

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION
DAILY PARTICIPANTS AND AGENDA**

Day 3: Friday 5 March 2021 – 9:30am

Matter 3 - The Environment

Participants

For Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dan Janota (Head of Forward Planning and Economy)

Alex Gandy (Senior Policy Officer)

Alice Tilley (Assistant Policy Officer)

Stephanie Parker-Stephenson for Natural England 0046

Cllr Michael Ireland for Okehampton Town Council 0130

Agenda

Inspector's opening announcements

Whether the Local Plan has been positively prepared and whether it is justified effective and consistent with national policy in relation to its approach to protecting the quality of the National Park's environment.

Issue 2 SP 2.2(2) Biodiversity and geodiversity and SP 2.3(2) Biodiversity net gain

- Q1. Would Strategic policy 2.2(2) and its supporting text provide adequate protection for ancient trees and accord with NPPF paragraph 175 (c), in this respect?
- Q2. Overall, are modifications to that policy and supporting text required, for soundness, to ensure it is effective, being clear as to how a decision maker should react to it, that it appropriately reflects the requirement to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and the tests and mitigation hierarchy in relation to designated and protected sites? Would it be consistent with national policy in these respects?
- Q3. Would SP 2.3(2), in not requiring all development to deliver net gain regardless of impact on biodiversity, be consistent with national policy? Should the scope of the policy be extended to undesignated habitats to ensure soundness?
- Q4. Overall, would these policies, together, provide adequate protection for biodiversity and geodiversity, be effective and consistent with national policy? Would they, together, provide adequate protection for the South Hams SAC?

Issue 4 SP 2.5(2) Tranquillity and dark night skies

- Q1. Would the Plan provide an effective framework to protect Dartmoor's landscape and historic character, visual amenity and biodiversity from the impacts of light pollution and to maintain Dartmoor's dark skies?

Issue 5 SP 2.6(2), 2.7(2) and policy 2.8(2) heritage assets

- Q1. Does para 2.6.17 reflect the heritage balance in relation to designated heritage assets set out in NPPF paragraphs 195-196?
- Q2. Are modifications to policy SP 2.6(2) and policy 2.8(2), and their supporting text necessary to adequately reflect national policy in relation to the historic environment and ensure soundness?
- Q3. SP 2.7(2)5 refers to removing permitted development (PD) rights. In light of NPPF paragraph 53 and the PPG¹, would this approach accord with national policy?
- Q4. Would policy 2.8(2)1a be consistent with NPPF paragraph 202, in referring to 'departing from the development plan' rather than planning policies? Would it be clear and unambiguous?

Issue 6 Policy 2.9(2) Water environment and flood risk

- Q1. Would the policy be consistent with national policy in respect of the sequential and exception tests for new development in flood risk areas? Would any modifications be necessary, in the interests of soundness, to ensure that the policy and supporting text are effective and consistent with national policy?

Inspector's closing remarks

¹ PPG ID 21a-017-20190723