

## **Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review**

### **VERSION 1 DRAFT STATEMENTS FROM DARTMOOR DEBATES**

Last updated: 19 December 2018

#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

This is a Vision for Dartmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment. It is how Dartmoor National Park Authority, statutory organisations, local stakeholders and community members envisage the management and condition of the Moor's cultural heritage and the historic environment in the future.

##### Archaeology

- The unique and special nature of Dartmoor's archaeology, cultural heritage and historic environment is understood and valued to visitors and those that live and work on the Moor
- Dartmoor's premier archaeological landscapes (PALs), sites and monuments are in good condition, visible and accessible where possible, with supporting flexible, adaptable and local management regimes

##### Built environment

- The character of the Dartmoor's built environment and vernacular architecture is preserved and enhanced
- Dartmoor's distinctive boundaries are maintained and visible within the landscape

##### Intangible cultural heritage

- Dartmoor's distinctive intangible cultural heritage is valued, celebrated and its importance highlighted
- Through future environmental land management schemes, traditional skills are an integral part of managing Dartmoor's unique landscape and their importance is recognised and understood by farmers, land owners, members of the public.

##### Engagement

- Local communities are developing innovative, grass-roots heritage projects that celebrate Dartmoor's past, sense of place, increase understanding of cultural heritage and encourage volunteer participation
- New and existing organisations on the Moor are working together, creating innovative partnerships, sharing resources and taking an adventurous approach to the management and understanding of Dartmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment

##### Evidence and understanding

- Our understanding of Dartmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment is enhanced by academic research, which involves community engagement where possible and is easily accessible
- Groups and individuals involved in researching Dartmoor's history are informed and aware of one another's contributions

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This is a bold vision for the future of Dartmoor National Park that is rich in wildlife, and a core area where species and habitats thrive / recover and connect out to surrounding areas.

The whole National Park is a mosaic of wildlife-rich habitats, with blurred boundaries that create transitional habitats, and connections through rivers, hedgerows and other linear features that act as rich habitats themselves and allow wildlife to move through the landscape.

There is acceptance of change, and that in future Dartmoor's landscape and wildlife will be different, with some areas becoming wilder as nature is allowed to take its course. The types and distribution of species and habitats on Dartmoor will change in response to climate change and are more resilient to future changes

There is an abundance of species common to Dartmoor, which are widespread and thriving. Targeted species once lost to Dartmoor have been successfully reintroduced, enhancing biodiversity and building future resilience.

There is a focus on landscape restoration / nature recovery across the National Park, supported by land management systems which produce wildlife (and other environmental benefits) as well as food. Farmers [and foresters] help to identify the solutions and are rewarded for managing the land in a way that delivers these wider benefits for society / people. Farming systems [re-]connect commons and in-by-land / home farms and are managed with the production of public goods at their heart.

Natural processes are restored, supported by the reintroduction of keystone species. Soils are in good condition supporting a diversity of species; locking up carbon; and holding water thus helping to manage flood risk downstream. Broadleaved woodlands continue to creep up the valley slopes through natural regeneration, and new woodland planting is used to support conservation and natural flood management in appropriate places (where this does not detract from landscape character)

This Vision is developed by and agreed with farmers, foresters, land managers, conservation bodies, local people [etc] and delivered in partnership through co-ordinated activity and collaboration. There is flexibility and creativity about how it is delivered, with shared monitoring, research and review to track outcomes and ensure that progress is being made.

People living on and visiting Dartmoor have a greater connection with nature. Young people are inspired and engaged ....

Recreation levels and access to sensitive locations is managed to avoid or mitigate wildlife impacts. People are more aware of the impact of their activities on the environment, and act responsibly when enjoying Dartmoor.

## **UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING DARTMOOR**

**Vision:** The National Park is an accessible and shared space for all visitors and users; it is a space to experience wilderness and tranquillity but also offers unrivalled recreation opportunities. All visitors are engaged in ways that helps to encourage sustainable use of and grow their interest in Dartmoor. Dartmoor will be adaptable to future trends, supporting current users and users of the future.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The National Park should be recognised as a space that benefits mental and physical health. Health professionals and stakeholders will use Dartmoor as a resource to improve the nation's mental and physical health

### **Young People**

The National Park is an accessible space for the younger generation; it adapts to future trends and recognises the needs of users of the future.

