

Dartmoor National Park

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.

ALIVE WITH NATURE

6 Protecting the extremely rare blue ground beetle in woodlands

57 volunteer days helping to stop the spread of invasive species

700 people connecting with nature at Meldon Wildlife Festival

5 Rare fritillary butterflies doing well as year partnership is completed

200 ha of peatland habitats restored abating 2335 CO2 each year

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

87% of planning applications approved

2 Conservation Apprenticeships completed

6 new walking routes developed in partnership with local businesses

80 people took part in traditional skills courses

£45K of Dartmoor Range goods sold through Visitor Centres supporting local suppliers

82 affordable houses approved

HERITAGE CELEBRATED AND ENHANCED

7 grants awarded to farmers to restore traditional dry stone walls and gateways

11 Community led heritage projects completed

20 Scheduled Monuments conserved through Moor than Meets the Eye



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

500 children engaged with Ranger Ralph activities

317 organised school trips with 9,397 children

400 hours volunteer conservation work by Junior Rangers

A WARM WELCOME FOR ALL

4 new easy access routes created

3 visitor centres attracting 160,000 visitors

8,000 people engaged with Dartmoor at 163 events

350KM PRoW surveyed by 30 volunteers in our big path survey

Our 2019-20 highlights in more detail



A new vision and ambitious partnership plan for Dartmoor: During 2019 we completed a review of the National Park Management Plan. The new plan has nature recovery, climate change and connecting people at its heart. Over 85 organisations helped develop the draft, now out for consultation.

ALIVE WITH NATURE

Nature Recovery at a Landscape Scale: Significant progress with our vision to create a natural edge between the existing woodland and open moorland habitats on land owned by the Authority at Hawns and Dendles. New deciduous trees planted at the start of our programme can now survive without protective fencing. A new management plan promotes natural woodland regeneration and low intensity grazing, where the benefits for wildlife, soils and water can be monitored; when joined with adjacent nature reserves managed by partners; this area is an important nucleus for nature recovery. Our management of the wood is supported by a new team of 15 volunteers.

Dartmoor Headwaters Project: The second year of a partnership project with the EA, trialling the implementation of natural solutions to mitigate the risk of flooding across 5 sub-catchments. A series of trial leaky dams and tree planting were installed. This work will provide a useful demonstration area to show landowners and farmers what can be done to reduce flood risk higher up in the catchment and improve biodiversity.

Working with farmers Dartmoor Facilitation Fund (FF): The FF offered a range of training and events focussing on how to develop landscape scale change and improve the quality of environmental schemes and outcomes. A wide range of themes were explored from the management of grassland inputs to hedgerow management. The project ran a programme of events for a group of farmers managing rhes pasture as well as providing advice to groups of farmers on applying for Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Grant schemes. Over 33 farmers have engaged with the project.

HERITAGE CELEBRATED AND ENHANCED

A new Visitor Centre to celebrate the importance of the Bronze Age on Dartmoor: A successful RDPE funding bid has seen the start of work on this new centre that will be a springboard for experiencing the area's natural and cultural richness. The centre will significantly improve the visitor experience and understanding, providing state of the art interpretation celebrating the Bronze Age and significant discoveries from Whitehorse Hill. This will be coupled with events, school visits and other activities to ensure dwell time in the area is maximised for the benefit of the local economy. We have also created 6 new trails from the centre.

Condition recording of sites in Dartmoor's Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs): Good progress has been made on this project using a group of experienced hillwalking volunteers visiting archaeological sites within the 14 PALs and recording their current condition, helping with to update our records, as well as information future management of sites.

The Moor Than Meets the Eye Landscape Partnership: 5 year project came to an end this year and is an inspiring example of what can be achieved when people work together for Dartmoor. With DNPA leading a strong partnership comprising a range of small community groups, NGOs and Government organisations the scheme delivered; 26 heritage trails, a trainee scheme for 17 graduates, 37ha of ancient woodland restoration, 4 community digs, 21 monuments removed from the at risk register, 2,000 events with 19,000 people and 4,000 volunteer days. Funded by a grant of nearly £2m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund with the rest of the total £3.8m from the Partners. The impact of this ambitious project on the communities and Dartmoor will be felt for many years.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Next Generation Manifesto: As part of the Management Plan Review and in response to the EUROPARC Youth Manifesto we have worked with a group of young people to develop a Youth Manifesto. The Next Generation Manifesto is a standalone document that represents what the Next Generation want for the future of the National Park and their 'Calls to Action' to make change happen.

A WARM WELCOME FOR ALL

Miles without Stiles: We have created four new easy-access walks on our more popular routes. These routes provide much better access for mobility scooters, push chairs and wheel chairs and mean the whole family can enjoy a walk together on Dartmoor. Stiles have been removed and replaced by gates and subtle adjustments were made to realign many granite drain slabs and bridges, allowing easier and safer access.

A Natural Health Service: Working with the Devon Recovery Learning Community (an NHS partnership trust) free courses have been provided for people who have had mild to severe mental ill-health and are on a journey to recovery. Programmes have used Dartmoor's landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage as a resource for wellbeing and have also included elements of mindfulness.

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

Hill Farm Project (HFP) Resilience Programme: This was run in partnership with The Duchy of Cornwall and the Princes Countryside Fund and came to an end in 2019. It enabled 18 farm businesses to utilise specialist advice and gain skills in business planning, to help prepare farmers to become more resilient in the future. HFP has delivered a diverse and well supported events and training programme covering a wide range of topics with a specific focus on livestock, soils and grasslands.

Supporting outdoor education through planning: We granted planning permission for the continued operation of the Running Deer forestry school, that provides outdoor education based on the special qualities of the National Park for those who need an alternative to mainstream education. A good example of how planning is not just about buildings but enhancing opportunities for all to experience Dartmoor.

Evidence based planning policy shapes national guidance: The research behind Dartmoor's Local Plan has been cited in national guidance as a best practice case study. Planning Officers worked with the Planning Advisory Service as they prepared the national evidence for Plan Making advice. The guidance provides the national policy context and structure for plan production. It illustrates the successful ways in which evidence can inform the content and policies of a sound local plan.

CARBON NEUTRAL

Climate emergency declared: In July 2019 we declared a climate emergency and developed a detailed action plan for the Authority to be carbon neutral by 2025. We have already reduced our emissions by 51% since 2010.