



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2020-2045

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, and Equality Impact Assessment)

**SA Report
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enfusion



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SA Report

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Non-Technical Summary (available separately)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plans. The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through assessing the extent to which an emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives¹.
- 1.2 Local Plans must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment^{2,3} (SEA) and Government guidance⁴ recommends that SA incorporates the requirements for SEA – and to the same level of detail. The aim of SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development. Whilst not a spatial development plan, the Dartmoor Management Plan is likely to have significant effects on environmental topics such that it would require SEA. The Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and its partners have chosen to undertake the wider appraisal process of SA to investigate and inform plan-making. The DNPA has commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the SA process for the Review of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan (DNMP).
- 1.3 In addition, DNPA has chosen to integrate the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process within the overarching SA/SEA process. Public bodies have a duty to assess the impact of their policies on different population groups to ensure that discrimination does not take place and where possible, to promote equality of opportunity. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is not a statutory requirement for planning authorities but it is good practice in plan-making; health considerations are a requirement of the SEA process and thus the overall SA process.
- 1.4 The DNPA is also required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The HRA process has its own legislative drivers and requirements and while the different processes can inform each other, it is important that the HRA remains distinguishable from the wider SA process. While the HRA process is being undertaken in parallel to the SA, the detailed

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

² EU Directive 2001/42/EC

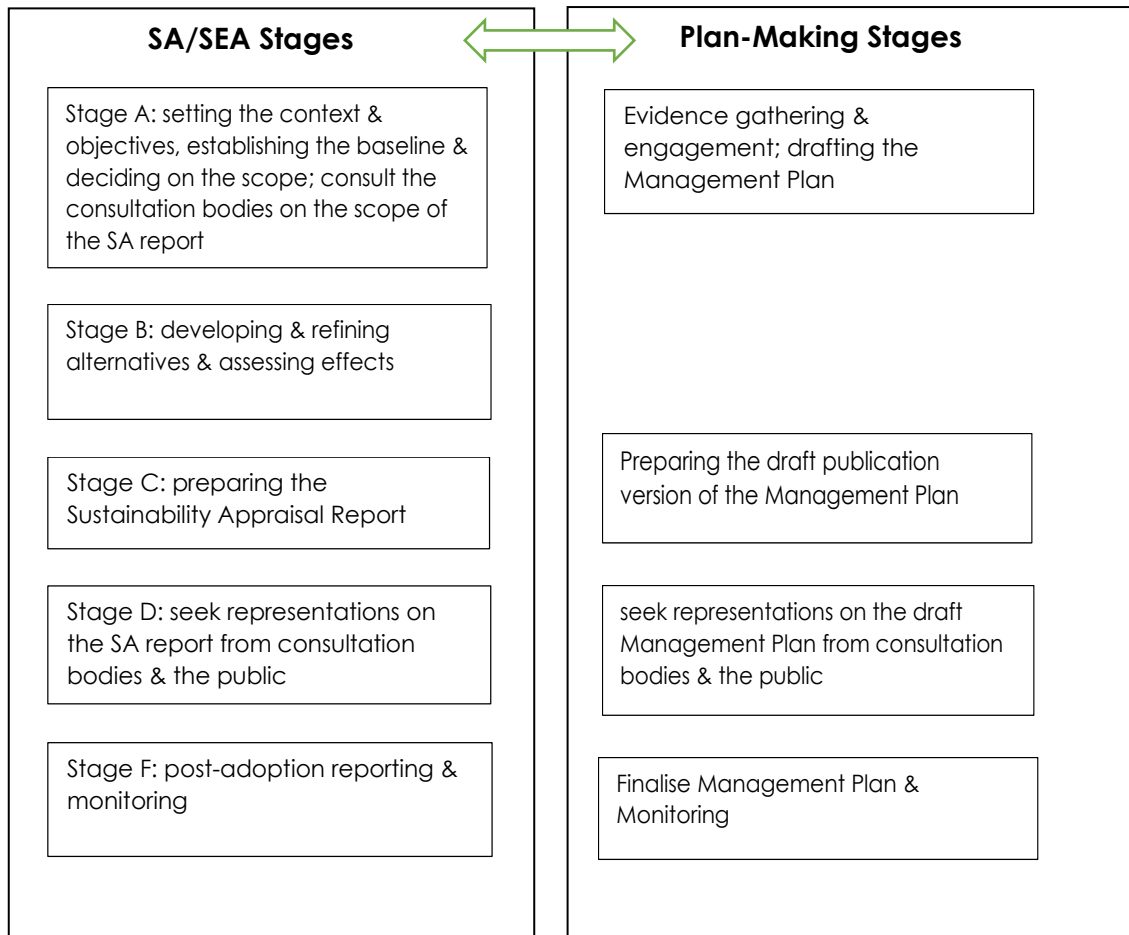
³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004

⁴ Planning Practice Guidance Strategic Environmental Assessment & Sustainability Appraisal
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

method and findings are reported separately and the findings of the HRA have informed the SA.

- 1.5 National Planning Practice Guidance⁵ sets out the key stages and tasks for the SA/SEA process and their relationships with the Local Plan process. Key stages and tasks are applicable to the SA process for the Dartmoor Management Plan, as follows:

Figure 1.1: SA and Plan-making Stages



- 1.6 The scoping stage is the first stage of the SA process (Stage A), and it aims to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA Report. It sets out the context, objectives and proposed approach for the assessment; it identifies key issues and opportunities to develop a framework of SA objectives that will form the basis against which the emerging elements of the plan will be assessed.
- 1.7 The next stage of the SA process is concerned with developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects (Stage B). The Management Plan is limited in the alternatives that are meaningful since it must comply with the requirements of its statutory designation as a National Park. The DNPA is required to prepare a Management Plan and therefore, the do-nothing

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

scenario is not an option, but the baseline characterisation has considered the implications of not having a plan on sustainability topics.

- 1.8 Management of the National Park requires careful negotiation of potentially competing interests and needs – within the overall statutory requirements and duties. Nonetheless, plan-making could take an approach that focused on key concerns. Therefore, it was thought at the SA scoping stage in October 2019 to investigate three strategic level approaches: Balanced; Focus on Nature Recovery; and Focus on Climate Change. However, as the preparation of the Management Plan further developed and as initial strategic SA was investigated, it was found that the 3 options were not sufficiently distinct with so many of the issues and emerging aspirations cross-cutting and inter-related. Therefore, it was not possible to progress meaningful SA of any strategic options for the Plan.
- 1.9 This SA Report progresses SA Stages B & C – the assessment and reporting stages – and accompanies the draft DNMP on public consultation. Any comments received on the SA and the draft Management Plan will be taken into account for finalising and adopting the Management Plan.

The Dartmoor Management Plan Review 2020-2045

- 1.10 Dartmoor National Park Authority is undertaking a review⁶ of the current Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2014-2019. The review covers the period 2020-2025 with a long-term Vision through to 2045. Fundamental to the review of Management Plan are the two statutory⁷ purposes of the National Park designation:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public

Also, the duty of National Park Authorities in pursuing National Park purposes:

- to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities (within the National Park) by working closely with the agencies and local authorities responsible for these matters

- 1.11 The location of the Dartmoor National Park is shown in the following Figure 1.1:

⁶ <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/management-plan/management-plan-review>

⁷ National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

Figure 1.1- Location of Dartmoor National Park⁸



1.12 The draft Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2020-2045 includes a long-term Vision for Dartmoor in 2045 with more detail set out in seven Themes. The draft DNPMP sets the context with an introduction, explains the purpose of the DNPMP, the purpose and duty of the National Park and the significance of the Dartmoor Commons Act, and demonstrates the Special Qualities for which the Dartmoor National Park is designated. The DNPMP explains the forces of change, including the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and the Glover Report (September 2019) that recommends specific proposals to improve and strengthen Management Plans. The DNPMP has been prepared in the spirit of the Glover Report but it is noted that its' recommendations will require agreement by Government, legislative changes, and new funding.

1.13 The seven Themes are as follows:

- Climate Change (Cross-Cutting)
- Better for the Next Generation (Cross-Cutting & with Next Generation Vision)
- Better for Nature & Natural Beauty

⁸ Dartmoor National Park Authority

- Better for Cultural Heritage
- Better for Farming & Forestry
- Better for People
- Better for Communities & Business

For each specific theme, the DNPMP considers “*What are we trying to achieve?*” and “*How will we achieve this?*” The final section of the Plan proposes “*How do we measure success?*” with indicators to consider progress towards the Vision and outcomes to be monitored through periodic updates to the State of the Park report.

- 1.14 In preparing the Management Plan, it was clear that there are a number of conflicting or competing objectives and also ‘grit issues’ where opinions are divided about how the DNPMP should address them. Whilst the Authority will always refer back to the statutory purposes of the National Park when considering such issues, the draft DNPMP sets out Principles to guide decision-making on such Key Challenges, as follows:

- Landscape Management & Nature Recovery
- More Trees
- Existing Conifer Plantations
- A Grazed Moorland Landscape
- More Visitors
- Changing Demographics
- Communication Infrastructure
- Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- Military Training

- 1.15 The links to other plans and strategies for the Management Plan is explained, including an illustrative diagram. The Management Plan and the Local Plan are the two important statutory documents that guide activity, decision-making and investment on Dartmoor. Both have the same overall objective to help deliver National Park purposes. The Local Plan sets the policies that guide planning decisions about development and the use of the land. The Management Plan is a broader strategic plan that sets out the long-term vision for Dartmoor and provides the framework for partnership working to deliver this. It also provides the strategic context for more specific plans and strategies, for example on nature recovery or recreation management.