School children are provided with learning opportunities across the National Park supported by a variety of delivery partners and included opportunities for continuous engagement

### **Understanding and Engagement**

Visitors to Dartmoor are provided with accessible and relevant information as they travel through and use Dartmoor. The information provided will enhance the visitor experience and encourage understanding of Dartmoor to enable more sustainable and considerate use.

### **Visitor Services/Infrastructure**

The National Park provides high quality infrastructure for its visitors that are maintained to a high standard. The infrastructure and visitor services support a wide variety of users creating a National Park that is accessible to all, offering visitors areas of wilderness and relaxation and high quality recreation opportunities.

### **Relationships and Collaboration**

Visitor management within the National Park is managed through collaboration and relationship building across all Dartmoor stakeholders. Among all users of the National Park, including, visitors and recreation users, local communities and farmers, there will be mutual understanding and opportunities for open honest conversations.

## ECONOMY

"This is a Vision for the sustainable development of Dartmoor's economy. It is what the statutory agencies with direct responsibilities for Dartmoor want to see the local economy look like in 2030. The Vision is for Dartmoor's economy to develop in a manner that enables local businesses to thrive while securing the special qualities of the National Park. This development will maintain the resilience and diversity of the existing businesses while encouraging the growth of the most productive sectors and those meeting the needs of local communities. The aims are to:

- **Build on the existing strengths** of the local economy, supporting businesses both in the traditional sectors connected to the landscape and those drawn from across Dartmoor's diverse business base, including the Third sector/social enterprise organisations;
- **Support development in the right places** – connecting places and sectors, helping villages and market towns to thrive as well as the wider rural community;
- **Enable the sustainability and growth of existing businesses**, including the self-employed and home-based businesses through succession planning and skills and training;
- Provide the **opportunities to attract new businesses, home grown entrepreneurs and self-starters** that work to secure and benefit from the special qualities of the National Park; and
- **Attract young people** to come to work in good quality jobs and live locally in affordable homes, while addressing the connectivity and transport issues faced across Dartmoor.

## FARMING AND FORESTRY

**Overall summary:** The farming and forestry sectors are recognised and supported for their essential role in supporting Dartmoor's special qualities. Policy measures incentivising the provision of public goods and high quality products from the land give farmers and foresters confidence in the future

### Components:

- The role and needs of farmers, landowners and woodland managers, as providers of a wider range of public goods that support the special qualities of the NP and as productive parts of the local economy, is better understood by policy makers and the public.
- There is widespread agreement between the farming and forestry sectors, public bodies and environmental organisations over future objectives for land use and management on Dartmoor, taking account of challenges such as climate change. These objectives take a balanced approach to enhancing public goods and services from the land while securing a profitable future for the farming and forestry sectors.
- National and local policy measures, including financial incentives, are in place that give farmers, landowners and woodland managers confidence in their role in delivering public goods and the future of their businesses. These policy measures encourage investment in skills and infrastructure by the next generation.

- Beef and sheep production from grass and moorland grazing underpins Dartmoor's farming economy, with sales of high-quality breeding, store and finished livestock securing profitable incomes.
- Dartmoor's commons are actively managed by commoners working closely with landowners through commons associations, supported by well-funded policy measures to deliver public goods.
- Strong market values for a range of timber products and firewood encourage active woodland management and the creation of significant areas of new woodland using species and in locations that optimise the public goods provided.
- Value from land-based products is added and retained in the local economy through local supply chains, processing infrastructure and well-known point-of-sale brands and quality assurance.
- High quality advice, training and knowledge exchange gives farmers, landowners and woodland managers the information they need to deliver public goods and secure profitable futures for their businesses.
- The needs of tenants are fully recognised in public policy, including measures to provide sources of long-term finance and security of tenure.
- The planning system recognises and supports the needs of the farming and forestry sectors for sufficient housing and other built development to maintain their economic viability [*Question whether suitable for the Management Plan*].