



Your Dartmoor

**Dartmoor National Park
Management Plan 2020-2025**

Draft for consultation

January 2020

Your Dartmoor: Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2020-2045

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Your Dartmoor 2020-45

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 draft 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 partner organisations 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

The Management Plan has been developed over the last eighteen months. 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. Further details are available via the [Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review webpage](#).

Dartmoor National Park Authority is working 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.

We would welcome views from young people on how they would like to get involved and what they would like to see happen.

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.

These reports are also available for comment during the consultation process.

The draft Management Plan will be **consulted on in early 2020**, and the results of the consultation will be discussed with partners and considered by the Authority before the final Plan is prepared and adopted later in 2020.



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; 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 will feel wilder as nature is 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 neutral:** 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 it's future.

National Park Purposes and Duty

As a National Park, Dartmoor has two statutory purposes: to conserve and enhance its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and to promote understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities (as defined below). In helping to deliver these purposes, the National Park Authority also has a duty to support the well-being of local communities. Where there is conflict between the two statutory purposes that cannot be resolved, the first purpose takes precedence (known as ‘the Sandford Principle’).

Public bodies must have regard to National Park purposes when making decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting land within the National Park, and must show they have fulfilled this duty¹.



¹ Section 62 Environment Act 1995

Special Qualities

Dartmoor has a very special place in people's appreciation of Devon and the wider south west of England. 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.

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 young boy and girl are standing in a shallow stream, holding a yellow measuring tape to measure the water depth. The boy is on the left, wearing a grey t-shirt and black shorts. The girl is on the right, wearing a floral t-shirt, pink shorts, and a white cap. The water is clear, revealing rocks and pebbles on the stream bed. The surrounding area is lush with green foliage.

[illegible]

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 need 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 policy and funding will follow
- 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 nature recovery and increasing the diversity of visitors, and addressing climate change through for example, tree planting 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, but this is not likely to be completed before this Management Plan is finalised. In the meantime, 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.**

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 and the voluntary sector.

Many of these partners have been involved in helping to develop this draft Management Plan, and **during the consultation period we will continue to work with them to help shape a Plan they can endorse, and to secure their support of the final Plan, with specific commitments to help deliver it.**

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

In responding to this consultation, we would like to know what you can do to help deliver the Vision and objectives of the Management Plan, and any specific actions that you (or your organisation) can undertake.

Themes

In order to deliver this Vision, we have focused on seven 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 post consultation)



Climate Change

Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge in the present day. The impact of climate change on Dartmoor is likely to be wide reaching, with warmer, wetter winters, hotter, dryer summers and an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the effects of which are already being seen. The overriding challenge for the Management Plan is to make a significant contribution to both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

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.

Setting a target for the National Park itself is more difficult, but we are looking at how the National Park can move towards being carbon neutral as soon as possible, and would welcome comments on this.

The National Park can play a significant role as a **carbon sink** through peatland restoration, woodland planting and 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 peatland restoration, natural regeneration, woodland planting and management
 - Restoring naturally functioning hydrological systems and 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 supply chains to reduce food miles and support the local economy
 - Significantly reducing emissions from transport by improving sustainable transport options
 - Using National Park Centres, information centres and wider communications and engagement to help inform, engage and empower

- visitors and local residents to take action at a personal level
- 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
 - 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 and addressing competing priorities between nature recovery 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.

We would welcome suggestions for how the Next Generation can be involved in decision-making, and if you would like to get involved in responding to any of the calls to 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 work spaces 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
- 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

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, 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.

What are we trying to achieve?

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

How will we achieve this?

- Soils are well managed and functioning to improve biodiversity, maximise carbon storage and reduce flood risk:
 - **Restore peatlands** so that our peatland resource is not degrading but healthy and accumulating new peat
 - Increase understanding of **carbon storage potential** and maximise storage and retention within key Dartmoor soils through land use and management
 - Improve **soil structure**, reduce compaction and increase **water retention** capacity
 - Improve understanding of **soil health** to inform land management and increase soil biodiversity.

