



NPA/21/001

Dartmoor National Park Authority

8 January 2021

Generation Green – funding through Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Report of the Head of Outreach and Understanding

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Access Unlimited coalition was started in 2019 and is a core part of Youth Hostel Association's 2020 Strategy. Access Unlimited coalition partners are:
- Youth Hostel Association (YHA), lead partner
 - Outward Bound Trust
 - Field Studies Council
 - Scouts and Guides
 - All 10 English National Park Authorities (through their Education Services)
- 1.2 Access Unlimited is framed in YHA's Business Plan and remains a core part of their Live with COVID Renew Plans. It directly addresses a core objective to reach 2.5m children and young people over next 5 years and connect them to nature, culture and heritage. These priorities in themselves respond to the evidence presented in the Landscapes Review (Glover) on access and to the intent of the DEFRA 25 Year Plan on Connections to Nature and complimentary DCMS sponsored Strategies of Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Sport England.
- 1.3 Generation Green is a short term (one year) stepping-stone project to the more ambitious plans of the 5-year Access Unlimited Program. The Project was submitted to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and was successful.
- 1.4 The need for Generation Green has increased over the last six months as referenced in the *The People and Nature Survey for England: Children's Survey Results*. Some of the headline evidence includes:
- 1.4.1 Coronavirus has impact on children's mental health and wellbeing, 48% of children interviewed reporting being worried about catching/spreading coronavirus had stopped them from spending more time outside.
 - 1.4.2 83% of children said being in nature made them very happy. Children who reported spending more time outside (and more time noticing nature/wildlife) were

more likely to report that 'being in nature makes me very happy' (91% and 94% respectively, compared to 79% of those who had spent less time).

- 1.4.3 60% reported to have spent less time outdoors since the start of coronavirus, more than double the proportion that had spent more time outside (25%).
- 1.4.4 Natural spaces are important places for connection – with the natural world and each other. However, since the lockdown, 81% of children stated that they had spent less time outside with friends. Local parks and private gardens were important ways of accessing green and natural spaces during lockdown. When asked where they had visited in the past week, 62% had played in gardens (theirs or someone else's) and the same proportion had visited a park, playing field or playground. Far fewer children had spent time in other natural places such as the seaside (27%), the woods (26%) or the wider countryside (24%).
- 1Children's access to nature during coronavirus varied across the population. eg. 71% of children from ethnic minority backgrounds reported spending less time outside since coronavirus, compared with 57% of white children. 73% of children from households with annual income below £17k spent less time outdoors, compared with 57% from households with an annual income above £17k.

- 1.5 This project is particularly appropriate for YHA and Access Unlimited partners to take on at the current time because it aligns with the longer-term strategies of consortium partners, including the National Parks Management Plans and the business plans of Outward Bound Trust, Field Studies Council, Scouts and Guides. These strategies and business plans have been affected by both drops in income and the need to deliver differently.
- 1.6 Working together with DEFRA investment enables 15 forward thinking organisations to develop efficiencies that come from collaboration and new ways of working; and to continue to develop new models of delivery that are 'COVID' proof. Doing this now allows coalition members to fulfil their strategic intent recognising that operating model needs to change to enable us to live with COVID.
- 1.7 Generation Green aims to connect young people to nature and build a new workforce for the green recovery, targeting young people from deprived areas through virtual, field or class-based learning, day and residential trips, citizen science programmes, informal learning opportunities and volunteering with experienced environmental tutors across 200 diverse natural heritage sites, such as conservation areas, National Parks and AONBs.
- 1.8 The Generation Green approach drew on successful work by partner organisations to diversify access, to build a pipeline that drew new people into connections and onto working in environmental and outdoor roles. This pipeline draws on the Access Unlimited Coalition's collective mass reach of 2m+ young people.

2 Generation Green for Dartmoor

- 2.1 This partnership project is very welcome supporting the ambitions of the Outreach and Engagement Strategy and will help build stronger relationships for future work. As well as the work of partners there is funding for a one-year project officer to develop specific projects in each of the NP's.

- 2.2 On Dartmoor we intend to utilise this one-year funding opportunity to help us 'fill the gap' that our current Junior and Youth Rangers have experienced because of Covid 19 and to enable us to reach more and a wider range of young people. The overall ambition is to fill the gap between teenage years and professional route into conservation management - Junior Rangers (aged 12 – 15) and Youth Rangers (aged 15 – 19) undertake a range of practical conservation tasks. All activities contribute to either conservation of Dartmoor's landscape wildlife and heritage or improvement of habitats for species whilst also fostering enjoyment of the National Park.
- 2.3 The scope to extend our existing scheme is limited by staff capacity – with the new funding we aim to grow fourfold to 80 young people engaged over the course of a 9-month period. This will be a regular, progressive, developmental programme specifically for teenagers who have 'lost their connection' to the environment or for those in urban environments for whom this connection is missing. To meet funding criteria, as well as our own ambitions identified in the Outreach and Engagement Strategy, we would target teenagers in wards with high indices of socio-economic deprivation in Torbay and Newton Abbot which will complement a sister youth Social Action project currently funded in Plymouth. There would be opportunities for joint / twinned activity and skill shares.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The overall project value is £2,543,600 – for delivery across England and Wales, across all 15 partner organisations.
- 3.2 As part of the Access Unlimited Coalition's bid each English National Park receives specific project income and a national 'National Parks Manager' post will be established, based at the Peak District National Park Authority, to co-ordinate the work across all of the National Parks.
- 3.3 For Dartmoor we will receive in excess of £42,500 to deliver the elements and activities outlined above.
- 3.4 Against this income a contribution of £2,000 is required.
- Firstly, sharing the overhead of a central Project Manager post - £1,000.
 - Secondly, match funding as part of the bid, £1,000 per participating English National Park.

4 Risk

- 4.1 Although signs are that vaccines will permit some 'return to normal' the timescale for this is longer than any of us would like; the timescale for delivery of the Generation Green Project is end March 2022. There is therefore a risk associated with some of the delivery ambitions in a time period where continued Covid-restrictions may limit group size or activity. This risk is being highlighted by the Access Unlimited Coalition to funders and is a risk that all partners in this project will face if we are to deliver visits or activities in the National Parks.

- 4.2 The challenge beyond the first year of funding will be how we sustain delivery to far larger numbers of young people. The role of volunteers to help us deliver our programme in the longer term will be crucial and will be something that the Dartmoor Project Officer will develop but this run alongside development of a larger, more ambitious 5 year funded Access Unlimited Coalition bid.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This successful Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a positive announcement that will help us deliver ambition in our Outreach and Engagement strategy working with some key partners. At a Park wide level it will increase the range and number of young people benefiting from a visit to Dartmoor and for the Authority it provides an opportunity to increase staff capacity, to grow our young people's engagement in line with our ambitions identified in the Outreach & Engagement Strategy. Crucially however it will consolidate the successful partnership we have been working towards with the Access Unlimited coalition with the ambition to attract longer term, larger scale funding.

Orlando Rutter



NPA/21/002

Dartmoor National Park Authority

8 January 2021

Your Dartmoor: National Park Management Plan 2014-2019 End of Plan Monitoring

Report of the Head of Forward Planning and Economy

Recommendation: **That Members note the Report**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Management Plan is the single most important plan for the future of Dartmoor National Park. It provides an opportunity to bring together a wide range of people and organisations around a set of common goals., The Management Plan is for the National Park as a whole and not just for the National Park Authority; although the Authority, along with many other stakeholders and the local community, will be key to the delivery of the Management Plan.
- 1.2 This report provides an overview of the key achievements of the 2014-2019, through the monitoring of the Action set out in the Plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 The 2014-2019 Management Plan ('Your Dartmoor') has been overseen by a Delivery Board of partners; meeting annually to review progress. The Delivery Board is supported by a Steering Group comprising a range of stakeholders and partners to strengthen partnership delivery, scrutinise and refocus priorities where necessary. period.
- 2.2 For many partners, 'Your Dartmoor' is a repository of their organisations projects and actions related to the National Park. For DNPA, it is the foundation of the working programmes of different services within the organisation and drives individual projects and priorities.
- 2.3 The Management Plan has two dimensions to how it is monitored. At a practical level, progress towards achieving the Actions set out in the Management Plan is monitored. Partners responsible for leading on or delivering actions are asked to report progress each year. On a longer term basis the Authority prepares a State of the Park Report. This document looks more broadly at the situation on the ground. The data in the State of the Park Report informs the Review of the Management Plan, by identifying trends and issues. It also enables an understanding of the

impact of Actions, for example by identifying whether the deliver of a particular project leads to a positive change on the ground. It is important to recognise, though, that the ability to directly attribute broad scale change to individual Management Plan Actions is challenging with the limited resources available for monitoring.

- 2.4 The most recent State of the Park Report¹ was prepared in 2017 to inform the Management Plan Review. This report describes the monitoring of Actions, having reached the end of the Plan period.

3 Monitoring of Actions

- 3.1 In order to monitor progress, celebrate success and identify areas of delay or problem, DNPA set up a database with a reporting system that highlights progress through a system of coloured 'traffic lights'. There are three themes in the management Plan Sustain, Enjoy and Prosper. Under each theme there are a number of Priorities with identified actions. There are six priorities and 149 actions, the following categories have been used to easily identify performance:

- Completed
- In progress and on time
- Falling behind time
- Significantly delayed/unlikely to progress
- Not started

- 3.1.2 The purpose of this report is to mark the end of this Management Plan period. However, it is important to recognise that the Plan identifies actions which will take place during its lifespan, however some of these actions may have been ongoing before the Plan started, some may go on beyond the Plan period. For this reason, there are a significant number of actions in progress, but they will not necessarily be 'completed' by the end of the Plan. This is not to say the Plan has failed to deliver, and overall picture of progress towards actions which is on time is a perfectly acceptable measure of delivery. A number of the actions which are ongoing, may well, flow into the next Management Plan.

3.2 Sustain

- 3.2.1 The Priorities in this area are:

- [The future of farming and forestry](#) – supporting sustainable farming and woodland businesses that conserve and enhance the special qualities of Dartmoor.
- [Spectacular landscapes, natural networks](#) – conserving and enhancing Dartmoor's diverse landscapes and natural ecosystems, and improving the connections between them, both within and across National Park boundaries.
- [Making the most of cultural heritage](#) – conserving and enhancing the archaeology and historic built environment and helping people to discover more about Dartmoor's heritage.

¹ www.dartmoor.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/85833/State-of-the-Park-2017-WEB.pdf

3.2.2 Progress on Actions to support the achievement of the priorities under this theme is as follows:

Status	The Future of Farming and Forestry	Spectacular Landscapes – Natural networks	Making the most of Cultural Heritage	Total
Not started	0	0	0	0
In progress & on time	18	13	8	39
Completed	7	6	3	16
Falling behind time	2	3	2	7
Significantly delayed /Unlikely to achieve	0	1	1	2
Total	27	23	14	64

Table 1. Sustain – action monitoring outcomes

3.2.3 Some highlights under this theme through the lifespan of the Plan are –

- Implementation and monitoring of Dartmoor Farming Futures pilot - engage with and empower farmers to manage the landscape, deliver public benefits and add value to their business
- Securing external funding to sustain the Hill Farm Project to ensure on-going provision of information and advice
- Dartmoor Natural Flood Risk Management Project - developing and delivering a programme of coordinated activity to test upstream actions which reduce the likely impact of flooding but with multi benefits including biodiversity.
- Developing a better understanding of the medieval landscape on Dartmoor and helping people to look after it through the 'Moor Medieval' project (a More Than Meets the Eye project)
- 'All the Moor Butterflies' project - a programme of habitat management works, advice to landowners and educational activities to support Butterfly populations
- The 'Parishscapes' project in the Moor than Meets the Eye area, enabling local people to record, share and conserve heritage of special significance in their parish
- Developing Higher Uppacott as an exemplar of best practice in conservation, community engagement and interpretation of the historic environment
- ...Of the actions highlighted as falling behind (table 1) they are all progressing but not as quickly as hoped. There is one action (51) the establishment of a Dartmoor Study centre which has made little progress over the plan period due to funding/resourcing.

3.3 Enjoy

3.3.1 The Priority under this area is:

- [Enjoying Dartmoor](#) – helping people to enjoy and learn about Dartmoor, with a particular focus on managing access and visitor pressure at areas of heavy recreation use.

3.3.2 Progress on Actions to support the achievement of the priorities under this theme is as follows:

Status	Enjoying Dartmoor
Not started	0
In progress & on time	36
Completed	6
Falling behind time	3
Significantly delayed /Unlikely to achieve	2
Total	47

Table 2. Enjoy – action monitoring outcomes

3.3.3 Some highlights under this theme through the lifespan of the Plan are –

- Development of the ‘Dartmoor Story’ told through the Visitor Centres with new external trails being produced and exhibits at Postbridge Visitor Centre.
- Key messages as part the 'Love Moor Life' campaign are reinforced through retail in the Visitor Centres
- Redevelopment of the Postbridge Visitors Centre, aiming to provide clear and inspiring communication about how to enjoy and learn about Dartmoor
- Implementing the Wray Valley Trail to provide an off-road multi-use trail and improve the route between Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey
- Development and launch of the ‘Dartmoor Way’– Dartmoor walking and cycling circular routes
- Development of the ‘Pound for the Park’ (Donate for Dartmoor) - raising funding from events and users, for the conservation and enjoyment of the National Park
- Dartmoor Naturally Healthy Project – enabling netter understanding of, and access to, the health and wellbeing benefits of Dartmoor

3.4 Prosper

3.4.1 The Priorities under this area are:

- [Prosperous Dartmoor](#) – enabling a diverse, resilient economy that is consistent with the special qualities of the National Park.
- [Community focus](#) – supporting and empowering local communities to help meet identified needs.

3.4.2 Progress on Actions to support the achievement of the priorities under this theme is as follows:

Status	Prosperous Dartmoor	Community Focus	Total
Not started	0	0	0
In progress & on time	9	11	20
Completed	6	6	12
Falling behind time	1	3	3
Significantly delayed /Unlikely to achieve	2	0	1
Total	18	20	38

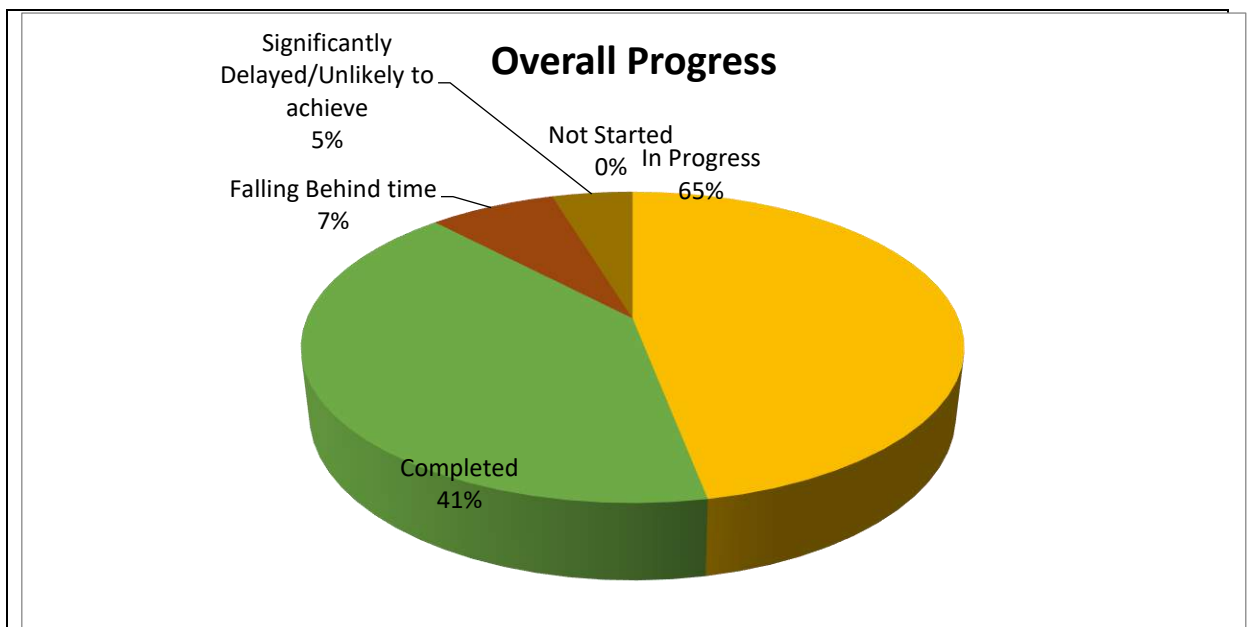
Table 3. Prosper – action monitoring outcomes

3.3.3 Some highlights under this theme through the lifespan of the Plan are –

- The Greater Dartmoor LEAF Programme received over £2m of new funding for the Greater Dartmoor area for the period 2015-2020. This rural grant programme for Dartmoor and its hinterland is focussed on the creation of jobs and growth.
- Supporting entrepreneurship and skills development through the Heritage Skills Training and Conservation Apprentice programmes
- Delivering superfast broadband roll out on Dartmoor through the Connecting Devon and Somerset (Airband Project)
- Delivering rural exception site affordable housing scheme through the Devon Rural Housing Partnership, Local Housing Authorities and DNPA
- Engaging with the SW Rural Productivity Commission and working in partnership with Exmoor to pursue a Rural Deal for the Great South West
- ...Of the falling behind actions two (118 - rail service enhancements & 136 – underground of utilities cabling) are now making some progress
- The 'unlikely to achieve action' (upland economic hub to help develop an integrated voice for Dartmoor businesses, encourage networking and cooperative working) made little progress due to the lack of funding/resources needed to deliver it, but more recently progressed significantly as a result of a focus on business support during the pandemic.

4 Conclusions

4.1 Overall the 2014-2019 Management Plan had significant successes. Progress was made in the majority of Actions (65%), with 41% completed.



4.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the outturn and achievement of the Management Plan. Detailed monitoring of individual Actions can be found on the Your Dartmoor web site (www.yourdartmoor.org).

- 4.3 As described above, the monitoring of Actions is just one component of measuring the success of the Management Plan. Only over time, through successive State of the Park Reports, can the success or impact of different projects and policy interventions be seen. This then forms part of the ongoing cycle of plan review, where no Management is ever 'complete' as ambitions, programmes and project will flow through successive plan periods.
- 4.4 Importantly, the governance approach taken in this Management Plan; with partners engaged in the Delivery Board and Steering Groups, has proven a robust structure to sustain momentum in the pursuit of Actions. That together with the commitment from partners to the delivery of Actions and their review, have led to significant number of successes across the themes of the 2014-2019 Plan.

Dan Janota



NPA/21/003

Dartmoor National Park Authority

8 January 2020

'Your Dartmoor' Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2021-2026 Final draft

Report of the Strategic Planning and Projects Manager

Recommendation: **That Members:**

- i) Approve the plan for adoption subject to ii) below**
- ii) delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, any final minor amendments including changes recommended by the Sustainability Appraisal or Habitats Regulations Assessment.**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out a summary of feedback received from the consultation on the draft National Park Management Plan (NPMP). It outlines changes made to the consultation draft and a brief outline of next steps relating to the NPMP. A final draft plan for adoption is presented at Appendix 1. Members are asked to note that the final approved Management Plan will be fully designed for the web and a short summary document will be produced.

2 Background

- 2.1 Under section 66(1) of the Environment Act 1995 each National Park Authority (NPA) is required to prepare and publish a National Park Management Plan (NPMP) for its Park and review it every five years. The Management Plan is the strategic plan for the National Park – a Plan for all who care about Dartmoor and its future. Although preparation of the Management Plan is the prime responsibility of the NPA, its preparation needs actively to engage and gain support of all key stakeholders who will assist in its delivery. The current Management Plan – Your Dartmoor – was 'approved' by the Authority in November 2013 (NPA/13/041).

3 Draft National Park Management Plan

- 3.1 To recap, the draft Management Plan has been prepared by officers building on the outputs from the Dartmoor Debates and the working groups. It includes the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045, with more detail set out in seven themes: two cross-cutting

themes of Climate Change and Better for the Next Generation which cut across all aspects of the Plan; and five specific themes of:

- Better for Nature and Natural Beauty
- Better for Cultural Heritage
- Better for People
- Better for Farming and Forestry
- Better for Communities and Business

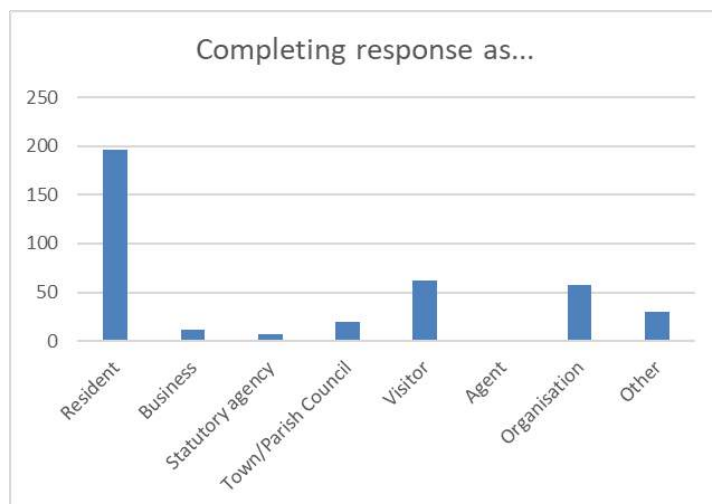
3.2 The draft Plan also includes a set of principles for responding to the key challenges identified, including the 'grit issues' where there is a lack of consensus, and where there are conflicting objectives.

3.3 The NPMP Review, Draft for Consultation (2020 – 2025) was approved by the Authority on 10 January 2020.

4 Consultation on the Draft National Park Management Plan

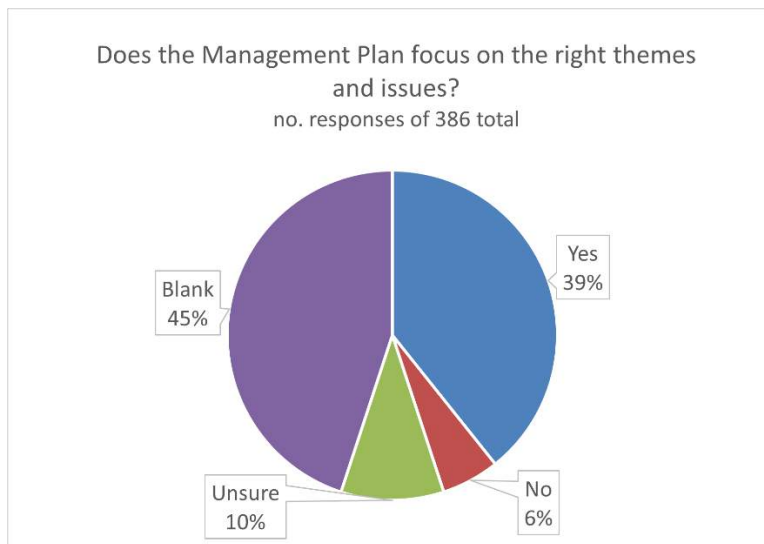
4.1 The consultation on the draft Management Plan ran from 20 January 2020 to 31 May 2020. The consultation was widely publicised, additionally supported by direct contact with certain stakeholder groups. Due to the Coronavirus crisis the consultation deadline was extended.

4.2 386 responses were received from a variety of individuals (predominantly Dartmoor residents and a range of stakeholder organisations and partners See chart 4.20 below.



4.20 Chart showing number of respondents by type

While there were many comments made on the detailed content of the plan, the general reaction was supportive, see chart 4.21 below. Where differences of opinion were voiced these had largely been already addressed in the Key Challenges section.



4.21 chart showing proportion of responses that consider the plan to focus on the right issues, similar support has been received to other broad consultation questions such as agreement with the principles responding to key challenges.

- 4.3 Many respondents provided full and detailed feedback. Each response has been broken down into individual remarks and then categorised according to the way they should be addressed. Remarks critical of or requesting a specific change to the wording of the plan have been considered individually by lead officers with a view to addressing them within changes to the draft plan; more general remarks in response to themes in the plan but not requiring individual consideration have been collated and considered together (these are shown in parts 4.5 to 4.11 of this report). Where specific proposals have been made that relate to the activity in the plan but not to the wording, these have been passed on to the relevant lead officer.
- 4.4 Feedback on the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045 was highly supportive with a couple of changes to the detail requested, these are described in part 5. of this report.

The **Sandford Principle** is often quoted in consultation responses and so detail of this has been added under **National Park Purposes and Duty**. The wording in this section has also been amended to be closer to that in the Environment Act 1995.

Some concern was expressed through the consultation that conservation of the **Special Qualities** may impede positive change, particularly relating to nature recovery and climate change amelioration and adaptation. This is not the case and we have sought to clarify the situation regarding conservation and enhancement of the Special Qualities.

Since the draft Management Plan was written people have been subjected to a global pandemic. National Parks, as well as other coast and countryside sites, have seen a sharp rise in demand for access to natural beauty, this may be accompanied by a greater appreciation of our National Parks. The Authority is responsive to such needs and opportunities, a comment to this effect has been added to **Forces for Change**.

A number of consultation responses question the meaning of terms used in the draft Management Plan and a **glossary** has been added to address this.

4.5 105 respondents gave answers to consultation questions 17 & 18, making 383 remarks in relation to the cross-cutting **section on climate change**.

4.6 52% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.5 below. 29% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 18% of remarks were critical of the plan (3%) or requested changes.

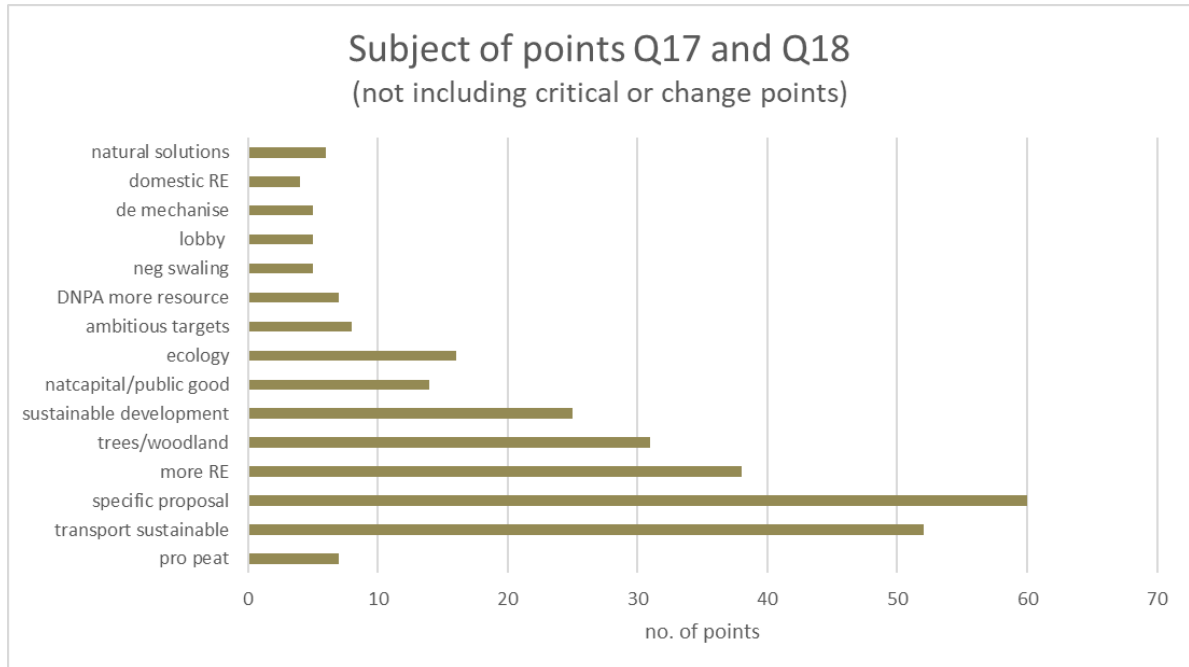


Chart 4.5 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on climate change (RE stands for renewable energy, 'neg' means negative comment). These subjects account for 90% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Targets/measures/baselines
- Scale of reduction/mitigation required
- Opportunities for wind also negatives for hydro
- Include wood supply chains
- Specify type of woodland (to be created)
- Change 'long term' relating to climate threat
- Change title equivalent of 'better for...' or stronger
- Discuss Dartmoor's contribution in wider Devon/SW/UK context

4.7 57 respondents gave answers to consultation questions 19 & 20, making 90 remarks in relation to the cross-cutting **section on the next generation**.

46% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.6 below. 42% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 10% of remarks were critical of the plan (6%) or requested changes.

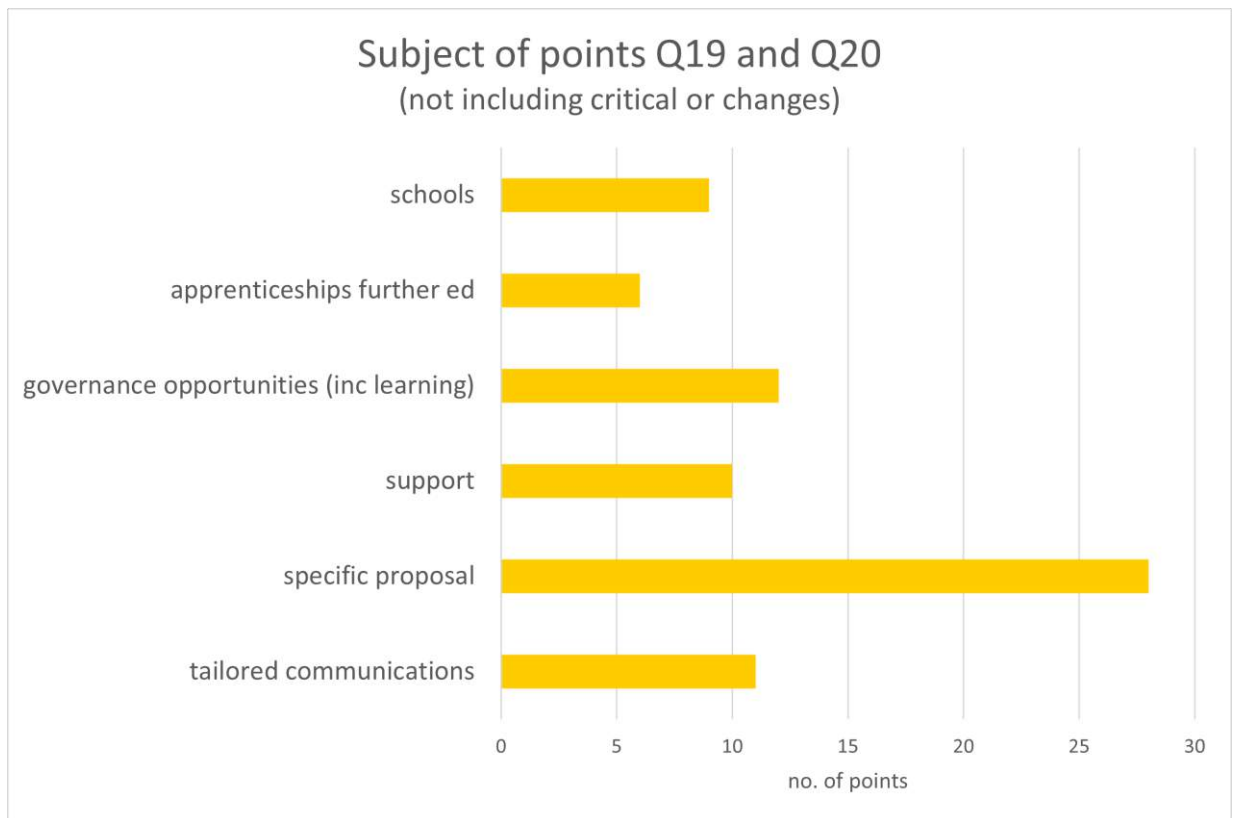


Chart 4.6 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on the next generation. These subjects account for 90% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Clarify how Next Gen. group selected and what is the make up
- Clarify status of the Next Gen. Manifesto
- Help them learn to map read, no more waymarked routes

4.8 99 respondents gave answers to consultation questions 19 & 20, making 269 remarks in relation to the **section on the nature and natural beauty**.

56% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.7 below. 28% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 20% of remarks were critical of the plan (5%) or requested changes.

