.2 For 2026/27, the Authority has been allocated £1,406,406, £306,269 for revenue project delivery, £615,835 for FiPL capital project delivery, and £484,302 capital funding through the Wildlife Rich Habitat (WRH) Fund

3.3 For the purposes of the Capital Strategy, the FiPL and WRH capital funding will be added to the capital programme and are intended to deliver long-term environmental assets and nature recovery outcomes across Dartmoor.

3.4 The FiPL agreement also includes indicative future funding of £922,104 per annum for 2027/28 and 2028/29, a mixture of revenue and capital funding, subject to confirmation by Defra. Across the programme period from 2023/24 to 2026/27, Dartmoor National Park Authority will have received total FiPL funding of approximately £4.52 million.

3.5 Other capital expenditure, such as staff capitalisation undertaken throughout the year and leases recognised as capital expenditure, has been added to the capital programme to improve transparency and accuracy of both capital and revenue reporting.

4 Capital Strategy Principles

4.1 The following principles should underpin all investment decisions within the Dartmoor National Park Authority Capital Strategy:

Strategic Alignment
All capital investment must contribute directly to the Authority's statutory purposes.

Asset Creation or Enhancement
Capital funding will only be invested in projects that create, acquire or enhance tangible or intangible assets and meet Defra's capital expenditure criteria.

Long-Term Outcomes
Larger scale investment should aim to deliver lasting environmental, community or organisational benefits and contribute to long-term sustainability the Authority.

Value for Money
All schemes must consider affordability, efficiency and value for money, future maintenance requirements, risk and anticipated benefits.

Deliverability
Projects must be capable of being delivered within the funding timescales, with clear governance arrangements, identified resources and realistic implementation plans.

Financial Sustainability
Larger scale investments should aim to support resilience through invest-to-save initiatives, income generation, reduction in future liabilities or improved performance.

Environmental and Climate Benefit
Capital projects should wherever possible contribute to nature recovery, biodiversity enhancement, and the delivery of 30by30 objectives.

Inclusive Access and Public Benefit
Investment should maximise public value by improving access, inclusion, health, wellbeing and engagement with Dartmoor's special qualities.

Good Governance and Compliance
All capital expenditure must comply with Defra grant conditions, procurement legislation, the Authority's Financial Regulations and asset management requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

4.2 Any future changes to the 2026/27 capital programme will require Authority approval in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations

4.3 Delegation is requested to the Chief Executive where changes to existing approved projects are within approved virement limits (i.e. below £30,000), with the exception of the Strategic Land Purchases budget.

4.4 Delegation is requested to the Chief Executive to manage the £450,000 Strategic Land Purchase project with joint approval from the Chief Finance Officer, in light of the time sensitive nature of land and property acquisitions. This budget may also be re-directed to other projects with the consent of the Chief Executive to ensure that all DEFRA awarded capital grant is spent by the 31st March 2027 deadline.

4.5 It is the intention of this Capital Programme to be managed over a 3-year period where funding awards and any associated conditions of capital grants allow.

5 Capital Programme – Projects

5.1 A full list of capital projects for 2026/27, their indicative costs and financing is included at Appendix 1.

5.2 Defra grant conditions require in year funding to be spent by 31st March 2027.

5.3 Should a project stall or, after more detailed scoping require budgetary increase or reprofiling, it may be deferred to a future years capital programme subject to approval of Members.

5.4 In recognition of the work required to manage a capital programme, which has not previously been undertaken by this Authority, one of the projects being put forward for approval is to approve the appointment, on a Fixed Term Contract basis, of a Strategic Capital Programme Manager. This post is designed to ensure that the proper governance, budgeting and process is followed and ensure programme delivery.

5.5 Where funding becomes available due to the deferral or removal of an approved capital project, other projects may be brought in to replace it, subject to the approval of members. Replacement or 'shelf ready' projects are already in development to ensure that the capital programme of investment keeps moving forward, and that wherever possible all funds allocated in this financial year are utilised by the 31st March 2027.

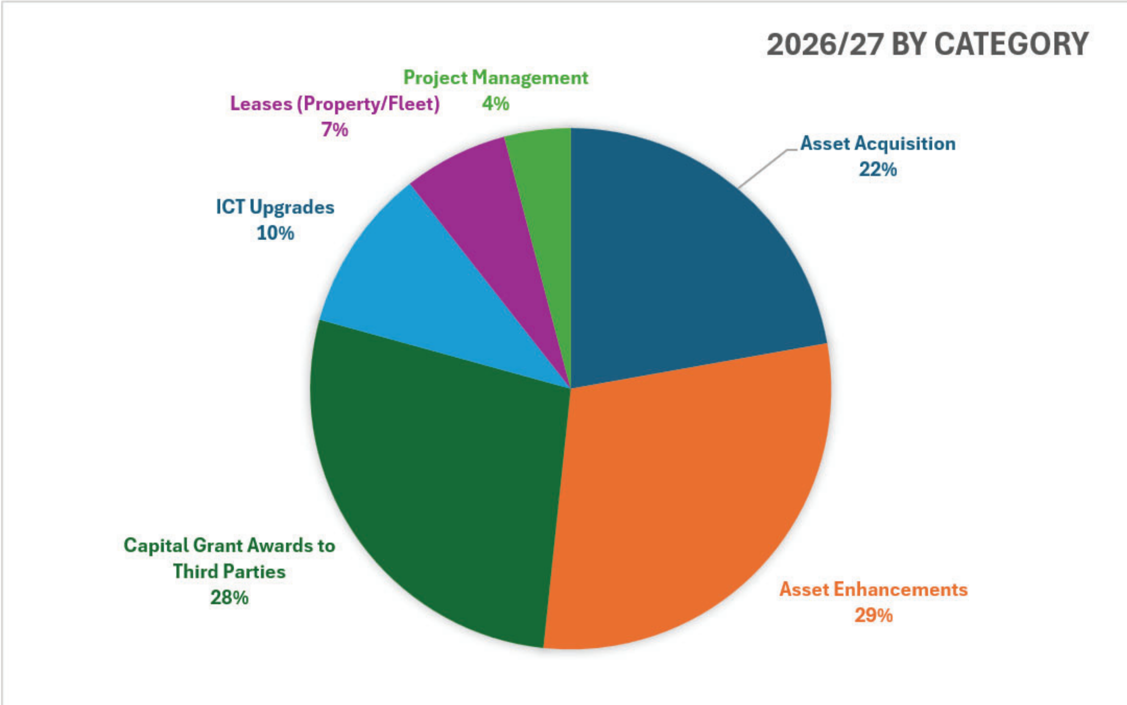
5.6 A summary of the Capital Programme by service area is shown here at Table 1 and by category of investment at Table 2 (pie graph).