- Hydrological systems are functioning naturally, providing clean, plentiful water and supporting abundant biodiversity:
 - Restore **rivers and streams** to improve water quality and regain naturalised form and flow: slowing the flow, increasing water storage, reducing the risk of flooding and increasing biodiversity
 - Protect and restore **wetland habitats**, reconnecting them to wider catchment systems
 - Restore the **hydrological functions** of our degraded blanket bogs and maintain existing sites
- Existing priority habitats are managed adaptively to reflect environmental change at landscape scale, delivering larger, connected and diverse habitats:
 - Review all **priority habitats** to assess their sustainability in the light of likely climate change effects
 - Maintain, restore, connect and expand priority habitats that are **resilient and adaptable to climate change**
- Dynamic, diverse well-functioning ecosystems will be present at landscape scale and maintained by natural processes to ensure resilience and adaptation:
 - Identify and promote a network of **landscape scale nature recovery areas** across Dartmoor linking to wider Devon and Cornwall landscapes.
 - **Two pilot landscape scale nature recovery areas** will have begun by 2022

We would be interested in comments on the proposals for a network of nature recovery areas and where these could be.



What are we trying to achieve?

The diversity, abundance and distribution of biodiversity on Dartmoor will adapt and evolve in response to climate change and the recovery of natural processes. 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.

How will we achieve this?

- There is an **abundance and diversity of species** to Dartmoor, which are widespread and thriving:
 - Review all **priority species** to assess their sustainability in light of likely climate change effects.
 - Actively manage priority species that are able to **adapt to climate change**, to initially reverse declines, maintain numbers and ultimately ensure thriving populations
- **Key species** lost to Dartmoor have been successfully reintroduced, enhancing biodiversity and building future resilience:
 - Produce a **species reintroduction strategy** to establish prioritisation and understanding of species that would provide greatest environmental benefit
 - **Reintroduce two species** by 2025 if feasible and supported by the Dartmoor community
- Damaging **invasive non-native species** will be eradicated:
 - Implement a sustained programme of measures to remove species causing greatest ecological damage
- New development will deliver a **net gain** in biodiversity:
 - Local Plan policy and guidance for biodiversity net gain adopted
 - Strategy developed with partners to identify and deliver in areas where biodiversity net gain opportunities would lead to multiple **environment net gain** benefits



What are we trying to achieve?

Dartmoor's natural beauty and valued landscape character will be maintained and enhanced.

How are we going to achieve this?

- Maintain and enhance the **open moorland landscape** whilst encouraging natural woodland expansion along upland river valleys
- Maintain the small scale pastoral landscape by **enhancing boundaries of historic field systems**
- **Restore treed and wooded landscapes** lost through Ash Die Back and other tree diseases
- Through **Local Plan policies and development management**, ensure that Dartmoor's natural beauty and distinctive landscape character is maintained and enhanced



Better for Cultural Heritage

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 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.

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.

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 it people will be able to enjoy it; and from enjoying it comes a desire to understand it better².



² The Heritage Cycle: Simon Thurley, Into the future. Our strategy for 2005-2010. In: *Conservation Bulletin* [English Heritage], 2005

What are we trying to achieve?

Dartmoor's cultural heritage is protected and in good condition.

How will we achieve this?

- The archaeological heritage will be conserved, enhanced and visible
 - Develop and implement a **process for assessing strategic historic environment priorities**, to guide decision making where there may be potential competing priorities in relation to other conservation objectives
 - Identify and implement **sustainable** management techniques to **improve the condition** of designated and undesignated archaeological features
 - **Improve understanding** of the condition of Dartmoor's designated and undesignated archaeological features through a rolling programme of field assessment by staff and volunteers
 - Maintain an up to date **Heritage at Risk Register for Dartmoor's Schedule of Ancient Monuments** to help seek resources and ensure appropriate management schemes to remove "at risk" sites from the list
 - Undertake a review of **Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs)** to rigorously define existing PALs, and identify new PALs. Ensure all PALs have been surveyed, are in good condition under a proactive management scheme, are recognized by all agencies and stakeholders and have a degree of statutory standing.
 - Ensure that conservation management of cultural heritage is a key focus of the new **Environmental Land Management Scheme**



The character of Dartmoor's historic built environment and historic vernacular is conserved and enhanced

- The condition of **listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets** are monitored, improved and maintained
- Improve awareness of the **condition of Dartmoor's Listed Buildings** through a rolling survey of Listed Buildings and the quinquennial buildings at risk survey
- Maintain an up to date **Buildings at Risk Register** and seek resources to significantly reduce vulnerable buildings from the list.
- Review and update Dartmoor's **Conservation Area** appraisals and work with local communities to maintain their character and appearance.