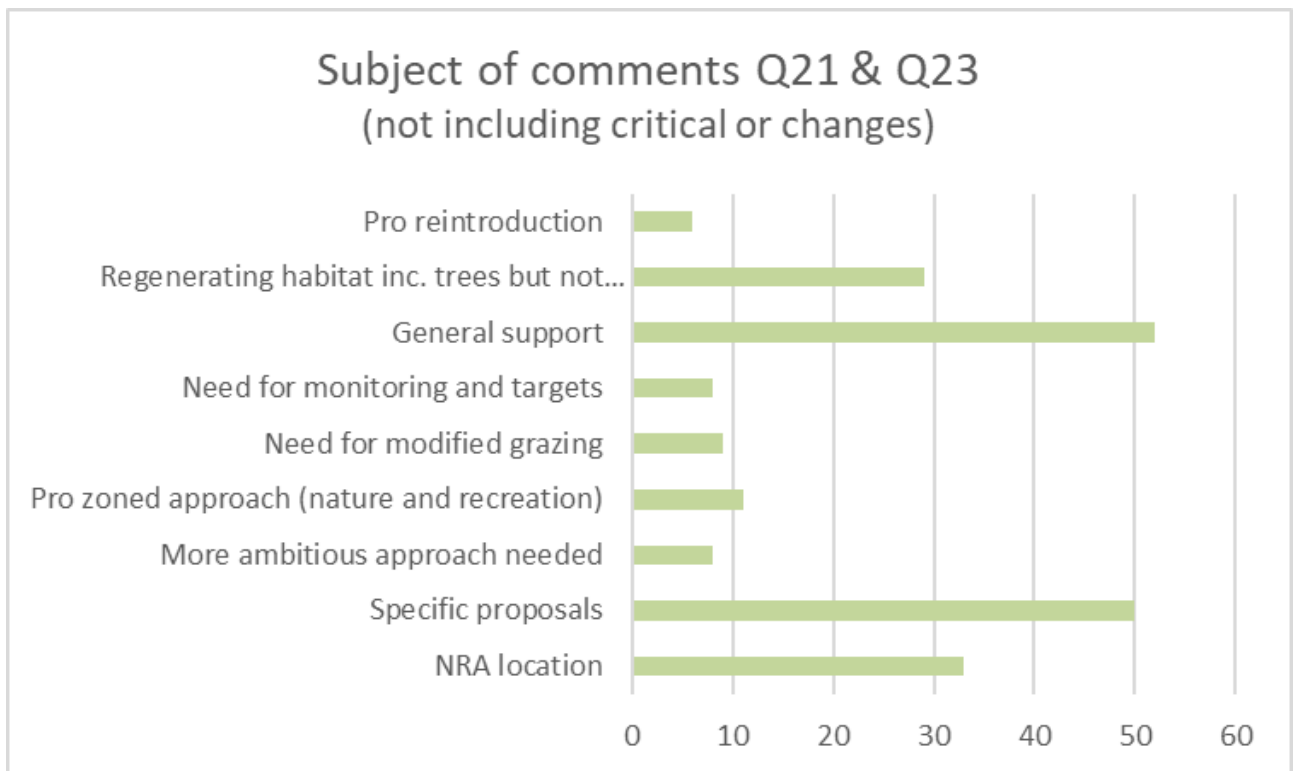


Chart 4.7 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on the nature and natural beauty. These subjects account for 85% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Add detail on more woodland & value of hedgerow and standalone trees etc
- Add detail on Nature Recovery Areas
- Integrate cultural heritage conservation
- FE conifer remains till end of rotation
- Acknowledge balanced needs of historic environment in this theme too
- Opportunity to understand peat through archaeological research
- Stronger wording on potential for ELMS
- More proactive wording on restoration of dynamic natural systems
- Acknowledge significance of designations
- Definition 'priority species'
- Emphasis on soils
- Maintain and enhance rivers (not restore)

4.9 56 respondents gave answers to consultation question 24, making 126 remarks in relation to the **section on the cultural heritage**.

45% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.8 below. 47% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 25% of remarks were critical of the plan (8%) or requested changes.

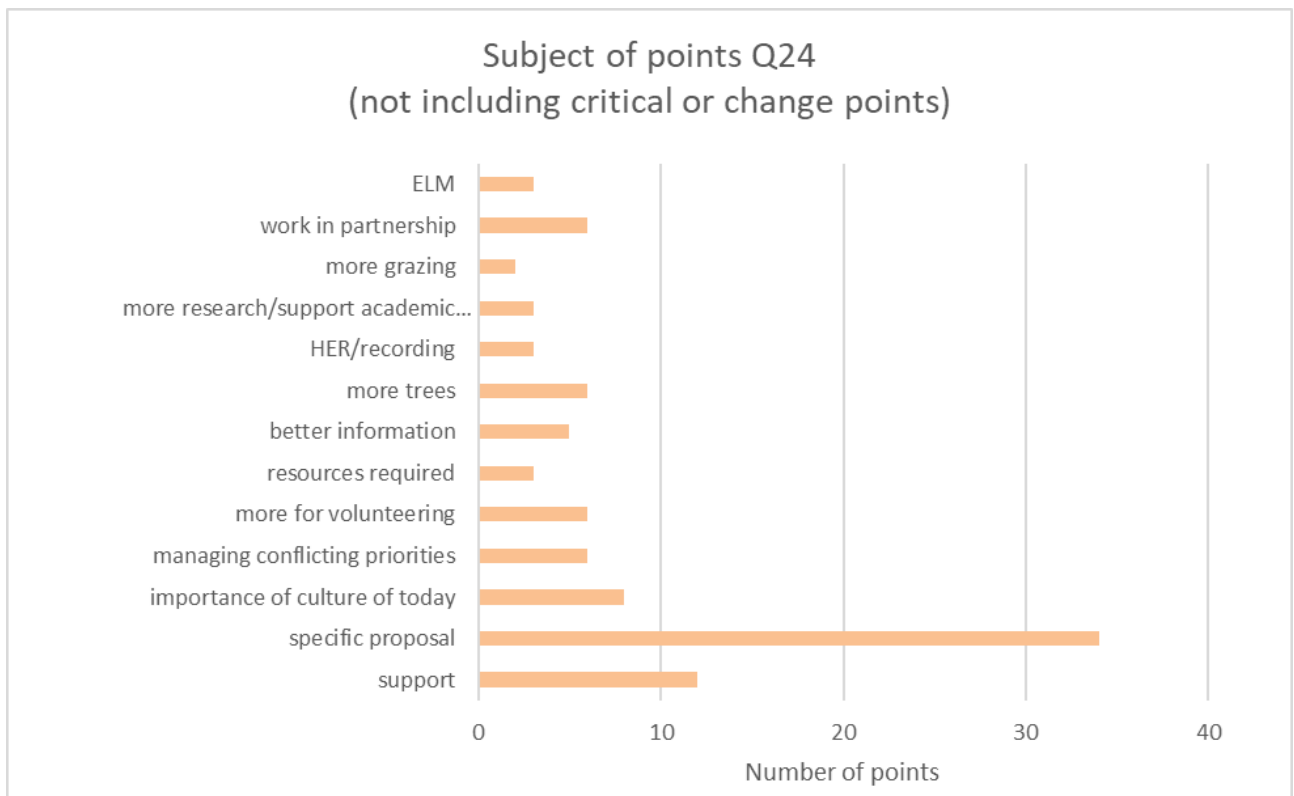


Chart 4.8 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on cultural heritage. These subjects account for 80% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Add detail on current scope & quality of historic environment records
- Recognition for volunteers
- Integrate with other environmental interests
- Acknowledge importance of peat re historical record
- Clarify importance designated and non-designated assets
- Indirect threats; climate change and loss of traditional skills
- More accurate phrases relating to and partnership link with Historic England

4.10 Respondents gave answers to consultation question 25, making 206 remarks in relation to the **section on farming and forestry**.

80% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.9 below. 8% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 7% of remarks were critical of the plan (2%) or requested changes.

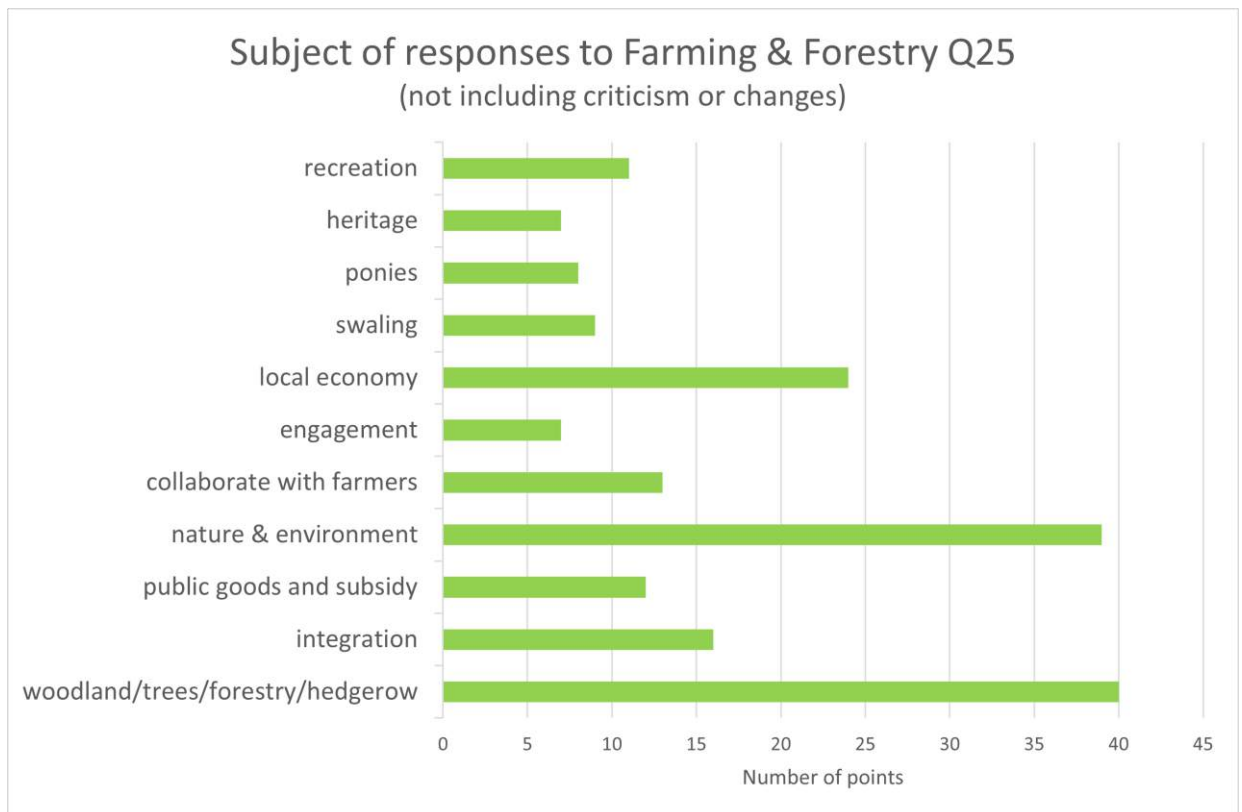


Chart 4.9 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on farming and forestry. These subjects account for 80% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Strengthen link between moorland, commons, farmland and woodland...
- Annual farm & forestry open day
- 2005 Moorland Vision now obsolete?
- Most Dartmoor farms are already 'low carbon' rephrase/recognize
- Clarify 'locally tailored ELMS' relate to neighbouring areas
- Steering Group contribute to the direction of Dartmoor Hill Farm Project
- Define 'abundant nature'
- Consistent approach across all Commons (reference to Integrated Land Management Plans)

4.11 115 respondents gave answers to consultation questions 26, 27 and 28 making 299 remarks in relation to the **section relating to people and the second purpose of National Parks**.

52% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.10 below. 25% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 12% of remarks were critical of the plan (4%) or requested changes.

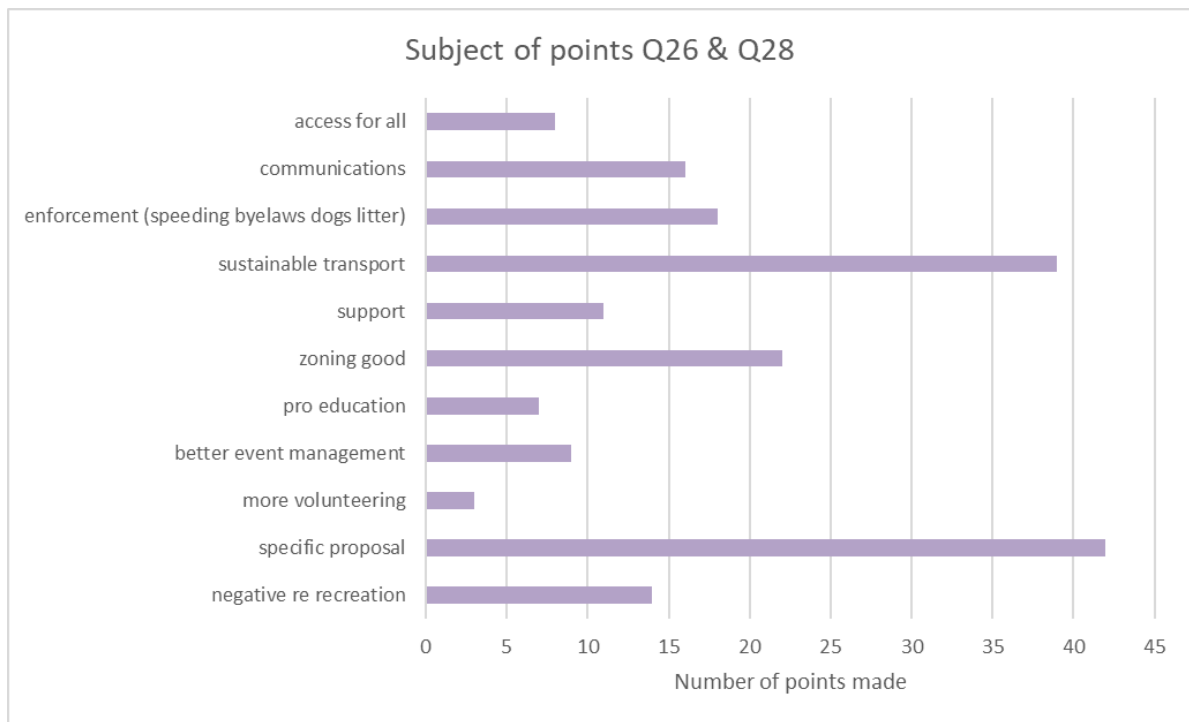


Chart 4.10 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on 'people'. These subjects account for 95% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Update Recreation Strategy Map
- Clearer on rural crime (especially dog attacks and livestock Road Traffic Accidents)
- Greater recognition of cultural heritage
- Concern over balancing nature (& heritage) needs versus recreation
- Say more about inclusive access for all
- Recognise importance affordable transport
- Clearer on multi-user routes and benefits for all Public Rights of Way users
- Make clear Welcome Pack is a trial and ambition is to expand this activity

4.12 68 respondents gave answers to consultation question 29 making 129 remarks in relation to the **section relating to communities and business**.

49% of the remarks were more general comments, subjects of which are shown in chart 4.11 below. 27% of remarks were specific proposals not affecting the wording of the plan and 19% of remarks were critical of the plan (10%) or requested changes.

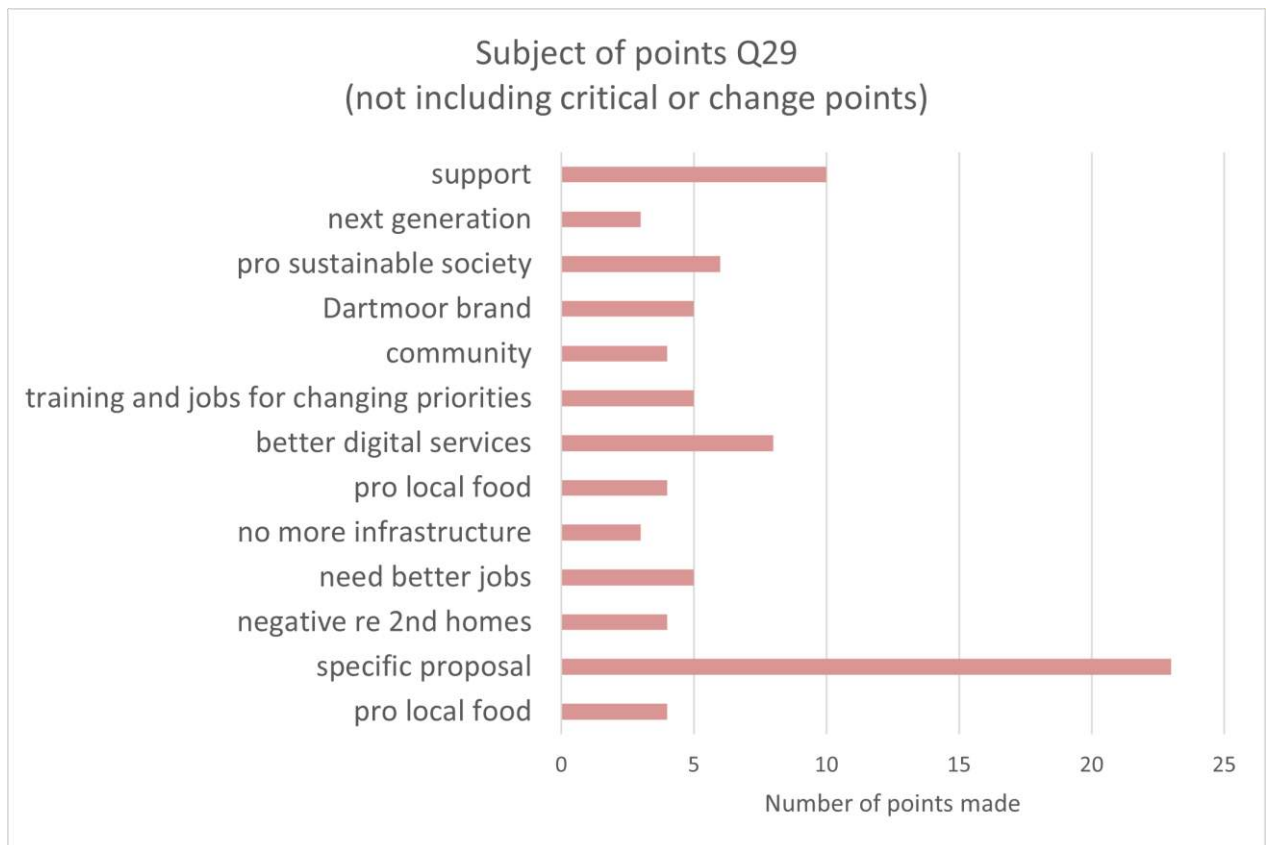


Chart 4.11 shows subject of more general remarks made in relation to the section on communities and business. These subjects account for 86% of the more general remarks made.

Changes requested to the detail of the Plan include:

- Dark Sky status is not feasible (for Dartmoor) should drop
- Define 'affordable' housing
- Dartmoor brand could include wood product
- Define 'sustainable development' including historic environment and assets
- Reference Dartmoor National Park Design Guide 2011
- Reference need for traditional skills throughout NPMP
- Include specific mention eco- tourism
- Address second home issue
- How is art & culture to be supported?

4.13 Consultation responses and revised text for Better for Nature and Natural Beauty, Better for Farming and Forestry and Better for People have been reviewed by lead DNPA Officers and stakeholder groups, Better for Cultural Heritage and Better for Communities and Business have been reviewed by lead DNPA Officers.

5 Summary of changes to the National Park Management Plan

5.1 Given the importance of the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045 to the Plan, all changes are accounted for in detail in this report:

- 2nd paragraph – now says, 'connected to the past and looking to the **future**'.
- Alive with nature now includes – "as nature is **enhanced** and...'
- 'Carbon neutral' is now 'carbon **negative**' in relation to Dartmoor's landscape

- The final paragraph under the Vision now contains a reminder that the National Park Management Plan is reviewed every five years as we move towards this longer term vision.
- 5.2 Changes to the other introductory sections of the Plan (e.g. Purposes and Duty/Special Qualities) have already been described in 4.4.
- 5.3 The section on climate change has a new title '**A Better Response to Climate Change**', more consistent with other sections of the plan. This is a cross cutting section of the plan, so while the wording here remains largely unchanged, actions in related parts of the Plan have been strengthened in response to feedback and increasing societal concern. Reference to the draft Devon Carbon Plan has been added.
- 5.4 The only changes to the cross cutting Better for the Next Generation are to emphasise the Authority's commitment to measure success against the Calls for Action and to set out the Calls for Action under the headings used in the Next Generation Manifesto.
- 5.5 Some changes have been made consistently across all of the other five specific themes, these account for the most substantial changes to the Plan. The changes, respond to recommendations in the Landscapes Review and criticism that the draft Plan plan was unclear, in places, over how aims would be achieved, and success measured
- An opening paragraph has been added **linking** the content of each theme back to the Vision statement
 - Sections are given **sub-headings** – these provide structure for the measures table at the end of each section
 - 'What are we trying to achieve?' becomes '**What does success look like?**'
 - We have clarified in a short paragraph for each sub-section how partners aim to achieve success, including specific and timebound activities, as requested through the consultation.o.
 - The section in the draft Management Plan on **Monitoring Progress** has been replaced by a table on **Monitoring and links to other plans** to the end of each theme.
- 5.6 In line with the approach described in 5.5 detailed actions and targets have been added below the aims that were already set out under **Better for Nature and Natural Beauty** in the draft Management Plan. Requested changes received through the consultation, such as those set out in 4.7 have also been addressed.
- 5.7 In line with the approach described in 5.5 detailed actions and targets have been added below the aims that were already set out under **Better for Cultural Heritage** in the draft Management Plan. Requested changes received through the consultation, such as those set out in 4.8 have also been addressed.
- 5.8 The introduction to the section **Better for Farming and Forestry** contains a new paragraph that describes the relationship between farming and Dartmoor's landscape. In line with the approach described in 5.5 another layer of detailed actions and targets have been added below the aims that were already set out in

the draft Management Plan. Requested changes received through the consultation, such as those set out in 4.9 have also been addressed. All aims and actions described in the consultation draft are retained in this draft, there has been some reordering in order to bring aims together under coherent sub headings. The detail of the actions has been clarified and expanded.

- 5.9 The aims and actions that were already set out under **Better for People** in the consultation draft Management Plan were more detailed than those under other themes, so less detail has needed to be added in this regard. The order of sub sections has been changed, 'More Visitors Leave No Trace' now comes first and the 'What does success...' statement has been developed but the aims and actions remain almost the same; actions have been added here relating to erosion management and seeking resource for additional Rangers to better engage with visitors.

The Recreation Strategy Map has been updated. An action relating to permissive access through ELM has been removed as the timing will be unlikely to align with this plan. Actions relating to Outreach events have been removed as they are now detailed in the newly published Outreach Strategy. Requested changes received through the consultation, such as those set out in 4.10 have also been addressed.

- 5.10 In line with the approach described in 5.5 sub headings and targets have been added to **Better for Communities and Business** in the draft Management Plan. The actions in the consultation draft were already detailed and some timings have been added to these. The main change to this section is the reorganising of some actions under different sub headings. The action to pursue Dark Night Skies status has been removed as, on investigation, it seems to not be feasible for Dartmoor. Requested changes received through the consultation, such as those set out in 4.11 have also been addressed resulting in some minor amendments to the detail of a few actions and the addition of an action relating to supporting arts and culture.
- 5.11 The principles for responding to the Key Challenges set out in the consultation draft received overwhelming support in consultation and remains unchanged other than some minor corrections to terminology and updates.

6 Monitoring progress towards the Vision

- 6.1 The 'Monitoring and Links to other Plans' sections under the five related themes are significantly expanded from the consultation draft and in most cases require further development as the Plan progresses. Consideration has been given to the ongoing monitoring of progress in delivering NPMP 2021-26; the intention being to convene stakeholder working groups under the five themes to review progress at least annually.

7 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 7.1 The Plan's contribution to sustainable development, and its potential impact on designated nature conservation sites have been tested through a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, and Equalities Impact Assessment), and a Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out by independent consultants. These are being reviewed against changes made to the draft Management Plan and a verbal update

will be given to Members at the meeting on any significant recommendations arising from the Assessments.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Costs related to illustration, design and publication of the Management Plan are held in reservest.
- 8.2 The National Park Management Plan is a plan for Dartmoor, produced by the Authority, delivered in partnership. Some but not all of the actions within the Plan can be delivered with the resources that Dartmoor's stakeholders and the Authority can reasonably expect to have over the term of the plan, however public funding is uncertain and this will put delivery of the Plan at risk. The Authority has been urged to be ambitious in development of the Plan and therefore elements will require successful partnership working and funding applications to secure additional resources

9 Equality and Sustainability Impact

- 9.1 The equality and sustainability impact of the National Park Management Plan has been assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal, carried out by consultants. There are no foreseen adverse impacts on equality or sustainability.

10 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 10.1 The consultation process resulted in a robust review of the draft Plan, overwhelmingly the response to the draft Plan was supportive and where changes to the detail were requested or criticism made these have been given full consideration and responded to where appropriate. The substantial change to the draft Plan has been to add detail as to how aims will be achieved and success measured, however the aims themselves remain largely unchanged.
- 10.2 The recommendation is that Members:
- (i) Approve the plan for adoption subject to ii) below; and
 - (ii) delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, any final amendments including changes recommended by the Sustainability Appraisal or Habitats Regulations Assessment.

James Sharpe

Your Dartmoor 2021-26

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Introduction

Dartmoor is one of the UK's 15 National Parks, the 'breathing spaces' for the nation, a place of enjoyment and recreation for millions, home to around 35,000 people, and a place of work for around 10,000 people, including those who work the land, and in doing so help to create the landscapes that make Dartmoor worthy of National Park status. Wild, open moorlands and deep river valleys, characteristic and rare wildlife, and a rich history, are amongst the special qualities that make Dartmoor a unique place.

In this Management Plan we set out a bold Vision for Dartmoor's future in delivering the purposes for which National Parks were designated, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and to promote understanding and enjoyment of Dartmoor's special qualities. The Plan is a call to action for individuals, communities, businesses, public bodies, voluntary sector, and other organisations to work together and with the National Park Authority to deliver this Vision. It also includes the Vision of the Next Generation of people who will be the future custodians of Dartmoor.

The Management Plan outlines the key drivers and challenges facing the National Park, including conflicting objectives and competing priorities, and sets out how these should be addressed. It will guide the resource allocation and priorities of the Authority and our partners who are key to its delivery, and we hope that it will also influence wider decisions and investment of those who have a role to play in land management, tourism and the wider economy.

Figure 1: Map showing the 10 English National Parks and Dartmoor National Park



Preparation of the Management Plan

- 2.1 The Management Plan has been developed over 2019-20. This involved gathering evidence, considering the issues and opportunities, engaging with partners through a series of Dartmoor Debates, and seeking views through a public opinion survey. A draft of the Plan was publicly available and circulated between January and the end of May 2020, feedback sought and considered by stakeholder groups including the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Steering Group, Natural Environment Working Group and Better for People Stakeholder Group. This consultation and consideration resulting in production of this final version of the Plan. Further details are available via the [Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review webpage](#).
- 2.2 Dartmoor National Park Authority has worked with a **Next Generation group** to ensure that the Next Generation are involved in the future of Dartmoor National Park. This group of young people, who live and work in, or visit, the National Park, has produced a **Next Generation Manifesto** as a call to action to influence how organisations and decision makers shape Dartmoor for its future communities, recreation users, visitors, businesses, young people, farmers and the environment, landscape and heritage. **It includes their own Vision for Dartmoor**. Specific calls for action are included in the Next Generation Manifesto which accompanies this Plan. The National Park Authority will continue to work with the Next Generation and put in place mechanisms to enable young people to be involved in decision making and have more opportunities to get involved.
- 2.3 The Management Plan's contribution to sustainable development, and its potential impact on designated nature conservation sites were tested through a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.



Vision for Dartmoor in 2045

Dartmoor National Park is an extraordinary landscape: shaped by nature and humans over time; steeped in history but always changing; one of Britain's finest. It has the power to inspire and enrich lives.

Our Vision is to make Dartmoor better for future generations: climate resilient, nature rich, beautiful, connected to the past and looking to the future; a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can live, work or visit. A place that is loved, cherished and cared for.

It will be:

- **Alive with nature:** Networks of healthy habitats that are home to many different plants, insects and animals create a more resilient natural environment connected within and across the boundary of the National Park. Some areas feel wilder as nature is enhanced and allowed to take its course.
- **Celebrated and enhanced:** Dartmoor's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage is better understood, valued and looked after.
- **A warm welcome for all:** Enriching people's lives, reaching out to people from all backgrounds, connecting them with this special place. Transformative experiences will inspire people to care for the National Park.
- **A great place to live and work:** People of all ages can enjoy living and working in low carbon, flourishing communities that are connected physically and digitally. Farming and forestry businesses play a key role in delivering a high-quality environment and local products alongside a range of other public benefits.
- **Carbon negative:** Dartmoor's peatlands, soils and woodlands will store significantly more carbon. Responding to climate change will be embedded in our way of life, making the best use of natural resources and reducing carbon emissions.

Everyone will come together to deliver this Vision for Dartmoor; make choices that balance the needs of people and place; embrace positive change; and inspire the next generation to help shape its future.

This plan sets out how we will work together over the next five years towards the vision. This National Park Management Plan for Dartmoor will be reviewed and updated every five years.

National Park Purposes and Duty

As a National Park, Dartmoor has two statutory purposes¹:

“of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the (Dartmoor National Park) area”.

“of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the (Dartmoor National Park) area by the public”.

And a duty to:

“A National Park authority, in pursuing... the purposes... shall **seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park**, but without incurring significant expenditure in doing so, and shall for that purpose co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park.”²

Relevant authorities must have regard to National Park purposes when making decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting land within the National Park³.

The Sandford Principle

National Parks should pursue both of the purposes and where one is in conflict with the other, seeking to achieve a balance between the two through careful management. This approach is informed by the so called ‘Sandford Principle’ which came about through the Report of the National Parks Policy Review Committee, 1974.

The Environment Act 1995 s62 (1) (2) states:

“In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, any relevant authority shall have regard to the purposes specified in subsection (1) of section five of this Act and, if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area comprised in the National Park.”

¹ The Environment Act 1995 s61 (1) (1)

² The Environment Act 1995 s61 (1) (1)

³ The Environment Act 1995 s61 (1) (2) & (3)



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Special Qualities

Dartmoor has a very special place in people's appreciation of Devon and the wider south west of England and the UK. The special qualities of the National Park identify what is distinctive about Dartmoor and help to identify what is most important to be conserved, enhanced and enjoyed.

This Management Plan recognises these special qualities but does not aim to preserve the National Park in aspic. Dartmoor is a dynamic landscape, and the Plan promotes positive change. We recognise that there may be conflicts in delivering this change and principles for managing this are outlined in our key challenges section.

Dartmoor's special qualities are:

a **distinctive landscape and valuable biodiversity**, including:

open, windswept **upland moors** with far reaching views and a sense of remoteness and wildness, distinctive granite tors surrounded by loose rock or 'clitter', and large expanses of grass and heather moorland, blanket bogs, and valley mires providing habitats for distinctive wildlife such as skylark and cuckoo, and rarities including Vigur's eyebright and southern damselfly;

sheltered valleys with upland oak woodland, rhôs pasture and fast-flowing boulder-strewn rivers, home to characteristic wildlife including the pied flycatcher and salmon, and rare species such as the marsh fritillary butterfly;

enclosed farmland with small irregular pasture fields bounded by dry stone walls and hedgebanks providing a mosaic of different wildlife habitats, including hay meadows and species rich dry grasslands with wildlife such as the beautiful greater butterfly orchid;

a **varied geology**, including the granite bedrock providing the dominant building material throughout history, and a wide range of valued minerals including tin, copper, lead, silver and arsenic;

timelessness: a place spared many of the intrusions of modern life, with dark night-time skies;

tranquillity: where it is possible to find absolute peace, offering spiritual refreshment and opportunities for quiet reflection, escape and creativity;

unrivalled opportunities to roam at will over the extensive open moorland, and an exceptional **rights of way network** for walking, riding and cycling;

traditional farming practices, using the moorland commons for extensive grazing of hardy cattle, sheep and ponies including locally distinctive breeds;

clean water: the catchment area for most of the rivers of Devon; historic leats still supply water to surrounding settlements. The peatlands and open water of the reservoirs provide an important water store helping to regulate the flow of water off the moor;

one of the most **important archaeological landscapes** in western Europe revealing a chronology of human activity stretching back over 8,000 years, from ancient field systems to the legacy of tin mining;

a wealth of **historic buildings, structures and townscapes**, including a strong medieval settlement pattern of **scattered farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns**, set within enclosed farmland surrounding the open moor and linked by an intimate pattern of sunken lanes;

Forces for Change

There are many forces for change that will influence Dartmoor's future. Some, such as climate change or national policy and legislation, are things that we need to respond to although they are outside the direct control of the Authority and other delivery partners. Some of the key issues raised during preparation of the Management Plan are listed below:

The implications of climate change, and the opportunity to respond both in terms of reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses, and adapting to the changes in climate already being experienced and predicted

The pressures arising from increased visitor numbers, driven by new housing and development in surrounding areas leading to increased erosion; anti-social behaviour; traffic congestion; disturbance to wildlife and livestock; and resulting in conflicts with farmers and local communities.

The challenges facing the natural environment including declines in biodiversity; disruption of natural processes; inappropriate (or lack of) land management; soil compaction and erosion; increased flood risk; invasive species, pests and diseases

Uncertainty over the future of upland farming and forestry particularly in the light of Brexit and what changes to markets, policy and funding will follow. However, if framed correctly the new ELM could provide an opportunity to enhance Dartmoor and support sustainable farm businesses

The implications of an ageing population and falling numbers of working age people living on Dartmoor; high house prices driven by the attractiveness of the National Park as a place to live; and low wage levels in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism and leisure.