Consultation and Engagement

- 1.16 The DNPA has engaged widely with key partners throughout the early preparation of the Management Plan Review, including through their website⁹. Over the summer/autumn of 2018 a series of Dartmoor Debates took place looking at five different topics: Economy; Historic Environment; Farming & Forestry; Understanding & Enjoyment; and The Natural Environment. There

⁹ <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/management-plan/management-plan-review>

were also two further workshops for National Park Staff and members and a Next Generation event for the 18 - 30 age group.

- 1.17 The draft SA Scoping Report was sent to the statutory environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England for the 5-week consultation period commencing in October 2019. Comments were received from Natural England – these are set out in the Final SA Scoping Report (December 2019) together with the responses made.

Compliance with the Requirements of the EU SEA Directive

- 1.18 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations set out certain requirements for reporting the SEA process and specify that, if an integrated appraisal is undertaken (i.e. SEA is subsumed within the SA process), then the sections of the SA Report that meet the requirements set out for reporting the SEA process must be clearly signposted. This SA Report presents the SA/SEA testing of the emerging draft Management Plan, includes a Non-Technical Summary, and an appendix that clearly signposts the requirements for reporting the SEA.

Purpose & Structure of this SA Report

- 1.19 This document reports the SA/SEA process for the Dartmoor Management Plan Review. Following this introductory Section 1, this report is structured into further sections:
- Section 2 describes the approach and methods used to appraise the emerging elements of the Plan, including how consideration of reasonable alternatives has been addressed
 - Section 3 summarises the sustainability context and characteristics with details available in the Final SA Scoping Report (December 2019) available on the DNPA website
 - Section 4 summarises the findings of the SA of the draft Vision and the Themes, including consideration of the Principles to be applied to decision-making for the Key Challenges identified; it integrates the summary findings from the HRA and EqIA
 - Section 5 introduces the approach to monitoring and the SA
 - Section 6 provides summary conclusions from the SA, sets out the requirements for consultation and commenting on the report, and explains the next steps.
- 1.20 Technical Appendices provide the detailed findings of the SA. Appendix I comprises the Statement of Compliance with the SEA Directive and provides signposting to where key aspects of the SA are located in the SA Report. Appendix II is the SA Scoping Report (available separately www.dartmoor.gov.uk/managementplanreview) and including the details of the baseline evidence and the development of the SA Frameworks for assessment. Appendix III (also available separately) is the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening Report.

2.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL METHODS

Introduction & the SA/SEA Process

- 2.1 Sustainability (Integrated) Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment is an iterative and ongoing process that aims to provide a high level of protection for the environment and to promote sustainable development for plan-making. The role of SA is to inform the DNPA as the plan-making authority; the SA findings do not form the sole basis for decision-making – this is informed also by other studies, feasibility and feedback comments from consultation. SA is a criteria-based assessment process with objectives aligned with the issues for sustainable development that are relevant to the plan and the characteristics of the plan area.
- 2.2 There is a tiering of assessment processes that aligns with the hierarchy of plans – from international, national and through to local. Planning guidance advises¹⁰ that the SA should focus on what it needed to assess the likely significant effects of the plan. It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the plan. This SA has taken a proportionate and pragmatic approach. It has taken account of, and drawn upon, the recent SA undertaken of the emerging new Dartmoor National Park Local Plan¹¹ that was subject to pre-submission consultation between 16 September and 1 November 2019.
- 2.3 This SA is an Integrated Appraisal that has incorporated the requirements of the EU SEA Directive. It also integrates the findings from the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), and the findings of the Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment (EqIA). Since the HRA and the EqIA are driven by distinct legislation, the HRA Report and the EqIA Report are also provided separately to clearly demonstrate compliance.

Scoping & the SA Frameworks

- 2.4 Relevant plans and programmes (PP) were reviewed, baseline information was identified, collated and analysed to ensure that key issues, problems and opportunities for the DNPA area are identified. The details of this analysis are presented in final SA Scoping Report (December 2019) and a summary is provided in the following Section 3 of this SA Report.
- 2.5 The SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review are described, evaluated and options compared. It includes sustainability objectives, elaborated by decision making criteria, that are relevant to the objectives of the Management Plan, the role and duties of the Dartmoor NPA, and sustainable

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans>

¹¹ <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-review>

development in the Dartmoor area. These objectives have been identified through the SA Scoping Stage from the information collated in the PP review, baseline analysis, identification of sustainability issues, and discussions with DNPA Officers. The SA Framework drew upon the recent SA scoping for the Local Plan and built further upon the previous SA undertaken of the current Management Plan.

- 2.6 The SA Framework is presented in Table 2.1 below and was used to test strategic approaches and the emerging draft plan.

Table 2.1: SA Framework

SA Objectives	Potential Indicators ¹²
Sustainability Topic: Natural Beauty <i>SEA topics: landscape; flora, fauna, biodiversity</i>	
1. To conserve and enhance the special qualities and natural beauty of the National Park	Area & % of National Park (usable agricultural area) under agri-environment schemes★
2. To conserve, and enhance Dartmoor's special boundary features and mosaic farmland	% of boundary features managed through agri-environment schemes
3. To protect and enhance sites of special geological interest and protect the landscape scale geology of Dartmoor	% of geological SSSI in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition
4. To preserve the wild, remote & tranquil characteristics of Dartmoor, including minimising light and noise pollution	% of National Park classified as either tranquil or very tranquil
Sustainability Topic: Biodiversity & Wildlife <i>SEA topics: flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape</i>	
5. To recover and enhance natural and semi natural woodlands in the National Park	Area and % of woodland under active management★
6. To recover and enhance Dartmoor's moorland areas	Area under Agri-Environment Scheme (AES)
7. To recover and enhance Dartmoor's wetlands	% priority wetland habitats in favourable condition
8. To recover and enhance habitats, and biodiversity networks for net gain and with a landscape-scale approach for nature recovery	% of SACs and broad habitats in SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable condition % of 13 key species whose status is stable or increasing Develop an indicator for monitoring nature recovery
Sustainability Topic: Historic & Built Environment; Cultural Heritage	

¹² Indicators will be developed as the SA & the draft DNPMP progresses, linked to State of the Park reporting;

★ denotes a headline indicator for the current MP

<i>SEA topics: cultural heritage, architectural & archaeological heritage, landscape</i>	
9. To conserve, and enhance the historic environment of sites, areas, buildings & landmarks of archaeological, historic, cultural and/or architectural interest and their settings	% of Scheduled Monuments at risk★ % of Listed Buildings at risk★ Restoration of archaeological assets Archaeological surveys conducted
10. To enhance the attractiveness and local distinctiveness of the built environment by raising the quality of design and construction	Conservation Area enhancement projects
11. To support cultural heritage including local traditions, and improve access and understanding of local heritage	No of agricultural shows & local fairs within the National Park or serving it★
Sustainability Topic: Resources <i>SEA Topic: air, water, soil, biodiversity, material assets, human health</i>	
12. To protect and improve air quality	No of Air Quality Management Areas in or close to the National Park
13. To promote efficient water use and improve water quality	Length & % length of monitored rivers achieving good or high ecological status (under WFD)★
14. To protect and conserve soil, land and minerals, reduce soil erosion and protect soil quality	Area and % of National Park (usable agricultural area) under agri-environment schemes★
Sustainability Topic: Climate Change <i>SEA Topics: climate change, climatic factors, air, flood risk, water, human health</i>	
15. To minimise Dartmoor's contribution to climate change including through carbon storage & sequestration, energy efficiency, and renewable energy technologies	Amount of carbon sequestered through blanket bog restoration / woodland planting Number of applications/permissions for micro-renewable energy by type
16. To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources and manage flood risk more sustainably	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice Extent of natural flood management restored
Sustainability Topic: Countryside Access & Recreation <i>SEA topics: population, human health</i>	
17. To promote understanding & enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities	Total number of tourist visitors (day & staying) % of users reporting increased understanding of Dartmoor as a result of

	education events provided by DNPA★
18. To improve access to Dartmoor's open countryside	% length of public rights of way that are easy to use★ Area of land open to public access
Sustainability Topic: Economy, Education & Employment <i>SEA topics: population, human health</i>	
19. To promote and support a sustainable economy, particularly of key business sectors (tourism, agriculture, leisure/recreation, small businesses), and to utilise employment land & premises effectively and efficiently	Number of hard to reach premises passed by superfast broadband★ Business start-ups and survival rates★ Use of local products & services No of home working
20. To enable all residents to share in growing prosperity by improving access to training, education and job opportunities	Unemployment rate in the National Park★
Sustainability Topic: Communities, Health & Equality <i>SEA Topics: population, human health</i>	
21. To ensure that the needs of all National Park residents are met for affordable housing & access to good quality services & facilities	Number and % of housing built per year that is for affordable housing needs★ Net annual change in primary & secondary services/facilities in classified settlements★
22. To promote sustainable transport, reduce traffic congestion & noise, and improve safety, health & air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car	Average 24hr traffic flow across main Dartmoor roads in August Incidents of congestion Increase in cycleways & footpaths
23. To safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing	% of DNP residents very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live★
24. To promote inclusiveness, equality and participation and take account of the needs of all sectors of the community in understanding and enjoying the special qualities of the National Park	Total number of volunteer days attended by unrepresented groups – young people (5-24); minority ethnic groups; people with limiting long-term illness or disability

- 2.7 The categories of significance used with the SA Frameworks are as set out in the key below:

Table 2.2: Significance Key

Categories of Significance		
	Meaning	Sustainability Effect
++	Major Positive	Plan element encouraged as would it resolve existing sustainability problem
+	Minor Positive	No sustainability constraints and plan element acceptable
0	Neutral	Neutral effect
?	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
-	Minor Negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
--	Major Negative	Problematical, improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive

Appraising the Dartmoor Management Plan

- 2.8 Each emerging element of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan was appraised against the SA Framework of Objectives using professional judgment supported by the baseline and wider Plan evidence base. The nature of the likely sustainability effects (including major/minor, positive/negative, duration (short, medium or long term), permanent/temporary, secondary¹³, cumulative¹⁴ and synergistic¹⁵) were described in the appraisal commentary, together with any assumptions or uncertainties. Where necessary, the SA made suggestions and recommendations to mitigate negative effects or promote opportunities for enhancement of positive or neutral effects.
- 2.9 The draft Vision and strategic objectives (*what are we trying to achieve?*) for the Plan were appraised using a compatibility analysis with the framework of SA Objectives and professional judgment.
- 2.10 The SA framework grouped the SA Objectives into sustainability topics in order to better consider inter-relationships and enhance the meaningfulness of the assessment of the strategic level Management Plan, as follows:
- Natural Beauty
 - Biodiversity & Wildlife

¹³ Any aspect of a plan that may have an impact (positive or negative), but that is not a direct result of the proposed plan.