What are we trying to achieve?

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

How will we achieve this?

- Increase understanding of the cultural heritage of Dartmoor and its importance internationally
 - Facilitate research on priority aspects of Dartmoor's cultural heritage identified by stakeholders, as defined in the **Cultural Heritage Research Framework**
 - Promote **academic research** projects to investigate Dartmoor's cultural heritage facilitated by DNPA and involving volunteers where possible and applicable
 - Support and facilitate **local researchers** focused on understanding Dartmoor's cultural heritage
 - Ensure that all hard copy documents and images held by DNPA are **digitized, catalogued, accessible** and fully incorporated into the Historic Environment Record
 - Continue to maintain and improve **the Historic Environment Record** and ensure that it is accessible
- Foster and promote a sense of community and place through engagement and experience
 - Maintain **skills and traditions** which provide local identity and sense of place
 - Support local communities to develop **innovative heritage projects** which celebrate Dartmoor's past, explore sense of place, increase understanding of cultural heritage and encourage a wide range of volunteer participation
 - Support a **network of volunteers** who can help to manage the condition of Dartmoor's archaeology, both designated and non-designated, giving local people a sense of ownership of Dartmoor's cultural heritage
 - Provide regular opportunities through walks, talks, seminars and fieldwork for local people, visitors and volunteers to **improve their skills and understanding** of Dartmoor's cultural heritage
 - Deliver a **programme of archaeological fieldwork** to improve records, increase understanding of Dartmoor's cultural heritage, and provide opportunities for a range of volunteers to gain experience, knowledge and skills



Better for Farming and Forestry

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 including 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 viable and delivers the impressive array of public benefits associated with Dartmoor.

What are we trying to achieve?

High environment, low carbon farming and forestry systems that are economically viable and deliver a range of public benefits, healthy food, high quality fibre and other products.

How will we achieve this?

The principal drivers for both agriculture and forestry are government policy and the marketing of produce. The Dartmoor National Park Management Plan has a critical role in guiding and focusing action to achieve local results. Engagement with the farming and forestry community is essential. Specific initiatives include:

- Re-focus the **Dartmoor Hill Farm Project** to support farm businesses that deliver environmental outcomes, healthy food and other products and contribute to the reduction and storage of greenhouse gases. The focus will be on encouraging and facilitating innovation that is designed to deliver environmental enhancement and economic gain.
- By 2022 develop a locally tailored and facilitated, outcome-focused, **Environmental Land Management Scheme** that complements the national system. 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.
- Develop the **Dartmoor Moorland Vision** to cover the whole of the National Park in order to provide a framework for the identification and agreement of local priorities and spatial targeting of the new Environmental Land Management System (including woodland creation).
- Strengthen the link between the **moorland, farmland and the commons** to ensure the environmental benefits sought on one is not detrimental to the other.
- Ensure that learning from existing initiatives such as **Dartmoor Farming Futures** is 'captured' and disseminated so that it can inform development of the new Environmental Land Management System.

- Support ‘landscape scale’ action through the provision of high quality and trusted **facilitation and advice** for farm and forestry businesses.
- 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.
- During **Brexit transition**, support farmers, foresters and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements and other similar initiatives, and monitor up-take.
- Seek to actively engage the **next generation of farmers and foresters** in practical delivery of environmental benefits and identify opportunities to support new entrants to farming and forestry.



What are we trying to achieve?

We need to secure a greater understanding and support amongst the public, policy makers and local communities of the value of high environment, low carbon farming and forestry systems. Better understanding and appreciation will lead to lower levels of anti-social behavior such as speeding, dog worrying, illegal camping, and so on.

How will we achieve this?

- Develop and launch **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.
- Annual Visitor publications, key websites and National Park Centres have a **co-ordinated 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.