Glover Review

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan announced a review of Protected Landscapes in England. Julian Glover, a journalist and author, was asked to head up the Review Panel. The Panel's Report, issued in September 2019, included 27 specific recommendations with an overall purpose that 'we want our national landscapes to work together with big ambitions, so they are happier, healthier, greener, more beautiful and open to everyone.' These included:

- proposals for a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature
- a stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes; to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors; and improve the nation's health and well-being
- national landscapes working for vibrant communities; in particular addressing affordable housing and sustainable transport issues
- new designated landscapes nationally and changes to the designation process
- changes to the statutory purposes for designated landscapes; reformed governance arrangements; and a new financial model.

The Report included specific proposals to improve and strengthen Management Plans, with a stronger status in law, and with the main purpose of reconfigured Authority Boards being to prepare and drive delivery of Management Plans, overseen by a new National Landscape Service. The Review Panel saw Management Plans setting ambitious targets and actions for increasing the diversity of visitors, for nature recovery and addressing climate change through for example, tree and woodland creation and peatland restoration and supporting wilder areas. The Plans should be underpinned by robust assessments of the state of nature and natural capital.

Implementation of the Glover Review recommendations will require agreement by Government, legislative changes, and new funding. We are glad that the Review shares our ambition to make National Parks even better for people, nature and the communities that live in them. DNPA will work positively with Government on how the recommendations can be progressed. In this Plan we have sought to follow the spirit of the Review findings and take forward what we are able to within current structures, powers and funding. In particular, we have embraced the challenge to be bold and ambitious in setting the future Vision for Dartmoor, which echoes the clear message that people gave us as we prepared the Management Plan. **We fully recognise, however, that the Vision and ambitions in the Plan need additional resources if they are to be delivered across our Partnership.**

Delivering the Plan

Delivery of the Vision is a shared responsibility, led by the National Park Authority but dependent on **maintaining existing, strong partnership working and forging new partnerships**. It will involve everyone with an interest in the future of Dartmoor, in particular those who manage the land, national agencies, local authorities, local communities, businesses, interest groups, the voluntary sector and those people who visit the National Park. With this in mind the term 'we' is used frequently throughout the plan when referring to the aims and objectives described, in this context 'we' means all stakeholders who may be able to play a part in delivering these aims.

As well as this continued partnership working, the Management Plan will require existing **resources** to be aligned around delivery of the Vision, and significant **new sources of funding** to be secured.

The Management Plan sits alongside the **Dartmoor National Park Local Plan**, which is another important statutory document for Dartmoor and provides the planning framework for decisions regarding development and the use of land. The Management Plan and Local Plan are both designed to help deliver the statutory purposes of the National Park: to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and to promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities. The two Plans have been developed over a similar timeframe and so are closely aligned in what they are seeking to achieve. The decisions that the Authority makes in relation to planning are also an important element of how the Management Plan will be delivered.

Farmers and land managers are central to achieving this Plan, underpinned by delivery mechanisms such as the new **Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)**, national policy, and local support through the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project and partner organisations. The new ELMS will influence how farmers, foresters and land managers will be rewarded for delivering a range of public benefits including clean water, natural beauty, abundant nature, and cultural heritage. Food is not defined as a public benefit for the purpose of ELMS, but high-quality food production has been, and will continue to be, an important part of Dartmoor's landscape.

There is also a significant amount of human and cultural capital that can be harnessed to help deliver of the Plan, through the active support of our **local communities, partner organisations, and volunteers**.

Themes

In order to deliver this Vision, we have focused on seven interrelated and connected themes, which describe in more detail what we want to achieve, and how we will achieve this. The themes do not cover all the work that will be ongoing within the National Park but instead highlight the areas where we will **work together to achieve transformative change**. The aspirations in this Plan are very ambitious, and we recognise that they will be challenging to achieve, but their inclusion in the Management Plan is intended to drive action and to target efforts to secure the funding and resources required.

Themes:

- Climate Change
- Better for the Next Generation
- Better for Nature and Natural Beauty
- Better for Cultural Heritage
- Better for People
- Better for Farming and Forestry
- Better for Business and Communities

Figure 2 Management Plan Themes

(to be added during document design)



A Better Response to Climate Change

Introduction

Climate change is the greatest challenge in the present day. The impact of climate change on Dartmoor will continue to be wide reaching, with warmer, wetter winters, hotter, dryer summers, increased (and decreased) river flows and an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the effects of which are already being seen. The overriding opportunity for the Management Plan is to make a significant contribution to both mitigating and adapting to climate change and addressing the ecological emergency. This will need a concerted effort by all partners to this plan and people visiting Dartmoor but also strong national policy and resources to deliver.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations:

Dartmoor National Park Authority declared a climate and ecological emergency in June 2019, with a commitment for the Authority to be carbon neutral by 2025.

Our 2045 Vision sets an ambition for the National Park to be carbon negative.

The National Park can play a significant role as a **carbon sink** through peatland restoration, woodland management and creation, sustainable farming and land management practices to increase soil carbon. The Authority is also working with Devon County Council and partners on a co-ordinated response to the climate emergency.

We want to ensure that Dartmoor leads the way on **climate change mitigation and adaptation**, making the best use of Dartmoor's natural, built and cultural resources. The impacts of climate change cut-across all aspects of the Management Plan, and so the response has been integrated throughout each section of the Plan, linking to relevant aspects of the Local Plan which is an important delivery mechanism. In summary, this includes:

Mitigating climate change by reducing emissions

A major focus on increasing Dartmoor's carbon storage and sequestration through restoration of; soils, extensively on peatland; natural regeneration of seminatural habitats; woodland creation and management.

Restoring naturally functioning hydrological systems and supporting healthy soils to maximise carbon storage and increase water-holding capacity

Incentivising low carbon land management and agricultural practices (extensive, low input, pasture fed livestock systems) as part of future environmental land management schemes

Promoting local food and wood supply chains to reduce food and timber miles and support the local economy¹

Significantly reducing emissions from transport by improving sustainable transport options

Using National Park Visitor Centres, information centres and wider communications and engagement at local, regional and national levels to help inform, engage and empower visitors and local residents to take action at a personal level

A Better Response to Climate Change

Significantly reducing energy consumption through improved building efficiency, particularly fabric-first building, retro-fitting enhancements and requiring high standards of sustainable construction and sensitive treatment of the historic environment

Encouraging the use of small-scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies such as biomass, solar PV and hydro, which are compatible with Dartmoor's special qualities.

Adapting to a changing climate

A fundamental shift in nature recovery, establishing nature recovery areas and restoring natural hydrological systems and well managed soils

Adopting natural flood management techniques in key catchments to improve water absorption, slow the flow and reduce flood risk

Considering future climate risks when managing development including flood risk, water availability for people and nature, cooling and shading

Adapting land management and farming practices to support nature recovery, soils, flood risk and future farm business resilience

Requiring net gains for biodiversity as part of new development (through Local Plan policies), including green infrastructure which can help species adapt to climate change

Responding to the threats and opportunities for the historic environment as well as addressing competing priorities between nature recovery, climate change mitigation & adaptation and heritage assets

Supporting community action and engaging with young people through the climate emergency response.



Better for the Next Generation

Dartmoor National Park Authority has supported a **Next Generation group** to ensure that the Next Generation are involved in the future of Dartmoor National Park. Their Manifesto accompanies this Plan and is a call to action from the Next Generation to influence how organisations and decision makers shape Dartmoor for its future communities, recreation users, visitors, businesses, young people, farmers and the environment, landscape and heritage. It includes their own Vision for Dartmoor:

Next Generation Vision

The National Park will be a place that the next generation can thrive in: a place to call home, a place to work, a place to explore and a place to protect and understand. The next generation will be supported on Dartmoor through reliable infrastructure and services, viable jobs and diverse career opportunities. Communities will thrive, traditions will be alive and there will be widespread recognition of the rural skills on offer.

There will also be a future for the environment and heritage of Dartmoor, it will be protected, enhanced and understood by all. Everyone will have the opportunity to visit and experience Dartmoor and it will remain one of Britain's breathing spaces.

The National Park Authority will continue to work with the Next Generation and put in place mechanisms to enable young people to be involved in decision making and have more opportunities to get involved in responding to the calls to action. Stakeholders and other organisations will also play a role in delivering the calls to action, particularly in areas that fall outside of the Authority's influence. As part of our monitoring and review of the Management Plan we will assess how we are delivering against the Next Generation Calls for Action.



The Next Generation 'asks' in the Manifesto relate to all the Themes in the Management Plan

In summary these **calls to action** are:

Infrastructure and Services

Digital connectivity is essential for local residents, businesses and visitors. Improve mobile phone coverage, internet / broadband reliability and speed

Provide good public transport throughout the year, connecting settlements within the National Park and surrounding areas

Communities

Digital connectivity can only go so far. Young people need activities and social opportunities to help them feel part of the community, as well as avoiding feelings of isolation and issues with mental health

Housing

Many young people are finding it difficult to stay in their communities. There needs to be a better understanding of young people's housing needs and support / signposting to how to access housing

Job Opportunities and Skills

Develop a Dartmoor scheme linking local schools and colleges to local employers to provide opportunities for young people through apprenticeships, internships and work experience

Ensure that traditional skills and knowledge are passed on to the next generation and there are opportunities for young people that want to get into hill farming

Businesses

Promote a spirit of entrepreneurship on Dartmoor with funding and support to encourage young people to start their own businesses

Provide community workspaces and hubs that are desirable to work in, connected, and encourage creativity, innovation and collaboration

Dartmoor's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Help us (young people) to learn about what is special about Dartmoor and how we can help to conserve and enhance it

Be bold and innovative to conserve and enhance the National Park for the next generation, to ensure that it is in better condition

Provide opportunities for us (young people) to get involved with conservation projects

Opportunities to Experience Dartmoor

Use social media to improve communication about how we (young people and users) can access and enjoy the National Park responsibly

Better for the Next Generation

Develop a Dartmoor Ranger App with information about the local area, projects, routes and sensitivities that gives people the confidence to visit Dartmoor and use it in the right way

Create a series of waymarked routes to help people to feel more confident exploring Dartmoor, and to make it more accessible

Understanding and Respect

Provide opportunities for shared understanding between different groups and with local communities

Identify ways to help visitors and user groups to understand the role farming plays in managing the landscape.



Better for Nature and Natural Beauty

Delivering the Vision

This section of the Management Plan focuses on ***‘Alive with nature: Networks of healthy habitats that are home to many different plants, insects and animals create a more resilient natural environment connected within and across the boundary of the National Park. Some areas will feel wilder as nature is enhanced and allowed to take its course.’*** It will also support delivery of ***Celebrated and enhanced, A great place to live and work*** and ***Carbon negative***.

Introduction

Dartmoor National Park is an extraordinary landscape, one of Britain’s finest; its special qualities recognised nationally through designation in 1951 as one of the first National Parks in the UK. The natural beauty of the landscape includes wild, open moorlands, with striking granite tors and steep wooded river valleys, intimate enclosed farmland with historic field patterns, and settlements; always changing, and shaped by nature and people over time.

Dartmoor is internationally important for a range of habitats including blanket bogs, upland heaths, upland oak woods, Rhôs pastures, lowland pastures, rivers and valley mires. It also supports many rare and common species. It hosts the headwaters of nine main river catchments and is the principal source of drinking water for much of Devon. Its deep peat, soils and woodlands are important stores of carbon.

Whilst Dartmoor remains a stronghold for many habitats and species, it is not immune from the wider ecological crisis which is impacting nature nationally and globally. This was recognised by the Authority with the declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in June 2019. During the preparation of the Management Plan, it became clear that a bold and ambitious response is needed to nature recovery at a landscape scale across the National Park and connecting beyond its boundary: with Dartmoor acting as the beating heart of nature recovery in Devon and beyond.

Conserve and Restore Nature and Natural Processes

What does success look like⁴?

Nature recovery at a landscape scale is underpinned by the restoration of dynamic natural processes. Habitats are protected, restored, maintained, cared for, expanded and connected; supported by land management systems and natural capital investment that have the delivery of public goods at their heart.

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve nature **recovery at a landscape scale** by ensuring that soils are well managed, achieve good condition and are functioning to improve biodiversity, productivity, maximise carbon storage and reduce flood risk, including the following priorities:

Throughout the life of this plan and beyond, maintain Dartmoor's peatlands, restoring their condition where necessary, so that our peatland resource is not degrading but healthy and accumulating new peat, including through:

- Working with the SW Peatland Project and the Dartmoor Peatland Partnership restore an additional minimum 1000 hectares of priority blanket bog by 2026
- Maintaining all restored areas and ensure no degradation of wider peatland resource
- Increasing capacity and local skills to enable higher levels of annual restoration and sustainable land management to meet government 2050 targets

Increase understanding of carbon storage potential and maximise storage and retention within key Dartmoor soils through land use and management:

- By the end of 2021 work with experts to understand carbon storage potential of Dartmoor soils and identify and clarify storage potential within different land uses
- By 2022 produce practical guidance and provide support on measures that will increase the carbon stored in each of the main soil types and land uses on Dartmoor
- From 2021 work with partners to undertake a 'stock take' of current soil carbon storage, combining new measurements with existing mapping to quantify current and projected future change.
- By 2022 Work with at least 12 land managers to implement changes and demonstrate increased soil carbon storage and productivity by 2024 across key Dartmoor soil types

Improve soil structure, reduce compaction and increase water retention capacity:

- By 2025 work with 50 farm businesses to explore and implement agreed measures to enhance soil structure and monitor results.

⁴ Better for Nature should be read alongside Better for Cultural Heritage as we will work to ensure land management approaches take account of the needs of both.

Better for Nature

- By 2024 four farm cluster groups established to explore and share learning
- In 2021 begin to explore how sustainable soil management can provide increased productivity and economic benefits
- From 2021 provide support in terms of advice, machinery and source funding to facilitate measures

In order to increase the understanding of soil health, to inform land management and increase soil biodiversity, we will:

- Establish partnership research and monitoring projects with academic institutions and land managers to test the effectiveness of different interventions
- Work with farmers to establish several 'soil improvement test and trial sites' where different measures are implemented and monitored to assess the efficacy, cost and practicality.
- Increase understanding of public good benefits derived from healthy soils



Partners will work towards ensuring hydrological systems that are functioning naturally, providing clean, plentiful water and supporting abundant biodiversity. During the life of this plan, we will:

Restore rivers, streams and floodplains to improve water quality and regain naturalised form and flow: slowing the flow, increasing water storage, reducing the risk of flooding and increasing biodiversity:

- By 2022 identify sections of river that would provide optimal ecological benefit from restoration
- Working with farmers and other partners over the five-year period to establish pilot areas in different parts of a catchment (i.e., headwaters to floodplain) where sections of stream and river have been 're-naturalised'
- By 2024 work with partners to integrate a wide range of natural flood management measures within key catchments that will reduce the risk of flooding and improve hydrological systems

Protect and restore wetland habitats, reconnecting them to wider catchment systems:

- By 2026 restore or re-create wetland habitats, in locations where they can be connected to other habitats
- By 2022 secure funding to identify and maintain existing high-quality wetland habitat
- From 2022 encourage and facilitate skills training with local community to provide sustainability, income and resilience for specialist habitat management

Restore the hydrological functions of our degraded blanket bogs and maintain existing sites:

- From 2020 blanket bog restoration will continue to be targeted at areas where the University of Exeter and South West Water have identified the greatest hydrological opportunities

Partners will achieve habitat improvement and connectivity by striving to manage existing priority habitats⁵ adaptively, reflecting environmental change at landscape scale, delivering larger, better connected and diverse habitats:

Review all priority habitats to assess their sustainability in the light of likely climate change effects

- In 2021 commission a review of all the key wildlife habitats and vegetation types across Dartmoor to assess their resilience and sustainability in the light of likely climate change effects
- In 2021 develop a 'bottom up' mechanism and tool to identify opportunities for habitat creation and connectivity in partnership with landowners, land managers and mapping experts.

⁵ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/88466/Living-Dartmoor-COMPLETE-TEXT.pdf

Maintain, restore, connect and expand priority habitats that are resilient and adaptable to climate change:

- By 2026 identify opportunities with landowners and land managers to restore fragmented priority habitats that contributes to landscape scale change
- By 2026 SSSI will have achieved favourable status if still feasible
- By 2024 work with farmers, their advisers and other partners to help inform ELMS development and secure the funding required to create and maintain these habitats on the ground.

Partners will achieve restoration of natural processes by supporting dynamic, diverse, and well-functioning ecosystems at landscape scale, maintained by natural processes and appropriate management to ensure resilience and adaptation. Activity to support this aim will include:

Identify and promote a network of landscape scale nature recovery areas (NRA) across Dartmoor linking to wider Devon and Cornwall landscapes:

- By 2021 identify pilot NRA catchments where habitat diversity and abundance offer good opportunities for landscape scale nature recovery
- From 2021 work with partners, landowners, land managers and communities to explore opportunities, interest and ambition to develop and deliver ambitious nature recovery visions
- By 2022 establish at least two pilot landscape scale nature recovery catchment areas, one of which will explore a whole catchment approach from source to sea. Funding and resources will be secured from 2022 and focused to explore innovative methods and opportunities for significant landscape scale recovery
- Two further pilots will have been established and begun with initial funding secured by the end of 2023

Abundant and diverse wildlife

What does success look like?

The abundance, diversity and distribution of biodiversity on Dartmoor adapts and evolves in response to climate change and the recovery of natural processes, supported by proactive habitat restoration and ongoing management. There is acceptance of change, and that in future Dartmoor's landscape and wildlife may be different, with some areas becoming wilder as nature is allowed to take its course.

We will achieve this by working to ensure there is an abundance and diversity of species on Dartmoor, which are widespread and thriving, including:

Review all priority species⁶ to assess their sustainability in light of likely climate change effects.

- By 2022 Identify a short list of iconic species that are particularly vulnerable, and where work on Dartmoor has a high potential to turn around their decline and establish sustainable populations.
- By 2022 identify priority species list that are should be prioritised for future conservation effort. This will include key species that act as indicators for good ecosystem health

Actively manage priority species that are able to adapt to climate change, to initially reverse declines by 2025, then maintain numbers and ultimately ensure thriving populations:

- By 2022 work with local specialists and land managers we will produce a suite of guidance to inspire people managing land or livestock by explaining the vital role they can play and provide practical guidance on the measures they can take.
- By 2023 secure funding to support the recovery of five priority species and associated habitats
- By 2023 identify and support the resilience of species that are a characteristic and cherished part of Dartmoor's heritage. Recruit volunteer champions for each of these species, who will give advice and co-ordinate monitoring of success

Partners aim to successfully reintroduce key species lost to Dartmoor, enhancing biodiversity and building future resilience, including:

Producing a species reintroduction strategy, to establish prioritisation and understanding of species that would provide greatest environmental benefit:

- In 2021 establish feasibility, rationale and justification for key species reintroductions

⁶ <https://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/devons-natural-environment/devons-wildlife/devonspecialspecies/>

- By 2023 explore opportunities with farmers, local communities and any other groups likely to be affected by reintroductions in relation to identified reintroduction priorities and determine concerns, interest and understand potential benefits to Dartmoor
- By 2023 identify areas where there is widespread support for such a reintroduction, where the negative impacts are small and where the chances of success are high.
- By 2023 Work with stakeholders and bring in expertise and experience from other parts of the UK and Europe, to develop practical ways to minimise the risks and negative impacts.

Develop and agree plans to reintroduce two species by 2025 if feasible and supported by the Dartmoor community:

- By 2025 if community support has been established, secure funding to progress feasibility, planning and reintroductions.



We will work towards damaging invasive and non-native species (INNS) being eradicated while accepting that some new species may naturally colonise Dartmoor, by:

Implementing a sustained programme of measures to remove species causing greatest ecological damage throughout the term of this plan:

- In 2021 secure funding to increase ambition of existing Himalayan Balsam and American Skunk Cabbage initiative
- By 2022 identify greatest INNS threats and produce strategy
- By 2023 work with landowners and land managers to secure funding and establish projects to remove highest risk species

We will: ensure new development will avoid harm in accordance with the need to protect irreplaceable habitats; and within the mitigation hierarchy deliver a net gain in biodiversity, by:

Adopting Local Plan policy and guidance for biodiversity net gain

Strategy developed with partners to identify and deliver in areas where biodiversity net gain opportunities would lead to multiple environment net gain benefits, within and beyond the boundary of the National Park.

- From 2021 Seek opportunities to use funding from net gain developments to deliver transformational restoration and creation of wildlife habitats.
- By the end of 2021 target funding in locations where the people affected by the loss of environmental assets as a result of the development are able to enjoy and benefit from the compensatory habitats.

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Conserve and Enhance Natural Beauty

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's dynamic natural beauty, heritage and valued landscape character will be embraced, maintained and enhanced.

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve this by maintaining and enhancing the open moorland network of upland habitats, whilst encouraging natural woodland regeneration and expansion where appropriate:

- From 2021 work with landowners, commoners, partners and other agencies to identify suitable areas of upland valley that will accommodate natural woodland regeneration and look at processes that will ensure a positive outcome.
- By 2026 facilitate and fund the establishment of 2000 ha of new valley native broadleaf woodland and ensure systems for on-going maintenance and management
- By 2026 work with landowners and land managers to ensure there are suitable stocking levels to maintain and enhance the open nature rich moorland landscapes.

Maintaining the small-scale pastoral landscape by enhancing boundaries of historic field systems:

- From 2021 continue to work with landowners to maintain and enhance traditional field boundaries by encouraging the use of appropriate management techniques
- By 2026 replace lost hedgerows to enhance the enclosed historic landscape
- From 2021 establish skilled volunteer groups to help expand traditional walling and hedgerow skills

Restore treed and wooded landscapes lost through Ash Die Back and other tree diseases:

- From 2021 establish opportunities to work with landowners, agencies and partners to replace tree and woodland cover lost through Ash Die Back and other pest and diseases.
- From 2021 encourage landowners to adopt a 3/2/1 approach to replacing trees lost to Ash Die Back (one replacement for a small tree, two for a medium sized tree and three for a large tree).
- By 2026 work with partners to identify land that is suitable for woodland creation and that will maintain and enhance the character of Dartmoor's landscape.

Through Local Plan policies and development management, ensure that Dartmoor's natural beauty and distinctive landscape character is maintained and enhanced

- From 2021 ensure the National Park Authority maintains an up-to-date Landscape Character Assessment to help understand Dartmoor's landscape.



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Monitoring progress and links to other plans

25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP)⁷

Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs (Landscapes review)⁸

Sub-section	Other plans	Measure/ 2026 Target
Conserve and Restore Nature and Natural Processes	<p>25 YEP – Clean & plentiful water Contributes to: Reaching or exceeding... for rivers, lakes etc.</p> <p>25 YEP – using resources from nature... Contributes to: Improving our approach to soil management...</p> <p>25 YEP – mitigating and adapting to climate change... Contributes to: ...take into account the possible extent of climate change...</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 4 backbone of Nature Recovery Networks...</p> <p>The aims and actions set out in this section support and are well aligned with the draft Devon Carbon Plan</p>	<p>% of water courses achieving at least good ecological condition increased from baseline of 36%</p> <p>Connectivity of wetland habitats</p> <p>Size and connectivity of priority habitats average area/size (measure and baseline to be established through SWEEP Quantitative Habitat Mapping⁹, to be completed during 2021)</p> <p>Number and area (Ha) NRA pilots completed Target 31,365ha</p> <p>Study to assess priority habitat resilience to climate change shared with and accepted by stakeholders Target: 1 study</p> <p>Ha. of blanket bog restored Target: 1,000ha</p> <p>%age of SSSI in Favourable Condition increased from baseline (where feasible) Baseline: (2019) 19%</p>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

⁹ <https://sweep.ac.uk/portfolios/habitat-mapping/>

<p>Abundant and diverse wildlife</p>	<p>25 YEP – Thriving plants and wildlife Contributes to: Taking action to recover threatened... species...</p> <p>25 YEP – mitigating and adapting to climate change... Contributes to: ...take into account the possible extent of climate change...</p> <p>25 YEP – enhancing biosecurity Contributes to: Tackling invasive non-native species...</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 1 recover and enhance nature Proposal 2 state of nature regularly and robustly assessed...</p>	<p>Study to assess priority species resilience to climate change shared with and accepted by stakeholders Target 1 study</p> <p>Population trends in priority species (stable/increasing) Baseline: 11 out of 12 (2017) Target: 12 out of 12</p> <p>Species feasibility study and community consultation complete. Target: 1</p> <p>Number of sites containing damaging NNIS</p> <p>Number of partners actively collaborating on adopted Net Gain approach (new measure)</p>
<p>Conserve and Enhance Natural Beauty</p>	<p>25 YEP – Thriving plants and wildlife Contributes to: Increasing woodland in England...</p> <p>25 YEP – using resources from nature... Contributes to: Increasing timber supplies...</p> <p>25 YEP – enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement... Contributes to: Safeguarding and enhancing...</p>	<p>Area of PAWS Area of PAWS restored and in positive management</p> <p>Area of woodland in active/positive management (broadleaf/conifer)</p> <p>Length of traditional boundary feature (dry stone wall/hedgebank) Maintained km Restored km (3 measures above to be developed during 2021)</p> <p>Total area of woodland Baseline 12%</p>

		Target 17% Ha of new valley native broadleaf woodland established Target: 2000 ha
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Better for Cultural Heritage

Delivering the Vision

This section of the Management Plan focuses on ***'Celebrated and enhanced: Dartmoor's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage is better understood, valued and looked after.'*** It will also contribute to delivering; ***A warm welcome for all, A great place to live and work*** and ***Carbon neutral.***

Introduction

Dartmoor is internationally renowned as a rich cultural landscape, with evidence of thousands of years of human interaction from at least the Mesolithic period to present day. Archaeological remains range from Bronze Age cists, stone rows and hut circles to deserted medieval settlement and field-systems, and the remains of the tin-mining industry.

The history and culture of Dartmoor National Park is written in its buildings, public spaces, historic landscapes and towns and villages. This architectural legacy is widely celebrated for its uniqueness and variety, forming a local Dartmoor 'vernacular' influenced by the availability of local building materials and techniques, and the local climate.

The National Park is also rich in intangible cultural heritage, having many distinctive local traditions, festivals, markets and celebrations, oral histories, customs and skills. These skills and traditions have helped shape the National Park as we see it today and their continuation is essential in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of Dartmoor. Dartmoor has been a source of inspiration for artists since the 18th century and continues to inspire present-day makers, writers and artists.

There are a variety of threats to Dartmoor's cultural heritage, including: climate change; lack of or inappropriate management; and recreational pressure. In addition, many heritage assets are not identified or designated and therefore are less easy to protect. Increasing understanding of, and engagement with, this cultural heritage is central to building a positive future: by understanding cultural heritage people will value it; by valuing it they will want to care for it; by caring for its people will be able to enjoy it; and from enjoying it comes a desire to understand it better.



Conservation of Dartmoor's archaeological heritage and enhancement of its significance

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's cultural heritage is protected, well managed and in good condition. The significance of the historic environment will be understood by both those working on Dartmoor and by visitors.

The historic environment will be appropriately managed using sustainable, local techniques whilst also incorporating the best modern techniques. The Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) and other areas of high significance will be managed as a priority concern, but elsewhere the management of the Historic Environment will be carefully integrated into other conservation projects and concerns.

Dartmoor's rich Historic Environment will be actively researched and shared by both academic institutions and local interest societies and community groups. The Premier Archaeological Landscapes and other areas of high significance will be managed as a priority concern, but elsewhere the management of the Historic Environment will be carefully integrated into other conservation projects and concerns.

Dartmoor's rich Historic Environment will be actively researched and shared by both academic institutions and local interest societies and community groups.

We will achieve the protection, good management and better understanding of Dartmoor's archaeological heritage by developing and implementing a process for assessing strategic historic environment priorities. This will guide decision making where there may be potential competing priorities in relation to other conservation objectives:

- By the end of 2021/2 develop, agree and implement a methodology which will identify historic environment significance, priorities and constraints for use by conservation projects, farmers, land managers and other stakeholders, especially those operating on a landscape scale, across Dartmoor.

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve better management and condition of designated and non-designated archaeological features by identifying and implementing sustainable management techniques

- From 2021 we will focus resources to provide additional advice to landowners and land managers around sustainable management of cultural heritage in priority areas
- By 2022 we will have assessed the impact of winter cattle grazing regimes for improving the condition of archaeological assets and will provide appropriate resource and advice
- Continue to support the use of targeted grazing in maintaining and improving the condition of archaeological assets.

Partners will ensure that cultural and natural heritage outcomes are delivered together holistically. We will achieve improved understanding and recording of the condition of Dartmoor's designated and non-designated archaeological features through a rolling programme of field assessment by staff and volunteers:

- By the end of 2021 we will have established a team of trained, local volunteers to undertake a programme of condition assessment covering all heritage asset types across all parts of the National Park
- By 2024 we will have completed the outstanding surveys of the PALs
- By 2023 begin working with partners to develop remote sensing technology to assist in undertaking site condition assessments
- By the end of 2021 we will establish a Dartmoor Archaeological Condition Database which will inform future conservation work
- Continue to work with Historic England to maintain an up-to-date Heritage at Risk Register and to work in partnership with stakeholders, local conservation groups and volunteers to seek resources to remove 40 at risk scheduled monuments from the register by 2025

We will achieve better management of the most significant historic environment areas by undertaking a review of Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs), identify new PALs and explore the prospect for formal designation of PALs so that they continue to be recognised by all agencies and stakeholders working on Dartmoor

- By 2022 we will have conducted a review on the concept of PALs. The review will assess their impact, effectiveness and role in protecting the Historic Environment
- By 2024 all outstanding PAL surveys will have been completed
- By 2025 all PALS will be identified, be incorporated into new ELM, be recognised in landscape scale conservation projects, and under a proactive management scheme to achieve good condition.

Partners will achieve good condition and management of the historic environment by ensuring cultural heritage is a key focus of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM), by:

- From 2021 we will work in partnership to ensure that the future ELM scheme gives due consideration to the historic environment and provides farmers and land managers with appropriate payment for the management and enhancement of the historic environment.



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Conserving and enhancing the character of Dartmoor's historic built environment and historic vernacular

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's historic built environment and historic vernacular is in good condition, widely appreciated and understood.

Records are comprehensive, accurate and up to date with quality contributions to the record being made by well-resourced professionals, working across organisations and alongside skilled volunteers and stakeholder communities.

We will achieve conservation and enhancement by ensuring that the condition of designated heritage assets, including listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas are monitored, improved and maintained by:

- Continuing to maintain an up-to-date Buildings at Risk Register and seek resources to reduce the number of vulnerable buildings from the list
- Improving awareness of the condition of Dartmoor's Listed Buildings through a rolling survey of Listed Buildings and the quinquennial buildings and structures at risk survey
- Expanding our rolling survey of listed buildings and structures to assess registered parks and gardens and conservation areas by 2024. Each park, garden or conservation area being treated as a whole
- Adding to the existing data held on individual properties, by 2024, so that they will be fully geographically referenced and indexed to the corresponding reference numbers of Historic England's designation register

Partners will achieve conservation and enhancement by working with Historic England and other stakeholders to make amendments to the list of designated buildings, structures, parks and gardens, including the following priorities:

- Over the last 20 years a number of listed buildings have been subject to damage by fire. We will work with Historic England to evaluate the appropriate amendment of designation of these buildings
- Newly identified buildings, structures and sites which have sufficient architectural, historic, archaeological or artistic interest to meet national criteria will be promoted to Historic England for appropriate protection
- Where buildings, structures and sites which are considered to no longer meet the national criteria removal from protection will be sought, enabling appropriate focus on what is special within Dartmoor.

We will achieve conservation and enhancement by reviewing and updating Dartmoor's conservation area appraisals, and working with local communities to maintain their character and appearance, including the following actions:

Better for Cultural Heritage

- By the end of 2021 we will have reviewed each of the 25 Conservation Area Character Appraisals (Appraisals) in relation to their currency and established a programme of update and revision. This review will also state where documents and the designated area remain current and amendment is not required.
- Following the identification of documents to be revised we will work with local communities towards the updating of documents and boundaries (as necessary) and the production of management proposals and action plans for each conservation area.



Understanding Dartmoor's cultural heritage and its importance

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's cultural heritage is better understood. Local communities, visitors and other stakeholders' value, understand and are engaged with Dartmoor's rich cultural history which contributes to the sense of place.