¹⁴ Incremental effects resulting from a combination of two or more individual effects, or from an interaction between individual effects – which may lead to a synergistic effect (i.e. greater than the sum of individual effects), or any progressive effect likely to emerge over time.

¹⁵ These arise from the interaction of a number of impacts so that their combined effects are greater than the sum of their individual impacts.

- Historic & Built Environment; Cultural Heritage
- Resources
- Climate Change
- Countryside Access & Recreation
- Economy, Education & Employment
- Communities, Health & Equality

2.11 The appraisal under each topic considered the potential effects of the draft Themes of the plan against the objectives as well as the interrelationships between topics and cumulative effects of the plan as a whole (and as required by SEA Regulations). This also avoids duplication as many factors are inter-related.

Assessment of Alternatives in SA/SEA

- 2.12 The EU SEA Directive¹⁶ requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan and “reasonable alternatives” taking into account “the objectives and geographical scope” of the plan and the reasons for selecting alternatives should be outlined in the Report. The Directive does not specifically define the term “reasonable alternative”; however, UK SA/SEA guidance¹⁷ advises that reasonable alternatives are the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in the plan. They need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made.
- 2.13 At the earlier and higher levels of strategic planning, options assessment is proportionate and may have a criteria-based approach and/or expert judgment; the focus is on the key differences between possibilities for scale, distribution and quality of development. At this early stage, the options presented may constitute a range of potential measures (which could variously and/or collectively constitute a policy or aspiration) rather than a clear expression of quantity and quality. Each option is not mutually exclusive and elements of each may be further developed into a preferred option.
- 2.14 Doing nothing is not a reasonable alternative for the DNPMP as the authority is required to comply with the requirements of its statutory designation as a National Park. It may be noted that the DNPMP and the accompanying SA were being drafted at a time of national uncertainty with the Government's Environment Bill still progressing and the implications of the Landscapes Review (Glover Report, September 2019).
- 2.15 At the SA scoping stage, it had been considered that 3 strategic approaches for the Management Plan could be investigated through SA. However, as the draft Plan developed and after initial high-level assessments were drafted, it was determined that the 3 approaches (balanced; focus on nature recovery; focus on climate change) were not actually sufficiently distinct to enable meaningful comparative assessments. The Management Plan has developed with a strong recognition of the cross-cutting factors involved – the need for

¹⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

nature recovery at the landscape scale and the need to address the predicted effects of climate change. Therefore, it was determined that there were no suitable or meaningful approach options for the Plan to consider and no meaningful or reasonable alternatives for the SA to consider.

Consultation

- 2.16 The SEA Directive and Regulations require early and effective public consultation. The development of the Dartmoor Management Plan has been subject to wide consultation since early 2018. The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation during October-November 2019 for formal consultation with the SEA statutory bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England). This SA Report accompanies the draft Dartmoor Management Plan on public consultation. Any comments made on the draft Management Plan and the SA will be taken into consideration in developing the final Management Plan for adoption.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES & BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

- 3.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SAs of the Dartmoor Local Plan and the Management Plan Review, it is necessary and a requirement of SEA, to review and develop an understanding of the baseline characteristics and conditions of the plan area and the wider range of plans and programmes that are relevant to the plan. The SA Scoping Report (October 2017) for the Local Plan considered and reported baseline conditions for the plan area, as well as Plans and Programmes that may affect or be affected the development proposed in the Dartmoor Local Plan. Analysis of this information allowed the SA to identify the key issues and opportunities for sustainable development in the Dartmoor area and create sustainability objectives to address these key issues. The information was reviewed and updated for its relevance to the SA of the Management Plan. Full details can be found in the final Scoping Report (December 2019) and are summarised in this section.

Review of Plans and Programmes (PPs)

- 3.2 Plans, programmes and projects were considered to identify the key relevant objectives and sustainability/environmental considerations with likely implications for the plan preparation during scoping, and updated as relevant and as follows:

National:

- DCLG, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2018
- English National Parks and the Broads- UK Government Vision and Circular (2010)
- 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks (2016)
- Rural Development Programme for England (2015)
- Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2013)
- Environment Agency Flood & Coastal Erosion Management Strategy (2011, revised draft May 2019)
- The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020
- Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013)
- Infrastructure and Projects Authority, National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016 – 2021
- Natural Environment White Paper (2011, implementation update 2014)
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)
- Defra, Biodiversity 2020 - A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)
- Natural Capital Committee- Fourth state of Natural Capital Report (2017)

- Public Health England Strategic Plan, Better outcomes for 2020 (2016)-
- Air Pollution Strategy (2017)
- Defra Clean Air Strategy (2019)
- Defra A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)
- Landscapes Review - The Glover Report (September 2019)
- Environment Bill 2020 (draft October 2019, re-introduced January 2020)
- Agriculture Bill 2019-2020

Regional

- South West Water Resource Management Plan (2014)
- South West Water Drought Plan (2013)
- West Devon Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)
- South Devon Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- South West River Basin Management Plan (2015)
- Heart of the South West Strategic Economic Plan (2014)
- Devon & Torbay Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-2026
- Devon Council- A Strategy for Growth, 2013-2020
- Devon Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, 2016-2019
- Devon County Council Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)
- West Devon Green Infrastructure Framework (2015)
- South Hams Green Infrastructure Framework (2015)
- Teignbridge Green Space Strategy (2009)
- South Hams and West Devon Playing Pitch Strategy (2015)
- Mid Devon Open Space & Play Area Strategy (2014)
- Devon Minerals Plan (2017)
- Devon Waste Plan (2014)

Local:

- Dartmoor National Park Management Plan (2014-2019)
- Dartmoor National Park Local Plan Core Strategy (June 2008) including Minerals and Waste policies; Development Management and Delivery DPD (2013) and emerging draft Local Plan 2018-2036
- Dartmoor National Park Authority Business Plan (2017-2018)
- Living Dartmoor (2013)
- Dartmoor Forest Plan (2016-2026)
- Dartmoor Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study (2011)
- Recreation and Access Strategy for Dartmoor (2011-2017)
- Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (2015-2020)
- Buckland Monachorum Neighbourhood Plan (submitted 2019)

Other Development Plans:

- North Devon & Torridge Local Plan (Adopted Oct 2018)
- Cornwall Local Plan (Adopted 2016)
- Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan to 2034 (Adopted March 2019)
- Teignbridge Local Plan (Adopted 2014)
- Mid Devon Local Plan Review (submitted in March 2018 for examination with main hearings in February 2019)
- Torbay Local Plan (Adopted 2015)

- East Devon Local Plan (Adopted 2016)
- Exeter City Local Plan (Adopted 2012)
- Greater Exeter Strategic Plan to 2040 (draft GSEP anticipated for 2020 with publication version anticipated in 2021)

- 3.3 National Parks have specific planning policy at a national level. Within the NPPF, it is specified that '*great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks*'¹⁸. The NPPF also states that wildlife conservation and cultural heritage within National Parks are also important' and should be given great weight due to their importance to the National Parks. As far as is practicable, the maintenance of landbanks of non-energy minerals should be provided from outside National Parks (paragraph 205a). Furthermore, the government has recognised that National Parks are not appropriate locations for unrestricted housing growth, and therefore general housing targets are not provided for National Park Authorities¹⁹.
- 3.4 Plans and policies aiming to protect, enhance and manage biodiversity, landscape character, and the historic environment are all key for Dartmoor. Plans relating to the water environment are also key, as the many rivers and streams which flow from Dartmoor are an integral part of the environment for the National Park. Many of the DNPMP objectives will be delivered in part through development planning such that the DNPMP is closely linked with the DNPA Local Plan. The adjoining Local Plans are also relevant due to the development growth proposed that can bring pressures such as recreation and business/community links – which the DNPMP is seeking to respond to. Objectives relating to Green Infrastructure and recreation are very relevant, as Local Plans can address shortfalls – thus contributing to meeting the second purpose of the National Park to promote understanding and enjoyment of the National Park. Local Plans can also ensure development has sufficient access to promote healthier lifestyles.
- 3.5 The district authority areas surrounding the National Park all have Local Plans in various stages, and are also working together - the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan²⁰ (GSEP to the year 2040, East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon & Teignbridge, & Devon County Councils at early drafting stages); and the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan²¹ (to the year 2034, adopted March 2019). The Park is located wholly within Devon County, and is split between Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon Councils with a small part of Mid Devon Council.
- 3.6 As nearby Local Plans are prepared, DNPA is working with those Authorities through the Duty to Co-operate to agree how the needs arising from the National Park will be addressed, recognising the level of constraint and policy position of the National Park. Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter Councils are nearby with responsibility for significant growth areas that will have important

¹⁸ MHCLG (2018) National planning Policy Framework (paragraph 172)

¹⁹ DEFRA (2010) English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2020

²⁰ <https://www.gesp.org.uk/>

²¹ <https://plymswdevonplan.co.uk/news>

implications for the National Park. A Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report²² has been prepared by DNPA in 2017. Development growth outlined in the surrounding Local Plans will likely result in increased pressures on the National Park. The SA Scoping Report identified that growth in the surrounding areas is likely to result in a range of different pressures that will affect the National Park – recreation, light pollution, traffic/movement, noise & tranquillity, air quality, and landscape/visual amenity.