- Improved and, if necessary, increased **signage** to ensure public awareness and understanding of issues. Including, a targeted initiative to provide **on-farm interpretation** (linked to the Dartmoor Story and Love Moor Life) in key honey pot locations.
- Encourage and facilitate **cooperative working** between all relevant groups and statutory bodies to ensure best use of resources. Identify the priorities for action that can be addressed by land management.

What are trying to achieve?

Value from land-based products (including beef and sheep production) is added and retained in the local economy through local 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.

How will we achieve this?

Developing new products and markets: Livestock farming is the dominant type of farming on Dartmoor delivered mainly by small family farms and often including the use of common land as part of the farming regime. We recognise the need to add value to existing products, develop new markets and new products from the land-based sector on Dartmoor.

- Support existing collaborative selling and buying groups such as Dartmoor Farmers and Meat Dartmoor to develop further and promote a '**Dartmoor Brand**' that stands for quality in terms of environmental husbandry, animal health and welfare and fair trade.
- Seek funding for a study to examine opportunities for **new products** from Dartmoor's land based sector.
- Work with Local communities and authorities in the Dartmoor 'hinterland' to develop a strong, high environment-value **food culture** that links town and country building on the Dartmoor Community Food hub and community support agriculture initiatives.



Better for People

It is really 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.

Sometimes 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 if we want nature to recover we need to think about how this is achieved in harmony with an increase in visitors, accepting that that nature itself needs some areas to recharge. 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.

What are we trying to achieve?

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

How are we going to achieve this?

- Understanding needs and building partnerships:
 - By 2022 undertake research to better understand the **needs and motivations** of different users
 - **By 2022 develop cycling and horse riding improvement plans** working 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.
 - Work with farmers and landowners develop opportunities through the new Environmental Land Management Scheme for **permissive access routes** that complement the Public Rights of Way network
 - Improve 20 routes to **increase accessibility** for visitors with mobility scooters and those with limited mobility
 - Maintain Public Rights of Way defined as **easy to use at 90%**
 - Continue to **positively manage large scale Recreation Events** in line with the agreed policy.

- Reaching out to new audiences and spreading the benefits:
 - By the end of 2020 develop a **strategy for outreach and understanding** identifying a targeted programme of activity to reduce barriers for those wishing to visit the National Park, including specific actions to help those with a mental or physical disability.
 - By 2021 develop a **co-ordinated partnership communication plan** providing clear and inspiring information for visitors starting at the point they first make a decision to come to Dartmoor.
 - Use **Love Moor Life** to promote positive actions so that all users understand the environmental limitations of their activity and how they can support conservation in the National Park and act accordingly.
 - From 2020 develop a **co-ordinated programme of annual events and self-guided activities** from information centres and visitor hubs that are easy to use for first time users or those less confident to explore on their own.
 - Develop a co-ordinated programme of activities to **help people better understand and connect with nature.**
 - By 2025 deliver a **network of 10 on-site farm information boards and launch 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
 - Develop an agreed plan with local GP surgeries to ensure that '**social prescribers**' are aware of, and can promote activities on Dartmoor to help **improve health and well-being** of more people.



- Looking to the future - a focus on young people from all backgrounds:
 - Working in partnership through 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 explore how to remove barriers and allow **more young people** to benefit from existing opportunities to explore and enjoy Dartmoor; through for example: Ranger Ralph, Junior Rangers and Youth Rangers, John Muir Award and other opportunities such as Scouts and Guides, and Duke of Edinburgh Award.
 - Pilot a new **outdoor-focussed school curriculum** for those pupils with different skills as an alternative to traditional academic learning.



What are we trying to achieve?