Partners will achieve an increased understanding by facilitating research on priority aspects of Dartmoor's cultural heritage, as defined in the Cultural Heritage Research Framework, including the following priorities:

- By the end of 2021, complete and publish the Dartmoor Cultural Heritage Research Framework which will identify gaps in our knowledge of Dartmoor's cultural heritage and priorities for future research
- Continue to participate as partners in research projects led by academic institutions where appropriate and possible
- By 2022 existing, ongoing research projects will be published and future links with existing and new academic institutions developed
- By 2022 we will work with academic institutions and Historic England to provide future training opportunities for students
- DNPA will continue to host an annual Local History Day to enable local researchers to network and hear about the latest research
- By 2023 DNPA will have established an annual, public cultural heritage seminar which will enable the latest findings on Dartmoor's cultural heritage to be presented to the public

We will achieve increased understanding by ensuring that all hard copy documents and images held by DNPA are accessible and fully incorporated into the Historic Environment Record:

- By 2022 all hard copy reports, plans and images will be digitized and catalogued.
- We will ensure that the results of research concerning Dartmoor's historic environment is accessioned to the HER as soon as possible
- By the end of 2021 work with key partners to ensure the HER remains publicly accessible, fully funded and extend opportunities for volunteers to contribute.

We will achieve increased understanding by fostering and promoting a sense of community and place through engagement, experience and skills:

- By the end of 2021 develop an on-going programme of local archaeological and history events including annual conferences, a walks & talks programme, seminars and skills training and community field works opportunities.
- By 2022 We will continue to work with partners to seek funding to increase training in traditional skills.
- By 2022 we will work in partnership and seek funding to support innovative community heritage projects

We will achieve greater community engagement through an active programme of archaeological conservation projects and fieldwork opportunities:

- by the end of 2021 establish with partners a Dartmoor archaeological volunteers group trained in fieldwork to undertake site assessment, condition assessment and contribute to an active programme of archaeological conservation projects and fieldwork opportunities in place.
- By 2022 develop a new Adopt a Monument scheme.



Monitoring progress and links to other plans

Sub-section	Other plans	Measure/ 2026 Target
<p>Conservation of archaeological heritage</p>	<p>25 YEP – Contributes to:</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to:</p>	<p>Finalise methodology for strategic assessment of archaeological significance, priority and constraints Target: by 2021</p> <p>No of Scheduled Monuments removed from Heritage at Risk Register Target: 40</p> <p>Annual number of volunteer archaeological conservation days at least maintained from baseline Baseline (2019/20): 144</p> <p>Complete surveys of all PALs Baseline (2020): 12 Target: 14</p> <p>No of grant-funded cultural heritage conservation projects delivered</p>
<p>Increase understanding of Dartmoor’s cultural heritage</p>	<p>25 YEP – Contributes to:</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to:</p>	<p>Publish Cultural Heritage Research Framework Target: by end 2021</p> <p>No of academic publications</p> <p>Dartmoor Cultural Heritage Research Seminar By 2023</p> <p>Increase number of events and average attendance from baseline Number (Baseline 2019/20): 14</p>

		<p>Attendance baseline 2019/20: 578</p> <p>No. of HER records added and cleaned Added (Baseline 2019/20): 703 Cleaned (Baseline 2019/20): 4966</p> <p>No of volunteer/student training or fieldwork days</p> <p>No of academic research projects aided or contributed to</p> <p>No of traditional skills training courses delivered</p> <p>No of historic environment focused social media posts</p>
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Better for Farming and Forestry

Delivering the Vision

This section of the Management Plan contributes to achieving the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045 across all of its themes; **'Alive with nature'**, **'Celebrated and enhanced'**, **'A warm welcome for all'**, **'Carbon neutral'** and primarily: **'A great place to live and work: People of all ages can enjoy living and working in low carbon, flourishing communities that are connected physically and digitally. Farming and forestry businesses play a key role in delivering a high-quality environment and local products alongside a range of other public benefits'**.

Introduction

Dartmoor is a farmed landscape and has been for several millennia, farming and forestry are an integral part of Dartmoor's landscape, including the iconic wildlife and natural capital it supports. Natural England's description of Dartmoor's Landscape Character Area includes the following, *"Agriculture continues to shape Dartmoor's landscape, as it has for thousands of years. Extensive grazing of the moorland commons by cattle, sheep and Dartmoor Ponies helps to manage the habitats and the large tracts of open access land. The surrounding enclosed land is an integral part of the upland farming system, providing ground for overwintering stock, hay meadows and winter feed crops. Dartmoor provides a wealth of natural services, fresh water, carbon storage and food, as well as significant opportunity for recreation and access to areas with a high level of tranquillity"* (NE519: NCA Profile:150 Dartmoor)

The support provided to farming, especially hill farming as practiced on Dartmoor, and to forestry is undergoing seismic change. Since 1972 the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has played a significant role providing the policy framework for a number of agri-environment schemes and direct payments. Both agri-environment schemes and direct payments (currently Basic Payment Scheme) have been essential to farmers on Dartmoor as have the Rural Development Plans (RDPE) for forestry. The challenge is to ensure future farming and forestry practice is economically viable, helping to protect and manage Dartmoor's special qualities and contributing positively to nature recovery and the climate crisis.

Benefits from changing government policy

What does success look like?

Farming and forestry systems that sustain a high-quality natural environment, store and sequester carbon, produce healthy food, high quality fibre and other products, are economically viable and deliver a wide range of public goods.

The principal drivers for both agriculture and forestry are government policy and commodity markets which dictate the demand and supply of products. The Dartmoor National Park Management Plan has an important role in guiding and focusing action to achieve local results. Collaboration with the farming and forestry community is essential in developing activities which are relevant and deliverable in partnership.

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve greater benefit from changing government policy by nurturing the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the changing business environment and by enabling coordination between farmers, foresters, agencies and other stakeholders. Specific initiatives include:

- Together, stakeholders will produce a spatial and visual expression to the National Park Management Plan, developed through close working with all stakeholders including farmers, commoners and foresters. This work will build on the Dartmoor Moorland Vision, that was prepared in partnership with the farming and land management community and relevant statutory bodies. The aim is to develop a spatial approach, to the delivery of all public benefits – identifying priority areas and setting local priorities for the new **Environmental Land Management Scheme** (including woodland creation) and other investment. This spatial approach, covering the whole of the National Park, will provide a framework for land management plans at a common and individual farm level
- Working with the **Dartmoor Hill Farm Project**, develop a relevant and targeted programme to support farm businesses. This will inform core activities relating to livestock, soils, and grassland with a focus on encouraging and facilitating innovation that is designed to deliver environmental enhancement and economic sustainability. A key task is to help farms adapt to change embracing new opportunities arising from the agricultural transition. This includes the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM) and other strategic tools to improve business resilience and performance.

Partners will contribute to the evolving agricultural and forestry framework and specifically the new National Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme. The scheme will be a key tool to maintain and enhance Dartmoor's natural and cultural capital, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support viable businesses. We will do this by:

- Coordination of the Dartmoor Test and Trial in partnership with DEFRA and the farming community, identifying locally tailored solutions that inform the national programme of work while harnessing learning from Dartmoor's Farming Futures and other projects. Between January 2020 and November 2021 identify and consult on proposals linked to four key questions that support a holistic approach to land management.
- In partnership with farmers, foresters, landowners and others develop **Integrated Land Management Plans** for key commons and priority areas with the aim of developing a planned approach to environmental and cultural management and enhancement.
- In partnership with farmers, foresters, landowners and others pilot approaches to Nature Recovery areas (NRAs).



Developing markets

What does success look like?

Value-added products from agricultural enterprises which are supported by the local economy through enhanced supply chains, processing infrastructure and well-known point-of-sale brands and quality assurance. New products are developed to support a sustainable future for local businesses.

2020 saw a renewed interest in local food and a growth in demand for high quality low carbon food. Dartmoor is a Livestock producing area with extensively reared animals mainly provided by small family farms that often use common land as part of the farming system. In addition, the area is blessed with a range of artisan food producers and a number of community supported agriculture projects. Many of these food producers have strong associations with the landscape of the National Park and help to support its core purposes.

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve our shared aims by adding value to existing products and markets whilst developing new opportunities for the land-based sector on Dartmoor, including the following priorities:

- Support existing collaborative selling and buying groups such as Dartmoor Farmers Association and Meat Dartmoor. Help to develop and promote a '**Dartmoor Brand**' that provides the tools for producers to link their products to the landscape and its key habitats and species.
- Working in collaboration with partners by 2022 seek to develop a scoping study that can address issues of environmental husbandry, animal health and welfare and fair trade. The study will explore market potential.
- Through existing resources such as the Dartmoor Food Directory, National Park Visitor Centres and marketing programmes develop a media strategy that links food produced on Dartmoor with the environment and seasons. This work will link to other actions within the Farming and Forestry actions
- Work with local communities and authorities in the Dartmoor 'hinterland' to develop a strong, high environmental-value food culture that links town and country building on the Dartmoor Community Food hub and community supported agriculture initiatives.



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Greater collaboration and knowledge development

What does success look like?

People, businesses and organisations with a stake in farming and forestry have a greater understanding of the needs and opportunities for the sector on Dartmoor, especially where this relates to agricultural transition and changing societal factors

Partners will achieve this through a range of training, advice, new projects, working groups and networks, including the following priorities:

- By end 2021 reform the Dartmoor Woodland & Forestry Group to act as a focus for the forestry and woodland sectors on Dartmoor. Develop terms of reference to allow the group to provide strategic guidance for the management and development of the resource within the National Park.
- By end of 2021 develop a soils and grassland programme that informs best practice specifically relating to Dartmoor across improved and semi natural grassland. Delivered by practical field trials, demonstration sites and peer to peer learning explore topics from carbon to grassland establishment, enhancement and associated livestock systems.
- Working with the Common Cause project (2021 – 2024) deliver a range of projects that will support commoning and the management of the moor. This will include investment in skills and resources for participating commoners as well as works to enhance habitats, key species and for public engagement.
- During the agricultural transition provide up to date advice, information and support linked to grant streams relevant to farming and forestry.
- By 2021 develop a training and awareness framework for Staff and Members at the National Park and relevant Local Planning Authorities focused on the Farming and Forestry sector. This will include topics such as planning and development, supply chains, new entrants, and land tenure. Delivery to be a combination of site visits, workshops, and mentoring.
- Explore opportunities for farmers and foresters across National Parks in England to share best practice and explore opportunities for collaborative programmes of investment and activity
- Through the Hill Farm Project re-engage with national agencies such as DEFRA, Natural England, and the Rural Payments Agency to offer training and awareness

sessions. These will focus on upland farming for staff involved in strategy and front-line services

- Working with partners in 2021 develop a strategy to support opportunities for new entrants and next generation farmers to aid progression within the sector.

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Understanding and appreciating farming and forestry on Dartmoor

What does success look like?

Visitors, policy makers and local communities will understand the central role that farming, and forestry play in producing food and a range of environmental goods, including landscape character and that this relationship between people and the land is a rich and valuable part of our cultural heritage. Better understanding and appreciation will lead to lower levels of anti-social behavior including speeding, livestock worrying by dogs and illegal camping

Partners will achieve this through a range of training, advice, new projects, working groups and networks, including the following priorities:

- Build on existing national programmes to promote an annual farm and woodland 'open day' programme by 2022 to enable more people to experience and understand the roles that farming and forestry play in looking after Dartmoor's special qualities. Linking to existing opportunities such as Lambing Live and working with the farming and Forestry sector to develop new initiatives
- Through the Common Cause programme (2021-2025) develop engagement activities that will provide educational opportunities linked to farming and forestry. This will include activities such as 'The Great Gather' and the Walling Club
- Annual Visitor publications, key websites and National Park Visitor Centres have a coordinated message which highlights the role of high environment, low carbon farming and forestry systems in managing and enhancing the National Park and producing healthy food, fibre and other products. Behavioural change and perceptions will be monitored through the National Park Visitor Survey and feedback from farmers and foresters
- Through the Rural Crime Initiative and working closely with the farming community and the Livestock Protection Officer (LPO) expand the programme of education and awareness work linked to dog worrying and road traffic incidents focused on hotspots and seasonal trends. Communicate the 'hidden costs' of anti-social behaviour at the farm level and use this to inform educational messages. Monitor data through the LPO records and analyse historic records to improve understanding of trends
- Improved and, if necessary, increased **signage** to ensure public awareness and understanding of issues (dog worrying, road traffic accidents, litter, dog fouling / worming etc.) Including, a targeted initiative to provide **on-farm interpretation** (linked to the Dartmoor Story and Love Moor Life) in key honey pot locations.

Monitoring progress and links to other plans

Section	Other plans	Measure/ 2026 Target
<p>Benefits from changing government policy ...</p>	<p>25 YEP – mitigating and adapting to climate change... Contributes to: Continuing to cut GHG emissions...from land use...</p> <p>25 YEP – Clean and plentiful water Contributes to: Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers...</p> <p>25 YEP – Using resources from nature... Contributes to: Improving our approach to soil management... Ensuring that food is produced sustainably and profitably</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 2 state of nature regularly and robustly assessed... Proposal 5 a central place for national landscapes in new ELM schemes</p> <p>The aims and actions set out in this section support and are well aligned with the draft Devon Carbon Plan</p>	<p>Number of targeted support days provided by DHFP to farming & forestry</p> <p>Number of farms changing management to more sustainable systems</p> <p>% of utilisable agricultural land in National Park under agri-environment schemes Baseline 2017/18: 60%</p> <p>%age of Dartmoor Commons under agri-environment schemes</p>
<p>Developing markets</p>	<p>25 YEP – Using resources from nature... Contributes to: Increasing timber supplies</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to:</p>	<p>Establish a baseline understanding of Dartmoor brand relating to food and land-based products</p>

	<p>Proposal 17 National landscapes working for vibrant communities</p> <p>The aims and actions set out in this section support and are well aligned with the draft Devon Carbon Plan</p>	<p>Number of Community Supported Agriculture Schemes Baseline (2019/20):</p> <p>Number of active commoners and new Commoners Baseline:</p> <p>Number of farm businesses Baseline:</p> <p>Ha of %age of Woodland in management Number and ha of Woodland Creation schemes Baseline:</p> <p>Number of woodland enterprises</p> <p>Use of local timber in construction</p>
<p>Supporting greater collaboration and knowledge development across Farming and Forestry</p>	<p>25 YEP – Using resources from nature... Contributes to: Improving our approach to soil management... Ensuring that food is produced sustainably and profitably</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 17 National landscapes working for vibrant communities</p>	<p>Extent of supported collaboration within Farming & Forestry both within Dartmoor and more widely (networking events/interactions/days)</p> <p>Number of training sessions provided to wider stakeholders (inc Authorities & Agencies) stated increase in understanding by participants and hosts</p> <p>Delivery of outputs for Common Common Cause Target: all outputs delivered by 2025</p>

<p>Understanding and appreciating the role of farming and forestry on Dartmoor</p>	<p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 12 Better information...</p>	<p>Number of annual 'on farm' educational activities increases</p> <p>Number of on farm interpretation boards Baseline: 2 Target: 12</p> <p>Appreciation of Dartmoor as a working landscape. Visitor survey responses.</p> <p>Number of animal RTA reduced Baseline: 82 in 2019 Target: 20 in 2025</p> <p>Number of dog worrying reports reduced</p>
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Better for People

Delivering the Vision

This section of the Management Plan contributes to achieving the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045 across all of its themes but primarily '**A warm welcome for all: enriching people's lives, reaching out to people from all backgrounds, connecting them with this special place. Transformative experiences will inspire people to care for the National Park**'.

Introduction

It is important that everybody who wants to visit Dartmoor is able to do so and can enjoy the benefits that a visit to this special landscape can offer, including benefits to people's health and well-being. We want to remove current barriers and offer a warm welcome for all however this will pose some significant challenges: currently car parks are full on nice weekends (all year round) and we are expecting visitor numbers to increase significantly over the next 10 years driven by new housing development around the National Park.

Increasingly visitor behaviour or the sheer number of visitors to one part of the National Park causes conflict with local communities and those that manage the land, and it can cause harm to the fabric of the National Park and to conservation interests.¹⁰ In light of the declaration of a climate and ecological emergency, now is the time to plan strategically for this growth, to ask visitors to help us take care of and enhance the National Park through appropriate behaviour and consider how they can contribute to reducing carbon emissions through changing the way they travel to and around the National Park.

¹⁰ The Sandford Principle is explained in the section on National Park purposes and sets out when greater weight will be given to the first purpose

More Visitors Leave No Trace

What does success look like?

Across Dartmoor people from all backgrounds and ages are enjoying the National Park, undertaking activities of their choice. Visitors are spread out through time and space, even on the busiest days.

You are still able to find peace and solitude and some areas are quiet as sanctuaries for nature.

Visitors leave no trace of their visit; they understand and respect the environment, each other and the people living and working here.

Existing and potential new visitors can find good and consistent information from the point they start to plan their visit right through to the point they start their activity

Local businesses are thriving and are supported by our visitors. There is less conflict, local communities and farmers welcome visitors.

Partners will achieve this by working together across the boundary to ensure that people make informed and responsible choices about visiting the National Park. We will manage recreation, employing a zonal approach as shown in the Recreation Strategy Map, with the following priorities for action:

- Green space in new development: Seek to ensure that all new development on the edge of the National Park has local green recreational space allocated for everyday activities and dog walks
- Information: by 2022 work with one local authority to develop and pilot a “Welcome pack” for new residents purchasing or renting property in large new housing developments close to Dartmoor. The Welcome Pack will contain information about the Countryside Code, countryside recreation opportunities and sustainable transport options. This pilot will be evaluated and rolled out across all local authority areas if successful.
- Linking town and country: By 2026 deliver a targeted campaign, to promote off road walking and cycling routes to the National Park and fill gaps in current provision
- Town Hubs: By 2025 work with 5 local communities to promote Dartmoor’s towns as hubs for visitors to increase economic benefit and promote sustainable modes of onward travel.

- Areas of Opportunity: By 2023, work with local stakeholders to develop and implement improved recreation opportunities for local communities and visitors on the A38 corridor Area of Opportunity.
- Heavily Used Sites: As a partnership manage the Postbridge and Bellever area as a heavily used site. By 2023 develop an Area Management Plan for the land to the west of Princetown.
- Events: Continue to positively manage large scale Recreation Events in line with the agreed policy.
- 'Nature Recovery Areas' (NRAs): Recreation activity will be managed to ensure nature recovery is supported.
- Trial innovative recreation and traffic management approaches at peak times when visitor pressure is likely to lead to congestion, damage, conflict or disturbance
- Through the Rural Crime Initiative and working closely with the Dartmoor farming community continue to address priority issues: anti- social behaviour, livestock worrying & attacks by dogs, wildlife & heritage crime, litter and initiatives to improve safety for people and animals on Dartmoor roads
- Seek funding for additional Ranger resources to engage with the public, help manage access and uphold byelaws where necessary.
- By 2023 develop a costed plan to sustainably manage erosion and seek resources to deliver.

Reach out and understand

What does success look like?

People of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are able to access Dartmoor and feel welcome. Every visitor has positive and immersive experiences resulting in a long-lasting connection and care for the place and its communities. More people can benefit from the health and well-being benefits that Dartmoor offers

Partners will achieve a greater reach and welcome by better understanding the needs of different people and building partnerships:

- By end 2022 secure funding for and undertake research into visitor motivations and, working with partners, use this to help shape future recreational and outreach activity.
- By 2023 develop cycling and horse riding improvement plans, that will also benefit walking. Seek resources to deliver these.
- Work with local and national user groups to improve recreation opportunities where these can be sustainably managed, deliver community and economic benefit and contribute to active and sustainable travel.
- By 2025 improve 20 routes to increase accessibility for visitors with limited mobility and mobility scooters
- By 2025 Increase proportion of Public Rights of Way defined as easy to use to 90%
- During the first year of this plan Natural England will develop a new people & nature survey that will gauge public perception of landscape character and quality at a national level. We will actively contribute to this work where opportunities allow as well as analysing and learning from this data where relevant to Dartmoor



We will achieve a more diverse visitor profile by reaching out to new audiences and spreading the benefits:

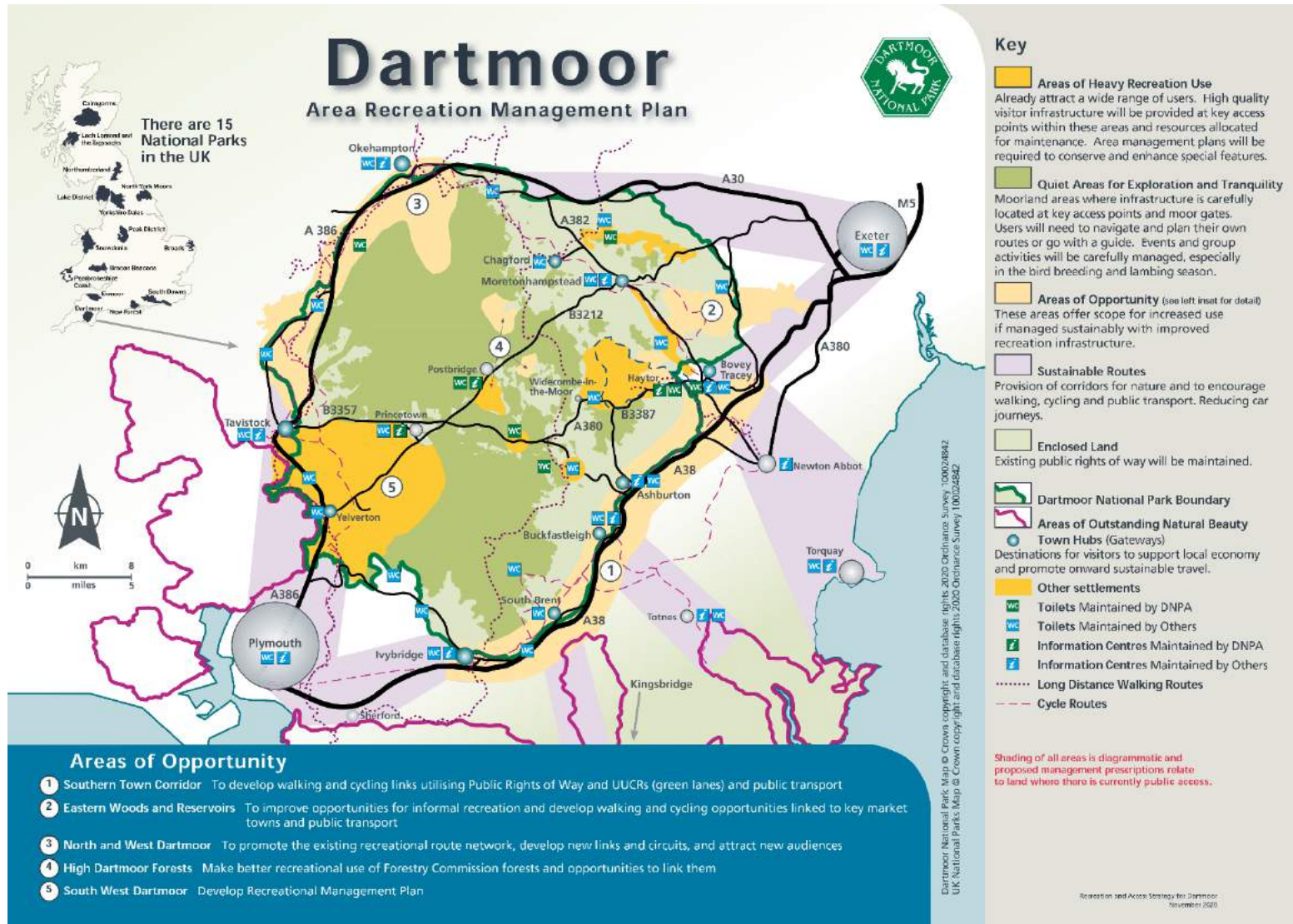
- By the end of 2025 seek resources to deliver the strategy for outreach and understanding including physical access and remote access via digital channels
- By the end of 2022 develop a coordinated partnership communication strategy providing clear and inspiring information for visitors starting at the point they first make a decision to come to Dartmoor
- Work with national and local user groups to promote positive actions, increasing understanding of environmental limitations alongside improved facilities
- By 2025 deliver a network of 10 on-site farm information boards and by 2022 build on existing national programmes to expand and promote an annual programme of farm and woodland open days to enable people to experience and understand the role of farming and forestry in looking after the National Park.
- In 2022 work with local GP surgeries to develop new relationships with social prescribers promoting activities on Dartmoor to help improve health and well-being of more people.

Partners will achieve a wider representation of visitors and a long-lasting connection through a focus on young people from all backgrounds:

- Working in partnership through Sustainable Outdoor Learning in Devon (S.O.L.I.D.), AONBs and the Dartmoor Educators Forum, by 2022, design and pilot a new inclusive and progressive approach to school visits aiming to build a long-lasting connection with Dartmoor for all children in Devon, and testing the feasibility of the following:
 - by the age of 11 children will have visited Dartmoor
 - by 14 all students will have had at least one residential or camping overnight experience on Dartmoor
 - by 18 all students will have had an opportunity to contribute positively through conservation volunteering
- By 2022 collaborate with existing and new partners to remove barriers, encouraging and enabling more young people to explore and enjoy Dartmoor outside of a formal setting. E.g through Ranger Ralph, Junior Rangers and Youth Rangers, John Muir Award and other opportunities through Scouts and Guides, Youth Hostel Association and Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Work with at least one secondary school to pilot an outdoor-focused school curriculum as an alternative to traditional academic learning.





Stimulating green travel

What does success look like?

There are fewer cars on the road and no congestion or inappropriate parking as people arrive and travel around the National Park by other means of transport.

We will achieve this by developing a green transport strategy (by end 2021) to increase the number of people accessing and moving around the National Park sustainably, including the following actions:

- Develop and promote a network of multi-functional bus services to and around Dartmoor, linking settlements and rail links. These networks should be dual function, providing services that serve the needs of local residents, are affordable and carry bikes
- Utilise new technology to improve service and reduce carbon emissions
- Deliver a coordinated network of electric charging points available for visitors and residents
- Develop safe multi-user route networks, providing a strategic network to get people to and around the National Park and increase length of stay
- Develop a communication strategy to encourage non car-based travel
- Extend car park charges to support delivery of National Park purposes.



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Monitoring progress and links to other plans

25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP)¹¹

Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs (Landscapes review)¹²

Sub-section	Other plans	Measure/ 2026 Target
More Visitors Leave No Trace	<p>25 YEP – Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement... Contributes to: Safeguarding & enhancing... Accessible natural spaces...</p> <p>25 YEP – Minimising waste Contributes to: Reduction in litter & littering...</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 12: better visitor information...</p>	<p>Reduction in litter collected Baseline: 307 bags in 2019 Target: 100 bags by 2025</p> <p>Reduction in Dog attacks on livestock Baseline: Target:</p> <p>Reduction in Livestock deaths on roads Baseline: 82 in 2019 Target: 20 in 2025</p> <p>Visitors to DNPA Visitor Centres increased Baseline: 151,053 in 2019 (being 6% of total visitors) Target: 8% of visitors in 2025</p> <p>Percentage of surveyed erosion sites stable or improving Baseline: 68% 2019 Target: 90% 2025 (Number active erosion sites - 220 in 2019)</p> <p>Number of joint initiatives developed with recreational user groups Target: 5 by 2025</p> <p>Residents’ satisfaction and use of recreation facilities</p>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

		<p>Percentage of residents surveyed satisfied with Toilets Baseline: 50% Targets: 70%</p> <p>Car Parks Baseline: 65% Target: 80%</p> <p>PROW Baseline: 83% Target: 90%</p> <p>Visitor Centres Baseline: 85% Target: 90%</p> <p>(Baseline 2016 Residents Survey)</p>
<p>Reach out and understand</p>	<p>25 YEP – Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement... Contributes to: Focusing on increasing action... Accessible natural spaces...</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 7: connect all people... Proposal 8: a night under the stars... Proposal 10: health & wellbeing... Proposal 11: expanding volunteering... Proposal 12: better visitor information...</p>	<p>Visitor reporting a positive experience Baseline, 2018 Visitor Survey: 97% would recommend Dartmoor Target: maintain 97%</p> <p>Number of promoted accessible routes increased Baseline: 10 2019 Target: 30 by 2025</p> <p>Increase in visitor diversity to match population diversity in Devon/South West</p> <p>SW profile (2011 Census) White 91.8% Asian 2.0% Black 0.9% Mixed 1,4% Other ethnicity 3.6% Activity limited by health problem/disability 18%</p>

		<p>Baseline 2017 survey : 3% BAME 7% Disability Under 35 13%</p> <p>Target: BAME 7.9% Disability 18% Under 15 20%</p> <p>Number of Volunteer days per year increased Baseline: 9000 in 2018 Target 10,000</p> <p>Percentage of volunteer days attended by under-represented groups Baseline: 20% 2019 Target: 30%</p> <p>Satisfaction with Education & Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfaction formal education trip Baseline: 100% 2019 Target: 100% 2025 ▪ Increase in understanding Baseline: 86% in 2019 Target: 100% ▪ Enjoyment education trips <p>Percentage of people interviewed in Visitor Survey who are aware of Love Moor Life /Countryside Code No Baseline</p> <p>Increase and maintain proportion of Public Rights of Way defined as easy to use from</p>
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		Baseline: 79% in 2018 Target: 90%
Green travel	<p>25 YEP – Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement... Contributes to: Safeguarding & enhancing... Accessible natural spaces...</p> <p>25 YEP – Clean air Contributes to: Reduce emissions...</p> <p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 10: health & wellbeing... Proposal 14: sustainable tourism... Proposal 17: vibrant communities... Proposal 19: sustainable access...</p> <p>The aims and actions set out in this section support and are well aligned with the draft Devon Carbon Plan</p>	<p>Number recreational bus routes and number passengers increased Baseline: 1 route 2019 Target tbc (Green Transport Strategy to define)</p> <p>% people arriving by car reduced Baseline :93% in 2018 visitor survey) Target: 80%</p> <p>Visitor spend increased Baseline: £130m in 2018 Target: £150m</p> <p>% staying visitors increased (STEAM) Baseline: 11% 2019 Target: 15%</p>

Better for Communities and Business

Delivering the Vision

This section of the Management Plan focuses on **'A great place to live and work: People of all ages can enjoy living and working in low carbon, flourishing communities that are connected physically and digitally. Farming and forestry businesses play a key role in delivering a high-quality environment and local products alongside a range of other public benefits'**, as well as **'Carbon neutral:'** and there are specific strands to this section that directly support other elements of the Vision.

Introduction

Dartmoor is home to around 35,000 people, and a place of work for around 10,000 people. As with many rural areas, the National Park is characterised by an ageing population and workforce; net out-commuting to surrounding areas for work; rural isolation; lack of sustainable transport and connectivity; difficulties accessing services and facilities; high house prices; and low wages; which all present implications and opportunities in terms of the needs of local communities and businesses. The implications of climate change also bring challenges and opportunities and will require a concerted and collective response.

The current business profile is, however, very diverse in nature and this depth underpins its strength and resilience. Dartmoor has a wealth of natural and cultural capital which provide opportunities for future innovation and prosperity. The National Park provides an attractive place to live and work; and the network of settlements provide opportunities for meeting the needs of local communities and businesses whilst conserving and enhancing Dartmoor's special qualities



Thriving Communities

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's communities are thriving and engaged in caring for the National Park. Sustainable development is supported in the right places, with climate change mitigation and adaptation at its heart, helping market towns, villages and the wider rural community thrive in a way which protects the environment, and leads by example. Dartmoor's communities have ready access to quality housing, and the services facilities they need, and make sustainable travel choices. New development in the National Park is of the highest quality, efficient, and conserves and enhances natural and heritage assets.

We will support thriving communities by supporting development which is good for Dartmoor, by:

- Supporting the delivery of **affordable homes**, of a mix of types and tenures which respond to the identified local housing need.
- Preparing planning guidance by the end of 2021, which develops a **modern design vernacular** for Dartmoor, drawing on traditional local materials and styles, and promoting innovation, challenge, and an expectation of sustainable building.
- Adopt a Local Plan¹³ which promotes **development that is sustainable** over its whole life cycle, in terms of its location, design, use of resources, and climate change adaptation.

Partners will achieve this by enabling sustainable communities, including:

- Develop a network of public, private and third sector groups which help communities to retain **access to local services and facilities** by sharing, exploring and developing innovative and replicable models for service delivery
- Identify **needs for community facilities** through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and support the communities to maintain and improve these so that all generations have access to clubs, events, and activities in a way which promotes **community cohesion and inclusion**
- By 2022 work in partnership to develop and seek funding for an annual programme of volunteering and apprenticeship opportunities so that anyone in communities within or outside the National Park has the opportunity to **engage in caring for and managing Dartmoor** and shaping its future

¹³ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/96721/Local-plan-reg19-for-web-CC2019.pdf

- By 2023 Promote and enable **sustainable travel choices for local communities and visitors** through development of the Green Transport Strategy
- Develop a network of public, private and third sector groups which help communities to make good choices about how they **use resources**, with opportunities for community recycling, local food, efficient buildings and energy generation, building local resilience and minimising their impact upon climate change.

Resilient economy

What does success look like?

