

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 5 September 2025

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

Apologies: Peter Harper, Richard Keeling, Peter Smerdon, Kevin Bishop (Chief Executive (National Park Officer))

Officers in attendance: Richard Drysdale (Director of Conservation and Communities), Dean Kinsella (Director of Spatial Planning), Angela Stirland (Head of Business Support), Penny Bailey (Business Support – Minutes)

3703 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Morgan, Mr Rogers, Mr Major and Mr Nutley declared an interest in Item 9 on the agenda – Capital Investment Strategy – and advised that they would not be participating.

3704 Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 25 July 2025

Save for the amendments as detailed below, the public minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2025, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record:

Minute 3700, Annual Review – amend paragraph to read: *“Members were delighted with the reported **Annual Review** ...”*

And bullet point three to read as follows:

“... she will contact the Members concerned outside of the Authority meeting ...”

3705 Chair’s Report

The Chair reported a busy month with regard to work with National Parks England (NPE).

- Gatenby Sanderson have been appointed to help the Authority recruit and appoint its next Chief Executive (National Park Officer);
- Julia Galbenu has been appointed as the Authority’s new Secretary of State Member;
- Thanks to the Ten Tors organising committee for their donation of £5622 presented to the Authority at the Ten Tors Organising Committee’s Thank

You Supper held on the 4 September 2025. These monies will be put towards access projects across the National Park.

- He expressed, on behalf of all Members, get well wishes to Mr Peter Smerdon, Authority Member, following a recent accident.

3706 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None.

3707 Public Participation

None.

3708 Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Considered: Report of the Director of Conservation and Communities and the Partnership Plan and Climate Officer (NPA/25/030).

The Director of Conservation and Communities presented the report and expressed his thanks to the Partnership Plan and Climate Officer. He advised Members that the targets set were non-statutory, were for the place, not the Authority, and were to be linked to the Strategic Management Plan.

In response to Member questions, the Director of Conservation and Communities responded as follows:

- Natural England, together with Land Use Consultants, under the direction of Defra, have set and apportioned three of the ten targets across the 44 protected landscapes, taking into account which areas could take the strain; for example, the New Forest National Park Authority would not be able to undertake works regarding peatland restoration.
- It is the responsibility of all protected landscapes to achieve the targets as set out in Appendix 1.
- The 'goals' are detailed within the Environment Improvement Plan,
- Target 10 in Appendix 1, relates to heritage, and aims to decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in protected landscapes.
- The targets are for Dartmoor, the place, as is the Management Plan, not just for the Authority. Working with partners is integral to reaching the targets set. For example, target 8 (woodland canopy cover) the Authority will gather data from all land managers and agencies including the Forestry Commission and the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest.
- Peatland Restoration – Target 7 apportioned 8,030 ha that need to be under restoration by 2050. Over the next 15 months, as we undertake the Partnership Plan review and adoption, work will be undertaken, with partners, to assess where that restoration might take place, is the figure achievable and if so what the cost would be to undertake that work. Target 5 – 'Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030' awaits further clarification from Defra/Natural England on the language and target to make it accurately measurable and to achieve change.

- Updates on progress will be recorded as part of the Management Plan review. They will also be reported in the State of the Park report. These targets run through to 2042 or 2050 (subject to the target) so annual updates will be reported to the Authority.
- With regard to communication of the targets, work, achievements etc, the Annual Report, Partnership Plan, State of the Park reports are all public documents; partners and other land managers will also provide updates. Members also have a responsibility to communicate these to the wider public via, for example, Parish Council meetings.

Resolved: Members:

- (i) Noted the targets for Protected Landscapes established through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF);

And agreed to amend recommendation to read as follows:

- (ii) Approved the addition of the PLTOF targets as an addendum to the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021–2026, **but noted their concern that target five is currently not measurable.**

3709 Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation

Considered: Report of the Director of Conservation and Communities (NPA/25/031)

The Director of Conservation and Communities presented his report.

Under the Environment Act 2021, 48 responsible authorities across England have been tasked with producing statutory local nature recovery strategies by Defra to collect to collectively address the decline in nature based on county boundaries.

Devon County Council is the responsible authority that covers Dartmoor, producing an LNRS for Devon. Dartmoor National Park Authority is a supporting authority; our role is outlined in appendix one.

In response to Member questions, the Director of Conservation and Communities advised as follows:

- Consultation response – it is the responsibility of the Authority to help promote this consultation. The percentage of responses expected by Devon County Council is unknown.
- LNRSs are funded by Defra; funding has been provided to Devon County Council for the production and consultation period for the LNRS.
- LNRSs are not intended to act as a barrier to development; DNPA must have regard to the LNRS.

Resolved: Members:

- (i) Noted the requirement to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and for the strategy to go out to public consultation; and
- (ii) Authorised the Chief Executive (NPO) to make suggested minor final changes and corrections to the strategy, in our role as a Supporting Authority, to the strategy following public consultation.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by Members to move to Part II – items to be taken in the absence of the press and public on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed.

Public Summary of Items considered “in private” at the meeting of the Dartmoor National Park Authority on 5 September 2025.

3710 Capital Investment Strategy

Considered: Report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/25/032).

The Head of Business Support presented the report in the absence of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer).

Resolved: Members noted the content of the report and agreed the recommendations stated within the report.

There being no other business, the Part II meeting ended and moved back to Part I.

There being no other business, the Part I meeting ended at 1315 hours.