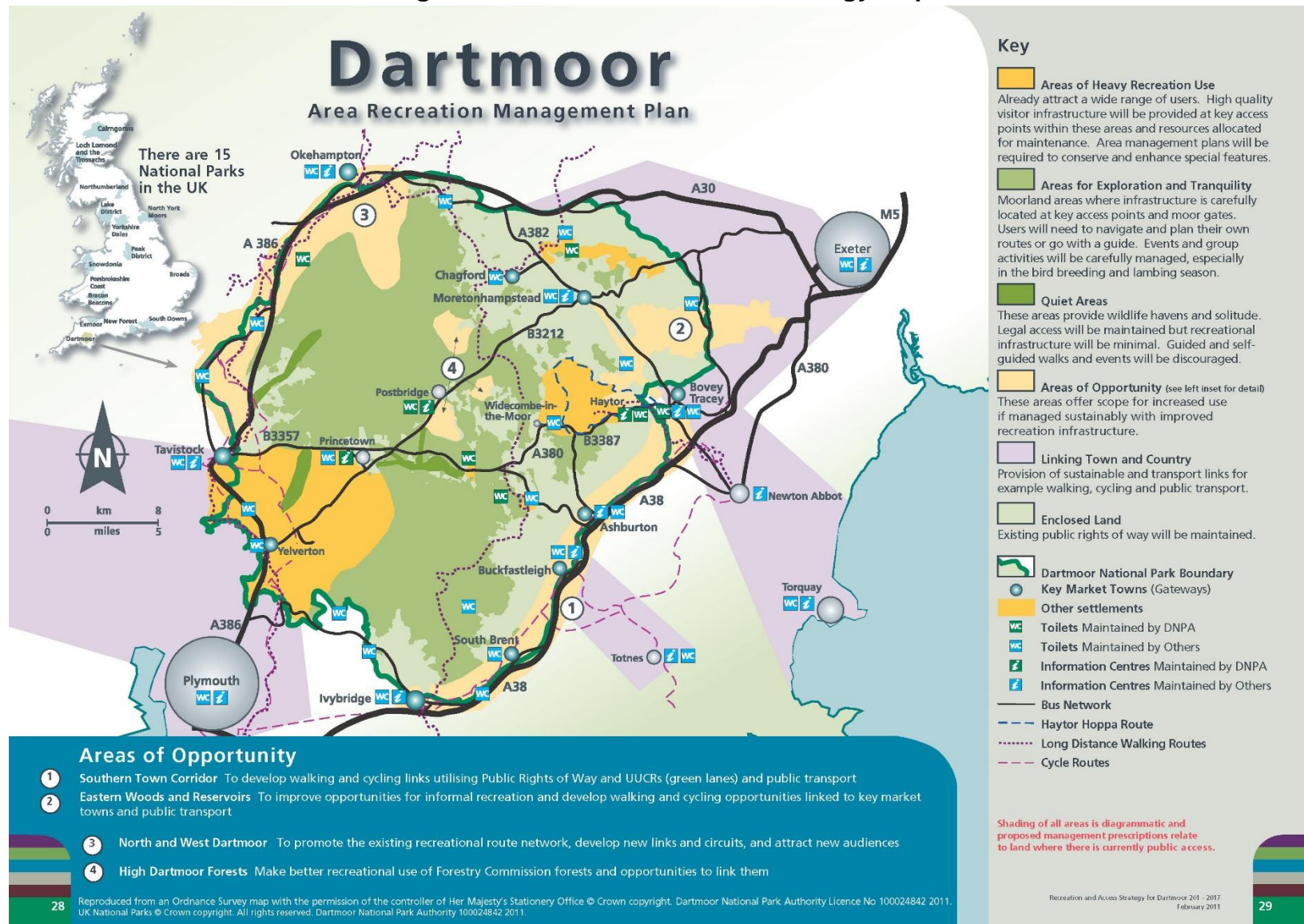
Increasing visitor numbers are positively and sustainably managed so that people can still enjoy the National Park through a variety of activities, but nature is given space to thrive, and local businesses and communities benefit. Negative impacts such as anti-social behaviour and damage to the fabric of the National Park are reduced

How are we going to achieve this?

Given the projected increase in visitors associated with proposed new development on the edge of the National Park it is important that management starts when people make a decision about where they will go, what they will do and how they get there. Information is required to help people make informed decisions.

- Continue to deliver the **Dartmoor Recreation Strategy** as shown in Figure 3 with the following priorities:
 - **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 2021 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; containing information about the Countryside Code, all countryside recreation opportunities available from their house and sustainable transport options
 - **Linking town and country:** Promote off road walking and cycling routes to the National Park and fill gaps in current provision. Add a new zone between Ivybridge and the new town at Sherford.
 - **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:** 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:** manage the Postbridge and Bellever area as a heavily used site. Develop an Area Management Plan for the land to the west of Princetown
 - **‘Nature Recovery Areas’:** In new nature recovery areas (to be defined) manage recreation activity to ensure nature recovery is not hampered; which means that in some areas public access will not be encouraged or promoted.