Table 1 – Capital Programme budget 2026/27 and Capital Financing

	2026/27 Budget £
Conservation & Communities	
Farming In Protected Landscapes	615,835
Wildlife Rich - Enhancement	484,302
Ranger - Enhancement Works	150,000
Fleet Replacement	150,000
Access for All - Capital	122,858
PROW Signage	60,000
New ESRI Programme - PROW	50,000
Holne Leat - Enhancement	25,000
Point Of Sale - retail system	25,000
Pool Car Replacement	23,522
Nature Survey - IT	10,000
Parke: Kitchen Upgrades	9,600
ICT Equipment - Rangers	9,360
Conservation & Communities Total	**1,735,477**
Executive	
Strategic Land Purchase	450,000
Strategic Capital - Manager FTC	60,000
Executive Total	**510,000**
Finance	
Parke: Meeting Room Upgrades	85,000
ICT Development PM FTC	60,000
Unit 4 & P2P System Development	50,000
Finance Total	**195,000**
Spactial Planning	
Planning System Implementation	60,055
Digitising TPOs and Enforcement	60,000
Microfiche System Implementation	60,000
DEF Implementation	50,000
Spactial Planning Total	**230,055**
Organisational Development - HR	
HFX / Imperago time recording	6,300
Organisational Development - HR Total	**6,300**
Grand Total	**2,676,832**

Capital Financing	**Available £**	**Allocated £**	**Remaining £**
DEFRA CDEL	1,453,837	(1,453,837)	0
DEFRA FIPL	615,835	(615,835)	0
DEFRA WRH	484,302	(484,302)	0
DEFRA Access for All	122,858	(122,858)	0
Capital Receipts	52,711	0	52,711
	2,729,543	**(2,676,832)**	**52,711**

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2026/27 by type of Investment



5.7 The capital programme project list has been developed through a strategic review of the Authority's asset and capital investment priorities, including asset management, National Park Partnership Plan objectives and emerging opportunities arising from the Defra capital funding settlement.

5.8 Projects were identified and assessed by the Chief Executive and service Directors against the capital funding criteria set out within the Defra Grant Funding Agreement, with particular emphasis on nature recovery and 30by30 delivery access improvements, asset enhancement, invest-to-save opportunities and income generation.

5.9 Investment has been proposed in these areas wherever capital solutions align with Authority objectives. It is recognised that Capital investment may not always deliver the most cost effective solution or enable the Authority to meet specific objectives.

5.10 Each proposed project has been evaluated to ensure it creates or enhances a long-term asset, delivers measurable outcomes for the Authority, represents value for money, and can be delivered within the funding period. The resulting programme seeks to balance investment in environmental assets, public access infrastructure and organisational resilience while maximising the long term benefits generated from Defra's various capital funding allocations.

6 Future additions to the Capital Programme or amendments

6.1 Any additions to the approved Capital Programme, including the introduction of new projects, significant changes in project scope, reallocation of funding between schemes, or the reprofiling of expenditure between financial years, will be subject to Member approval in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations and Capital Strategy governance arrangements.

6.2 Business cases supporting proposed changes must demonstrate strategic alignment with National Park priorities, compliance with Defra funding conditions, affordability, deliverability and value for money.

6.3 Member approval will ensure that the Capital Programme remains transparent, appropriately prioritised and aligned with the Authority's long-term objectives, while providing effective oversight of the use of capital resources and the achievement of planned outcomes.

7 Reserve Balances

7.1 As at 31 March 2026, the Authority held £52,771 of unapplied capital receipts, which remain unallocated and are not currently earmarked for any specific capital schemes.

7.2 In addition, £903,000 of unapplied capital grant brought forward from 2025/26 has already been contractually committed and were advanced as a loan to DNPH Ltd and therefore do not represent available resources for new capital programme commitments.

7.3 Consequently, the unallocated capital receipts balance of £52,771 is currently the only capital funding resource available for future programme allocation outside of the approved capital funding streams and existing commitments.

8 Sustainability and Equality Impact

8.1 Consideration is always given, when deciding which areas of expenditure should be supported, to equality and sustainability issues.

9 Conclusion

9.1 The Capital Strategy demonstrates that Dartmoor National Park Authority is well positioned to maximise the benefits of significant capital investment over the period 2026 to 2029.

9.2 Through the targeted deployment of Defra capital funding, the Authority will invest in projects that deliver long-term environmental assets, strengthen nature recovery, support 30by30 ambitions, improve accessibility, enhance organisational resilience and generate lasting public value.

9.3 The programme has been developed to ensure compliance with Defra funding requirements while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities and priorities.

ESTHER THORPE