Dartmoor's diverse economy fosters traditional sectors; supports businesses that meet the needs of local communities; and encourages the growth of productive, innovative and resilient enterprise. Dartmoor is valued nationally for its outstanding natural and cultural capital which acts as a catalyst for inward investment and prosperity across the region, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. People who live in the National Park have the opportunity to work locally, and Dartmoor's businesses have access to a skilled workforce

Partners will support a resilient economy by developing local markets:

- Building a network which improves productivity through strengthening local supply chains, **promoting local food** and other products such as timber, and crafts and maximising Dartmoor branding as a marketing tool
- Develop a joint project to support an ambitious **natural capital market** on Dartmoor which helps protect and manage natural and cultural assets and support growth across the region in the longer term
- Encourage the celebration of Dartmoor's special qualities through culture and the arts, and encourage other **knowledge based and skilled sectors** such as IT, media and professional services
- Develop a collaborative project which promotes innovation and depth in the **tourism sector**, developing opportunities to extend the season, creating more attractive full-time jobs. Build on the increasing demand for an 'experience led' offer and the green agenda in retail and tourism, encouraging new ways of working together and supporting collaboration between businesses which sustain Dartmoor's special qualities.

- Ensure that funding and support programmes are appropriate for Dartmoor's rural entrepreneurs and will encourage new businesses through providing start-up and early years business support, and access to loans and investment
- Develop a network of public, private and third sector groups which help skills development and new businesses which promote **health, social care** and well-being to support Dartmoor's older population

Dartmoor's stakeholders will achieve growth and innovation by creating an environment for productivity:

- Work with partners and communities to enable **high quality digital connectivity** through extensive high-speed broadband coverage, and development of ultra-fast broadband and mobile provision in ways compatible with the protection of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage
- Build a business network which enables a better understanding of local businesses workforce needs, and supporting connections with **skills and training** providers so they can attract, upskill and retain a local workforce
- Clear local planning policies are adopted in 2021 which encourage businesses to **locate and grow** where there is ready access to affordable housing and sustainable travel choices
- Clear local planning policies are adopted in 2021 which support opportunities for affordable workspace, high quality workspace and the ability to homework enabling business to start up, grow in the National Park
- Clear local planning policies, and revised Design Guidance are adopted in 2021, which help businesses transition to a **low carbon economy** through premises improvements, access to local agricultural, forestry and minerals resources, and maximise opportunities for green business growth.



Monitoring progress and links to other plans

25 Year Environment Plan (**25 YEP**)¹⁴

Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs (**Landscapes review**)¹⁵

Sub-section	Other plans	Measure/ 2026 Target
Thriving communities	<p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 17: National landscapes working for vibrant communities Proposal 19: ...more sustainable ways of accessing National landscapes...</p>	<p>Number of Affordable Homes Built Target: Average 30 affordable homes per year</p> <p>Homes approved and completed which are AECB or Passivhaus accredited, or achieve a minimum 10% reduction in carbon emissions over Building Regulations Part L 2013</p> <p>Number of apprenticeships (vocational skills development)</p> <p>Number of available car and bicycle charging points</p>
Resilient Economy	<p>Landscapes review: Responds to: Proposal 17: National landscapes working for vibrant communities</p> <p>The aims and actions set out in this section support and are well aligned with the draft Devon Carbon Plan</p>	<p>Number of businesses by sector</p> <p>Visitor spend increased Baseline: £130m in 2018 Target: £150m (STEAM)</p>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

Key Challenges

In preparing the Management Plan, it was clear that there are a number of conflicting or competing objectives, and also 'grit issues' where views are split on what the Plan should say. The Authority will always refer back to the statutory purposes of the National Park when considering such issues, and where necessary the Sandford Principle: where conflicts between conservation and recreation cannot be reconciled, conservation will take precedence. In many cases, this requires careful consideration of the specific circumstances and balancing different objectives in order to achieve the overall Vision of the Management Plan. Set out below are the principles that will guide decision-making when considering these key challenges.

Landscape Management and Nature Recovery

The bold ambitions in the Management Plan for nature recovery and enhancement means being open to change, but also brings challenges for other objectives of our Management Plan including archaeology and landscape character. For example, there may be places where for nature recovery reasons we want to allow vegetation to grow or natural succession to take place, but this could impact on the visibility of heritage assets. Similarly, for Natural Flood Management purposes we may need to allow changes such as allowing streams to meander where they have been straightened by tin streaming, or trees may be established within Premier Archaeological Landscapes¹⁶ and in other areas which will impact on heritage assets and will change the landscape character.

Conserving and enhancing landscape character does not mean preserving the National Park in aspic or resisting all change. It recognises that landscapes are dynamic and the result of management or interactions with people. National Parks are listed as IUCN Category V landscapes as 'areas where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value'. This is encapsulated within the term 'natural beauty' which is part of the statutory purposes 'to conserve the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage'. The Dartmoor National Park Landscape Character Assessment provides guidance on how changes in the landscape can be managed and the characteristics of the landscape that are more sensitive to change.

Principles:

- At the Dartmoor scale seek aligned benefits, or an overall balance, for natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage that recognises the international importance of the Park's habitats and archaeological sites and enables the recovery of nature at scale. Ensure that good examples of all significant archaeological features are still accessible and visible.
- In Premier Archaeological Landscapes (already defined), the primary focus will be to conserve and enhance archaeology. The current set of PALs need to be extended to cover a wider range and distribution of features.

¹⁶ Dartmoor currently has fourteen Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) which were selected to represent the best examples of Dartmoor's rich archaeological resources. They are areas that are considered to be of international importance and are some of the finest archaeological landscapes in Europe. They are not formally designated heritage assets and are not protected by legislation but are identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in decision-making. In these areas, management of the archaeology is paramount, whilst remaining sympathetic to the ecological interest.

Key Challenges

- In nature recovery areas, the primary focus will be nature and letting natural processes take their course.
- Where potential conflict exists between nature recovery schemes and archaeology, an initial assessment¹⁷ will be made of the current understanding and significance of archaeological features and any possible mitigation measures identified.
- Where conflicts cannot be avoided, records will be made if there is potential for the asset to be lost or changed.



¹⁷ with reference to appropriate guidance, such as *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*, Historic England 2015

More trees

During the preparation of the Management Plan including the Dartmoor Debates and public opinion survey, we received many comments for more trees in the landscape. Various terms were used, with general consensus around natural regeneration and succession of native woodland creeping up river valleys, but with less consensus around commercial forestry and conifer plantations, although the potential for woodland creation and management to support the local economy was broadly supported. Concerns were also raised that current policies and designations prevent new woodland creation from happening.

The Climate Change Committee has suggested a UK target of 1.5million hectares of new woodland planting by 2050 to respond to the climate emergency. The current government has a target to create 30,000ha of new woodland in England every year until 2025.

There are potential conflicts between more trees and other objectives of the Management Plan, including landscape character and cultural heritage. Trees are an important part of the landscape character in Dartmoor, but this does not mean that more trees would be appropriate everywhere, for example on the open, windswept upland moors which are one of Dartmoor's special qualities due to the far-reaching views and a sense of remoteness and wildness. Many of the areas where more trees would fit into the landscape, for example along the river valleys, have important archaeological features such as the tin streaming along many moorland rivers, for which Dartmoor is internationally significant.

Woodlands and trees provide multiple benefits including carbon sequestration, natural flood management, climate regulation, wildlife, and providing locations for recreation, as well as supporting the local economy through timber production and wood fuel. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are considered to be of greater value for cultural heritage and wildlife, whereas conifer plantations provide some different benefits and have the capacity to absorb greater numbers of visitors, including more active recreation such as mountain biking.

Principles:

- Dartmoor currently has around 12% woodland cover – the debate is not about trees or no trees, but about the right trees in the right place, and the scale and location of new woodland.
- Natural regeneration is already taking place across areas of Common land; an assessment of the impact on archaeology will help guide future decisions.
- As part of nature recovery, an increase in woodland cover, primarily broadleaved and native species, delivered through natural regeneration and new planting will be guided by the Landscape Character Assessment and is likely to be primarily in the river valleys, farmed and forested plateau, farmland, and in and around settlements.
- Where increased tree cover is planned, aim to avoid negative impacts on significant heritage assets.
- Where conflicts cannot be avoided, the significance of the heritage assets will be considered, and records made if there is potential for the asset to be lost or changed.
- The species of trees established should be native and traditional to Dartmoor. Where other species need to be considered in response to climate change and pests /diseases including

Key Challenges

non-native species, these should be sympathetic to the landscape character, and enhance biodiversity.

- Work together to address potentially conflicting objectives in current policy and designations (such as prescriptions for Sites of Special Scientific Interest).

Existing conifer plantations

The blocks of conifer plantations on Dartmoor were mainly planted up in the 19th and early 20th centuries, despite significant opposition at the time, largely due to their landscape impact. During the debates about the long-term Vision for Dartmoor, the issue was raised again. Opinions were split between:

- those who supported a long-term aim to remove conifer plantations from the high moor for nature recovery, to store carbon in restored peatlands, and to enhance landscape quality
- those in favour of conifer plantations who pointed to the benefits they bring including limiting water acidification, jobs and the economy, ability to absorb recreation and sequester carbon.

Principles:

- A long-term ambition is to remove conifer plantations from the deep peat and restore these peatlands for nature recovery and carbon capture. This would apply to Soussons, Fernworthy and parts of Bellever. Current woodland should be allowed to mature, and clearance should wait until the end of their natural rotation in order to maximise carbon sequestration, with the timber ideally going to construction or other end uses that lock up the carbon.
- Support the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites¹⁸ to native broadleaved woodland.
- Long term ambition to remove conifer plantations where they do not fit with the landscape character or detract from its quality and scenic beauty, for example where they occupy prominent positions on the open moor. This will be guided by the Landscape Character Assessment and would include Landscape Character Types 1L: Upland Moorland with Tors; 2D: Moorland Edge slopes; and Rivers and Streams.
- Any felling or restocking operations should respect the presence of archaeological features and wildlife.
- All trees, hedges and woodlands are protected by the Forestry Act which prohibits felling trees above a threshold, without an approved sustainable management plan or felling licence. The UK Forestry Standard outlines a baseline of good practice in relation to soils, water, wildlife, carbon, recreation and landscape.

¹⁸ 'Plantations on ancient woodland sites' (PAWS) are areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted trees, usually of species not native to the site. Dartmoor has around 250ha of PAWS the majority of which is found in the wooded valleys such as the Teign valley, much of which is in positive restoration management by conservation organisations.

A grazed moorland landscape

In 2005 a Moorland Vision for Dartmoor was agreed. It was designed to provide farmers with a clear statement on what the public bodies (i.e., the statutory agencies) wanted the moorland to look like in the future (2030). The Vision confirmed that active management including grazing and swaling (burning moorland vegetation) was essential to delivering the Vision.

In developing this Management Plan, the question of a grazed landscape was raised again, with concerns about over-grazing (particularly by sheep) in some areas; and under-grazing in others; leading to conflicts with Dartmoor's important archaeology, habitats and wildlife. Intensive sheep grazing may keep vegetation too short and prevents a mosaic of vegetation heights and habitats; in other places insufficient grazing causes problems for archaeology (visibility and damage to buried archaeology), sustainable farming and specific habitats for wildlife. Conservation grazing is an essential management tool for some habitats, but intensive grazing will hamper others.

Concerns were also raised about swaling (planned and controlled burns) conflicting with climate change objectives, although stopping or reducing burning could increase the risk of more damaging wildfires, particularly with hotter drier summers resulting from climate change.

The idea of high nature value or high environmental quality farming was raised during preparation of the Plan. This refers to low intensity farming systems which are managed with the production of public goods at the heart. Management of common land by commoners (people, usually farmers, using common rights to graze animals) was also considered to be a public good and something to be supported.

Principles:

- Grazing animals are one of the main tools to deliver the objectives of this plan, to deliver conservation and access outcomes and support local communities.
- The number, type and seasonality of animals should be determined locally depending on the outcomes to be delivered and linked to sustainable farm businesses.
- Animals grazing on the Common are inextricably linked to those on the home farm. It is important that all stakeholders work together to ensure the availability of stock to graze the commons. Especially, that the new ELMs delivers a programme for the uplands that is relevant and economic.
- Ask Government to review the Heather and Grass burning code to provide updated guidance for land managers on management regimes to deliver conservation objectives and respond to the climate emergency. This needs to be in the context of the wildfire risk associated with current vegetation and also the availability of other mechanisms to deliver environmental outcomes. Farmers should be involved in identifying solutions.
- Support high nature / environment value farming (low intensity farming systems which are managed with the production of public goods at the heart) through new Environmental Land Management Schemes

Key Challenges



More visitors

Dartmoor is attracting an increasing number of visitors, a trend that has been exacerbated during the COVID19 pandemic and is predicted to continue, particular with the large number of new houses being built in surrounding areas. During the preparation of the Management Plan there were conflicting views between those who welcomed the increasing numbers and those who felt that this was having a negative effect on the National Park, including impacts on local communities through increased traffic, loss of tranquillity, path erosion and tensions between different recreation users.

Principles:

- Recognise that visitor numbers will increase, and plan for this with a particular focus to promote sustainable travel options to and around the National Park.
- Issues of anti-social behaviour and conflict are real and have been increasing. Although we want to welcome people to the National Park, we need to have the tools and resources to manage them. Continued work with the police will be crucial but also continued targeted communication to raise awareness.
- Promote increased understanding and mutual respect between visitors and local communities, and respect for the National Park's special qualities
- Proactively manage visitor activity through strategic zoning
- Accept and implement restrictions or tighter management on certain activities, in certain places or at certain times of year when this is necessary to protect the fabric of the National Park



Changing demographics

Dartmoor's population is ageing, which brings challenges and opportunities for the economy in terms of attracting new businesses in sectors such as health and well-being alongside residential domiciliary care, but also the need to enable a younger profile of employees to live and work on Dartmoor. The high quality of Dartmoor's natural and built environment makes it an attractive location for people to retire to, or buy second homes, which alongside a low-wage economy with significant employment in the agricultural and tourism sectors means that often local people cannot afford housing.

Principles:

- The statutory purposes of National Park designation mean that Dartmoor is not a suitable location for large-scale or unrestricted development.
- Development will continue to be carefully planned and managed to balance the competing, and often conflicting, demands of local communities and businesses, visitors, and the high-quality environment.
- Planning decisions are guided by national policy and local policies set out in the Local Plan. This includes positive policies which enable affordable housing delivery in the most sustainable locations, housing which is suitable into later life, new employment opportunities, and support appropriate services and facilities
- The Authority will establish mechanisms to work with Next Generation representatives to involve young people and ensure that their views are reflected in decision-making

Communication infrastructure

Modern businesses and communities require the latest technology in order to thrive and compete, to enable effective coverage for the emergency services for emergency responders, and to reduce the need to travel. This brings pressures for new infrastructure and equipment which can be challenging to accommodate without impact on Dartmoor's landscape character and built environment

Principles:

- Maintain positive and proactive support for new technology such as mobile and broadband telecommunications. Seek to avoid or mitigate impacts on Dartmoor's special qualities through careful siting, design and location
- Manage new or upgraded infrastructure through strong Local Plan policies and development management
- Support landscape enhancements through undergrounding and removal or obsolete equipment

Renewable energy and energy efficiency

Responding to climate change also raises potential conflicts between the drivers for renewable energy and energy efficiency, which do not always sit happily with landscape character, or the historic environment.

National Parks are not considered appropriate for large scale, commercial wind or solar farms due to impacts on landscape character as these are considered to be major development¹⁹. There is significant potential for hydro schemes on Dartmoor, especially with the increased fluvial flows predicted with climate change, however significant environmental constraints exist because of impacts on biodiversity and water flows. These impacts are largely managed by licensing or regulatory processes outside the Authority's control. If the viability of the technology improves and average fluvial flows increase with climate change as predicted,²⁰ demand for hydro schemes could increase.

The efficiency and viability of photovoltaics has improved significantly over the last plan period and been by far the most popular type of renewable technology installed. Without the incentive of the Feed In Tariff, though, the amount of new domestic solar installation (much of which does not require planning permission) has fallen.

A future focus on retrofitting existing buildings to address energy efficiency and carbon performance is likely in response to the climate emergency. For historic buildings a balance needs to be achieved between improving energy efficiency and avoiding damage both to the significance of the building and its fabric.

Principles:

- The primary aim is to reduce energy consumption through improved building efficiency, particularly fabric-first building, retro-fitting enhancements and reducing the need to travel
- Measures to improve the efficiency and carbon performance of historic buildings will be supported in line with Historic England guidance²¹
- There is a presumption against large scale renewable energy projects in the National Park as these are viewed as major development
- The Authority will provide positive and proactive support for small scale renewable energy where its delivery is compatible with National Park purposes, through Local Plan policies and advice to applicants

¹⁹ 'Major Development' in the National Park is defined as development which has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the Special Qualities of the National Park, such as its dark night skies, landscape character, heritage significance, biodiversity, tranquillity and other qualities. National policy and guidance (the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Parks Circular (2010)) emphasises that major development should not take place within a National Park except in exceptional circumstances. Whilst recognising that National Parks offer important opportunities for renewable energy generation, these must be appropriate to the national value of the landscape

²⁰ Topic Paper 1: Natural Environment, Table 8, DNPA, September 2019

²¹ Historic England, 2017, [Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings](#)

Military training

Dartmoor has been an important location for military training for many years, fulfilling an important national requirement. This has in the past raised concerns regarding conflicts with the statutory purposes and special qualities due to restricted access and impacts of live firing on tranquillity. However, management of the training area has also included positive management for wildlife and heritage assets. Military training was not raised as a significant issue during the public opinion survey or Dartmoor Debates. The Glover Review²² suggested that military training areas might be suitable as wilder areas of National Parks.

Principles:

- The long-term aspiration of the National Park Authority is that military training on Dartmoor is compatible with the statutory purposes of the National Park, specifically through ending live firing on Dartmoor.
- Management of the training areas by the MoD should support the Management Plan vision and objectives through positive management for access, nature, cultural heritage, responding to the climate and ecological emergency
- Military training will continue to be overseen by the Dartmoor Steering Group and Working Party
- Reviews of military training will be undertaken in line with the terms of the licenses



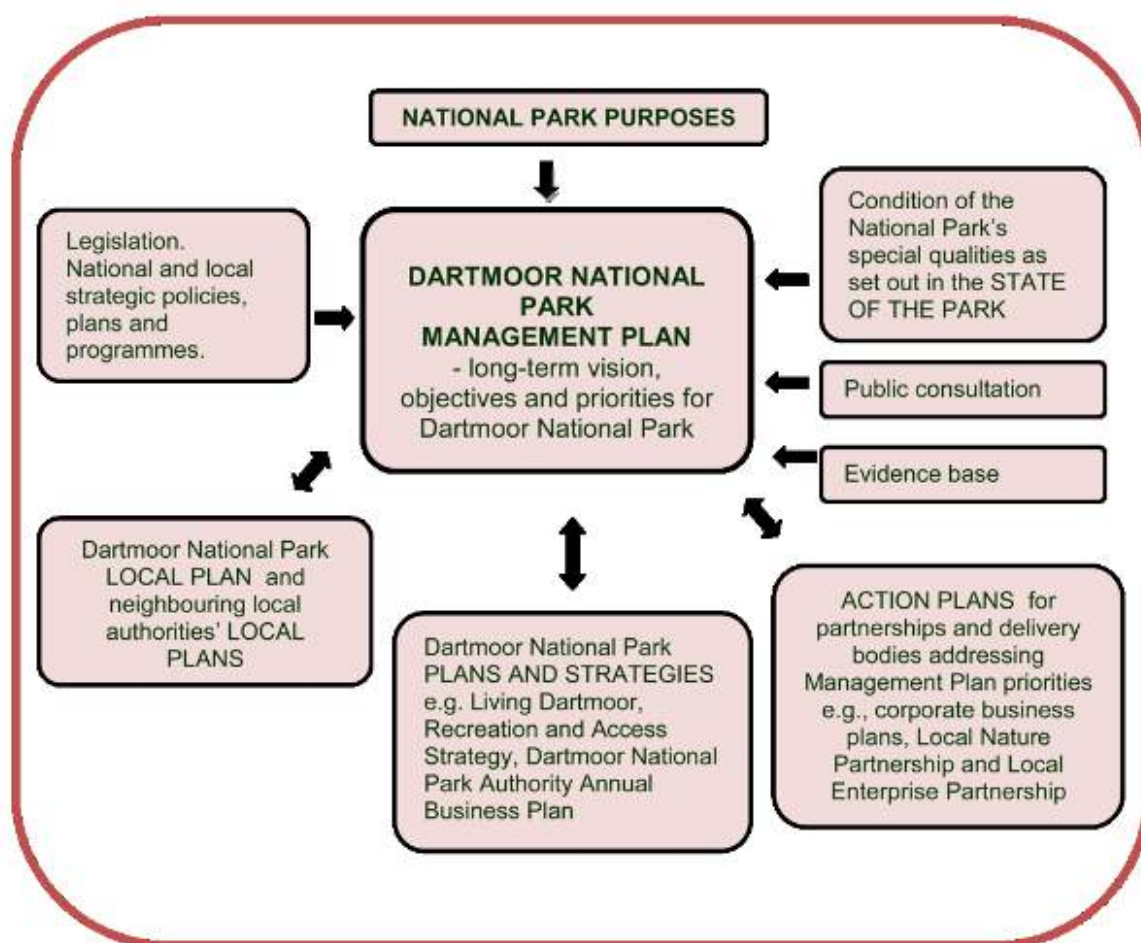
²² Protected Landscapes Review, September 2019, page 44

Links to other Plans and Strategies

This National Park Management Plan is one of two important statutory documents that guide activity, decision-making and investment on Dartmoor; the other is the Local Plan. The two documents are distinct and different, although they both have the same overall objective to help deliver National Park purposes. The Local Plan sets the policies which guide planning decisions about development and the use of land. The Management Plan is a broader strategic plan that sets out a long-term vision for Dartmoor and provides the framework for partnership working to deliver this.

It also provides the strategic context for more specific plans and strategies for example on nature recovery or recreation management, which will help deliver the long-term Vision for Dartmoor.

Figure 4 illustrating links between the Management Plan and other Plans and Strategies



The Management Plan takes forward relevant national and international policies, such as the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and 8 Point Plan for National Parks, in a way that reflects local circumstances. It responds to the recommendations of the Glover review, particularly in relation to climate change, improving natural capital, nature recovery, engagement with young people and a more diverse range of visitors, and addressing the challenges of an ageing population. It also takes account of the policies and strategies of other local bodies or organisations which work in the National Park. It does not however, override any other specific legislative requirements or consent processes



NPA/21/004

Dartmoor National Park Authority

8 January 2021

Revisions to Standing Orders

Report of the Head of Organisational Development

Recommendation: **That Members approve the proposed revisions to the Authority's Standing Orders.**

1 Background

- 1.1 The Authority's Standing Orders were adopted in May 2007 and are a key part of the governance framework under which the Authority controls its proceedings and decision-making.
- 1.2 Periodically, normally at the Annual Meeting, a report is prepared for Members setting out any amendments which are believed necessary or appropriate, in the light of new legislation and/or experience in the preceding year(s). The last review of the Authority's Standing Orders was in 2016.
- 1.3 The Standing Orders and the related Appendices have been recently reviewed and updated to reflect changes to working practices and arrangements. These documents have been reviewed by the Authority's legal advisers (Devon County Council) and updated in accordance with their advice.

2 Regulations introduced due to the coronavirus pandemic

- 2.1 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4 April 2020 and currently apply until 7 May 2021.
- 2.2 These Regulations were introduced to enable local authorities to meet remotely and provided flexibility regarding the frequency of meetings/Annual Meetings. The Regulations also override provisions in existing standing orders or rules governing meetings.
- 2.3 The Authority continues to operate in accordance with the new Regulations, as appropriate, and it is not considered necessary at this stage to make any changes to the Standing Orders in response to the pandemic.

3 Standing Orders

- 3.1 The updated Standing Orders for Regulation of Business Proceedings and Business is provided at Appendix 1. All changes have been tracked to show the previous text and proposed new text.
- 3.2 Members will note the proposed change to use the gender-neutral term of Chair rather than Chairman throughout.

4 Standing Orders - Appendices

- 4.1 The updated Appendices to the Standing Orders is provided at Appendix 2. All changes have been tracked to show the previous text and proposed new text.
- 4.2 In addition to some general updates, Members will note the changes at Appendix 8 relating to public participation at meetings and Appendix 9 relating to voting procedures relating to the Development Management Committee.
- 4.3 Appendix 10 relating to the Rules on Elections has also been revised so that the process of electing the Deputy Chair of the Authority would be the same as that for electing of the Chair of the Authority, whereby candidates would have the opportunity to address the meeting ahead of a secret ballot.
- 4.4 Appendix 10 has been further updated as requested by Members of the Audit and Governance Committee so that the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of a Committee would also be determined by a secret ballot.

5 Equality and Sustainability Impact

- 5.1 The Authority seeks to treat all people equally, honestly and fairly in any, or all its business activity, including partners, visitors, suppliers, contractors, service users. There are no specific impacts arising from this report.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The focus of the Authority's governance arrangements should be to set out the fundamental principles for decision-making within the Authority; establish clear and robust procedures that are effective and fit-for-purpose; and incorporate appropriate safeguards and accountability.
- 7.2 The proposed amendments to Standing Orders seek to ensure that the arrangements for meetings of the Authority are always in accordance with the statutory rules.

NEIL WHITE

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Standing Orders
Appendix 2 – Appendices to Standing Orders



Dartmoor National Park Authority

Standing Orders

**for Regulation of Authority Proceedings
and Business**

Adopted: 4 May 2007

Revised:

3 August 2007

27 June 2008

5 September 2008

7 November 2008

6 November 2009

13 April 2012

6 July 2012

6 June 2014

6 March 2015

1 July 2016

8 January 2021

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(a) Introduction

These Standing Orders are made for the regulation of the meetings, proceedings and business of the Dartmoor National Park Authority pursuant to the Environment Act 1995 (*"the 1995 Act"*); Schedule 2 of the National Park Authorities (England) Order ~~1996~~2015 (*"the ~~1996~~2015 Order"*); Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling powers.

Commented [NW1]: The 2015 Order replaces the 1996 Order. Although the 2006 Order has not been officially repealed, its content as referred to in these Appendices (i.e. the Membership of DNPA) has been superseded by the 2015 Order. [DCC]

(b) Definitions

In these Standing Orders, unless inconsistent with the subject or context:

'The Authority' shall mean the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

'Member' shall mean a person elected as a Councillor and appointed to the Authority by a Local Authority or a person appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State in accordance with Schedule 7 to the 1995 Act.

'ChairmanChair' and **'Deputy ChairmanChair'** shall mean the Members so appointed for the time being in accordance with Standing Order 6.

'Chief Executive (National Park Officer)' shall mean the person appointed by the Authority in accordance with the 1995 Act and the ~~1996~~2015 Order.

'Officer' shall mean a person employed by or on behalf of the Authority.

the headings to the clauses and schedules shall not affect the interpretation.

words importing any gender shall include every gender.

any reference to any statute (whether or not specifically named) shall include any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force and any order, instrument, plan, regulation, permission and direction made or issued under it, or under any statute replaced by it or deriving validity from it.

(c) Principal Legislation

The Local Government Act 1972 (*'the 1972 Act'*)

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993 (*'the 1993 Regulations'*)

The Environment Act 1995 (*'the 1995 Act'*)

~~The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (*'the 2006 Act'*)~~

~~The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (*'the 2007 Act'*)~~

The Localism Act 2011 (*'the 2011 Act'*)

~~The National Park Authorities (England) Order 2006 (*'the 2006 Order'*)~~

~~The Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006 (*'the 2006 Access to Information Order'*)~~

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Commented [NW2]: Not referred to in the Standing Orders – deleted. [DCC]

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Commented [NW3]: Not referred to in the Standing Orders – deleted. [DCC]

1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The Authority shall consist of such persons as shall be elected or appointed by the relevant local authorities and the Secretary of State pursuant to Regulation 4 and Schedule 1 to the ~~2006~~2015 Order.
- 1.2 Membership of the Authority shall at all times be regulated in accordance with Appendix 1 to these Standing Orders.
- 1.3 Nothing in these Standing Orders shall in any way derogate from Schedule 7 to the 1995 Act as regards disqualification of Members.

2 MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY

2.1 Number of Meetings

The Authority shall in every year hold one Annual Meeting and at least three other meetings for the transaction of general business.

2.2 Dates of Meetings

The meetings of the Authority shall be held as near as may be at regular intervals on such dates as the Authority shall determine. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) in consultation with the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall have authority to change the date of any meeting of the Authority if, in their opinion, such change is necessary for the convenient and/or efficient dispatch of Authority business.

2.3 Date of Annual Meeting

The Authority shall in every year hold an annual meeting. The first meeting of the Authority held after 31 May in any year shall be the annual meeting.

2.4 Extraordinary Meetings

An extraordinary meeting of the Authority may be called at any time by the ~~Chairman~~Chair or, if the office of ~~Chairman~~Chair is vacant, the Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair.

- *
- In addition the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall call an extraordinary meeting of the Authority upon receipt of a written request for that purpose specifying the nature of the important or urgent business, signed by five Members of the Authority. Should the ~~Chairman~~Chair not call an extraordinary meeting within seven days of receipt of the request, any five Members of the Authority may forthwith call an extraordinary meeting of the Authority.

2.5 Time of Meetings

The meetings of the Authority shall commence at such times as the Authority shall determine. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) in consultation with the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall have authority to change the time of any meeting of the Authority if, in their opinion, such change is necessary for the convenient and/or efficient dispatch of Authority business.

2.6 Summons for a Meeting

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall issue a public notice of the time and place of any meeting of the Authority together with a summons to every Member of the Authority to attend the meeting, to be posted not less than five clear days before the meeting to which it relates.

The summons for any extraordinary meeting shall set out the business proposed to be transacted at that meeting.

Want of service of a summons on any Member of the Authority shall not affect the validity of any meeting.

3 COMMITTEES

3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, the Authority shall resolve and appoint:

- (a) the committees, sub-committees, working panels or other groups necessary to discharge the functions of the Authority;
- (b) the membership or method of appointment for each committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group;
- (c) a person to preside at the meetings of each committee & sub-committee (the ~~chairman~~Chair);
- (d) a person to preside at a meeting of a committee or sub-committee in the absence of the ~~chairman~~Chair (the deputy ~~chairman~~Chair);
- (e) the terms of reference of each committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group;
- (f) whether non-voting members, assessors and advisers may also be appointed to any such committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group;
- (g) the limitations, if any, to be placed on the powers of any committee to arrange for the discharge of its functions by a subcommittee.

3.2 The number, date, time and place of meetings of every committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group shall be as determined by the Authority, or if no such determination is made, as may be decided by the committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group or its ~~Chairman~~Chair for the convenient and/or efficient dispatch of its business.

3.3 Every committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group established under this Standing Order shall at all times be constituted and act in conformity with these Standing Orders and, in particular, the provisions set out in Appendices 2 & 3 hereto.

3.4 The number, date, time and place of meetings of every committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group shall be as determined by the Authority, or if no such determination is made, as may be decided by the committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group or its ~~Chairman~~Chair for the convenient and/or efficient dispatch of its business.

3.5 ~~Every committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group established under this Standing Order shall at all times be constituted and act in conformity with these Standing Orders and, in particular, the provisions set out in Appendices 2 & 3 hereto.~~

Commented [NW4]: Repeat of 3.3

4 QUORUM

- 4.1 Except where authorised by statute or otherwise specifically ordered by the Authority, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Authority or its committees or sub-committees unless:
- (a) at least one-third of the whole number of Members of the Authority, committee or sub-committee are present, provided that in no case shall the quorum of any committee be less than three Members; and
 - (b) of those present at least one is a local authority Member and at least one a Member appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State.

Note: the quorum for a meeting of the full Authority of ~~22~~19 Members is ~~8~~7

- 4.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Standards sub-committee shall be three Members of the Authority of whom at least one is a local authority Member
- 4.3 If, during any meeting of the Authority, the ~~Chairman~~Chair, after counting the number of Members present, declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned for 15 minutes, or until a quorum shall be present whichever shall, be the sooner time.
- 4.4 If at the end of the period of adjournment in accordance with Standing Order 4.3 above, after counting the number of Members present, the ~~Chairman~~Chair declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall forthwith end and any business shall stand adjourned to the next meeting of the Authority
- 4.5 In the application of this Standing Order to any committee or sub-committee, a meeting may continue at the discretion of the ~~Chairman~~Chair of that committee or sub-committee, provided that the absence of a quorum shall be noted in the minutes and no decision shall be taken or resolution made without submission of the proposal to the Authority.
- 4.6 Where more than one-third of the Members of the Authority become disqualified at the same time, the quorum of the Authority shall be determined by reference to the number of Members of the Authority at that time remaining qualified.

5 ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

- 5.1 Every Member attending a meeting of the Authority or any of its committees and sub-committees of which he/she is a member, shall certify his/her attendance by signing against his/her name in the attendance book or record sheet provided for that purpose.
- 5.2 It shall be a requirement that every Member of the Authority attends each meeting of the full Authority together with every meeting of any committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group to which he/she consents to be elected or appointed.
- 5.3 Save in the event of emergency or sudden illness, a Member shall tender his/her apology to Parke not less than 3 days before the date of a meeting which he/she is unable to attend.