Figure 3: Dartmoor Recreation Strategy Map



- **Trial innovative management approaches** at peak times when visitor pressure is likely to lead to congestion, damage, conflict or disturbance
- **Through the Rural Crime Initiative** continue to address anti- social behaviour, wildlife crime, and initiatives to improve safety for people and animals on Dartmoor roads
- By 2022 develop an ambitious **green transport strategy** to increase the number of people accessing and moving around the National Park sustainably:
 - **Develop and promote a network of multi-functional bus services** to and around Dartmoor, linking settlements and rail links. These networks should be dual functional, providing services that serve the needs of local residents and carry bikes
 - **Utilise new technology** to improve service and reduce carbon emissions
 - Deliver a co-ordinated network of **electric charging points available for visitors and residents**
 - Develop **safe walking and cycling networks** as part of the Dartmoor Recreation Strategy, 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.

We would welcome your views on how people can travel more sustainably around the National Park, and how to encourage people to use sustainable modes of transport.



Better for Communities and Business

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

What are we trying to achieve?

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.

How will we achieve this?

- Support the delivery of **affordable housing** where it is needed, delivering a mix of types and tenures through the planning system and pro-active partnership work
- Develop a **modern design vernacular** for Dartmoor which draws on traditional local materials and styles, and promotes innovation, challenge, and an expectation of sustainable building
- Promote **development that is sustainable** over its whole life cycle, in terms of its location, design, use of resources, and climate change adaptation, supported by policies in the Local Plan
- Sustain Dartmoor as a **tranquil place**, and maintain its dark night skies through planning policies and recognised **Dark Night Skies status**

- Support communities to retain **access to local services and facilities** and help service providers to explore and develop innovative models for service delivery
- Support the next generation to live, work and play on Dartmoor, support for clubs, events, and activities in a way which promotes **community cohesion and inclusion**
- Ensure 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
- Promote and enable **sustainable travel choices** through a broad electric charging network, improved public transport, cycling and walking connections and through locating development in the most sustainable settlements
- 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.



What are we trying to achieve?

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

How are we going to achieve this?

- Improve productivity through strengthening local supply chains, **promoting local food** and the widespread recognition of the "Dartmoor brand" with strong links to the tourism economy

- Develop **natural capital markets** to help protect and manage natural and cultural assets and support growth across the region in the longer term
- Enable **high quality digital connectivity** through extensive high-speed broadband coverage, and development of ultra-fast broadband and next generation mobile provision in ways compatible with the protection of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage
- Help local businesses to thrive by enabling connections with **skills and training** providers so they can attract, upskill and retain a local workforce
- Encourage businesses to **locate and grow** where there is ready access to affordable housing and sustainable travel choices, providing a competitive employment offer
- Ensure businesses have **suitable premises and workspace** to start up, grow and continue to operate, through Local Plan policies that support opportunities for affordable workspace, high quality workspace and the ability to home work
- Support Dartmoor's ageing population by encouraging skills development and new businesses which promote **health, social care** and well-being in a way which uses Dartmoor's environmental capital
- 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
- Promote 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 in retail and tourism, encouraging new ways of working together and supporting collaboration between businesses which sustain Dartmoor's special qualities
- Encourage **entrepreneurship** and new business start-ups through providing start-up and early years business support, and access to loans and investment
- Help businesses transition to a **low carbon economy** through premises improvements, education and local supply chains, and exploit opportunities for green business growth.



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.

We are interested in views on the key challenges identified, and whether you agree with the principles for responding to these.

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 tree planting may be required within Premier Archaeological Landscapes³ and other in 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

³ 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.

managed and the characteristics of the landscape that are more sensitive to change.

- Principles:
 - At a Dartmoor scale, achieve an overall balance between natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage recognising the potential for nature recovery but also Dartmoor's international importance for archaeology. 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.
 - In nature recovery areas (to be defined), 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 assessment 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.



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 planting and management to support the local economy was broadly supported. Concerns were also raised that current policies and designations prevent new woodland planting 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 Forestry Commission also suggest that nationally the target should be for 17% woodland cover.