Summary Baseline Character & Conditions

- 3.7 **Landscape & Settlement Character:** The area was designated as a National Park in 1951 due to its natural landscape, wildlife and historical features²³. Partially bordering the National Park to the west is the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and to the south there is South Devon AONB, which at its nearest point is approximately 2km south of the National Park²⁴. The Dartmoor NCA is characterised by extensive upland moorland, overlaid with peat deposits and supports internationally important blanket bogs. The peat and bogs are important for carbon storage, and for absorbing and releasing large amounts of water. Deep-cut valleys steeped in woodland with rivers are a notable landscape feature, as are the skylines, ridges and distinct granite tors. A large amount of the National Park land is used for the grazing of cattle, sheep and ponies which has helped shape the NCA. Associated farmsteads, pastoral fields and hedgebanks are a key part of the landscape²⁵. The National Park is considered to have a high level of tranquillity, and dark night skies²⁶, although the area is not currently designated as a Dark Sky Reserve. The built environment of Dartmoor is largely limited to small settlements, individual farmsteads and individual dwellings, together with an extensive array of historical features. The vernacular design is a key part of the Dartmoor townscape and settlement characters vary between those on the High Moor and those on the periphery of the National Park.
- 3.8 **Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Green Infrastructure:** Within Dartmoor National Park there are three European designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC and South Hams SAC²⁷. The North Devon Biosphere Reserve encompasses most of North Devon and a small area in the north of the National Park. The reserve is designated due to the special landscape and wildlife areas, heritage assets and communities who value sustainability. There are also EU designated sites outside of the Park but within Devon. Some 28% of the Park is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)²⁸ and it contains locally designated biodiversity sites, which includes 232 County Wildlife Sites (CWS)²⁹.

²² DNPA (2017) Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report

²³ <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/>

²⁴ Magic Map (2017)

²⁵ Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Magic Map (2017)

²⁸ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

²⁹ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

- 3.9 Dartmoor contains a selection of Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) that identify areas for maintenance and potential expansion of Priority Habitat, as shown on the South West Nature Map³⁰; Key Wildlife Areas (KWA) have been identified. It is important to recognise that whilst there are a wide range of designations regarding biodiversity in the National Park, it cannot be assumed that these comprise all the significant biodiversity on Dartmoor. Dartmoor has an important role to play for Green Infrastructure (GI) of Devon and the South West as a whole. Due to the presence of a variety of habitats, open spaces and recreation areas, and several large rivers and many smaller streams, green and blue networks can be found across the National Park. Visitors, recreational use, and farming practices can all have detrimental effects on key habitats and wildlife.
- 3.10 **Historic Environment:** Dartmoor has a very rich variety of designated heritage assets, and the archaeological landscape of Dartmoor is extensive. Dartmoor has more Scheduled Monuments than any other National Park in England. Although there are thousands of designated heritage assets within the National Park, it should be noted that not all the archaeological and historic features on Dartmoor are designated. Many of these historical features are integral parts of the landscape and may have local significance to communities and individuals; also, many contribute significantly to the character of the places.
- 3.11 **Soils, Land & Minerals:** The granite on Dartmoor has been quarried for centuries and mining has also been a feature of Dartmoor landscape, with the resources of tin, copper, and lead. There are no working mines now but the small number of quarries (currently limited to 3 sites³¹) provide local employment. There are Mineral Safeguarded Areas (MSA), which are designated to prevent development from sterilising potentially economically viable mineral resources. The soils on Dartmoor are peat on the higher moors, and thin soils in the surrounding area. Most of the land is designated as Grade 5, least fertile, with some Grade 3 (sub-grade not known) on the edges of the National Park³². Due to the poor soil quality, horticulture, arable farming and dairy farming are constrained to small areas within the National Park³³. However, the soil resources of Dartmoor are still important, for non-intensive grazing and biodiversity and increasingly for carbon storage.
- 3.12 **Water – Resources, Quality & Flooding:** Dartmoor is considered to be a major water catchment in the south west, with a network of streams and mires on the high moor feeding into fast flowing rivers. Much of Devon including the city of Plymouth³⁴, has its water supplied from Dartmoor. The South West Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) predicts there will be a surplus of water in the supply zone up until 2040, and therefore no new infrastructure will be required for the WRMP period³⁵. As regards water quality and the

³⁰ <http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nmap.html>

³¹ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1416524/2019-09-09_Minerals_Waste_Topic_Paper_V3.pdf

³² Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

³³ <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/wildlife-and-heritage/heritage/farming>

³⁴ Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

³⁵ South West Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan

requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), Dartmoor is within the South West River Basin District, and the National Park is within 3 different Management Catchment Areas; North Devon, South Devon and Tamar³⁶. Most waterbodies in the Park are good – moderate ecological status, with only one failed. The chemical and ecological status of waterbodies on Dartmoor is mainly affected by pollution from agricultural runoff³⁷. It is assumed that sewage is collected and treated through rural sewage treatment works and localised septic tanks but no details have been found and this is identified as a potential information gap.

- 3.13 Areas of medium to high flood risk (Zones 2-3) are largely located in steep sided valleys. There are 2 Critical Drainage Areas (CDA)³⁸ within Dartmoor, one is located in Ashburton, and the other is part of the Tavistock CDA. There are also CDAs bordering the National Park in Okehampton to the north and at Ivybridge to the south. Settlements where people and property are at greatest risk are in the Local Centres of Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, and Horrabridge. Smaller settlements within the study area, such as South Zeal, Cornwood, Sticklepath, Walkhampton, Lustleigh and North Bovey are likely to have similar flooding issues³⁹. More sustainable flood risk management includes provision/maintenance of habitats and land use higher up the catchments thus helping to attenuate surfacewater run-off and flood risk lower down the catchment. There has been some progress in this respect on Dartmoor^{40 41} but the underlying geology and associated land use may limit further possibilities.
- 3.14 **Communities:** Dartmoor has a population of 34,000 residents who live within the National Park boundaries⁴². The population is considered to be stable, with no significant increase or decrease occurring since 2001. The Park has a higher old age dependency ratio (OAD) than the national average, which creates issues for Dartmoor⁴³. This includes providing adaptable suitable accommodation for elderly residents, an increase in pressure on local health services, and the accessibility issues for older residents which may require additional public transport services. Each settlement on Dartmoor has its unique features and identity, and therefore each settlement has its own set of issues that are important to that specific community. Common issues across communities include access to local services/facilities, employment in settlements and rural areas, public transport and traffic. The fewer employment opportunities has resulted in people out-commuting for employment, a lack of opportunity for young people and weaker economies for local settlements. Some settlements are split between the National Park boundary and other Local Plans of the surrounding district authorities, especially Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Cheriton Bishop & Yelverton. This will require careful cooperation to meet with the housing needs of different demographics.

³⁶ <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/8>

³⁷ Environment Agency Data Catchment Explorer

³⁸ <https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/planning-and-development/>

³⁹ Scott Wilson for DNPA (2010) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

⁴⁰ Dartmoor Mires Project

⁴¹ Environment Agency (2012) South Devon Catchment Flood Management Plan

⁴² Edge analytics for DNPA (2016) Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts

⁴³ Edge analytics for DNPA (2016) Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts

- 3.15 **Housing:** The area is characterised by the vacancy rate, which is higher than both the Devon and England average, and is attributed to the number of second homes and holiday lets within Dartmoor. Whilst house prices on Dartmoor are increasing and 11% higher than the national average, average Devon house prices have fallen by 3% since 2012⁴⁴. House prices in the National Park largely exceed average earnings. Young people, seasonal staff and part time workers, and other key workers are priced out of Dartmoor as they cannot afford accommodation. There may be special circumstances and some need for isolated new houses and the provision of succession farm dwellings on farmsteads. Enabling people to continue to farm whilst providing the highest status of protection to the landscape remains an issue for the review of the Local Plan and also for the DNPMP due to the need for sustainable farming communities to manage the land.
- 3.16 **Health & Equalities:** Dartmoor has a lower than average Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score, of 17.1 compared to the national average of 21.78⁴⁵. The average life expectancy for Dartmoor is 83.2 years. Some 20% of the population in the three relevant Health Authorities is obese; child poverty in Devon as a whole has fallen since 2013. Some 10% of households in Devon suffer from fuel poverty – and this partly attributed to the lower wage economy in some areas. Overall a number of key health statistics in Devon are below or in line with the national averages. Overall, around 49%⁴⁶ of Dartmoor National Park is designated as Access Land for the public, and therefore all residents and visitors have access to this land to use for recreational purposes. However, children's play spaces, allotments, amenity greenspace and outdoor sports facilities provision vary from settlement to settlement within the National Park⁴⁷.
- 3.17 **Economy & Employment:** Dartmoor has a population of 33,600 with 25,000 of working age. The size of the population has remained stable over the last decade⁴⁸, but as in other National Parks the population is ageing and has a much older population than the national average with issues for the future. Employment has been growing at around 2.8% per annum and the local economy is remaining resilient and benefitting from a diverse economic base. Many of the jobs in Dartmoor are in agriculture, forestry and fishing. The Economic Prospectus⁴⁹ indicates that 31% of employment is in farming, food and tourism. In 2015, over 2.3 million tourists visited the National Park, of which 2.05 million were day visitors and 263,000 were staying visitors (a 17% increase on 2009 indicating a growing trend). Visitor numbers on Dartmoor have remained fairly stable overall since 2003, rising from 2.3 million to 2.39 million in 2016.⁵⁰ The National Park is seen as a beneficiary for businesses located within its boundaries. There is net out commuting for work from Dartmoor for about 23% of workers. A key factor for increasing home working is broadband speed

⁴⁴ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

⁴⁵ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

⁴⁶ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

⁴⁷ DNPA (2011) Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study

⁴⁸ ONS (2013) 2011 Census: Characteristics of National Parks

⁴⁹ Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks – Economic Prospectus 2015

⁵⁰ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1416138/2018-11-22_Economy_Topic_Paper_V1.pdf

- access to superfast broadband in the National Park has improved from 50% of dwellings in 2015 to 79% (provisional) in 2017⁵¹.