- 5.4 In exceptional circumstances, the Chief Executive (NPO) in consultation with the ChairmanChair shall be authorised to consider and determine a request from a Member for leave of absence, for a period not exceeding 3 months (such period shall be capable of extension or renewal to a maximum aggregate period of 9 months)
- 5.5 Unless leave of absence shall previously have been agreed, a Member who fails on 3 occasions in any 12 month period to attend a meeting of the Authority, or a committee, sub-committee, working panel or other group to which he/she has consented to be elected or appointed (a separate record and account to be kept for every such body) shall be invited by the Chief Executive (NPO) and ChairmanChair of the Authority to a meeting to discuss the non-attendance.

6 CHAIRMANCHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIRMANCHAIR

Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 para 5

- 6.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Authority the first item of business shall be to elect a ChairmanChair of the Authority and the second item of business shall be to elect a Deputy ChairmanChair of the Authority.
- 6.2 Elections at the Annual Meeting of the Authority and any meeting of the Authority and its Committees shall be held in accordance with the Rules on Elections set out in Appendix 10.
- 6.3 RESERVED
- 6.4 The ChairmanChair and Deputy ChairmanChair shall be elected for a period not exceeding one year but both such persons shall, on ceasing to hold office at the end of their elected term, be eligible for re-election.
- 6.5 The ChairmanChair or Deputy ChairmanChair may at any time resign his/her office by notice in writing delivered to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer).
- 6.6 A person shall cease to hold office as ChairmanChair or Deputy ChairmanChair of the Authority upon ceasing to be a Member of the Authority.
- 6.7 If any vacancy in the office of ChairmanChair or Deputy ChairmanChair shall arise it shall be the duty of the Members of the Authority to secure that the vacancy is filled as soon as possible.
- 6.8 Where a casual vacancy in the office of ChairmanChair or Deputy ChairmanChair of the Authority is filled the person then elected shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

7 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- 7.1 At a meeting of the full Authority the ChairmanChair, if present, shall preside.

- 7.2 If the **Chairman/Chair** is absent from a meeting of the full Authority the Deputy **Chairman/Chair**, if present, shall preside.
- 7.3 If both the **Chairman/Chair** and Deputy **Chairman/Chair** of the Authority are absent, the Members of the Authority present at that meeting shall choose a person from their number to preside as **chairman/Chair** for that meeting.
- 7.4 For the avoidance of any doubt, any powers or duty in relation to the conduct of a meeting assigned to the **Chairman/Chair** by these Standing Orders may be exercised by any person presiding at a meeting in accordance with Standing Order 7.3.

8 MEMBERS INTERESTS

- 8.1 All Members, including any person co-opted as a member of the Authority or one of its committees, sub-committees, working panels or other groups, shall at all times when conducting the business of the Authority, or conducting the business of the office to which the Member has been appointed or elected, or acting as a representative of the Authority, act in accordance with:
- (a) the Members Code of Conduct
 - (b) the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
 - (c) the provisions in these Standing Orders relating to Members Interests
- 8.2 A Member who has a **personal interest** in a matter and who attends any meeting at which that matter is considered or discussed, shall disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the start of the meeting, or at the commencement of that item of business, and in any event no later than at the time during that item of business when he/she first becomes aware of the interest.
- 8.3 For the purposes of this Standing Order 8, **personal interest** has the meaning set out in paragraph 9.1 of the Member **eCode of eConduct** and **meeting** has the meaning set out in paragraph 2 of the Member **eCode of eConduct**.
- 8.4 A Member who has a **disclosable pecuniary interest** in any matter shall:
- (a) not participate in any discussion of that matter, or participate in any vote taken on that matter, or discharge any function in relation to that matter without first obtaining a dispensation from the Authority's Monitoring Officer
 - (b) withdraw from the room or chamber where the meeting considering the matter is being held, at the commencement of the consideration of that matter, unless a dispensation has been granted
- 8.5 A Member must register those matters specified in the Member Code of Conduct, namely:
- (a) membership in a position of general management or control of any body:
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or

- (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
- (iii) whose principal purposes include influence of public opinion or policy
- (b) membership of any other local Authority
- (c) membership of any political party or trade union
- (d) membership of the United Grand Lodge of England (freemasons)
- (e) receipt in the past 12 months in their capacity as a Member of any gift or hospitality with an estimated value exceeding £50

9 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Local Government Act 1972 s.100B(4) & Sch 12 para 4(2)

- 9.1 Subject to paragraphs 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 of this Standing Order and any statutory requirements, the order of business at every meeting of the Authority shall be:
- (a) at the Annual Meeting only in every year, the appointment of the ~~Chairman~~Chair and Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair in accordance with the procedure set out in Standing Order 6;
 - (b) in the absence of both the ~~Chairman~~Chair and the Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair, to choose a Member of the Authority to preside;
 - (c) to deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
 - (d) to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting of the Authority. This sub-clause shall not apply to any extraordinary meeting of the Authority unless at such extraordinary meeting the business transacted alters or affects in any way any resolution passed at a previous meeting of the Authority for which the minutes have not received approval and signature;
 - (e) to deal with any business expressly required by statute to be done;
 - (f) the ~~Chairman~~Chair's announcements and correspondence;
 - (g) to introduce any business which by reason of special circumstances such that the ~~Chairman~~Chair, after consultation with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), is of the opinion that the matter should be considered as a matter of urgency **AND** then to resolve when such business should be ordered on the Agenda;
 - (h) to dispose of business remaining from the last meeting;
 - (i) to consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;
 - (j) other business specified in the summons;
 - (k) to consider questions from Members of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Orders;
 - (l) to receive public participation in accordance with Appendix 8.

- 9.2 The order of business falling under items 9.1(a) (b) and (c) shall not be displaced.
- 9.3 At an extraordinary meeting the order of business falling under items 9.1 (b) (c) and (d) shall not be displaced and any other business shall be exactly that set out in the Summons and no other business shall be considered.
- 9.4 Subject to paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3 of this Standing Order the order of any other business may be varied either at the ~~Chairman~~Chair's discretion or by a resolution passed on a motion duly moved, seconded and put without debate.
- 9.5 Except in the case of business required by or under the ~~1996~~2015 Order or any other statutory provision to be transacted and other business brought before the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Authority other than that specified in the summons relating thereto.

10 MINUTES

Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 paras 41(1) (3) (4) & 44(2)

- 10.1 Not less than three days prior to every meeting of the Authority a printed copy of the draft minutes of the previous meeting shall be sent to every Member.
- 10.2 Provided that Standing Order 10.1 has been complied with, the draft minutes shall be taken as read and the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall immediately put the question 'May the minutes of the meeting held on the X day of Y be approved as a correct record?'
- 10.3 There shall be no discussion upon the draft minutes, except upon their accuracy. Any question of their accuracy shall be raised by motion. If no such question is raised, or if it is raised then as soon as it has been resolved, the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall sign the minutes.
- 10.4 The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall make arrangements for a signed copy of the approved ~~m~~Minutes of every meeting of the Authority and every committee and sub-committee of the Authority to be kept securely and any minute purporting to be so signed shall be received in evidence without further proof.
- 10.5 The provisions contained in this Standing Order shall also apply in relation to meetings of all committees and sub-committees.
- 10.6 A copy of the minutes of the proceedings at each meeting of the Authority shall be published upon the Authority's website and made available for public inspection within 10 working days of the date of the meeting at which those minutes are approved.

11 URGENT MATTERS

- 11.1 The decision-making powers, discretions and duties vested in the Authority are deemed to rest with the Authority acting as a statutory body corporate, except where they have been expressly delegated under the scheme of delegation to a properly constituted committee or sub-committee of the Authority or a Joint Committee or an Officer of the Authority.
- 11.2 The Authority recognises that exceptional circumstances may occasionally arise under which it is essential and in the best interests of the Authority for urgent action to be authorised and taken on its behalf, when such action does not fall within the scope of the scheme of delegation.
- 11.3 In such circumstances, the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall be empowered to act on the Authority's behalf, provided always that all such action shall be in accordance with policy and in the best interests of the Authority and shall only be taken after (a) having consulted with the ~~Chairman~~Chair; and (b) having received and considered such legal and specialist advice as may be required to make a reasonable decision.
- 11.4 In the event that urgent action pursuant to Standing Order 11.3 appears to be necessary, but the ~~Chairman~~Chair cannot be contacted despite diligent efforts or is unable to act, the ~~Chairman~~Chair's responsibilities under Standing Order 11.3 shall be discharged by the Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair. If both shall be unavailable or unable to act, the matter shall not be dealt with except by a properly constituted extraordinary meeting of the full Authority.
- 11.5 In the event that urgent action pursuant to Standing Order 11.3 appears to be necessary, but the Chief Executive is unavailable or unable to act, the Chief Executive's responsibilities under Standing Order 11.3 may be discharged by any ~~Director of the Authority~~ member of the Authority's Leadership Team.
- 11.6 Any "urgent action" taken in accordance with Standing Order 11.3 shall be reported in writing to every Member of the Authority as soon as possible and in any event within 3 working days and shall also be reported to the next meeting of the Authority.

12 MEETINGS TO BE OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 12.1 Every meeting of the Authority or any Committee or Sub-committee shall be open to the press and public except in the following circumstances:
- (a) the press and public **SHALL** be excluded from the meeting during an item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that, if members of the public were present during that item, confidential information as defined in s100A(3) of the 1972 Act would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence;
 - (b) the press and public **MAY** by resolution under s100A(4) of the 1972 Act be excluded from the meeting during an item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present

during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in s100 I of the 1972 Act.

- (c) If any question arises at a meeting of the Authority or any Committee as to the appointment, promotion, dismissal, salary, superannuation, conditions of service or conduct of any Officer, or where persons are being considered for an appointment with the Authority, a motion under Section 100A(4) of the 1972 Act to exclude the public shall be moved forthwith by the **ChairmanChair** and put without debate.

12.2 A resolution under Standing Order 12.1(b) shall identify the proceedings, or the part of the proceedings, to which it applies, and state the description, in terms of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Act, of the exempt information giving use to the exclusion of the press and public.

12.3 Unless the **ChairmanChair** shall direct otherwise, the business the subject of any resolution under Standing Order 12.1 shall, upon the passing of that resolution, forthwith stand adjourned until the conclusion of all other business at the meeting, whereupon the **ChairmanChair** shall invite the press and public to leave the meeting so that the adjourned business shall be considered.

12.4 Unless the **ChairmanChair** shall direct otherwise, upon the conclusion of any item of business taken following a resolution under Standing Order 12.1, Members shall forthwith return to the Chief Executive or his nominee all reports, documents and papers relating to that item, for secure disposal as confidential waste.

13 CONFIDENTIALITY

A Member or Officer of the Authority shall not:

- (a) disclose any information or matter which has been reported to or debated by the Authority or any Committee or Sub-committee and which is confidential information within the meaning of s100A of the 1972 Act; or
- (b) without the express permission of the Authority, disclose any information or matter which is identified as exempt information following a resolution pursuant to s100A of the 1972 Act to exclude the public from the meeting.

14 VOTING

Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 para 44

14.1 Subject to Standing Order 6.2 every question shall be determined by a show of hands, unless otherwise decided by a majority of the meeting.

14.2 Pursuant to Schedule 12 of the 1972 Act, all questions coming or arising before a meeting of the Authority shall be decided by a majority of the Members of the Authority present and voting at that meeting.

- 14.3 On the **ChairmanChair** putting a motion to the vote, no further discussion on it shall take place. The question having been put by the **ChairmanChair** and voting having commenced no Member shall speak, nor any questions be asked.
- 14.4 Where an equality of votes on any matter arising throughout the course of any meeting occurs, the person presiding at that meeting in accordance with these Standing Orders shall have a second or casting vote.
- 14.5 If immediately after a vote is taken any Member so requests, a record shall be kept in the Minutes of that meeting whether that Member cast his/her vote for the question, against the question or abstained from voting.

15 MOTIONS

15.1 Notice of Motion

Notice of every motion (other than those which under Standing Order 16.1 may be moved without notice) shall be given in writing and signed by the Member or Members giving the notice and delivered so as to be received at least seven working days before the date of the next meeting of the Authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer). Upon receipt it shall be dated and numbered in the order in which it is received.

15.2 Motions to be Set out in Summons

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall set out in the summons for every meeting of the Authority all motions of which notice has been duly given in the order in which they have been received, unless the Member when giving such notice intimated in writing that they propose to move it at some later meeting, or has since withdrawn it in writing.

15.3 Motion Not Moved

If a motion which is set out in the summons is not moved either by a Member who gave notice thereof or by some other Member on his/her behalf it shall, unless postponed by consent of the Authority, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.

15.4 Scope of Motion

Every motion shall be relevant to some matter in relation to which the Authority has power or duties or which affects the Dartmoor National Park.

15.5 Form of Motion

If it shall appear to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) that a motion of which notice has been received pursuant to Standing Order 15.1 is not in order or is framed in improper or unbecoming language or otherwise fails to comply with the provisions of these Standing Orders, the direction of the **ChairmanChair** shall be sought as to whether and in what form the motion shall be placed upon the Summons and Agenda, and the decision of the **ChairmanChair**, after consultation with the Member giving the notice if possible, shall be final.

16 MOTIONS WHICH MAY BE MOVED WITHOUT NOTICE

- 16.1 The following motions and amendments need not be in writing and may be moved without notice:
- (a) Appointment of the ~~Chairman~~Chair of the meeting at which the motion is made;
 - (b) Motions relating to the accuracy of the minutes;
 - (c) To vary the order of business;
 - (d) For leave to be given to withdraw a motion~~;~~;
 - (e) To amend a motion;
 - (f) To refer the motion to a committee or sub-committee;
 - (g) Receipt of reports or adoption of recommendations of committees or Officers and any consequent resolutions;
 - (h) "that the question be now put";
 - (i) "that the Authority (or committee) proceeds to the next item of business";
 - (j) "that the debate be now adjourned";
 - (k) "that the Authority (or committee) do now adjourn";
 - (l) To exclude the public in accordance with Standing Order 19~~;~~;
 - (m) "that the Member be not further heard" (Standing Order 19);
 - (n) "that the Member leave the meeting" (Standing Order 19);
 - (o) To give the consent of the Authority where the consent of the Authority is required by these Standing Orders~~;~~;
 - (p) Appointment of a committee or Member thereof occasioned by an item mentioned in the summons to the meeting.

17 DEBATE

- 17.1 All discussion and debate in a meeting of the Authority or any committee and sub-committee shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Debate set out in these Standing Orders.
- 17.2 For the purpose of conducting the business of meetings in an informal and amicable manner, it shall always be open to the ~~Chairman~~Chair to allow debate which does not comply with the formalities of Standing Order 18.
- 17.3 The ~~Chairman~~Chair may at any time determine to call upon the meeting to bring its procedures into full and strict conformity with these Standing Orders and the decision as to the necessity for and/or timing of any such determination shall be final and not subject to debate or challenge, and for the avoidance of doubt the provisions of Standing Order 18.14 and 29 shall not apply to this Standing Order.

18 RULES OF DEBATE

18.1 Discussion of a Motion or Amendment

A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. Unless notice has already been given in accordance with Standing Order 15, the ~~Chairman~~Chair may require the matter to be put into

writing and handed to the ChairmanChair before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.

18.2 Secunder's Speech

When seconding a motion or amendment, a Member may reserve his/her right to speak until later in the debate by declaring his/her intention to do so.

18.3 Speaking in Debate

A Member when speaking shall address the ChairmanChair. If two or more Members indicate a wish to speak, the ChairmanChair shall call one to speak; the other or others shall then await their opportunity to speak. While a Member is speaking the other Members shall refrain from speaking unless raising a point of order.

18.4 Content and Length of Speeches

A Member shall direct his/her speech to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a point of order. A Member shall not be entitled to read a prepared speech, but may refresh his/her memory by reference to notes. No speech may exceed five minutes except with the consent of the ChairmanChair.

18.5 Speaking More Than Once

A Member who has spoken on any motion shall not speak again while it is the subject of debate, except:

- (a) once on an amendment moved by another Member;
- (b) if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke, to move a further amendment;
- (c) if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another Member, to speak on the main issue, whether or not the amendment on which he/she spoke was carried;
- (d) in exercise of a right of reply;
- (e) on a point of order or by way of personal explanation.

18.6 Amendments to Motions

An amendment shall be relevant to the motion and shall be either:

- (a) to leave out words; or
- (b) to insert or add words; or
- (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;

But such omission, insertion or addition of words shall not have the effect of negating the motion before the Authority, or introducing a substantially new proposal.

18.7 Discussion of Amendments

Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time. No further amendment shall be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of, but notice of further amendments may be given.

The ChairmanChair may permit two or more amendments to be discussed together (but not voted on together) if he/she is of the opinion that this course would facilitate the proper conduct of Authority business.

18.8 **Further Amendments**

If an amendment is not carried, other amendments may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

The mover and seconder of a motion or an amendment not carried by the Authority shall not be entitled to move any further amendment to the same or similar effect at that meeting on the question under discussion.

18.9 **Withdrawal of Motion or Amendment**

A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the seconder and of the Authority, which shall be signified without discussion, and no Member may speak upon the amendment after the mover has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission has been refused.

18.10 **Right of Reply**

The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the close of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote. The reply shall be strictly confined to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matters into the debate. If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion shall also have a right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment but shall not otherwise speak on the amendment. The mover of the amendment shall have no right of reply to the debate on that amendment.

18.11 **Motions Which May be Moved During Debate**

When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:

- (a) to amend the motion;
- (b) that the question be now put;
- (c) to adjourn the debate;
- (d) to proceed to the next item of business;
- (e) to adjourn the meeting;
- (f) a motion under Standing Order 19 to exclude the public;
- (g) that the Member be not further heard (Standing Order 19);
- (h) that the Member leave the meeting (Standing Order 19).

18.12 **Closure Motions**

A Member may move without comment at the conclusion of a speech of another Member: "That the Authority proceed to the next item of business", "That the question be now put", "That the debate be now adjourned" or "That the Authority do now adjourn", on the seconding of which the procedure shall be as follows:

- (a) on a motion to proceed to the next item of business, unless in the **Chairman/Chair**'s opinion the matter before the meeting has been insufficiently discussed, the **Chairman/Chair** shall first give the mover of the original motion a right of reply, and then put to the vote the motion to proceed to next business;

- (b) on a motion that the question be now put, unless in the ChairmanChair's opinion the matter before the meeting has been insufficiently discussed, the ChairmanChair shall first put to the vote the motion that the question be now put, and if it is passed then give the mover of the original motion their right of reply before putting the motion to the vote;
- (c) on a motion to adjourn the debate or the meeting, if in the ChairmanChair's opinion the matter before the meeting has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be sufficiently discussed on that occasion the ChairmanChair shall put the adjournment motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion a right of reply on that occasion.

18.13 **Points of Order**

A Member may raise a point of order or a matter of personal explanation and shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.

A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of a Standing Order or statutory provision and the Member shall specify the Standing Order or statutory provision and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken.

A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by him/her which appears to have been misunderstood in the present debate.

The ruling of the ChairmanChair on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion.

18.14 **Respect for the ChairmanChair**

Whenever the ChairmanChair speaks during a debate, any Member then speaking shall immediately stop and the Authority shall be silent. The decision of the ChairmanChair on all points of procedure, order and interpretation of the Rules of Debate shall be final and no debate shall be permitted thereon **Provided Always** that the ChairmanChair's ruling on a particular issue or matter may be challenged by motion, which motion shall upon being duly seconded, be put without debate.

19 **PREVENTION OF DISORDER**

- 19.1 If during any meeting of the Authority the ChairmanChair forms the opinion that a Member has engaged or is engaging in misconduct by persistently disregarding the ruling of the ChairmanChair, or by behaving irregularly, improperly or offensively, or by willfully interrupting or obstructing the business of the Authority, the ChairmanChair shall inform the meeting of that opinion and may take any of the following actions, either in sequence or separately:
- (a) formally warn the Member regarding his/her conduct;
 - (b) direct that the Member refrain from speaking during all or part of the debate or meeting;

- (c) direct that the Member withdraw from all or part of the remainder of the debate or meeting;
- (d) move "That the Member named be not further heard" (the motion being put and determined without seconding or debate)
- (e) move "That the Member named do leave the meeting" (the motion being put and determined without seconding or debate)
- (f) adjourn the meeting of the Authority for such period as in the opinion of the ChairmanChair is expedient

19.2 In the event that an officer or member of the public wilfully interrupts the proceedings at any meeting or behaves irregularly, improperly or offensively, the ChairmanChair shall warn him/her. If the misconduct continues or is repeated the ChairmanChair shall order that person to leave the room for the remainder of the meeting. If the person refuses or fails to leave the room, or having left the room returns, the ChairmanChair may order his/her removal from the room.

19.3 In case of a general disturbance in any part of the room open to the public, the ChairmanChair may order that part to be cleared for all or part of the remainder of the meeting. In the event of a general disturbance which, in the opinion of the ChairmanChair renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, in addition to any other power vested in him the ChairmanChair may, without the question being put, adjourn the meeting of the Authority for such period and to such place as the ChairmanChair shall consider expedient.

20 REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

No motion to rescind or reverse any substantive resolution passed by the Authority within the preceding six months and no motion or amendment to the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding six months shall be proposed unless the notice thereof given in pursuance of Standing Order 15 bears the names of at least six Members. When any such motion or amendment has been disposed of by the Authority, it shall not be open to any Member to propose a similar motion within a further period of six months. This Standing Order shall not apply to motions moved in pursuance of a recommendation of a committee.

21 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

21.1 Authority Business

A Member may ask any question upon the business before the Authority, if the question is put before the Authority's consideration of such business is concluded.

21.2 Notice of Questions and Replies Thereto

A Member may:

- (a) ask any question relating to the business of the Authority provided written notice is received at the office of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) at least seven working days before the meeting;

- (b) with the permission of the ~~Chairman~~Chair, put any question relating to urgent business, but a written copy of such question shall be delivered to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) not later than 3.00pm on the day before the meeting.

Provided that:

- (a) where the desired information is contained in any publication of the Authority it shall be deemed a sufficient reply if the publication containing the information is indicated;
- (b) if a reply to any question cannot conveniently be given orally it will be deemed a sufficient reply if the answer is circulated to Members with the minutes of the meeting at which the question has been asked;
- (c) every question shall be put and answered without discussion and no provision shall be made for asking supplementary questions;
- (d) any person to whom a question is put may decline to answer.

22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 22.1 The Agenda for every meeting of the Authority and its committees and sub-committees shall include an item making provision for participation by the public, through questions and/or statements, in accordance with Appendix 8. This item shall usually appear on the Agenda pursuant to Standing Order 9.1(l).
- 22.2 At meetings of the Authority's Development Management Committee, public participation in relation to an application or matter before the committee shall usually be taken at the time that item is called for debate.
- 22.3 Appendix 8 to these Standing Orders shall further regulate public participation at meetings of the Authority and its committees and sub-committees.

23 WHEN STANDING ORDERS MAY BE SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR ALTERED

Local Government Act 1972 ss16(1) 106 & Sch 12 para 43

- 23.1 These Standing Orders shall only be capable of variation, amendment, revocation, replacement or other alteration by the Authority at a meeting of the full Authority and upon notice of motion specifying the alteration proposed to be made.
- 23.2 Excepting always those matters specified in Standing Order 23.3 below, Standing Orders or any part of them may, upon motion and without notice, be suspended at any meeting of the Authority as regards any agenda item or items at such meeting specified in that motion, provided that at least one half of the Members of the Authority are present.
- 23.3 For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the following Standing Orders are not capable of suspension and further that no motion to suspend Standing Orders shall be moved in relation to them or their provisions:
- (a) Membership of the Authority (*Standing Order 1*)

- (b) Quorum *(Standing Order 4)*
- (c) Attendance at meeting *(Standing Order 5)*
- (d) Conduct of meetings *(Standing Order 7)*
- (e) Members Interests *(Standing Order 8)*
- (f) Urgent matters *(Standing Order 11)*
- (g) Meetings to be open to the public *(Standing Order 12)*
- (h) Confidentiality *(Standing Order 13)*
- (i) Voting *(Standing Order 14)*
- (j) Prevention of disorder *(Standing Order 19)*
- (k) Suspension & alteration of Standing Orders *(Standing Order 23)*

24 INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

- 24.1 All reports made or minutes kept by the Authority shall be open for inspection by any Member at any reasonable time. Further, a Member may for the purposes of his/her duties as a Member, but not otherwise, inspect any document, report, file or background information which is in the possession of or under the control of the Authority (including documents and information held in electronic formats) that contains material relating to any business to be transacted at a meeting of the Authority or of any committee or sub-committee of the Authority, and shall be provided with a copy of such document, report or information on request.

PROVIDED ALWAYS that a Member shall not knowingly inspect and shall not call for a copy of any document relating to a matter in which he/she or his/her spouse is professionally interested or in which he/she has a 'personal interest' or a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' (as set out in Standing Order 8 above) ~~directly or indirectly any personal or prejudicial interest within the meaning of Part 2 of the 2001 Order~~ and that this Standing Order shall not require the ~~Solicitor Legal Adviser~~ to the Authority to allow inspection of any document which is, or in the event of legal proceedings would be, protected by legal professional privilege.

- 24.2 A Member who wishes to inspect any other document or information, not falling within paragraph 24.1, should make a written request to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) specifying the documents or information.
- 24.3 Unless the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), after consultation with the ~~Chairman~~Chair, believes that the request to inspect the document or information is unreasonable or improper or that the Member appears to have a personal or prejudicial interest in respect of any matter contained or referred to in the document or information, the document and information requested shall be produced for the Member's inspection.
- 24.4 If the Member's request under paragraph 24.2 appears to raise any legal issues affecting the Authority, the Monitoring Officer and the Authority's ~~Solicitor~~Legal Adviser shall be consulted before any decision is made.
- 24.5 If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Member making the request, it shall be referred to the next full meeting of the Authority.

25 AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Where any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings or shall be a legal agreement, contract, notice, or order under hand on behalf of the Authority it shall (unless any other enactment requires or authorises or the necessary delegated authority shall have been given to some other person) be signed by the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or in his/her absence by an Authorised Officer of the Authority.

Commented [NW5]: 2001 Order repealed. Revised wording [DCC]

26 THE AUTHORITY'S SEAL

26.1 Custody of Seal

The Common Seal of the Authority shall be kept in the custody of the ~~Solicitor to the Authority~~ Monitoring Officer who will arrange it's safe keeping.

26.2 Sealing of Documents

The Common Seal of the Authority shall not be affixed to any document unless the matter has been authorised by a resolution of the Authority, committee or sub-committee or by an Officer to whom the Authority have delegated their powers in this behalf.

26.3 Attestation of Sealing

The Seal shall be attested by the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or an Authorised Officer of the Authority and an entry of every sealing of a document shall be made and consecutively numbered in a sealing register. ~~kept by the Solicitor to the Authority.~~

27 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Authority and its committees, sub-committees, working panels & other groups and every Member and Officer shall at all times act in accordance with and behave in conformity with all financial regulations as may be made by the Authority.

28 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER

Environment Act 1995 Schedule 7 para 14; Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993 Schedule 1

28.1 Pursuant to Schedule 7 of the 1995 Act, the Authority shall ensure that there is at all times a person appointed as Chief Executive (National Park Officer) with responsibility for the execution, maintenance and co-ordination of the Authority's duties, functions and responsibilities.

28.2 Appendix 4 to these Standing Orders shall govern the appointment of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and any matter concerning the investigation and/or discipline of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer).

29 INTERPRETATION OF STANDING ORDERS

The decision of the ~~Chairman~~Chair on all points of procedure, order and interpretation of these Standing Orders shall be final and no debate shall be permitted thereon **PROVIDED ALWAYS** that the ~~Chairman~~Chair's ruling on a particular point of procedure, order or interpretation of these Standing Orders may be reversed by motion without notice, which motion being duly seconded shall be put without debate.



Dartmoor National Park Authority

Standing Orders

for Regulation of Authority Proceedings and Business

APPENDICES

- 1 Membership of the Authority
- 2 Provisions Relating to Committees of the Authority
- 3 Terms of Reference for Committees
- 4 Provisions relating to the Chief Officer
- 5 Members Interests
- 6 Code of Conduct for Members
- 7 Confidential Reporting Policy 'Whistleblowing'
- 8 Public Participation
- 9 Guidance on Voting Procedures (Development ManagementControl)
- 10 Rules on Elections

Appendix 1

Provisions Regulating Membership of the Authority

- 1 Membership of the Authority shall be governed by the 1995 Act and the ~~1996~~2015 Order (as amended), and in particular Schedule 1 to the ~~1996~~2015 Order ~~(as inserted by the 2006 Order)~~.
- 2 A Member may at any time resign his membership of the Authority by notice in writing delivered to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and his resignation shall take effect on the receipt of the notice by that Officer.
- 3 Where a vacancy arises in the membership of the Authority, it shall be filled as soon as is practicable:
 - (a) where the vacancy is for a local authority Member, by the council in whose representation the vacancy arises; and
 - (b) where the vacancy is for a Member whose appointment falls to be made by the Secretary of State in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the 1995 Act, by the Secretary of State after consultation with Natural England or its successor body
- 4 As soon as is practicable after receiving a notice under paragraph 2 above, the Authority shall give public notice of:
 - (a) the resignation, termination or vacancy, and
 - (b) the name of the person concerned.

Provisions Relating to Committees of the Authority

1 Membership & Function

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, the Authority shall resolve and appoint:
 - a) the membership or method of appointment for each committee
 - b) the terms of reference of each of those committees
 - c) whether non-voting members, assessors and advisers may also be appointed to any such committee
 - d) the limitations, if any, to be placed on the powers of any such committee to arrange for the discharge of its functions by a sub committee
- 1.2 The Authority shall appoint, from among the Members, a Member to preside at the meetings of each committee (*the ~~chairman~~Chair*).
- 1.3 The committee may appoint from its members a Member to preside in the absence of the ~~chairman~~Chair (*the deputy ~~chairman~~Chair*).
- 1.4 The ~~Chairman~~Chair and Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority shall be ex officio members of every committee (excepting always the Standards sub-committee) unless they decline to serve on any particular committee.
- 1.5 It is hereby declared and affirmed that a committee may, subject always to any resolution of the Authority under Standing Order 3 and the mandatory requirements of Section 104 of the 1972 Act (Disqualifications), include co-opted persons who are not Members.
- 1.6 In determining the membership and composition of any committee, due regard shall be had to the number of elected and appointed Members established by Regulation 4 and Schedule 1 to the ~~1996~~2015 Order (as amended).

2 Proceedings

- 2.1 Except where required by statute or expressly authorised by the Authority, no business shall be transacted at any meeting of a committee unless a Quorum of Members is present in accordance with Standing Order 4.
- 2.2 All discussion and debate in any committee shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Debate set out in Standing Order 18.
- 2.3 For the purpose of conducting the business of meetings in an informal and amicable manner, it shall always be open to the ~~Chairman~~Chair to allow debate which does not comply with the formalities of Standing Order 18.

2.4 Standing Order 6 shall govern voting and decision-making in any meeting of a committee.

3 Meetings

- 3.1 Standing Order 3.2 shall govern the number, date and time of meetings of every committee.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall issue the summons for any meeting not less than 5 clear days before the meeting to which it relates, and shall forward it by email or ordinary prepaid post.
- 3.3 A Member shall have the right to attend any meeting of a committee of which he/she is not a member and may receive the relevant papers thereof, however he/she shall not be entitled to speak at that meeting except with the consent of the ~~Chairman~~Chair, neither shall he/she have any right to vote and he/she shall leave the meeting if requested to do so.
- 3.4 Any Member who wishes to place a matter appropriate to its remit on the agenda of any committee may do so by giving written notice to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) at least seven working days before the next ordinary meeting of the committee concerned.

Provisions Relating to Working Panels and Other Groups

4 Membership & Function

- 4.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, the Authority shall resolve and appoint:
- a) the membership or method of appointment for any working panel or other group
 - b) the terms of reference of each of those working panels or other groups
- 4.2 The Authority shall appoint, from among the Members, a Member to preside at the meetings of each working panel or other group (~~the chairman~~Chair).
- 4.3 The working panel or other group may appoint from its members a Member to preside in the absence of the ~~chairman~~Chair (~~the deputy chairman~~Chair).
- 4.4 The ~~Chairman~~Chair and Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority shall be ex officio members of every working panel or other group unless they decline to serve on any particular working panel or other group.
- 4.5 It is hereby declared and affirmed that a working panel or other group may, subject always to any resolution of the Authority under Standing Order 3 and the mandatory requirements of Section 104 of the 1972 Act (Disqualifications), include co-opted persons who are not Members.