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 woodfuel. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are considered to be of greater value for cultural heritage and wildlife, whereas conifer plantations are more economically valuable and also 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 planted should be native and traditional to Dartmoor. Where other species need to be considered in response to climate change and pests /diseases including 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).

Should there be a woodland cover target in the Management Plan? If so what should this be?

Existing conifer plantations

The main 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 pointed to the benefits they bring including limiting water acidification, jobs and the economy, ability to absorb recreation and sequester carbon as conifers are faster growing than broadleaves.

- 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 Sites⁴ to native broadleaved woodland.

⁴ '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.

- 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.

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 and wildlife. Intensive sheep grazing keeps 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). 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 or high environment 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. A bigger concern may be the availability of stock to graze the commons if new ELMs does not deliver 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 wild fire 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



More visitors

Dartmoor is attracting an increasing number of visitors, a trend that 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.
 - There are real issues of anti-social behaviour and conflict which have been increasing. Although we want to welcome people to the National Park we also need to accept these issues and 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



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 development⁵. 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,⁶ 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 guidance⁷
 - 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

⁵ '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

⁶ Topic Paper 1: Natural Environment, Table 8, DNPA, September 2019

⁷ 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 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. The Glover Review⁸ suggested that military training areas might be suitable as wilder areas of National Parks.

- Principles:
 - 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



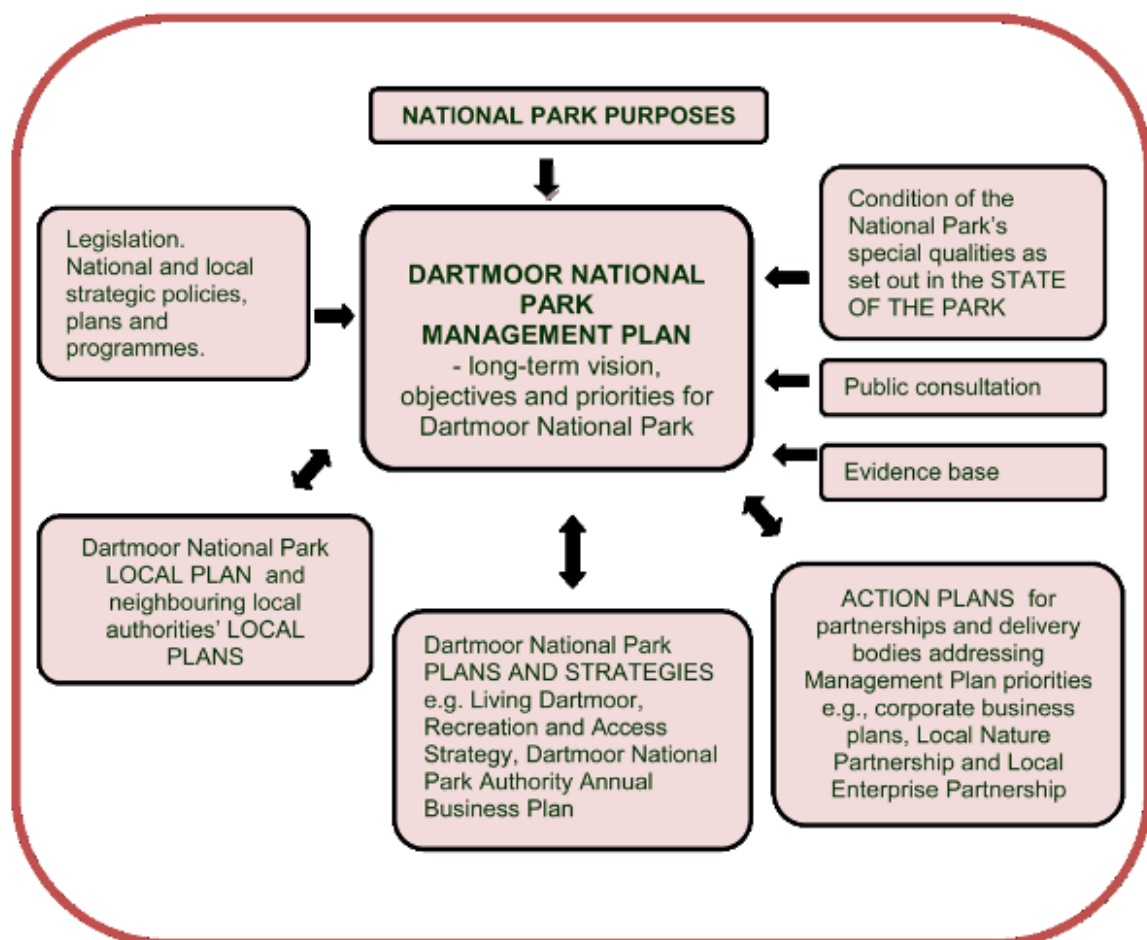
⁸ Protected Landscapes Review, September 2019, page 44