- 3.18 **Transport & Movement; Air Quality:** Dartmoor is bordered to the north by the A30, to the south by the A38 and to the west by the A386. The A30 and A38 to the east provide access to the M5 at Exeter. East to west are the B3212 and B3357 with smaller roads providing access to settlements and dwellings across the moor. The main A roads such as the A386 do suffer from congestion as commuters travel to destinations such as Plymouth and Exeter. The main mode of transport for locals is private vehicles such as cars and vans⁵², with public transport being a much less used form of transport in rural areas. There is the potential for development on the outskirts of Dartmoor to result in an increase in traffic on the local road network, due to an increase in traffic as residents use the moors for recreational purposes.
- 3.19 An increase in residents working from home across Dartmoor could result in a decrease in vehicles on the roads, and a decrease in traffic. However, this is largely reliable on houses having connection to fast internet speeds for remote working. The Public Rights of Way Network (PRoW) on Dartmoor is extensive, with around 733km of footpaths, bridleways and byways located across the National Park. 79% of this is considered to be 'easy to use' (relating to obstruction, interference and inconvenience), which is a decrease of 16% since 2010/11.⁵³ The National Park also contains National Cycle Routes. Route 27, known as the Devon Coast to Coast, a 100-mile route.
- 3.20 There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)⁵⁴ within Dartmoor, however there are 2 AQMAs located in the surrounding area, including a small AQMA in Ivybridge and a small AQMA in Dean Prior.
- 3.21 **Energy & Climate Change:** Within the National Park transport accounts for 45% of all energy consumption, 34% is for domestic purposes and 20% for business⁵⁵. Transport is the highest source of energy consumption due to the rural nature of the area. There is the potential to use different renewable energy sources within the National Park, such as wind power, solar power and hydro power. However, renewable energy developments can have negative effects on the special qualities of the National Park and large-scale schemes are considered to be major development and are therefore not considered to be appropriate within the National Park. The Devon County Council report on climate change indicates that Dartmoor is responsible for about 5% of all emissions in Devon of which half are from transport (the highest fraction observed within a geographical area). A 18% decrease in overall emissions between 2005 and 2015 is also suggested⁵⁶. Overall the climate of Dartmoor is changing, becoming warmer and wetter with a longer growing season. The changes occurring as a result of climate change will have an impact on the

⁵¹ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

⁵² Office for National Statistics (2017) 2011 census data

⁵³ DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

⁵⁴ <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps>

⁵⁵ DNPA (2014) Dartmoor National Park Management Plan

⁵⁶ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1187808/DCC-climate-change-review-report-v5.pdf

agricultural industry. The change in climate is also likely to affect the ecology of the National Park⁵⁷.

- 3.22 **Waste:** In 2014, almost 50% of waste within Dartmoor was sent to reuse, recycling or compost, which is higher than the national average⁵⁸. However, improvements could be made to increase recycling rates, and to encourage less waste. During the summer months, rubbish at beauty spots has been known to become an issue as a result of increased visitor numbers. Waste management facilities should avoid National Parks and AONBs, and within these areas smaller proposals to meet local needs may be appropriate. Within the National Park these will likely be limited to sorting facilities, compost making areas, and small community operations. The level of waste currently generated in Dartmoor is minimal when considered in the wider county context⁵⁹. This is due to the relatively small population and low number of businesses present within the Park. There are limited existing waste management operations within Dartmoor National Park and those which are operating are generally small in scale. Furthermore, in the development of the Devon Waste Plan, it was agreed between the authorities that waste generated in the National Park would be accommodated in Devon. As such, the Devon Waste Plan makes appropriate policy provision for sufficient waste facilities to be delivered.

Likely Evolution of Baseline without the Management Plan

- 3.23 Without a Management Plan, changes in land use and land management have the potential to result in negative effects on the landscape characteristics and biodiversity/geodiversity assets of Dartmoor. The Plan can help ensure that decision-making addresses the key challenges for dealing with the predicted effects of climate change and the anticipated increases in visitor numbers. Without the Plan, designated heritage assets would still be protected through national and local policy; however, undesignated heritage assets, heritage settings and potential archaeology could be more vulnerable to the impacts of land management change.
- 3.24 Without the Management Plan and the Local Plan, there is likely to be a less coordinated approach to the delivery of new employment, housing and infrastructure. New development is less likely to be delivered in areas where it is needed most, which could exacerbate inequalities, and problems with housing affordability throughout the Plan area. It could adversely affect the economic viability and vitality of towns and settlements and thus not effectively meet the needs of the Park's communities.
- 3.25 The Management Plan and the Local Plan can be planned to complement each other to promote accessibility and increase opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles. Without the Plans, there would be an increased

⁵⁷ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1416520/2019-09_Natural_Environment_Topic_Paper_V3.pdf

⁵⁸ DNPA (2014) Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report

⁵⁹ https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1416524/2019-09-Minerals_Waste_Topic_Paper_V3.pdf

likelihood of negative effects on Green Infrastructure networks (for example, through loss or fragmentation of undesignated areas) and less possibilities to support landscape-scale nature recovery and resilience to climate change effects in the most appropriate places.

- 3.26 The Plans can strategically plan for development and tourist/recreational activities in areas where the existing transport networks can accommodate development and in locations that reduce the need to travel and/or better promote sustainable transport – this will also act against air pollution and congestion issues.

Key Sustainability Issues, Problems & Opportunities

- Management changes have the potential for an unacceptable effect on the natural beauty, landscape & settlement characters.
- Deterioration of the Valued Attributes of key Landscape Character Types that may be at risk should be prevented, such as loss of remoteness, tranquillity & openness with long views to high moorlands, loss of the buffer between the wider NP & development outside, loss of traditional field patterns, loss of the strong historic character, loss of strong sense of place in the river valleys
- Farming practices and forestry activities should not result in landscape deterioration through new access ways such as tracks, new buildings, and changes in activities
- Opportunities should be explored for enhancement, for example by changing from conifer to broadleaved species primarily to enhance landscape character and wildlife; also providing more resilience to climate change in the longer term
- The impact of light pollution from peripheral towns/cities and new development in the NP that threatens the dark night skies of Dartmoor, should be minimised – this is primarily an issue for the new Local Plan.
- New infrastructure relating to tourism, including signage can damage landscape character, and Infrastructure such as telephone masts & renewable energy installations, could affect the special characteristics of the landscape.
- National requirements for National Parks to take a lead on natural beauty and improving natural capital – for example, seeking opportunities for nature recovery and improving linkages considering the wider landscape scale for both designated and local landscapes and including possibilities in the farmed areas through ELMS⁶⁰.
- Dartmoor has internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity that cover a large area of the National Park, most of which are in good condition.
- Managing access so that designated sites, priority habitat and priority species & the wider nature are not negatively affected by recreational activities.
- Encouraging sustainable farming practices, and engaging farmers to ensure agricultural methods & practices do not result in negative

⁶⁰ For example, see <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Early-review-of-the-new-farming-programme-Summary.pdf>

effects on biodiversity – seeking to progress a nature recovery approach appropriate with changes in farming subsidies & emerging funding for “public goods & services” – ecosystems services and including possibilities in the farmed areas through ELMS⁶¹.

- Climate change will threaten Dartmoor's varied habitats and wide range of species; however, nature recovery may allow species to move through the landscape and accepts that species will change.
- Awareness of currently undesignated areas of biodiversity which may have the potential for designation, and which are still important for local biodiversity and require protecting.
- Within the National Park there is a range of historical and archaeological features, both designated and undesignated, most of which are in good condition; however, undesignated assets are more difficult to protect.
- Protecting historic farmsteads and farm buildings and promoting the reuse of derelict or abandoned buildings without adverse effects on the character and cultural heritage of the National Park.
- Increasing knowledge and identifying undesignated local archaeological and historical features.
- How to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the National Park and the heritage assets (significance as well as its setting and both designated and undesignated, including historic landscapes) within, whilst seeking to meet the emerging requirements for nature recovery and climate change resilience.
- The National Park area does not include any best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1-3a) but it is important that soil resources are not degraded or lost - this is a national issue for soils and their carbon storage capacity and their role in sustainable water management.
- Address path erosion and soil compaction.
- Contributing to water quality improvement throughout the National Park so that at least 60% of water bodies and monitored water length meet good status by 2021 - as required by the Water Framework Regulations through the Environment Agency.
- Investigating opportunities to manage flood risk in upper catchments through changed habitats and land use practices.
- An ageing population which will result in increased pressure on local health facilities, and a higher old age dependency ratio (this is also a national issue).
- The decline of some rural settlements due to limited opportunities for appropriate full-time employment.
- Highlighted differences in IMD scores between different LSOAs, with some LSOAs more deprived than others.
- Promoting access and use of the National Park for different ethnic groups – (also a national issue).
- Ensuring that disabled people can still access and use the National Park.
- Higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.
- Aging population and therefore a decreasing proportion of those who are economically active – (also national issue).