5 Proceedings

5.1 Except where required by statute or expressly authorised by the Authority, a working panel or other group shall have no decision-making function, nor shall it make resolutions or recommendations, vote on any matter, or otherwise transact any business. The role of a working panel or other group shall be:

- to consider the matter or matters referred to it by the Authority;
- to make such enquiries or investigations as are necessary to the proper consideration of the matter or matters;
- to arrange such consultations and discussions with interested parties as are desirable; and
- to communicate the views of its members to Officers of the Authority

6 Meetings

6.1 It shall be for the members of the working panel or other group to determine the number, date and time of meetings of the panel or group.

6.2 The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall issue a notice of meeting, not less than five days before the meeting to which it relates, and shall forward it by email or ordinary prepaid post.

6.3 A Member shall have the right to attend any meeting of a working panel or other group of which he/she is not a member and may receive the relevant notice and papers thereof.

6.4 Any Member who wishes to place a matter appropriate to its remit before a working panel or other group may do so by giving written notice to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) at least ~~ten~~seven working days before the next meeting of the working panel or other group concerned.

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Terms of Reference for Committees of the Authority

1 Audit & Governance Committee

The general functions of the Audit & Governance Committee are:

- (a) to exercise such powers and decision-making duties as may be delegated to the committee by the Authority;
- (b) to scrutinise the activity of the Authority with particular reference to audit, governance, risk management, performance management and use of resources (including financial and human);
- (c) to maintain a sub-committee to deal with Standards issues;
- (d) to provide assurance to and make recommendations to the Authority, its committees and sub-committees as appropriate;
- (e) to report its findings and confirm the level of assurance that has received [In-year] to the whole Authority (via committee minutes, reviewed at Authority meetings, or other reports as determined);
- (f) to consider any relevant issue referred to it by the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Head of Internal Audit or External Audit.

Without prejudice to its general functions, the Audit & Governance Committee shall have the following specific functions:

A Audit

- to support the provision, management and performance of the internal and external audit functions;
- to approve the appointment of Internal and External Auditors, to the extent permitted by law;
- to receive and consider the External Auditor's annual Audit (work) Plan and fee;
- to receive and consider the Internal Auditor's Audit (work) Plan and fee;
- to receive and consider letters, reports, audit findings and action plans received from the Internal and the External Auditors, monitoring progress on agreed recommendations and making requests for further audit work or investigation if required.

B Performance and Risk

- to monitor and review the performance of the Authority with particular regard to the Business Plan, Budget Management, Treasury Management, Key Performance Indicators, other Strategic Plans and any other agreed service standards and targets;
- to receive and approve the Financial Outturn Report (making recommendations to the Authority if required)

- to approve a [Best Value] Service / Special Projects Review Programme as required and receive reports and monitor progress against action plans;
- to receive and consider other assurance reports and improvement action plans, such as: the annual report on the complaints procedure, reports on customer survey/satisfaction, peer reviews, self-assessments, Health & Safety etc. and monitor progress against them
- to consider the effective development and operation of the Risk Management Policy and procedures; obtaining assurance that risk management processes are working effectively
- to receive and consider the Strategic Risk Register and associated reports; obtaining assurance that key strategic risks are being effectively managed and addressed.

C Governance

- to maintain an overview of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements, including regular reviews of the Authority's Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement;
- to maintain an overview of financial regulations, procurement policy & procedures, Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation, working protocols and codes of conduct and behaviour - not otherwise reserved for the Standards sub-committee;
- to keep under review and monitor the effectiveness of the systems of internal control;
- to keep under review and monitor the Anti-fraud & Corruption and Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policies; and receive and consider any investigation reports referred to it;
- to consider the effectiveness of the Authority's Information Governance arrangements (General Data Protection Regulations/Freedom Of Information/Environmental Information Regulations); and seek assurance that action is taken relating to any breaches or issues of non-compliance;
- to consider any issue of Authority non-compliance with its own and other relevant published regulations, waivers and exemptions of these regulations;
- to consider and make recommendations to the Authority regarding legislation, policies and procedures which guide the Authority in the discharge of its powers and duties;
- to form a panel to hear appeals from staff pursuant to various HR policies, as required.

D Standards

- to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and officers;
- to promote a zero tolerance to fraud and corruption within and against the Authority;
- to advise the Authority on the adoption of a Code of Conduct pursuant to s.27(2) of the Localism Act 2011;
- to assist Members to observe the Code of Conduct;
- to consider and determine complaints against Members under the Code of Conduct.

2 Development Management Committee

The general functions of the Development Management Committee are to exercise the Authority's development management functions as follows:

- (1) as a planning authority and mineral planning authority for Dartmoor National Park under Parts III, VII, VIII, X, XI and XV of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended or revoked and re-enacted, and any Statutory Instrument or Regulations made thereunder;
- (2) as the relevant authority under Parts I, II and III of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended or revoked and re-enacted, and any Statutory Instrument or Regulations made thereunder;
- (3) as the relevant authority for the purposes of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) ~~(England & Wales) Regulations 1999~~2017 as amended or revoked and re-enacted and all related matters;
- (4) as local planning authority in relation to the issue of certificates of appropriate alternative development under the Land Compensation Act 1961 as amended or revoked and re-enacted, and
- (5) as hazardous substances authority under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 -and Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations ~~1992~~2015, as amended ~~by the Planning (Control of Major Accidents Hazards) Regulations 1999~~ or revoked and re-enacted.

Without prejudice to its general functions, the Development Management Committee shall have the responsibility, in accordance with the policies and any directions of the Authority, to exercise the following powers and duties of the Authority:

- (a) to determine planning applications;
- (b) to authorise enforcement action, including legal action, or determine that it is not expedient to take action upon any breach of planning control;
- (c) to give or refuse consent for alterations to listed buildings and works in conservation areas;
- (d) to regulate advertisements;

- (e) to make site inspection visits;
- (f) to respond to consultations from neighbouring local authorities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING PANELS & OTHER GROUPS

1 ~~Chairman~~Chair's Advisory Group (CAG)

Membership

As determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting, and usually:

- ~~Chairman~~Chair & Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority (ex officio)
- ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Development Management Committee
- ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee
- ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Park Management Working Panel
- ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Planning & Sustainable Development Working Panel
- Chief Executive (National Park Officer)
- Other Officers or Members by invitation

Remit

- 1) to provide an informal forum for the exchange of information, discussion and debate on matters relating to the Authority
- 2) to facilitate greater member involvement on all matters relevant to the Authority
- 3) to provide an opportunity for early consideration of matters likely to come before future Authority meetings
- 4) to provide a forum for panels and committees to highlight or raise issues they believe require fuller debate

Terms of Reference

- 1) to consider and discuss matters relating to the Authority
- 2) to request the attendance of Officers to discuss matters as and when necessary.
- 3) to make such enquiries or investigations as are necessary to the proper consideration of the matter or matters
- 4) to arrange such consultations and discussions with interested parties as are appropriate in pursuance of the remit of the CAG; and
- 5) to communicate the views of its members to Officers of the Authority

Powers

Except where required by statute or expressly ~~authorized~~authorised by the Authority, the CAG shall have no decision making function, nor shall it make resolutions or recommendations, vote on any matter, or otherwise transact any business.

There shall be no power for the CAG to publish or state any view or opinion; make any recommendation; or commission any activity. However, this shall be entirely without prejudice to the right of any individual member of the CAG to raise any issue, canvass

any direction, express any view or opinion, put forward any recommendation, or promote any activity as a member of the Authority at a duly constituted meeting of the Authority or one of its committees.

2 Park Management Working Panel

Membership

As determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting, and usually not less than six Members

Remit

- 1) to provide an informal forum to consider matters relevant to policy, priorities and performance in relation to the Authority's statutory conservation, and understanding and enjoyment purposes
- 2) to facilitate greater member focus and involvement on policy development, and the monitoring of delivery
- 3) to provide an opportunity for early consideration of matters likely to come before future Authority meetings
- 4) to provide a forum for Members to highlight or raise issues they believe require fuller debate

Terms of Reference

- 1) to consider and discuss matters relating to the Authority and in particular the statutory purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and promoting the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park
- 2) to request and receive reports and presentations from officers as appropriate
- 3) to monitor delivery of the National Park Management Plan in areas within the Panel's remit and contribute to an annual review of the Management Plan's priorities and objectives
- 4) to make such enquiries or investigations as are necessary to the proper consideration of matters within the remit of the Panel
- 5) to arrange such consultations and discussions with representatives of other stakeholder bodies as are appropriate within the remit of the Panel
- 6) to communicate the views of its members to Officers of the Authority
- 7) to arrange at least one field tour each year to review relevant land management, conservation, recreation, communication and education issues

Powers

Except where required by statute or expressly authorised by the Authority, the Panel shall have no decision making function, nor shall it make resolutions or recommendations, vote on any matter, or otherwise transact any business.

There shall be no power for the Panel to give instructions or directions; publish or state any view or opinion; make any recommendation; or commission any activity. However, this shall be entirely without prejudice to the right of any individual member of the Panel to raise any issue, canvass any direction, express any view or opinion, put forward any recommendation, or promote any activity as a member of the Authority at a duly constituted meeting of the Authority or one of its committees.

3 Planning & Sustainable Development Working Panel

Membership

As determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting, and usually not less than six Members

Remit

- 1) to provide an informal forum to consider matters relevant to policy, priorities and performance in relation to the Authority's forward planning and development management functions and the statutory duty to seek to foster the socio-economic well-being of the local community insofar as this is compatible with the pursuit of National Park purposes
- 2) to facilitate greater member focus and involvement on policy development, and the content of the Development Plan and supplementary planning [guidance documents](#)
- 3) to provide an opportunity for early consideration of matters likely to come before future meetings of the Development Management Committee or full Authority
- 4) to provide a forum for Members to highlight or raise issues they believe require fuller debate

Terms of Reference

- 1) to consider and discuss matters relating to Development Management, development plan policy, the duty to promote sustainable development and the responsibility for forward planning, [community and economic development](#), ~~& community~~.
- 2) to request and receive reports and presentations from officers as appropriate
- 3) to monitor performance and delivery of the socio-economic components of the National Park Management Plan, the policies in the Development Plan and development management decisions
- 4) to make such enquiries or investigations as are necessary to the proper consideration of matters within the remit of the Panel
- 5) to arrange such consultations and discussions with representatives of other stakeholder bodies as are appropriate within the remit of the Panel
- 6) to communicate the views of its members to Officers of the Authority

- 7) to arrange at least one field tour each year, ~~in conjunction with officers and Members of Exmoor National Park Authority,~~ to review recent planning decisions and consider planning policy and sustainable development issues.

Powers

Except where required by statute or expressly authorised by the Authority, the Panel shall have no decision making function, nor shall it make resolutions or recommendations, vote on any matter, or otherwise transact any business.

There shall be no power for the Panel to give instructions or directions; publish or state any view or opinion; make any recommendation; or commission any activity. However, this shall be entirely without prejudice to the right of any individual member of the Panel to raise any issue, canvass any direction, express any view or opinion, put forward any recommendation, or promote any activity as a member of the Authority at a duly constituted meeting of the Authority or one of its committees.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

1 Appointments

The Environment Act 1995 Schedule 7 para 14 & The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993

- 1.1 Where the Authority proposes to appoint a Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and it is not proposed that the appointment should be made exclusively from among the existing Officers of the Authority, it shall:
- (a) draw up a statement specifying—
 - (i) the duties of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), and
 - (ii) any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;
 - (b) make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it; and
 - (c) make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph (a) above to be sent to any person on request.
- 1.2 Where a post has been advertised as provided in paragraph 1.1(b) above, the Authority (or an Appointment Committee or sub-committee of the Authority for that purpose) shall:
- (a) interview all qualified applicants for the post, or
 - (b) select a short list from amongst such qualified applicants and interview those included on the short list, or
 - (c) where no qualified person has applied or is able to be appointed, make further arrangements for re-advertisement in accordance with paragraph 1.1(b) above.
- 1.3 Every appointment of a Chief Executive (National Park Officer) shall be made by the Authority except that:
- (a) the steps taken under paragraph 1.1 or 1.2 above may be delegated by the Authority to an Appointments Committee or sub-committee of the Authority established for that purpose;
 - (b) the interview, selection and appointment of a Chief Executive (National Park Officer) may be delegated by the Authority to an Appointments Committee or sub-committee of the Authority established for that purpose, or a relevant Joint Committee.
- 1.4 Before making or adopting an appointment of a Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or assigning additional responsibilities to a person holding such an appointment, the Authority shall consult Natural England.

2 Disciplinary Action

- 2.1 No disciplinary action (within the meaning of Part II of the 1993 Regulations) in respect of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) except action described in paragraph 2.2 below may be taken by the Authority, or by a committee, sub-committee, relevant Joint Committee or any other person acting on their behalf,

other than in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a designated independent person under Regulation 3 of the 1993 Regulations.

- 2.2 The action mentioned in paragraph 2.1 above is suspension of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) by the Authority, or in an urgent case by the ~~Chairman~~Chair or in his/her absence the Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair acting on behalf of the Authority, for the purpose of investigating the alleged misconduct occasioning the action; and any such suspension shall be on full pay and terminate no later than the expiry of two months beginning on the day on which the suspension takes effect.

3 Investigation of Alleged Misconduct

- 3.1 Where it appears to the Authority that a complaint of misconduct involving the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (*"the Chief Officer"*) requires to be investigated, the Authority shall appoint a person (*"the designated independent person"*), being such person as may be agreed between the Authority and the Chief Officer or, in default of such agreement, appointed by the Secretary of State.
- 3.2 The designated independent person—
- (a) may direct—
 - (i) that the Authority terminate any suspension of the Chief Officer, or
 - (ii) that any such suspension shall continue after the expiry of the period mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 above or the expiry of any period specified in any such previous direction, as the case may be, or
 - (iii) that the terms on which any such suspension has taken place shall be varied in accordance with the direction;
 - (iv) that no steps (whether by the Authority or any Committee, Subcommittee or Officer of theirs) towards disciplinary action or further disciplinary action against the Chief Officer, other than steps taken in the presence, or with the agreement, of the designated independent person, are to be taken before a report is made under sub-paragraph (d) below;
 - (b) may inspect any documents relating to the conduct of the Chief Officer which are in the possession of the Authority, or which the Authority has power to authorise him/her to inspect;
 - (c) may require any Officer of the Authority to answer questions concerning the conduct of the Chief Officer;
 - (d) shall make a report to the Authority—
 - (i) stating his/her opinion as to whether (and if so, the extent to which) the evidence he/she has obtained supports any allegation of misconduct against the Chief Officer, and
 - (ii) recommending any disciplinary action which appears to him/her to be appropriate for the Authority to take against the Chief Officer; and
 - (e) shall no later than the time at which he makes his report under sub-paragraph (d), send a copy of the report to the Chief Officer.

3.3 The Authority shall pay the remuneration of the designated independent person, and reimburse any costs and expenses incurred by him/her in or in connection with the discharge of his/her functions.

Provisions Relating to Members Interests

1 General Obligations

All Members, including any person co-opted as a member of the Authority or one of its Committees, Sub-committees, working panels or other groups, shall at all times when conducting the business of the Authority, or conducting the business of the office to which the Member has been appointed or elected, or acting as a representative of the Authority, act in accordance with:

- (a) the Members Code of Conduct
- (b) the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
- (c) the provisions relating to Members Interests

2 Registration of Interests

A Member or co-opted member shall within 28 days of his/her appointment register his/her disclosable pecuniary interests as required by law, together with those matters specified in paragraph 8.1 of the Members Code of Conduct (Registerable Interests) with the Authority's Monitoring Officer for inclusion in the official Register of Members' Interests

3 Canvassing for Appointments

- 3.1 Any candidate for employment by the Authority or for any appointment by or behalf of the Authority, who shall canvass any Member or Committee of the Authority in respect of his/her employment or appointment, whether directly or indirectly, or shall seek any reference or testimonial as to his/her ability, expertise or character in order to accompany or support his/her application for employment or appointment, shall be disqualified from that employment or appointment.
- 3.2 A Member of the Authority shall not solicit for any person any employment with the Authority or appointment by the Authority.
- 3.3 A Member shall not provide any reference or testimonial to a candidate's ability, expertise or character to accompany or support of any application for employment with the Authority or appointment by the Authority.

4 Relatives of Members or Officers

- 4.1 Every candidate for employment with the Authority or appointment by Authority shall when making his/her application be required to declare whether he/she knows himself/herself to be related to any Member or Officer of the Authority. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false declaration shall be disqualified from that employment or appointment and if already employed or appointed shall be liable to be dismissed forthwith from that employment or appointment.
- 4.2 Every Member and Officer of the Authority shall disclose to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) any relationship known to him/her to exist between

himself/herself and any person whom he/she knows or believes to be a candidate for employment with the Authority or appointment by Authority.

4.3 The effect of this Standing Order shall be included in any form of application.

4.4 For the purpose of this Standing Order, persons shall be deemed to be related to one another if their relationship is one of:

- a spouse, civil partner or partner
- a father or mother
- a son or daughter
- a brother or sister
- a grandparent or grandchild
- an aunt, uncle, niece or nephew
- a step-son, step-daughter or child of the family
- the spouse, civil partner or partner of any of the preceding persons

For the avoidance of any doubt, the term “partner” above shall refer to any two persons not married to one another but living together as a couple in one household.



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Introduction: Public Duty and Private Interests

- 1.1 This Members Code of Conduct (“this Code”) applies to you as a Member or a co-opted Member of Dartmoor National Park Authority (“the Authority”).
- 1.2 When acting in your capacity as a Member or co-opted Member of the Authority you should have regard to the Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) namely, Selflessness, Honesty/Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, ~~Personal judgment~~, ~~Respect for others~~, ~~Duty to uphold the law~~, ~~Stewardship~~ and Leadership.
- 1.3 When acting in your capacity as a Member or co-opted Member of the Authority –
- (a) you must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, a member of your family, a close associate or relevant person;
- (b) you must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties;
- (c) you must make all choices when carrying out your public duties, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit;
- (d) you are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office;
- (e) you must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of the Authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions in accordance with any statutory requirements and

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any reasonable additional requirements imposed by the Authority or contained in its Standing Orders;

(f) you must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest that relates to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out at Part 2 of this Code;

(g) you must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and that any use is in accordance with the Authority's reasonable requirements;

(h) you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 or any similar Communications Protocol or Code adopted by the Authority;

(i) you must promote and support, by leadership and example, high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements.

- 1.4 Whilst you may be strongly influenced by the views of others, it is your responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any question which Members have to decide.
- 1.5 You should do nothing as a Member which you could not justify to the public.
- 1.6 The reputation of the Authority depends on your conduct and what the public believes about your conduct.
- 1.7 It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety, you should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion or appearance of improper conduct.
- 1.8 It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

DEFINITIONS

2. In this Code –

“pecuniary interest” means the matters prescribed by The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 made by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011, set out at paragraph 7.1 below

“personal interest” means where a decision in relation to any business of the Authority would be regarded by a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts as affecting your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person, to a greater extent than the majority of residents or inhabitants in the National Park

“registerable interest” means the matters specified at paragraph 8.1 below

“meeting” means any meeting:

- of the Authority
- of the Authority’s Committees, Sub-Committees, Joint Committees, Joint Sub-committees or Area committees
- of one or more Members (with or without officers) relating to the discharge of the Authority’s functions, where a formal record of meeting is taken by an officer

“member of your family” means:

- your partner (i.e. your spouse, civil partner, someone you live with in a similar capacity);
- your parent, parent-in-law, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, child of partner;
- your brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece

and the partners of any of these persons.

“relevant person” means:

- any member of your family;
- any of your close associates;
- any person or body with whom you, a member of your family, or a close associate has a financial interest or a contractual relationship, including by employment
- any body of which you are in a position of general control or management

“close associate” means someone with whom you are in close regular contact over a period of time who is more than an acquaintance. It may be a friend, a colleague, a business associate or someone you know through general social

contacts. It is someone a reasonable member of the public would think you might be prepared to favour/disadvantage.

“**the Register**” means the Authority’s Register of Members’ Interests

“**well-being**” means your general sense of contentment and quality of life

Scope

3. You must comply with this Code whenever you are acting in your official capacity, when:
 - (a) you are engaged on the business of the Authority; or
 - (b) you behave so as to give a reasonable person the impression that you are acting as a representative of the Authority.

General Obligations

4. You **must** –
 - (a) treat others with courtesy and respect,
 - (b) when reaching a decision on any matter, do so on the merits of the circumstances and in the public interest and have reasonable regard to any relevant advice provided to you by an officer of the Authority.
5. You **must not** –
 - (a) attempt to use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage;
 - (b) do anything which may cause the Authority to breach a statutory duty or any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010);
 - (c) bully any person (bullying may be characterised as any single act or pattern of offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour; an abuse or misuse of power or authority which attempts to undermine or coerce or has the effect of undermining or coercing an individual or group of individuals by gradually eroding their confidence or capability which may cause them to suffer stress or fear);
 - (d) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be –
 - (i) a complainant,
 - (ii) a witness, or
 - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings

- in relation to an allegation that any Member has failed to comply with this Code; or
- (e) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Authority;
 - (f) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where –
 - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (ii) you are required by law to do so;
 - (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice, provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - (iv) the disclosure is –
 - in the public interest; and
 - made in good faith; and
 - in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Authority;
 - (g) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law;
 - (h) conduct yourself in a manner or behave in such a way so as to give a reasonable person the impression that you have brought your office or the Authority into disrepute.

PART 2 INTERESTS

Registration of Interests

6.1 You must, within 28 days of—

- (a) this Code being adopted by the Authority; or
- (b) your appointment as a Member or co-opted Member of the Authority

whichever is later, provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer of:

- (i) any pecuniary interest; and
- (ii) any registerable interest

which will be recorded in the Register and made available for public inspection, including on the Authority's website

6.2 Within 28 days of becoming aware of any new pecuniary interest or registerable interest, or any change to any such interest already registered, you must register

details of that new interest or change by providing written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

- 6.3 If a pecuniary interest or registerable interest has not been entered onto the Authority's register, then you must disclose that interest to any meeting at which you are present, unless the matter is a 'sensitive interest'.
- 6.4 Following any disclosure of a pecuniary interest or registerable interest not on the Authority's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.

Pecuniary Interests

- 7.1 The pecuniary interests you **must** register, as required by law, are prescribed in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Prescribed description</i>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain by you or a relevant person
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a Member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you or a relevant person (or a body in which you or a relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest held by you or a relevant person in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) held by you or a relevant person to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you or a relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest that you or a relevant person have in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the

area of the relevant authority; and

(b) either—

(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

7.2 The following definitions, as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disposable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, shall apply for the purposes of paragraph 7.1 (but only for that paragraph) :

“body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest” means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;

“director” includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

“land” includes an easement, servitude, interest, or right over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;

“relevant authority” means the authority of which you are a member;

“relevant person” means you, your spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living with as husband and wife or a person with whom you are living with as if you are civil partners;

“securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

7.3 Where you have a **pecuniary** interest in any matter to be considered at a meeting :

- (a) you must not seek to influence improperly a decision about that matter
- (b) you must not participate in any discussion of that matter, participate in any vote taken on that matter, or discharge any function in relation to that matter, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority’s Monitoring Officer
- (c) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the matter is being held, at the commencement of the consideration of that matter at that meeting unless a dispensation has been granted

Registerable Interests

- 8.1 The other interests you **must** register are those matters specified by the Authority in this Code, namely:
- (a) your membership in a position of general management or control of any body:
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (iii) whose principal purposes include influence of public opinion or policy
 - (b) your membership of any other local Authority
 - (c) your membership of any political party or trade union
 - (d) your membership of the United Grand Lodge of England (freemasons)
 - (e) any gift or hospitality you have received in the past 12 months in your capacity as a Member with an estimated value exceeding £50;

- 8.2 Where you have a **registerable** interest in any business:
- (a) you must not seek to influence improperly a decision about that business
 - (b) you must disclose to any meeting that you attend at which that business is to be considered the existence and nature of that interest
 - (c) You must disclose the registerable interest in accordance with the Authority's reasonable requirements, and no later than the commencement of the consideration of the business in which you have that interest, or (if later) the time at which the interest becomes apparent to you.

Personal Interests

- 9.1 You have a personal interest in any business of the Authority where a decision in relation to that business would be regarded by a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts as affecting your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person, to a greater extent than the majority of residents or inhabitants in the National Park
- 9.2 Where you have a **personal** interest in any business:
- (a) you must not seek to influence improperly a decision about that business
 - (b) you must disclose to any meeting that you attend at which that business is to be considered the existence and nature of that interest

- (c) You must disclose the personal interest in accordance with the Authority's reasonable requirements, and no later than the commencement of the consideration of the business in which you have that interest, or (if later) the time at which the interest becomes apparent to you
- (d) If the interest is one which a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest, you should withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held, at the commencement of the consideration of that business at that meeting, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Monitoring Officer

Sensitive Interests

- 10.1 Where a Member believes and the Authority's Monitoring Officer also considers that the nature of an interest is such that the disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member of a person connected with the ~~Member~~ being subject to violence or intimidation, the Monitoring Officer shall ensure that any publicly available copy of the Register does not include details of the interest (although it may state that the ~~Member~~ has an interest the details of which have been withheld)
- 10.2 In the event that a Member is required to declare at a meeting a pecuniary interest or a personal interest that is also a sensitive interest within the meaning of paragraph 10.1 above, it shall be sufficient that the Member discloses the fact of having a pecuniary interest or personal interest.
- 10.3 You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded is no longer sensitive information, notify the Authority's Monitoring Officer so that the information may be included in the Register.

Confidential Reporting Policy

'Whistleblowing'

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 aims to ensure that irregularities can be identified and addressed quickly and seeks to strengthen employment rights by protecting responsible workers who report wrongdoing or failures in the workplace.
- 1.2 Employees may be the first to realise that something seriously wrong appears to be happening within the Authority. However, they may be reluctant to express their concerns either because they feel that speaking up would be disloyal to their colleagues or to the Authority or because they fear harassment or victimisation. In these circumstances, it may be easier to ignore the concern than to report a suspicion of malpractice.
- 1.3 The Authority is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability as is shown in its separate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy. In line with that commitment the Authority encourages employees and others with concerns about any aspect of the Authority's work to come forward and voice those concerns. It recognises that certain cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis. This policy makes it clear that staff can do so without fear of reprisals and is intended to encourage and enable staff to raise serious concerns **within** the Authority rather than ignoring a problem or reporting it to an outside body.
- 1.4 The Authority recognises and endorses that seeking advice from, and being represented by your Trade Union may be the best course of action for a member of staff to raise any issue under this policy.

2 Aims and Scope of this Policy

- 2.1 This policy aims to:
 - provide avenues for employees, Members and volunteers to raise concerns and receive feedback on any action taken;
 - allow employees, Members and volunteers to take the matter further if dissatisfied with the Authority's response;
 - reassure employees, Members and volunteers that they will be protected from reprisals or victimisation when reporting concerns in good faith.
- 2.2 This policy covers concerns that fall outside the scope of other procedures. It is not intended as a mechanism to challenge lawful financial or business decisions made by the Authority or its Committees. Nor is it an alternative to disciplinary or grievance procedures. It may however overlap with other corporate policies for dealing with suspected irregularities (fraud or corruption)

complaints, the Member Code of Conduct and protocols for good working relationships within the Authority.

- 2.3 Concerns raised under this Whistleblowing Policy should be about something believed to be:
- unlawful;
 - unauthorised;
 - dishonest;
 - corrupt;
 - contrary to the Authority's Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations or Procurement Policy and Procedures;
 - in breach of the Authority's duties regarding the health, safety and welfare of employees;
 - improper conduct or unauthorised use of public funds;

3 Safeguards

3.1 Harassment or Victimisation

The Authority recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make, not least because of the fear of reprisal from those responsible for the suspected malpractice. The Authority will take action to protect any person who raises a concern in good faith. Harassment or victimisation will not be tolerated and will be treated as a serious matter to be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary procedures.

- 3.2 The fact that a concern is raised under this Whistleblowing Policy by a person who is subject to any disciplinary, capability or redundancy process, shall not affect that process, unless the concern is directly related to the reasons for or conduct of that disciplinary, capability or redundancy process

3.3 Confidentiality

All concerns will be treated in confidence and the Authority will do its best to protect your identity if you do not want your name to be disclosed. If investigation of a concern discloses a situation which is sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary action or police involvement then your evidence may be important. However, your name will not be released as a possible witness until the reasons have been discussed with you.

3.4 Anonymous Allegations

The Authority would strongly encourage you to put your name to your concern. It may not be possible to investigate or act upon concerns expressed anonymously, particularly if important information is not available. In deciding whether to take action in respect of an anonymous report the following criteria will be considered:

- the seriousness of the concern raised;
- the circumstances in which the concern is reported;
- whether there is a realistic prospect of investigating the concern.

3.5 For concerns raised anonymously, it will be more difficult for the matter to be investigated and for feedback to be provided. For this reason, if you wish to raise your concern anonymously, it may be better to contact your trade union and ask them to raise the concern on your behalf.

3.6 Incorrect and Unsubstantiated Allegations
If you make an allegation in good faith, but it is not confirmed by the investigation, no action will be taken against you. If, however, you make untrue, malicious or vexatious allegations, disciplinary action may be taken against you.

4 How to Raise a Concern

Commented [NW3]: Procedure clarified [DCC]

4.1 As a first step, you should normally raise concerns with your Line Manager, ~~a member of Leadership Team or the Monitoring Officer~~. If for some reason you feel that this is inappropriate, ~~or if your complaint is that something seriously wrong is occurring at a senior management within the Authority~~, you may prefer to approach the Monitoring Officer, ~~or~~ the Chief Financial Officer, ~~or the Head of the Devon Audit Partnership (DAP) tel. 01392 382438; e-mail: audit@devon.gov.uk~~

These Officers will then liaise to ensure that the concern is properly investigated and that any such investigation is properly monitored.

Alternatively, if your complaint is that something seriously wrong is occurring at a senior management level within the Authority you may prefer to approach the Head of the Devon Audit Partnership (DAP) tel. 01392 382438; e-mail: audit@devon.gov.uk, ~~either~~ the External Auditor or one of the Independent MemberPersons of the Authority's Standards Sub-Committee.

To ensure that allegations are considered consistently you should seek a private meeting to raise your concern with any of the people listed above, who will ensure that the concern is properly investigated and that any such investigation is properly monitored.

4.2 Concerns can be raised orally but it is good practice for the concern to be recorded in writing at an early stage to ensure that all the details are correctly understood. You may be asked to set out the background and history of the concern (giving names, dates and places where possible) and the reason why you are particularly concerned about the situation. However, if you do not feel able to do this, the person to whom you voice your concerns will produce a written note of your concern and give you an opportunity to agree and sign this as a correct record.

4.3 The earlier you express the concern, the easier it is to take action.

4.4 Although you are not expected to prove the truth of an allegation, you will be asked to explain fully the grounds for your concern and any evidence in support.

4.5 If you are a member of a Trade Union, you may wish to seek advice from your Trade Union representative on how best to raise your concern. Where you

wish to raise your concern anonymously it may be possible to do this through your Trade Union.

5 How the Authority will Respond

- 5.1 The action taken by the Authority will depend on the nature of the concern. After initial enquiries to assess the seriousness of the matter it may be:
- investigated internally;
 - the subject of an independent (external) investigation;
 - referred to Internal Audit (Devon Audit Partnership)
 - referred to the police;
 - referred to the Standards sub-committee;
- 5.2 Some concerns may be resolved without the need for investigation and without the person or persons under investigation being aware of the process.
- 5.3 In any event, within ten working days of a concern being received, the Authority will write to you at your home address:
- acknowledging that the concern has been received;
 - indicating how it proposes to deal with the matter;
 - giving an estimate of how long it will take to provide a response;
 - telling you whether further investigations will take place, and if not, why not;
 - naming an independent officer to support you during any investigation.
- 5.4 The named support officer will make contact with you, to explain his/her role, agree frequency of contact and keep you informed about the progress of the investigation. You should raise with this support officer any concerns you have about the conduct of the investigation. The support officer will take appropriate steps to support you in the workplace and at any criminal or disciplinary proceedings which may eventually result from your concern and at which you are asked to give evidence.
- 5.5 The Authority accepts that you need to be assured that the matter has been properly addressed. Thus, subject to legal constraints, you will receive information about the outcome of any investigations and/or proceedings.

6 Detriment

The Authority is committed to ensuring that an employee, Member or volunteer who reports a concern in good faith suffers no detriment by reason of doing so.

7 How the Matter can be Taken Further

- 7.1 This policy is intended to provide you with a way to raise concerns within the Authority. The Authority hopes you will be satisfied by its response. If you are not you may wish to raise the matter with the Chief Executive (NPO) or the ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority.