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.



Monitoring progress

Progress towards the Vision will be measured through a number of 'measures of success' set out below. The outcomes will be monitored through periodic updates to the State of the Park report. Annual reports on delivery of the Management Plan will be published on the Your Dartmoor website, and discussed with our partners and steering groups.

How will we measure success?

Below are a number of proposed indicators to measure progress. We recognise that a key constraint in terms of monitoring the outcomes of the Management Plan is lack of reliable data and the long-term nature of many of the outcomes. Not all of the proposed indicators are currently monitored, but are identified as potential indicators to be developed. Further work will be needed to establish a baseline, monitoring framework, and where relevant, targets.

We would welcome comments on these indicators, and suggestions for alternative indicators or relevant datasets that we can use

- Climate change
 - Greenhouse gas emissions from Dartmoor National Park
 - Amount of carbon stored on Dartmoor
 - These figures to be developed
- Nature and Natural Beauty
 - % of water courses achieving at least good ecological condition increased from 36%
 - Ha of peatland restored
 - Ha of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites restored and in positive management increased
 - Ha of woodland in active / positive management (broadleaved / conifer) increased
 - % of woodland cover increased from 12%
 - Length (Km) of traditional boundary feature (stone wall, hedgebank) maintained or restored
- Cultural Heritage
 - Area under a current agri-environment scheme or management plan which includes provision for the historic environment
 - Area of Premier Archaeological Landscapes under positive management (via agri-environment schemes or other works)
 - Number of monuments on the At Risk register reduced from a baseline of 155 monuments in 2019

- Number of buildings on the At Risk Register reduced from a baseline of 32 in 2019
- Number of identified community heritage projects delivered
- Number of academic partnerships involved in research to improve understanding of cultural heritage (indicator to be developed)
- Farming and Forestry
 - Coverage of agri-environment or new environmental land management schemes on Dartmoor
 - Number of animal deaths on Dartmoor roads decreased from 2019 (baseline tbc)
- People
 - Number of new routes made accessible for people of all abilities
 - Percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use maintained at 90% or above
 - Number of volunteer days increased from a baseline of 9,000 in 2018 (currently this only includes DNPA records but it is an ambition to get records from partners to compile a figure for the National Park)
 - Amount of litter collected by DNPA staff from Dartmoor decreased from a baseline of 650 bags in 2018
 - Number of people travelling to and around the National Park by public or active transport
 - Number of bus routes to and around Dartmoor increased
 - Number of passengers increased
 - % of people arriving by car reduced from 93% (DNPA Visitor Survey 2018)

Currently we do not have figures for the National Park for the following indicators but it is an ambition to develop these:

- Number of first time visitors to Dartmoor attending events
- % of people attending events who express overall satisfaction with the event
- Number of young people visiting Dartmoor for:
 - Formal education
 - Informal education
 - Active experience e.g. DoE, Ten Tors, Cubs, Scouts, Guides

- Communities & Businesses
 - Affordable homes approved and completed (number and percent of total);
 - Net homes approved and completed (number and percent of total) in:
 - Local Centres;
 - Rural Settlements;
 - Villages and Hamlets
 - Open countryside
 - 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 (number and percent of total)
 - Number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (Active/Passive) approved and installed
 - Change in number of businesses by sector;
 - Growth rate of the Dartmoor economy;
 - Change in job seekers allowance claimant rate;
 - Dartmoor receives Dark Night Skies status
 - Value of tourism spend increased from 2019 level of £165m (STEAM data)