⁶¹ For example, see <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Early-review-of-the-new-farming-programme-Summary.pdf>

- Net out-commuting for work, which may increase as peripheral towns and cities grow.
- Relatively low wages and high house prices which may deter/prohibit young workers living in the National Park.
- Almost half of businesses are small or micro, and there is a high level of self-employment.
- Existing employment land and business units are poor to medium quality and small scale, with limited appetite for investment or speculative builds.
- Relatively high employment in agriculture, but this is forecast to fall while other sectors (construction, businesses services, accommodation and food) are forecast to grow.
- 20-30% of employment is in tourism, with large-scale expenditure in the local economy by tourists.
- Tourism is dominated by day visitors, although the number of staying visitors is growing suggesting an opportunity to expand and realise greater benefits.
- Much of the economy depends on the quality of the natural and built environment, and overall natural capital, through encouraging tourism, visitors, and location of businesses.
- High dependence on private vehicle use with poor and infrequent public transport services – a common feature in rural Devon
- Risk of congesting road network in vicinity of new major developments on outskirts of National Park area; also increased vehicle access on small rural lanes conflicting with local communities & need to travel.
- Reduce levels of atmospheric pollution, specifically NO₂ emissions, and their adverse effects on habitats.
- The availability of parking is an identified issue in several settlements in the National Park – with potential adverse effects for accessibility to services and facilities.
- Supporting working from home in rural communities to help ease congestion.
- Investing in the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network to address declining rate of PRoW that is categorised as in 'easy to use' condition.
- Promote sustainable transport in the National Park, improving existing public transport & supporting cycling and walking routes – with potential for secondary positive effects on health and well-being.
- Conflicts between users – for example, horse riders & mountain biking
- Reducing energy consumption, with a focus on transport which accounts for almost 50% of the National Park's energy consumption.
- Promoting sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Mitigating against Climate Change effects, including flood risk and damage to local habitats and wildlife.
- Adapting to the effects of Climate Change through appropriate design, appropriate siting of development, and considering the availability of water resources.

4.0 SA OF THE DRAFT DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2045

Strategic Vision & Objectives

- 4.1 The draft Management Plan is founded on a concise, bold and ambitious Vision to 2045 that has been crafted through workshops and wide consultation, as follows:

Dartmoor National Park is an extraordinary landscape: shaped by nature and humans over time; steeped in history but always changing; one of Britain's finest. It has the power to inspire and enrich lives.

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.

It will be:

- **Alive with nature:** Networks of healthy habitats that are home to many different plants, insects and animals create a more resilient natural environment connected within and across the boundary of the National Park. Some areas will feel wilder as nature is allowed to take its course.
- **Celebrated and enhanced:** Dartmoor's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage is better understood, valued and looked after.
- **A warm welcome for all:** Enriching people's lives, reaching out to people from all backgrounds, connecting them with this special place. Transformative experiences will inspire people to care for the National Park.
- **A great place to live and work:** People of all ages can enjoy living and working in low carbon, flourishing communities that are connected physically and digitally. Farming and forestry businesses play a key role in delivering a high quality environment and local products alongside a range of other public benefits.
- **Carbon neutral:** Dartmoor's peatlands, soils and woodlands will store significantly more carbon. Responding to climate change will be embedded in our way of life, making the best use of natural resources and reducing carbon emissions.

Everyone will come together to deliver this Vision for Dartmoor; make choices that balance the needs of people and place; embrace positive change; and inspire the next generation to help shape it's future.

- 4.2 The draft Management Plan recognises that two issues are over-arching and cross-cutting – Climate Change and the Next Generation – such that these overall objectives are presented separately and their aspirational intentions are integrated throughout each section of the Plan (Themes & Principles for Key Challenges) linking to the relevant aspects of the Local Plan which is an important delivery mechanism.
- 4.3 The DNPA declared a climate and ecological emergency in June 2019, with a commitment for the Authority to be carbon neutral by 2025. The draft Management Plan acknowledges that setting a target for the National Park is more difficult but explains that the Authority is looking at how the National Park can move towards carbon neutrality as soon as possible.
- 4.4 The DNPA has supported a Next Generation group and their Manifesto accompanies the draft Management Plan on consultation. It includes their own Vision for Dartmoor, as follows:

The National Park will be a place that the next generation can thrive in: a place to call home, a place to work, a place to explore and a place to protect and understand. The next generation will be supported on Dartmoor through reliable infrastructure and services, viable jobs and diverse career opportunities. Communities will thrive, traditions will be alive and there will be widespread recognition of the rural skills on offer.

There will also be a future for the environment and heritage of Dartmoor, it will be protected, enhanced and understood by all. Everyone will have the opportunity to visit and experience Dartmoor and it will remain one of Britain's breathing spaces.

- 4.5 The objectives for the Management Plan are organised according to the Themes, as follows:
- Nature recovery at a landscape scale is underpinned by the restoration of natural processes. Habitats are protected, restored, maintained and connected; supported by land management systems that have the delivery of public goods at the heart.
 - The diversity, abundance and distribution of biodiversity on Dartmoor will adapt and evolve in response to climate change and the recovery of natural processes. There is acceptance of change, and that in future Dartmoor's landscape and wildlife may be different, with some areas becoming wilder as nature is allowed to take its course.
 - Dartmoor's natural beauty and valued landscape character will be maintained and enhanced.
 - Dartmoor's cultural heritage is protected and in good condition.
 - Dartmoor's cultural heritage is better understood. Local communities and visitors value, understand and are engaged with Dartmoor's rich cultural history which contributes to the sense of place.

- High environment, low carbon farming and forestry systems that are economically viable and deliver a range of public benefits, healthy food, high quality fibre and other products.
- We need to secure a greater understanding and support amongst the public, policy makers and local communities of the value of high environment, low carbon farming and forestry systems. Better understanding and appreciation will lead to lower levels of anti-social behavior such as speeding, dog worrying, illegal camping, and so on.
- Value from land-based products (including beef and sheep production) is added and retained in the local economy through local supply chains, processing infrastructure and well-known point-of-sale brands and quality assurance. New products are developed to support a sustainable future for local businesses.
- People of all ages and backgrounds are able to access Dartmoor and feel welcome. Every visitor has positive and immersive experiences resulting in a long lasting connection and care for the place and its communities.
- Increasing visitor numbers are positively and sustainably managed so that people can still enjoy the National Park through a variety of activities but nature is given space to thrive and local businesses and communities benefit. Negative impacts such as anti-social behaviour and damage to the fabric of the National Park are reduced.
- Dartmoor's communities are thriving and engaged in caring for the National Park. Sustainable development is supported in the right places, with climate change mitigation and adaptation at its heart, helping market towns, villages and the wider rural community thrive in a way which protects the environment, and leads by example. Dartmoor's communities have ready access to quality housing, and the services facilities they need, and make sustainable travel choices. New development in the National Park is of the highest quality, efficient, and conserves and enhances natural and heritage assets.
- Dartmoor's diverse economy fosters traditional sectors; supports businesses that meet the needs of local communities; and encourages the growth of productive, innovative and resilient enterprise. Dartmoor is valued nationally for its outstanding natural and cultural capital which acts as a catalyst for inward investment and prosperity across the region, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. People who live in the National Park have the opportunity to work locally, and Dartmoor's businesses have access to a skilled workforce.

4.6 The strategic objectives grouped by Theme in the Management Plan were subject to compatibility analysis with the SA objectives, as follows:

Table 4.1: Compatibility of Strategic Objectives

SA Objectives	Management Plan Objectives				
	Nature Recovery & Natural Beauty	Cultural Heritage Good Condition & Understood	High Env, Low Carbon Farming & Forestry	All Ages & Backgrounds More Visitors	Thriving & Engaged Communities
1. To conserve & enhance the special qualities and natural beauty	+	+	+	+?	+
2. To conserve & enhance Dartmoor's special boundary features, mosaic farmland	+?	+	+	+?	+
3. To protect & enhance sites of special geology, landscape scale geology	+?	+	+	+?	+
4. To preserve the wild, remote & tranquil characteristics	+	+	+	+?	+
5. To recover and enhance natural and semi natural woodlands	+	+?	+	+	+
6. To recover and enhance Dartmoor's moorland areas	+	+?	+	+	+
7. To recover and enhance Dartmoor's wetlands	+	+?	+	+	+
8. To recover & enhance habitats & networks for net gain with landscape-scale	+	+?	+	+?	+
9. To conserve & enhance the historic environment & its settings	?	+	+	+?	+
10. To raise the quality of design and construction	0	0	0	+	+
11. To support cultural heritage including local traditions	+	+	+	+	+
12. To protect and improve air quality	+	+	+	+?	+
13. To promote efficient water use and improve water quality	+	0	+	0	+
14. To protect & conserve soil, land, minerals, reduce soil erosion	+	+	+	0?	+
15. To minimise Dartmoor's contribution to climate change	+	0	+	0?	+
16. To reduce the risk of flooding & manage flood risk more sustainably	+	0?	+	0	+
17. To promote understanding & enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities	0	+	0	+	+
18. To improve access to Dartmoor's open countryside	0	0	0	+	+
19. To promote and support a sustainable economy, particularly key business sectors	0	0	+	+	+
20. To enable all residents to share in growing prosperity	0	0	0	+	+
21. To ensure that the needs of all residents are met for affordable housing & access	0	0	0	0	+

22. To promote sustainable transport & improve safety, health & air quality	0	0	0	?	+
23. To safeguard & improve community health, safety and wellbeing	0	+	+	+?	+
24. To promote inclusiveness, equality & participation	0	0	0	+	+

Key:

+	Compatible
-	Not compatible
0	Neutral or not applicable
?	Uncertain

- 4.7 The analysis found that overall the strategic objectives of the Plan were compatible with the sustainability objectives in the SA Framework. Some Plan objectives were neutral or not directly applicable to the SA objectives and there was some uncertainty of the precise positive effects likely for some; however, there was no incompatibility identified for any of the strategic objectives of the Plan and the SA Framework.

