

SPECIAL QUALITIES

Prompt Questions:

Fit for purpose? Anything incorrect or missing? Any change of emphasis?

Managing Change

Climate – Population – Species – Economics – Clarity around Future – Vision - Objectives – Outcomes.

Dartmoor is a special place nationally & internationally.

Important space for Health/Wellbeing

Does the plan simply manage decline?

Can this survive the challenges of climate change, atmospheric pollution.

Combes

Hard to disagree with most of these. How much of the NP actually conforms with them? Is the ambition to tackle the decline? How?

Dartmoor will become increasingly important as a wildlife refuge. How will we adapt to this? Do the statements need to reflect what Dartmoor needs to become rather than what is currently is?

Dartmoor's upland mires are special and need to be recognised as such. Also, upland native woodland.

Better promotion of volunteer opportunities, especially directed to young people. Appreciate (doughnuts).

Rights of way network – footpaths etc need maintaining with destinations distances. ✓✓

Where are the resources to maintain the special qualities? ✓

For young people to become active participants in this move forward. They will need to be shown that they are valued in all aspects of working and living within the NP a reward for extremely long and never ending labours that they are putting into the natural scenery of their surroundings. ✓

It would be good for young people to see themselves reflected in the plan. ✓

Should Dartmoor's special qualities include 'threats'

Is the narrative of 'timelessness – traditional land management – open moorland – tranquillity? Does this mask some of the issues we need to face up to?

Need to recognise that there can be new special qualities in an era of climate change and biodiversity decline

What is the order of priority in, and balance between these special qualities which can conflict with each other?

Joined up landscape-scale nature development areas can be a Special Quality.

More joined-up connection between services, B&B etc. Interesting places to go.

What about the hidden/underpinning qualities that need to be in place to enable communities to thrive and support innovation that respects Dartmoor's specialness. E.g. digital connectivity as good as urban area.

These special qualities should add value to those on the edge of Dartmoor not make life difficult – planning.

Dark sky status will help here ✓✓✓✓✓

Responsibility for maintenance of these paths, who pays?

Recognise 'wild farming' skills learnt over 4000 years. Which has created Dartmoor as we know and love it.

Recognise our own keystone animals such as ponies.

Commons are a cultural asset – rare and of interest but needs special attention.

Great in theory – resources?

Learn to read a map, do not rely on GPS for everything ✓✓

Biodiversity vs recreation – can the plan try to address this?

Dartmoor's many rivers = largely unmodified – are a very special feature. Its more than just clean water

Archaeological features now covered by molinia grass due to under grazing ?

Radon – does this make us what we are ??

Perhaps tighten up these qualities – fewer and more focused (recognising that they all overlap): topography; ecology; community; history (archaeology); resources (water etc); enjoyment (access etc)