



DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN
guiding planning applications in Dartmoor National Park

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

September 2022



1. Introduction

- 1.1. Under section 67(1) of the Environment Act 1995, Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the entire area of Dartmoor National Park. Those responsibilities include the mineral and waste planning functions for the area. The Authority also prepares the Dartmoor National Park Partnership Plan (also known as the Management Plan); these are the over-arching strategic documents for the National Park and set the vision and objectives to guide the future of the National Park over a 10 to 20 year period. The current Partnership Plan was adopted in 2021, there is a consistent vision for Dartmoor's future in Partnership Plan and the Local Plan.
- 1.2. Preparation of a Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a requirement of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the 2011 Localism Act). The LDS must publicly set out which local development documents we are to prepare, which of these are development plan documents, which area they cover, whether they are to be prepared with another authority and the timetable against which they will be prepared. The LDS must be formally adopted.
- 1.3. This LDS is a public statement of the programme for preparing and reviewing the formal planning documents for Dartmoor National Park.

This includes:

- Development Plan Documents (identifying strategic priorities and containing policies to address these, for example the Local Plan)
- Supplementary Planning Documents (detailed advice and guidance which adds to adopted policy, such as Design Guidance)
- Other documents, including Local Development Documents (including 'procedural' documents such as the Local Development Scheme or Statement of Community Involvement)

2. Current plans in Dartmoor National Park

2.1. The Dartmoor Local Plan (2081-2036) for Dartmoor National Park was adopted in December 2021. It is a comprehensive Local Plan containing strategic policies, development management policies, site allocations, and minerals and waste policies. It is supported by the extant Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Affordable Housing SPD.

Document name	Current status
Local Plan (DPD - Development Plan Document) Sets out the vision, aims and strategy for spatial development in the Dartmoor National Park, provides detailed development management policies, allocates sites for housing and other development, sets out policies for Minerals and Waste development.	Adopted (2021)
Design Guidance (SPD - Supplementary Planning Document) Guidance to encourage a high standard of design in Dartmoor National Park	Adopted (2012)
Affordable Housing (SPD - Supplementary Planning Document) Guidance to support the delivery of affordable housing in Dartmoor National Park.	Adopted (2014)
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Sets out the scope and arrangements for consultation and participation for each local development document	Adopted (Revised 2018)
Local Development Scheme (LDS) The timetable for preparation of local development documents (e.g. Local Plan) and Supplementary Planning Guidance	Current (Revised 2022)

Table 1. Current local planning documents

3. Local Development Scheme

- 3.1. This document will include commentary on the complete range of documents the Authority intends to prepare and review. However, the required scope of the LDS is the preparation of DPDs only; Statements of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning Documents do not need to be included but are here, for completeness.
- 3.2. The Authority intends to prepare or review the following documents within the timeframe of this LDS. Key milestones for their preparation/review are set out in Table 2.

3.3. Local Plan Review (Development Plan Document)

- 3.4. The Local Plan was prepared from 2016, including informal and formal consultation stages and public examination in early 2021. The Inspector's Report was received in November 2021 and the Local Plan was adopted in December 2021 at which point the previous DPDs were deleted.
- 3.5. The National Planning Policy Framework was revised in 2021 to include a new statement on the review of Local Plans:

“Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary²⁰. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan, and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.” (NPPF para 33)

[Footnote 20 states: Reviews at least every five years are a legal requirement for all local plans (Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).]

- 3.6. The Authority recognises the statutory need to maintain an up to date development plan, though currently benefits from a robust and up to date Local Plan. It will therefore be necessary to set out a review programme for the adopted Local Plan which aims to complete the review before December 2026. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary to:
- identify evidence requirements
 - engage in an appropriate level of consultation and engagement
 - establish an appropriate governance approach for the review
 - draw and agree any formal conclusions and identify any necessary programme for the updating of policies in the Local Plan.

3.7. Importantly, this LDS therefore sets out a process for reviewing the policies in the adopted Local Plan. It does not set a process or timescale for the updating of those policies, which the review process may identify as in need of updating. This process would take place after the conclusion of the review. If issues emerge during the review process which alter the anticipated timescale below this SCI would be revised to reflect those new timescales.

3.8. The scope of the Local Plan review will be that of the entire Local Plan; it will include the whole area of Dartmoor National Park, and include consideration of strategic policies, development management policies, allocations, and minerals and waste policies. Where the review finds that only part of the Local Plan requires updating, only these policy areas will be subject an update.

3.9. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

3.10. The Authority has two adopted SPDs, the Design Guide (2011) and Affordable Housing SPD (2014). Whilst outside the necessary scope of this LDS it is helpful to set out the Authority's intentions regarding the review of these SPDs, as follows.