Themes & Principles

- 4.8 The aspirational intentions for each Theme within the draft Management Plan were assessed using the SA Framework of objectives grouped by sustainability topic, the baseline information and professional judgment to consider the likely significant effects. The grouping of SA objectives by sustainability topic seeks to avoid duplication and to more clearly consider the inter-relationships between topics and any cumulative effects.

Natural Beauty

SEA Directive Topics: Landscape, flora, fauna, biodiversity

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 1: To conserve & enhance the special qualities and natural beauty of the National Park
- SA Objective 2: To conserve & enhance Dartmoor's special boundary features and mosaic farmland
- SA Objective 3: To protect and enhance sites of special geological interest and protect the landscape scale geology of Dartmoor
- SA Objective 4: To preserve the wild, remote & tranquil characteristics of Dartmoor, including minimising light and noise pollution

- 4.9
- 4.10 The aspirations for the Theme of Nature & Natural Beauty will all have major positive effects for SA objectives on natural beauty and these will be synergistic and cumulative in the longer term.
- 4.11 The intentions for the Theme of Better for Cultural Heritage will have positive and neutral effects on natural beauty. The intentions to enhance the historic built environment, increase understanding, promote sense of community and

place, and ensure that cultural heritage is a key focus of the new ELMS will have positive effects that could be synergistic.

- 4.12 The intentions for the Theme Better for Farming & Forestry have been developed to ensure that the natural beauty of Dartmoor is maintained and enhanced through the landscape scale changes that are needed to ensure resilience to the predicted effects of climate change.
- 4.13 Many of the intentions for the Theme Better for People are likely to have positive effects for SA objectives on natural beauty through improvements to understanding and managing recreational and visitor needs and access. Trialling innovative approaches at peak visitor times indicates potential positive effects but uncertainty at this stage until the studies are completed. Similarly, addressing anti-social behaviour and developing green transport should benefit natural beauty objectives – but with some uncertainty for the precise significance at this stage.
- 4.14 The draft Plan recognises the potential conflicts between aspirations for landscape scale, nature recovery, and landscape character. The Plan explains that landscapes are dynamic and the result of management or interactions with people – encapsulated within the concept of natural beauty and part of the statutory purposes of the National Park. The Principles applied to this Key Challenge include that at a Dartmoor scale, an overall balance should be achieved between natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage, thus providing mitigation measures for potential negative effects.
- 4.15 The trend for Dartmoor to attract more visitors is predicted to continue, particularly with the large number of houses being built in surrounding areas. The draft Plan recognises that this is another Key Challenge, although it is noted that views are conflicted between those who welcome increasing numbers and those who are concerned about negative impacts on local communities, loss of tranquillity, path erosion, and tensions between different users. The draft Plan has sought to accommodate these conflicting opinions but acknowledges that the increasing numbers of visitors could adversely affect environmental capacities. The Principles suggest some mitigation measures through seeking to better develop sustainable transport, targeted communication, and increased understanding.
- 4.16 A key mitigation measure is the Principle to proactively manage visitor activity through strategic zoning. This will be informed through the intention to better understand the needs of different users, the priority areas for nature recovery, and the development of the ELMS. It is appreciated that this draft Plan is being prepared at a time of Government and policy change with the uncertainties of Brexit, the proposals in the Landscapes Review, and the uncertainties of future funding for the National Parks. The Key Challenges also consider the potential negative effects or conflicts between objectives associated with new infrastructure (communications & energy) and military training. Principles provide mitigation measures for potential negative effects and that align with the purposes and duty for the National Park.

SA Suggestion:

- The Principle to proactively manage visitor activity through strategic zoning is further investigated to inform the next round of management plan review when there may be some further evidence arising from the new housing developments and increased recreational use of the National Park

4.17 The intentions for the Theme Better for Communities & Business are likely to have a mix of neutral or positive effects. Sustaining the Park as a tranquil place and with Dark Night Skies status will have positive effects. Also, supporting the Next Generation and helping communities make good choices about the resources they use will have some positive effects but with some uncertainty about precise significance at this stage. Promoting innovation and depth in the tourism sector should include safeguarding of the natural beauty with the potential for enhancements and positive effects – some uncertainty at this stage.

4.18 Enabling high quality digital connectivity could have negative effects on SA objectives for natural beauty. However, the possible negative effects of community infrastructure have been understood in the Plan and recognised as a Key Challenge. Mitigation measures include strong Policies in the Local Plan and development management such that neutral effects indicated but with some uncertainty at this stage until project level studies completed.

4.19

Biodiversity & Wildlife

SEA Directive Topics: Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Health, Landscape

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 5: To recover and enhance natural and semi natural woodlands in the National Park
- SA Objective 6: To recover and enhance Dartmoor's moorland areas
- SA Objective 7: To recover and enhance Dartmoor's wetlands
- SA Objective 8: To recover and enhance habitats, and biodiversity networks for net gain and with a landscape-scale approach for nature recovery

4.20 The aspirations for the Theme of Nature & Natural Beauty will all have major positive effects for SA objectives on natural biodiversity and these will be synergistic and cumulative in the longer term. The Theme recognises the particular contributions made by different characteristics – wooded areas, open moorland, and historic field systems – and makes clear the intentions for each aspect. The intention to promote naturally functioning soils, hydrology and ecosystems will have strong positive effects on biodiversity, particularly in the longer term as the landscape scale approach is implemented.

4.21 The potential for negative effects through new development is recognised and mitigation measures are applied through the Local Plan for delivery of a net gain in biodiversity and enhancement of distinctive landscape character.

The strong Policies and the site allocations in the emerging Local Plan will ensure that these measures are actually implemented with positive effects.

- 4.22 The intentions for the Theme of Cultural Heritage are likely to have neutral effects for SA objectives on biodiversity. The draft Management Plan recognises the potential conflict between Nature Recovery schemes and archaeology as a Key Challenge, and the Principles provide clear guidance for how decision-making will be informed. This is discussed further in the following section on cultural heritage.
- 4.23 The intentions for the Theme for Better Farming & Forestry are likely to have minor positive effects for biodiversity and wildlife through provision of advice and support, maintaining the moorlands, and promoting greater understanding for high environment low carbon farming. The key aspiration will be to develop the locally tailored Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMSs) to complement the natural systems. Positive effects could increase to major significance depending upon how well ELMS delivers. The SA found uncertainty of effects for this intention, particularly for the moorland farming, until further information is identified.
- 4.24 The draft Plan has recognised potentially conflicting effects for grazing, wildlife and archaeology, and swaling (planned & controlled burning) in the Key Challenge A Grazed Moorland. The Principles provide a number of mitigation measures that should guide the development of the new ELMSs and contribute towards ensuring that there are no significant negative effects.
- 4.25 The aspirations for the Theme of Better for People are overall neutral for SA objectives on biodiversity. Potential for negative effects were indicated for developing cycling, horse-riding improvements and the Green Transport Strategy – these are likely to be mitigated through other intentions and Policies in the new Local Plan but some uncertainty of precise significance until further studies are progressed.
- 4.26 The Key Challenge associated with more visitors has previously been discussed in this report with regard to effects on natural beauty; increasing numbers of visitors could also have negative effects on biodiversity such as disturbance through noise and light and damage to soils/habitats through path erosion. A key mitigation measure is the Principle to proactively manage visitor activity through strategic zoning.
- 4.27 The intentions in the Theme of Better for Communities & Business are likely to mostly have neutral effects. Positive effects for wildlife are indicated through the intentions to sustain tranquillity and dark night skies and support the Next Generation (who will be essential to live and work in the Park).
- 4.28 The Key Challenges associated with more trees and existing conifer plantations has been recognised by the draft Plan. Principles provide mitigation measures that will help ensure no significant negative effects on SA objectives for biodiversity and this matter is discussed further later in the section of climate change.

4.29

Historic & Built Environment; Cultural Heritage

SEA Directive Topics: Cultural Heritage, *architectural & archaeological heritage, landscape*

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 9: To conserve, and enhance the historic environment of sites, areas, buildings & landmarks of archaeological, historic, cultural and/or architectural interest and their settings
- SA Objective 10: To enhance the attractiveness and local distinctiveness of the built environment by raising the quality of design and construction
- SA Objective 11: to support cultural heritage including local traditions, and improve access and understanding of local heritage

- 4.30 The intentions for naturally functioning systems – air, water, soils, ecosystems – are not directly applicable to SA objectives for the historic environment and neutral or insignificant effects indicated. Good air quality will protect historic features and their settings – but the extant air quality is good, although there are certain areas with poorer air quality associated with road traffic emissions. The restoration of naturally functioning hydrological systems could adversely affect certain archaeological and other historic features through submersion. However, mitigation measures are available through other Plan intentions, including the commitment to develop a process for assessing strategic priorities, improving the understanding of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource, and community engagement; a strong measure will be the commitment to ensure that cultural heritage is a key focus on the new Environmental Land Management Systems (EMLs).
- 4.31 The draft Management Plan recognises the potential conflict between Nature Recovery schemes and archaeology as a Key Challenge, and the Principles provide clear guidance for how decision-making will be informed. The draft Plan indicates examples such as there may be places where for nature recovery reasons vegetation, including trees, is allowed to grow that could impact on the visibility of heritage assets. The Principles set out an approach to decision-making that provides mitigation measures to ensure that there will be no major significant adverse effects on the historic environment – the overall balance between natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage will recognise Dartmoor's international importance for archaeology. The focus on the defined Premier Archaeological Landscapes will be to conserve and enhance archaeology.
- 4.32 In nature recovery areas that are to be defined, the primary focus will be on nature. Any potential conflicts will be assessed, and possible mitigation measures identified; where conflicts cannot be avoided, records will be made if there is the potential for the asset to be lost or changed. Thus, the Principles apply the mitigation hierarchy by avoiding possible negative effects on the most important archaeology assets and provide measures to record where there is the potential for loss or change. Overall, likely neutral effects due to the mitigation measures indicated but some uncertainty until project level studies undertaken.