7.2 If you feel that it is necessary to take the matter outside the Authority, you may wish to consider:

- your Trade Union [~~UNISON~~nison hotline for whistleblowers 0800 0 857 857 5979750];
- the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman;
- relevant professional bodies or regulatory organisations;
- your solicitor or legal adviser;
- the Police;
- the Health and Safety Executive;
- the Advisory, Conciliation & Arbitration Service (ACAS)
- 'ProtectPublic Concern at Work' – a Registered Charity: www.protect-advice.gov.uk.
- Independent PersonMember
- External Auditor

◆ For further advice, visit www.gov.uk/whistleblowing

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8 The Responsible Officer

The Monitoring Officer has overall responsibility for the operation of this policy. The Monitoring Officer will maintain a record of all concerns raised under this policy and the outcomes of any investigations (but in a form which does not compromise confidentiality) and report as necessary to the Authority.

APPENDIX 4

(a) Persons to whom concerns should be reported and / or contact in confidence for advice

The Monitoring Officer – Neil White, Head of Organisational Development

The Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer) - Donna Healy, Head of Business Support

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) - Kevin Bishop

Leadership Team - Alison Kohler, Samantha Hill, Neil White, Donna Healy, Kevin Bishop

The Head of Devon Audit Partnership - Rob Hutchins

Your trade union representative

Appendix 8

Provisions Relating to Public Participation at Meetings

For the purposes of this Schedule "participation" and "participate" shall mean the asking of any question, the making of any presentation or statement, or the submission of any petition.

1 Public Participation at Meetings of the Authority

- 1.1 Subject to certain limitations and exceptions as set out below, Town Councils, Parish Councils (including Parish Meetings), members of the public and representatives of organisations shall have an opportunity to participate at meetings of the Authority.
- 1.2 The agenda for a meeting of the Authority, save the Annual Meeting, shall include an agenda item to receive public participation
- 1.3 Any member of the public or representative of an organisation who wishes to take this opportunity of participation at a meeting of the Authority shall notify the Authority Legal and Democratic Services at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.
- 1.4 The notification under 1.3 above shall include the name of the person to address the meeting and a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised, in the case of a Town Council, Parish Council or Meeting, written confirmation that the person is authorised to speak on behalf of the Town Council, Parish Council or Meeting.
- 1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, participation may be exercised with regard to any matter within the purview of the Authority and shall not be limited to matters on the agenda for that meeting.
- 1.6 Subject to Standing Order 9, the Chairman/Chair will invite each speaker who has given prior notice in accordance with 1.3 (above) to address the meeting. The speaker may address the meeting for up to 3 minutes, or such longer period as the Chairman/Chair in his absolute discretion may permit.
- 1.7 The total time allowed for all public participation at any meeting under these Standing Orders shall not normally exceed 20 minutes.
- 1.8 Any statements, questions or petitions shall be heard and received without debate. Members may ask questions for clarification but shall not respond on any matter or enter into any debate.
- 1.9 Every person asking a question or making a statement requiring a response shall receive a written response from an Officer of the Authority within 14 days, unless additional time for investigation and/or consideration is required. If additional time is required an interim response shall be sent giving reasons and the date by which it is anticipated that a final response will be provided.
- 1.10 Members of the Authority shall be informed of the response in due course.

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Adopted 6 July 2012
Revised 6 June 2014, 6 April 2015, 6 April 2018, 8 January 2021

- 1.11 Where there are a number of people wishing to participate, who in the opinion of the Chairman/Chair appear to be concerned with the same subject matter, the Chairman/Chair may indicate that the number of individual speakers cannot be accommodated and may ask those concerned to nominate a spokesperson to address the meeting. In these circumstances the Chairman/Chair may allow a brief adjournment to enable a spokesperson to be appointed and may indicate that a speaking time in excess of 3 minutes will be permitted.
- 1.12 Upon the conclusion of the time for public participation the Chairman/Chair shall move to the next item of business and from that point no further public participation shall be permitted at that meeting.
- 1.13 For the avoidance of doubt "Chairman/Chair" shall mean the person presiding at the meeting of the Authority in accordance with Standing Order 7.

2 Public Participation at Meetings of the Development Management Committee

2.1 Subject to certain limitations and exceptions as set out below, there shall be an opportunity for Town Councils, Parish Councils (including Parish Meeting), members of the public and representatives of organisations to participate in certain items of business at meetings of the Development Management Committee.

2.2 This opportunity for participation shall be limited to the following items on the agenda:

- ~~(a) reports of site inspections~~
- ~~(ab)~~ applications for determination by the committee
- ~~(be)~~ monitoring & enforcement

Commented [NW4]: No longer done separately. Part of officer's report.

2.3 For the avoidance of doubt, participation may only be exercised with regard to any matter on the open proceedings (part 1) agenda for that meeting.

2.4 Any Town Council, Parish Council (including Parish Meeting), member of the public or representative of an organisation who wishes to take this opportunity of participation at a meeting of the Development Management Committee shall notify ~~the Authority~~ Legal and Democratic Services in writing by 10am on the day before the meeting

2.5 The notification under 2.4 above shall include:

- (a) the name of the person to address the meeting;
- (b) written confirmation that the person is authorised to speak on behalf of the Town Council, Parish Council or Parish Meeting;
- (c) the application/matter(s) they wish to speak on; and
- (d) an indication whether they will speak in support of or against the proposal.

2.6 Subject to Standing Order 9, the ChairmanChair will invite public participation by any person who has given prior notice in accordance with 2.4 and 2.5 (above). The order for speaking shall be as set out in this clause and only one speaker shall be permitted in each category (a) ~~and (b) to (e)~~. Each speaker may address the meeting for up to 3 minutes, or such longer period as the ChairmanChair in his absolute discretion may permit.

A ~~Site Inspections & Applications~~

- (a) an authorised representative of the Town Council/Parish Council/Meeting(s) for the area
- (b) any person objecting to the application
- (c) the applicant or his agent or any person supporting the application

B Monitoring & Enforcement

- (a) an authorised representative of the Town Council/Parish Council/Meeting for the area
- (b) any person supporting legal action
- (c) the land owner or his agent or any person opposing legal action

2.7 The right to participate shall not include the right to circulate, distribute or display any document, plan, image or photograph

2.8 Any participation shall be heard and received without debate. Members may ask questions for clarification but shall not respond on any matter or enter into any debate with a speaker.

2.9 Where there are a number of people wishing to participate, who in the opinion of the ChairmanChair appear to be concerned with the same subject matter, the ChairmanChair may indicate that the number of individual speakers cannot be accommodated and may ask those concerned to nominate a spokesperson to address the meeting. In these circumstances the ChairmanChair may allow a brief adjournment to enable a spokesperson to be appointed and may indicate that a speaking time in excess of 3 minutes will be permitted.

2.10 Where there are two or more applications on the agenda concerning similar or related matters (e.g. listed building consent & planning permission for same ~~site proposal~~; 3 separate free-standing applications for a structure to be erected on different parts of the same parcel of land) the ChairmanChair shall determine and announce whether the applications are being taken together. If it is determined to take the applications together the speaker shall not be entitled to address the meeting for more than one period of up to 3 minutes, or such longer period as the ChairmanChair in his absolute discretion may permit.

2.11 Upon the conclusion of the time for public participation the ChairmanChair shall open the debate and from that point no further public participation shall be permitted on that matter / those matters at that meeting.

2.12 For the avoidance of doubt "~~Chairman~~Chair" shall mean the person presiding at the meeting of the Development Management Committee in accordance with Standing Order 7.

3 Public Participation at Meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee and Standards Committee

3.1 Subject to certain limitations and exceptions as set out below, members of the public and representatives of organisations shall have an opportunity to participate at meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee and Standards sub-committee.

3.2 The agenda for a meeting of the Committees, save any extraordinary meeting, shall include an agenda item to receive public participation

3.3 Any member of the public or representative of an organisation who wishes to take this opportunity of participation at a meeting of the Committee shall notify ~~the Authority~~Legal and Democratic Services at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

3.4 The notification under 3.3 above shall include the name of the person to address the meeting and a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised.

3.5 For the avoidance of doubt, participation may be exercised with regard to any matter within the purview of the Committee and shall not be limited to matters on the agenda for that meeting.

3.6 Subject to Standing Order 9, the ~~Chairman~~Chair will invite each speaker who has given prior notice in accordance with 3.3 and 3.4 (above) to address the meeting. The speaker may address the meeting for up to 3 minutes, or such longer period as the ~~Chairman~~Chair in his absolute discretion may permit.

3.7 The total time allowed for all public participation at any meeting under these Standing Orders shall not normally exceed 20 minutes.

3.8 Any statements, questions or petitions shall be heard and received without debate. Members may ask questions for clarification but shall not respond on any matter or enter into any debate.

3.9 Every person asking a question or making a statement requiring a response shall receive a written response from an Officer of the Authority within 14 days, unless additional time for investigation and/or consideration is required. If additional time is required an interim response shall be sent giving reasons and the date by which it is anticipated that a final response will be provided.

3.10 Members of the Committee shall be informed of the response in due course.

- | 3.11 Upon the conclusion of the time for public participation the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall move to the next item on the agenda and from that point no further public participation shall be permitted at that meeting.
- | 3.12 For the avoidance of doubt "~~Chairman~~Chair" shall mean the person presiding at the meeting of the Authority in accordance with Standing Order 7.

Voting Procedures (Development Management)

Notes of guidance produced in October 2006

Planning permission may only be granted or refused following a resolution (*motion*) which is properly proposed, seconded and carried on a vote.

A motion to grant planning permission which is not carried at the vote does not amount to a decision to refuse planning permission.

In the same way, a motion to refuse planning permission, which fails at the vote, is not a resolution to grant planning permission.

The procedure for determining an application before the Development Management committee may be summarised as follows:

- 1 **Agenda for meeting contains Officer report with recommendation** - this does not constitute a resolution or motion.
- 2 **Officer outlines case and gives oral update** (may include new conditions / change of recommendation in some cases).

3 Applicant (Agent) & Objector and Town Council/Parish Council/Meeting invited to speak.

45 Member puts a Motion (e.g. moves recommendation in report to grant planning permission with conditions).

56 Motion seconded.

64 Members debate report & recommendation.

~~5 Member puts a Motion (eg moves recommendation in report to grant planning permission with conditions).~~

~~6 Motion seconded.~~

NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED UNTIL COMMITTEE HAS VOTED ON MOTION AS PROPOSED (see below)

- 7 **Debate continues until ChairmanChair calls for vote** (including speakers for & against the Motion; proposals to amend the Motion; calls to defer or adjourn to site inspection).

NB proposal for site inspection or to defer amount to new Motions and may only be considered when there is not a Motion under debate (ie after a vote on the current Motion).

- 8 **Vote** - if Motion is carried: **Decision**
- if Motion is not carried: **Motion lost, ChairmanChair calls for new Motion.**

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- 9 Member puts new Motion*** (must have reasons - planning policy grounds & evidence in support of policies) * *The new motion can be similar to first motion (eg grant with different conditions) or contrary to first motion (eg refusal).*
- 10 Motion seconded.**
- 11 Debate continues until vote.**
- 12 Vote** - if Motion is carried: **Decision**
- if Motion is not carried: **Motion lost, ChairmanChair calls for new Motion.**

Amendments may be proposed to Motion at any time before vote (e.g. add/remove conditions or reasons) but an amendment must not contradict the Motion (that requires a new Motion).

Standing Order 18.6 states:

An amendment shall be relevant to the Motion and shall be either:

- (a) to leave out words; or*
- (b) to insert or add words; or*
- (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;*

But such omission, insertion or addition of words shall not have the effect of negating the Motion, or introducing a substantially new proposal.

Only one amendment should be considered at a time.

An amendment must be proposed, seconded and separately voted on:

- **if carried, motion stands amended and committee must proceed to vote on motion as amended** (or consider any further proposed amendments);
- **if not carried, amendment lost and committee must proceed to vote on original motion** (or consider any further proposed amendments).

Standing Order 18.11 provides that when a Motion is under debate no other Motion shall be moved except the following:

- (a) to amend the motion;*
- (b) that the question be now put;*
- (c) to adjourn the debate;*
- (d) to proceed to the next item of business;*
- (e) to adjourn the meeting;*
- (f) a motion to exclude the public (Standing Order 12);*
- (g) that the Member named be not further heard (Standing Order 19);*

(h) that the Member named leave the meeting (Standing Order 19).

Appendix 10

Rules On Elections

1 Election of ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority

The election of the ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority shall be the first item of business at the Annual Meeting and shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual Meeting, the Chief Executive shall email or write to all Members calling for nominations in writing
- (b) to be valid, a nomination shall be in writing (including email) and contain a declaration by the candidate that they are willing to stand for election.
- (c) candidates shall be able to submit an election statement, in the prescribed form, for circulation.
- (d) Members are requested to return nominations 2 days prior to the Annual Meeting, but the time for nominations shall remain open until the start of the Annual Meeting
- (e) at the start of the Annual Meeting the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or his/her nominee shall preside for this first item of business
- (f) the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or ~~Solicitor~~Legal Adviser shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (g) the person presiding shall declare nominations closed and the Returning Officer shall announce the valid nominations which have been received.
- (h) if only one nomination has been received, the person presiding shall declare that person duly elected and shall install them as ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority
- (i) if more than one valid nomination has been received, the election shall proceed by secret ballot as set out below
- (j) the person presiding shall invite each candidate, or - if the candidate prefers - the person nominating the candidate, to address the meeting for not more than 2 minutes, in alphabetical order by surname.
- (k) once the candidates have addressed the meeting, the secret ballot shall be held without comment, question or debate
- (l) a secret ballot shall be held using the elimination ballot system as follows:
 - (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once votes have been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid.

- (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding who shall declare that candidate duly elected
- (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
- (6) The person presiding shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
- (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding who shall declare that candidate duly elected
- (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the person presiding shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the person presiding on the toss of a coin.

2 Election of Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority

The election of the Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority shall be the second item of business at the Annual Meeting and shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall preside and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or ~~Solicitor-Legal Adviser~~ shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (b) the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (c) for the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (d) if only one nomination is received, the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall declare that person duly elected and shall install them as Deputy ~~Chairman~~Chair of the Authority
- (e) if more than one valid nomination has been received, the election shall proceed by secret ballot as set out below
- (f) the person presiding shall invite each candidate, or - if the candidate prefers - the person nominating the candidate, to address the meeting for not more than 2 minutes, in alphabetical order by surname.
- (g) once the candidates have addressed the meeting, the secret ballot shall be held without comment, question or debate
- ~~(e) if more than one valid nomination is received, there shall be no election statements or addresses and the election shall proceed by ballot without comment, question or debate~~
- ~~(f)~~ a secret ballot shall be held using the elimination ballot system as follows:

- (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
- (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once the vote has been cast
- (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid.
- (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the ChairmanChair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
- (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the ChairmanChair that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
- (6) The ChairmanChair shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
- (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the ChairmanChair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
- (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the ChairmanChair shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the ChairmanChair on the toss of a coin.

3 Election of ChairmanChair and Deputy ChairmanChair of a Committee; ~~and Chairman of a Working Panel~~

At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, the election of the ChairmanChair and Deputy ChairmanChair of each committee, ~~and Chairman of each sub-committee or Working Panel~~, shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) the ChairmanChair shall preside and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Solicitor-Legal Adviser shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (b) the ChairmanChair shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (c) for the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (d) if only one nomination is received, the ChairmanChair shall declare that person duly elected
- (e) if more than one valid nomination is received, the election shall proceed by meeting shall determine whether to proceed by show of hands or secret secret ballot as set out below.

- (f) there shall be no election statements or addresses and the election shall proceed by ~~show of hands or secret~~ ballot without comment, question or debate
- (g) ~~a secret ballot shall be held using the elimination if it is determined to hold a secret ballot, the elimination~~ ballot system ~~shall be used~~ as follows:
- (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once the vote has been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the ~~Chairman~~Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the ~~Chairman~~Chair that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
 - (6) The ~~Chairman~~Chair shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
 - (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the ~~Chairman~~Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the ~~Chairman~~Chair shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the ~~Chairman~~Chair on the toss of a coin.

4 Election of Chair of each sub-committee or Working Panel

At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, the election of the Chair of each sub-committee or Working Panel, shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) the Chair shall preside and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Legal Adviser shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (b) the Chair shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (c) for the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (d) if only one nomination is received, the Chair shall declare that person duly elected

- (e) if more than one valid nomination is received, the meeting shall determine whether to proceed by show of hands or secret ballot.
- (f) there shall be no election statements or addresses and the election shall proceed by show of hands or secret ballot without comment, question or debate
- (g) if it is determined to hold a secret ballot, the elimination ballot system shall be used as follows:
 - (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once the vote has been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
 - (6) The Chair shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
 - (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the Chair shall without comment, question or debate call for a further

The Annual Audit Letter for Dartmoor National Park Authority

Year ended 31 March 2020

16 December 2020



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1. Executive Summary

Purpose

Our Annual Audit Letter (Letter) summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at Dartmoor National Park Authority (the Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2020.

This Letter is intended to provide a commentary on the results of our work to the Authority and external stakeholders, and to highlight issues that we wish to draw to the attention of the public. In preparing this Letter, we have followed the National Audit Office (NAO)'s Code of Audit Practice and Auditor Guidance Note (AGN) 07 – 'Auditor Reporting'. We reported the detailed findings from our audit work to the Full Authority meeting as those charged with governance in our Audit Findings Report on 4 September 2020.

Our work

Materiality	We determined materiality for the audit of the Authority's financial statements to be £121k, which was 2% of the Authority's gross cost of services.
Financial Statements opinion	<p>We issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements on 27 November 2020.</p> <p>We included an emphasis of matter paragraph in our report in respect of the uncertainty over valuations of the Authority's land and buildings and its share of the property assets of Devon Pension Fund. This was as a direct result of the impact of the Covid pandemic. This does not affect our opinion that the statements gave a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position and its income and expenditure for the year.</p>
Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)	We issued our WGA assurance statement on the Authority's consolidation return following guidance issued by the NAO.
Use of statutory powers	We did not identify any matters which required us to exercise our additional statutory powers.
Value for Money arrangements	We were satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We reflected this in our audit report to the Authority on 4 September 2020.
Certificate	We certified that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice on 27 November 2020.

Respective responsibilities

We have carried out our audit in accordance with the NAO's Code of Audit Practice, which reflects the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act). Our key responsibilities are to:

- give an opinion on the Authority financial statements (section two)
- assess the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion) (section three).

In our audit of the Authority's financial statements, we comply with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs) and other guidance issued by the NAO.

Working with the Authority

We would like to record our appreciation for the assistance and co-operation provided to us during our audit by the Authority's staff.

2. Audit of the Financial Statements

Our audit approach

Materiality

In our audit of the Authority's financial statements, we use the concept of materiality to determine the nature, timing and extent of our work, and in evaluating the results of our work. We define materiality as the size of the misstatement in the financial statements that would lead a reasonably knowledgeable person to change or influence their economic decisions.

We determined materiality for the audit of the Authority's financial statements to be £121k, which is 2% of the Authority's gross cost of services. We used this benchmark as, in our view, users of the Authority's financial statements are most interested in where the Authority has spent its revenue in the year.

We also set a lower level of specific materiality for senior officer remuneration of £10k.

We set a lower threshold of £6k, above which we reported errors to the Final Accounts Committee in our Audit Findings (ISA260) Report.

The scope of our audit

Our audit involved obtaining sufficient evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements to give reasonable assurance that they are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This included assessing whether:

- the accounting policies are appropriate, have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the significant accounting estimates made by management are reasonable
- the overall presentation of the financial statements gives a true and fair view.

We also read the remainder of the Statement of Accounts to check it is consistent with our understanding of the Authority and with the financial statements included in the Statement of Accounts on which we gave our opinion.

We carried out our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) and the NAO Code of Audit Practice. We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for our opinion.

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Authority's business and is risk based.

We identified key risks and set out overleaf the work we performed in response to these risks and the results of this work.

Audit of the Financial Statements

Significant Audit Risks

These are the significant risks which had the greatest impact on our overall strategy and where we focused more of our work.

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Covid-19</p> <p>The global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus pandemic has led to unprecedented uncertainty for all organisations, requiring urgent business continuity arrangements to be implemented. We expect current circumstances will have an impact on the production and audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, including and not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote working arrangements may impact on the quality and timing of the production of the financial statements, and the evidence we can obtain through physical observation - Volatility of financial and property markets will increase the uncertainty of assumptions applied by management to asset valuation and receivable recovery estimates, and the reliability of evidence we can obtain to corroborate management estimates - Financial uncertainty will require management to reconsider financial forecasts supporting their going concern assessment and whether material uncertainties for a period of at least 12 months from the anticipated date of approval of the audited financial statements have arisen - Disclosures within the financial statements will require significant revision to reflect the unprecedented situation and its impact on the preparation of the financial statements as at 31 March 2020 in accordance with IAS1, particularly in relation to material uncertainties. <p>We therefore identified the global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worked with management to understand the implications the response to the Covid-19 pandemic had on the organisation's ability to prepare the financial statements and update financial forecasts and assessed the implications for our materiality calculations. No changes were made to materiality levels previously reported. The draft financial statements were provided on 29 May 2020 • liaised with other audit suppliers, regulators and government departments to co-ordinate practical cross-sector responses to issues as and when they arose • evaluated the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements that arose in light of the Covid-19 pandemic • evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained through remote technology • evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained to corroborate significant management estimates such as assets and the pension fund liability valuations • evaluated management's assumptions that underpin the revised financial forecasts and the impact on management's going concern assessment • discussed with management the implications for our audit report where we have been unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence. <p>Management produced the draft financial statements and working papers in advance of the updated timetable. This is a significant achievement with all of the Authority's staff working remotely. We completed our audit remotely and, while it took longer than normal as a result, we were able to utilise technology to corroborate information produced by the Authority. The Authority's finance team have been extremely responsive to audit queries throughout the audit and we would like to express our appreciation for this.</p>	<p>We did not identify any implications for our audit report resulting from Covid-19, however our report included standard reference to the macroeconomic conditions arising from Brexit and Covid-19.</p>

Audit of the Financial Statements

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Valuation of land and buildings:</p> <p>The Authority re-values its land and buildings on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying value is not materially different from the current value or fair value (for surplus assets) at the financial statements date.</p> <p>This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved (£2.5 million in the 2019-20 balance sheet) and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.</p> <p>Management have engaged the services of a valuer to estimate the current value as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>We therefore identified valuation of land and buildings, particularly revaluations and impairments, as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>As part of our audit work, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to the valuation experts and the scope of their work evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert discussed with the valuer the basis on which the valuations were carried out challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding, included checking that the floor areas used are consistent with other records tested, on a sample basis, revaluations made during the year to ensure they have been input correctly into the Authority's asset register. 	<p>We included an emphasis of matter paragraph in our audit opinion in respect of the material uncertainty in the external valuer's report. This finding is in common with our audit work across other authorities.</p>
<p>Management override of internal controls:</p> <p>Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities. The Authority faces external scrutiny of its spending and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance.</p> <p>We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>As part of our audit work, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals tested unusual journals made during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied by management and considered their reasonableness evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions. 	<p>Our audit work did not identify any issues in respect of management override of controls.</p>

Audit of the Financial Statements

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Valuation of net pension liability The Authority's pension fund net liability, as reflected in its balance sheet as the net defined benefit liability, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements.</p> <p>The pension fund net liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (£12.7 million in the 2019-20 balance sheet) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions.</p> <p>We therefore identified valuation of the Authority's pension fund net liability as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of the associated controls • evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority's pension fund valuation • assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability • tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary • undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report • obtained assurances from the auditor of Devon Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements. 	<p>We included an emphasis of matter paragraph in our audit opinion in respect of the material uncertainty on the valuation of the Authority's share of property assets in Devon Pension Fund. This finding was in common with our audit work across other authorities.</p>

Audit of the Financial Statements

Audit opinion

We issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements on 27 November 2020.

Preparation of the financial statements

The Authority presented us with draft financial statements in May in advance of the agreed timescale. This is a significant achievement with all of the Authority's staff working remotely. We completed our audit remotely and, while it took longer than normal as a result, we were able to utilise technology to corroborate information produced by the Authority. The Authority's finance team were extremely responsive to audit queries throughout the audit and we would like to express our appreciation for this.

Issues arising from the audit of the financial statements

We reported the key issues from our audit to the Authority's Final Accounts Committee on 4 September 2020.

Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report

We are also required to review the Authority's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report. It published them on its website in the draft Statement of Accounts in May 2020.

Both documents were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant supporting guidance. We confirmed that both documents were consistent with the financial statements and with our knowledge of the Authority.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

We carried out work in line with instructions provided by the NAO . We issued an assurance statement which confirmed the Authority was below the audit threshold.

Certificate of closure of the audit

We certified that we completed the audit of the financial statements of Dartmoor National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice on 27 November 2020.

3. Value for Money conclusion

Background

We carried out our review in accordance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice, following the guidance issued by the NAO in April 2020 which specified the criterion for auditors to evaluate:

In all significant respects, the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

Key findings

Our first step in carrying out our work was to perform a risk assessment and identify the risks where we concentrated our work.

The risks we identified and the work we performed are set out overleaf.

As part of our Audit Findings report agreed with the Authority in September 2020, we agreed a recommendation to address our findings.

Overall Value for Money conclusion

We are satisfied that in all significant respects the Authority put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Value for Money conclusion

Value for Money Risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Findings and conclusions
<p>Financial sustainability</p> <p>The Authority has had a 5% cut in grant funding in 2020-21 which, although it was offset by one-off funding in the year, is below what had originally been budgeted for.</p> <p>This represents a £65k reduction in the assumed grant position for the Authority. The Authority's financial planning scenarios show budget gaps for 2021-22 and 2022-23 of circa £30k under a real terms increase of 2% per annum, rising to gaps of £374k in 2021-22 and £459k in 2022-23 in a flat cash worst case scenario of no increase from 2020-21 and no one-off funding. While a number of solutions are being explored to close these budget deficits, they reflect the level of financial challenge faced by the Authority.</p> <p>Since the budget was set the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the financial plans of all sectors of the UK, including local government and National Parks. We have been discussing the impact of the lockdown on the Authority through our liaison with the S151 Officer.</p> <p>We will consider the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on the Authority's income projections and wider budget for 2020-21 and its medium term financial plans.</p>	<p>The Authority meeting on 12 June 2020 considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Authority's response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The report set out that Covid-19 was having an impact on the revenue budget for 2020-21 but that the Authority was seeking to manage this through use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and in-year savings. The report highlights that Dartmoor has more limited exposure as it does not have the asset base from which to generate significant commercial income, compared to other National Parks with assets that generate significant commercial income. A number of front line staff (mainly Information advisors) were furloughed under the CJRS. The Authority has lost income from car parking charges, visitor centre sales and waiving of licence fees, but these are offset to some extent by savings in project expenditure, stock acquisition and travel costs.</p> <p>Prudent forecasts for external income in the budget are supporting the Authority manage the Covid-19 situation, along with the Government's CJRS. DEFRA has offered to effectively underwrite National Parks' revenue budgets in 2020-21 but the Authority does not plan to request any additional financial support from the Government.</p> <p>There is currently a second wave of Covid-19 taking place, however, visitor numbers to the Park in the winter are likely to be lower and this is not considered to be a significant risk to the Authority's income projections.</p> <p>The key concern for the Authority is the longer term implications for their core National Park Grant (NPG) funding. The NPG for 2021-22 onwards has not been confirmed and the Authority's financial planning scenarios show budget gaps for 2021-22 and 2022-23 of circa £30k under a real terms increase of 2% per annum, rising to gaps of £374k in 2021-22 and £459k in 2022-23 in a flat cash worst case scenario of no increase from 2020-21 and no one-off funding.</p> <p>The Authority has relatively healthy useable reserves of £3m at 31 March 2020. However, many of these are earmarked for specific purposes and the Authority cannot rely on reserves to cover potential budget gaps going forward. We recommend the Authority should begin modelling for options for how it would deal with the potential budget gaps that may arise depending on the level of NPG awarded in future.</p> <p>On that basis we concluded that while the potential level of savings needed represents a significant challenge for the Authority, the risk was sufficiently mitigated and the Authority has proper arrangements in place for planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and using appropriate cost and performance information to support informed decision making.</p>

A. Reports issued and fees

We confirm below our final reports issued and fees charged for the audit and confirm there were no fees for the provision of non audit services.

Fees

	Planned £	Actual fees £	2018-19 fees £
PSAA Scale fee paid by the Authority	9,091	9,091	9,091
Audit fee variations *	3,750	5,676	750
Total fees	12,841	14,767	9,841

* Audit fee variation

Our Audit Plan included a fee variation for £3,750 to take into account the additional audit work to be performed in relation to PPE, pensions and key areas of estimate and judgement. Over the past nine months the current Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all of our lives, both at work and at home. The impact of Covid-19 on the audit of the financial statements for 2019-20 has been multifaceted. This includes:

- Revisiting planning - we have needed to revisit our planning and refresh risk assessments, materiality and testing levels. This has resulted in the identification of a significant risk at the financial statements level in respect of Covid-19 necessitating the issuing of an addendum to our original audit plan as well as additional work on areas such as going concern and disclosures in accordance with IAS1 particularly in respect to material uncertainties.
- Management's assumptions and estimates - there is increased uncertainty over many estimates including property, pension and other investment valuations. Many of these valuations are impacted by the reduction in economic activity and we are required to understand and challenge the assumptions applied by management. We included an Emphasis of Matter in the Audit Report in respect of the material uncertainty on property values.
- Financial resilience assessment – we have been required to consider the financial resilience of audited bodies. This has increased the amount of work that we need to undertake on the sustainable resource deployment element of the VFM criteria necessitating enhanced and more detailed reporting in our ISA260.

We have been discussing this issue with PSAA over the last few months and note these issues are similar to those experienced in the commercial sector and NHS. In both sectors there has been a recognition that audits will take longer with commercial audit deadlines also being extended by 4 months and NHS deadlines by a month. The FRC has also issued guidance to companies and auditors setting out its expectation that audit standards remain high and of additional work needed across all audits. The link attached <https://www.frc.org.uk/covid-19-guidance-and-advice> (see guidance for auditors) sets out the expectations of the FRC.

As a result of the above, increased costs have been incurred due to the additional time taken to deliver the audit this year. We have discussed the likelihood of an additional fee variation with the S151 Officer, noting an expected variation of 15% of the above planned fee, taking the proposed fee to £14,767. Please note that all proposed additional fee variations are subject to approval by PSAA in line with the Terms of Appointment.

This audit is conducted for PSAA under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. The Authority has requested a full statutory audit to be performed (supported by DEFRA's views that all English National Parks should be subject to a full audit). The Scale fee set for the audit together with fee variations approved by PSAA is the amount payable by the Authority. GT is remunerated for this audit in accordance with the contract and variation arrangements that it has with PSAA.

Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	May 2020
Audit Findings (ISA260) Report	August 2020
Annual Audit Letter	December 2020



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NPA/21/005

Dartmoor National Park Authority

8 January 2021

Tree Preservation Orders, Section 211 Notifications (Works to Trees in Conservation Areas) and Hedgerow Removal Notices Determined Under Delegated Powers

Report of the Trees and Landscape Officer

Recommendation: **That the decisions be noted.**

TPO APPLICATIONS

Teignbridge

Ref: 20/0016 **Silver Birches, Smokey Cross** **SX 7723 7607**

Application to remove crossing branches from a hiba and beech tree and reduce a Douglas fir. The works are minor and will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions:

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works are carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

Ref: 20/0021 **50 Miner Close, Ashburton** **SX 7604 7037**

The application is to reduce three sycamore trees. The works are minor and will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions:

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works are carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.

West Devon

Ref: 20/0019 **Baileys Hey, Chagford** **SX 6987 8765**

The application is to fell a Douglas fir and to carry out remedial works on several other trees. The fir is heavily suppressed and in poor condition. The works to the other trees are

minor and will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions:

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works are carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.

Ref: 20/0023

Willowby House, Yelverton

SX 5233 6764

The application is to reduce a Lawson cypress and beech tree. The works are minor and will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions:

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works are carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.

SECTION 211 NOTICES

Teignbridge

Ref: 20/0015

Widcombe Green

SX 7181 7681

Notification to fell a mature sycamore. Part of the tree had collapsed and the remaining crown was considered to be unstable.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 20/0020

Court Cottage, North Bovey

SX 7393 8393

Notification to fell a cherry and reduce a yew tree. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 20/0022

Southern Wreyland, Lustleigh

SX 7883 8111

Notification to fell a eucalyptus tree. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

West Devon

Ref: 20/0018

St Olaves, Murchington

SX 6864 8818

Notification to fell a Scots pine. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 20/0017

Mill Cottage, Sticklepath

SX 6432 9404

Notification to reduce a beech and fell two fir trees and two sycamore trees. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 20/0025

Millstones, Horrabridge

SX 5167 6991

Notification to fell an ash tree. The tree was found to be in a dangerous condition and exempt from the notification process.

Ref: 20/0026

Hisworthy, Princetown

SX 5863 7383

Notification to reduce a cypress tree. The tree is in poor condition.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

BRIAN BEASLEY