From: web@dartmoor.gov.uk [mailto:web@dartmoor.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 November 2019 15:08
To: Forward Planning - mbx <forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk>
Subject: Local plan review comments

About you

- First name: Tim
- Surname: Kellett
- Address: [redacted]
- I am completing this form as: An organisation
- If other, please specify:
- Job title:
- Organisation: Ancient Tree Forum
- On behalf of:
- Email address: [redacted]
- Did you submit comments on the Regulation 18 (First Draft) Local Plan?: No
- Local Plan Consultee List: I would like to be added to the Local Plan consultee list

Share your comments

- Does your comment relate to a paragraph, policy or policies map?: Policy
- Please tell us which paragraph/policy your comment relates to: 2.2
- Do you consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant?: No

- Do you consider the Local Plan to be sound?: No

- Do you consider the Local Plan to be compliant with the duty to co-operate?: No

- Please tell us why you have answered yes and/or no to the questions above:

This response is related to strategic policy 2.2 (2) and the protection of Ancient and Veteran Trees which has been increased in the latest NPPF 2018 and not reflected in the current draft. Firstly: The draft sets out Dartmoor Priority Habitats listed in table 2 - the words "Parkland and aged and veteran trees" - should be changed to "Parkland and ancient and veteran trees" to reflect the current understanding of the words and definitions in the NPPF. Secondly: For developments to be approved that affect these habitats para 3(d) states - the development must result in benefits which significantly outweigh its adverse impact on the site; This is clearly not the same as the current NPPF policy 175c) "development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons ..." The NPPF footnote says "For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat". The definition of wholly exceptional in the NPPF conveys significantly more protection to those natural assets than the "benefits which significantly outweigh" in the Dartmoor Policy - which could easily bee interpreted in the local context and scale. The strengthening of the later NPPF policy regarding protection for Ancient trees, veteran trees and ancient woodland has not been reflected in the current local plan draft. Thirdly: para 3e states "for Dartmoor priority habitats listed in Table 2.1 which are of non-functional size, development must not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the local natural network. There is no explanation, or glossary definition of "non-functional size"? Please note : The Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) is a charity which has pioneered the conservation of ancient and veteran trees and is the main UK organisation concerned solely with their conservation. The ATF seeks to secure the long-term future of ancient trees through advocacy of no further avoidable loss, good management, the development of a succession of future ancient trees, and seeking to raise awareness and understanding of their

	value and importance. The ATF has been involved in consultations and contributions to the NPPF 2018 working alongside partners The Woodland Trust and Natural England.
• What modifications do you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and/or sound?:	As above Change the word aged tree to ancient tree. Change the policy wording 2.2 (2) to inclde a new clause 3f for protection of ancient trees veteran trees and ancient woodland as stated in NPPF 175(c).
• Do you wish to participate in hearing session(s)?:	No, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)
• If you answered yes to the hearing session(s), please tell us why you consider this to be necessary:	•