3.11. The Affordable Housing SPD has proven a useful document during the previous Local Plan period, adding helpful detailed guidance to assist applicants in making good applications which relate to affordable housing. Some elements of the current SPD have been incorporated into the new Local Plan, in order to give them more weight, some have been superseded, there are also now some gaps where additional guidance would now be beneficial.

3.12. The Authority intends to prepare a Housing SPD during 2022/23. This will have a broader scope than affordable housing, offering additional guidance to the new Local Plan policies including on affordable and market housing, custom and self-build homes, rural workers housing, and the delivery of housing sites.

3.13. The Authority also intends to review the Design Guide SPD. This will ensure the guidance is up to date and aligns with new Local Plan policies, for example on sustainable construction and space and accessibility standards. The scope of the Design Guide SPD may also include a design code dimension in order to reflect emerging government policy in that area.

3.14. The Authority also has additional guidance which has been prepared jointly with partners. This has not been adopted as SPD. The South Hams SAC guidance was prepared in partnership and was endorsed by the Authority in October 2019. Joint Biodiversity Net Gain guidance is currently being prepared; it is expected this will be completed and published during 2022/23 as technical guidance.

3.15. Statement of Community Involvement

3.16. 2004 Act requires that LPAs produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Authority prepared a SCI – Planning: Having Your Say, which was adopted November 2018. It is considered necessary to review the LDS prior to the review of the Local Plan in order to ensure that the consultation and engagement process meets the latest requirements and best practice.

3.17. Joint working and other plans

3.18. Although joint development plan documents can be prepared with other planning authorities, there is no intention to prepare joint planning documents. In April 2016 the Authority agreed¹ not to enter formally into joint local plan arrangements with Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams; or with Exeter, Teignbridge, Mid-Devon and East Devon. It has committed to work closely with both groups, however, in respect of evidence gathering and meeting the Duty to Co-operate for both the Dartmoor Local Plan, and their respective plans.

3.19. The Authority maintains close liaison with Devon County Council, which is the mineral planning authority for the rest of Devon outside Plymouth and Torbay (and Dartmoor) in preparing evidence and monitoring to inform and support minerals policies.

Local Development Document	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Local Plan (DPD) review	-	-	- Call for evidence - Scoping paper - Evidence review - Draft Report	- Final Report
Statement of Community Involvement		- Consultation - Adoption		
Housing SPD	- Consultation - Adoption		-	-
Design Guidance SPD	- Consultation	- Adoption	-	-

Table 2. Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Development Scheme – Programme 2022-2026

¹ Authority Report April 2016 http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/739609/20160401-Authority-Reports.pdf

3.20. With reference to the above formal LDS timescales, it is anticipated that the preparation of the local plan will take place as follows.

Phase 1 Call for evidence

This phase will include:

- A brief Issues Paper for public consultation, designed to stimulate stakeholder engagement and an update on the Local Plan's performance
- A call for evidence
- Stakeholder and community engagement

This phase is planned to start in summer 2024

Phase 2 – Scoping Paper

This will comprise a Paper setting out more detailed consideration of the emerging issues

- Confirming the key issues which have been identified
- Confirming the scope of additional evidence gathering

This phase is planned to start in winter 2024

Phase 3 – Evidence Review

This phase will comprise the preparation and publication of evidence Topic Papers relating to the key issues in the Scoping Paper. These will be published as they are completed, in order to give opportunity for stakeholder scrutiny.

This phase is planned to start in spring 2025

Phase 4 – Draft Report

This phase will comprise the publication of draft report which brings together the evidence from the Topic Papers. It will summarise the key issues, and provide recommendation for policy review as necessary. It will be published for public consultation.

This phase is planned to conclude in winter 2025

Phase 4 – Final Report

Following the completion of the draft report consultation, the report will be revised to take into account stakeholder views on the conclusions and recommendations made. The final report will be considered formally by the Authority.

This phase is planned to conclude in summer 2026

4. Monitoring and review

4.1. Legislation requires local planning authorities to produce an Authority Monitoring Report to assess progress on the implementation of the LDS. The Authority also maintains and publishes other monitoring and reports, including the Brownfield Register, the Self-Build Register, and the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.

4.2. Monitoring systems should assess:

- whether policies in local development documents are being implemented effectively, and whether targets and/or milestones are being met
- the impact of the policies with regard to national, regional and local targets
- the effectiveness of the policies and proposals with regard to the achievement of strategic objectives, and whether modification or replacement is required.

Where policies or proposals need to be changed, the annual review should indicate how that will be achieved.

4.3. A robust monitoring framework is now set out in the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report published in summer/autumn of each year. The review and monitoring of the Dartmoor National Park Partnership Plan and its associated State of the Park Report also provides evidence and material for assessing the documents in the Local Plan.