- 4.33 There are likely to be major positive effects for SA objectives on cultural heritage and the historic environment as the draft Plan recognises that at a Dartmoor scale, cultural heritage is as significant as natural beauty and wildlife – and it is these 3 factors that must be balanced overall to continue to deliver the purposes and duty for the National Park. A key intention of the new Plan is that cultural heritage should be a key focus of the new EMLs – recognising the importance of cultural heritage as public goods. This and the intentions to increase understanding and engagement in cultural heritage will benefit all people. Overall, such positive effects are likely to be synergistic and cumulative in the longer term.
- 4.34 Most of the intentions for better farming and forestry are likely to have neutral effects for SA objectives on cultural heritage. The Principles for the key challenges for any conflicts arising between nature recovery and cultural heritage will provide mitigation measures but some minor uncertainty for landscape scale farming and forestry until further detailed studies. A key aspect is the intention to develop locally tailored EMLs to complement the natural systems; with the commitment to make cultural heritage a focus for these schemes indicates likely minor positive effects overall.
- 4.35 The intention to better understand the needs of different users and should result in positive effects for those that particularly value cultural heritage and the historic environment. Most intentions for Better for People are associated on recreational use and visitors such that most are likely to have neutral effects on the SA topic. There is a risk that historic assets and their settings could be adversely affected by the aspiration to develop an ambitious Green Transport Strategy, but other intentions and Policies in the Local Plan will contribute to mitigation measures – so some uncertainty of neutral effects until further studies completed.
- 4.36 Most intentions in the draft Plan will have neutral effects on the SA objectives; however, supporting Next Generation and communities will contribute to increasing understanding and support for cultural heritage and the historic environment with positive effects – some uncertainty of precise significance at this stage. The intention to encourage Dartmoor's special qualities through culture and arts, and promoting innovation and depth in the tourist sector, should promote positive effects on the SA topic.
- 4.37 The draft Management Plan recognises the potential conflict between Nature Recovery schemes – such as involving natural flood functioning - and archaeology as a Key Challenge, and the Principles provide clear guidance for how decision-making will be informed. The draft Plan indicates examples such as for natural flood management purposes changes to allow some streams to meander where they have been straightened by tin streaming. The Principles set out an approach to decision-making that provides mitigation measures to ensure that there will be no major significant adverse effects on the historic environment. Overall, neutral effects but some uncertainty until project level studies undertaken.

4.38

Resources: Air, Water, Soil, Land & Minerals

SEA Directive Topics: *air, water, soil, biodiversity, material assets, human health*

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 12: To protect and improve air quality
- SA Objective 13: To promote efficient water use and improve water quality
- SA Objective 14: To protect & conserve soil, land & minerals, reduce soil erosion and protect soil quality

- 4.39 The intentions for the Theme Better for Nature & Natural Beauty will all have positive effects for SA objectives to improve air, water, and soil/land; several of these are likely to have major positive effects that will be cumulative in the longer term. Neutral effects indicated for the Cultural Heritage Theme and SA objectives on resources, although it is recognised that improvements in air quality will better limit adverse effects on heritage assets and their settings (although the air quality in the Park is good).
- 4.40 The intentions for the Theme on Better for Farming & Forestry are likely to have some positive effects through the development of the ELMSs that complement natural systems and the support for high environment/low carbon farming. Some uncertainty of precise significance at this stage until further studies are progressed.
- 4.41 The intentions for the Theme Better for People is mostly likely to have neutral effects on these SA objectives. Innovative approaches for peak visitor times and the development of an ambitious Green Transport Strategy could have positive effects on resources by reducing the loadings on environmental capacities – some uncertainty of significance of effects at this stage.
- 4.42 Most of the intentions for the Theme Better for Communities & Business are likely to have neutral effects on SA objectives for resources. However, major positive effects are indicated for the clear intention to help communities make choices about how they use resources. This will be supported by the intention to develop Natural Capital⁶² markets and promote local food with support for the Next Generation (essential to maintain living and working in the Park) with further positive effects.

4.43

Climate Change

SEA Directive Topics: *climate change, climatic factors, air, flood risk, water, human health*

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 15: To minimise Dartmoor's contribution to climate change including through carbon storage & sequestration, energy efficiency, and renewable energy technologies
- SA Objective 16: To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources and manage flood risk more sustainably

⁶² For example, please see <https://naturalcapitalforum.com/about/> and <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5175774414372864>

- 4.44 The importance of adapting to and mitigating for the predicted effects of climate change is fundamental to the draft Management Plan and Climate Change is at the heart of the new Plan, recognising that climate change intentions and the Theme are cross-cutting and integrated throughout the other Themes of the Plan. Therefore, major positive effects indicated that will be synergistic and cumulative in the longer-term. The draft Plan clearly explains that this is our greatest long-term challenge – and the overarching aspiration is implicit in the draft Vision that includes:

Carbon storage capacity will be increased through soils and woodland, and greenhouse gas emissions reduced significantly through concerted and collaborative effort.

- 4.45 Overall, the intentions for climate change will have positive effects; the specific intentions for many of the Themes were found to be neutral or not directly applicable. However, clearly the overall commitment of the Plan towards addressing climate change provides for developing resilience and managing change – that will have positive effects for natural beauty, wildlife and people.
- 4.46 The draft Plan has recognised the potential conflicts for Landscape Management & Nature Recovery with other objectives, such as for archaeology and landscape character – and this has been discussed previously in this SA report. The draft Plan explains the challenges associated with the wish for more trees to respond to the climate emergency and the potential conflicts with other objectives such as for landscape character, cultural heritage, and the local economy with farming and forestry (especially issues with conifer plantations). The Plan includes Principles for More Trees & Existing Conifer Plantations that will guide decision-making and the progression of plans and strategies including the ELMSs. The Plan makes it quite clear that the debate is not about more trees but rather about the right trees in the right places. Thus, mitigation measures are in place through these Principles and discussions to avoid potential negative effects on landscape character, cultural heritage, and the local economy. Such measures will be further detailed as other plans and strategies for specific Themes become developed over time.

4.47

Countryside Access & Recreation

SEA Directive Topics: Population & Human Health

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 17: To promote understanding & enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities
- SA Objective 18: To improve access to Dartmoor's open countryside

- 4.48 The Themes for Better for Nature & Natural Beauty and Better for Cultural Heritage are likely to have positive effects for promoting enjoyment and improving access to the National Park through the intentions that generally

sustain or improve the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage. Certain intentions are not directly applicable and neutral effects are indicated.

- 4.49 Most of the intentions for Better for Farming & Forestry will support the special qualities of the Park and sustain farming and forestry such that there will continue to be positive effects for SA objectives on enjoyment and understanding.
- 4.50 Positive effects are indicated for all the intentions of the Theme Better for People since all will contribute in some way to improving access and promoting understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities. Specific intentions for improved access and the development of an ambitious Green Transport Strategy will have major positive effects in the longer term. The EqlA (please see details in Appendix III of this SA Report) identified that whilst “all backgrounds” included people from several of the protected characteristics, the inclusion of people with disabilities could be made more explicit by referring to “and all abilities”.
- 4.51 Mostly neutral or not directly applicable effects were indicated for the Theme Better for Communities & Businesses. Sustaining Dartmoor as a tranquil place and supporting the Next Generation are likely to support positive effects for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park special qualities. The intention to promote innovation and depth in the tourism sector should have positive effects but the precise significance is uncertain at this stage.
- 4.52 The draft Plan recognises that the numbers of visitors to the Park are predicted to increase, particularly arising from the new development planned in surrounding areas. Thus, whilst the increase in visitors would have positive effects on SA objectives for access and recreation, there is the potential for adverse effects such as those on local communities through increased traffic, loss of tranquillity, erosion of paths, and tensions between different recreation users. These potential negative effects have previously been considered in relation to effects on nature and natural beauty.

SA Suggestions:

- The intention to focus on young people from all backgrounds could be extended to include “and all abilities”.
- The Principle to proactively manage visitor activity through strategic zoning is further investigated to inform the next round of management plan review when there may be some further evidence arising from the new housing developments and increased recreational use of the National Park

4.53

Economy, Education & Employment

SEA Directive Topics: Population & Human Health

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 19: To promote & support the economy, especially key business sectors of tourism, agriculture, leisure/recreation and small businesses, and to utilise employment land & premises effectively & efficiently
- SA Objective 20: To enable all residents to share in growing prosperity by improving access to training, education and job opportunities

- 4.54 Overarching and cross-cutting Themes for climate change and the Next Generation are likely to have positive effects overall for SA objectives economy, education and employment – putting in place management intentions that will make management of the Park and its communities resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and support the next generation will all promote positive effects for the economy and employment for all.
- 4.55 Some of the intentions in the Theme Better for Nature & Natural Beauty are considered to have likely effects that are neutral or not directly applicable to SA objectives. Other intentions that relate to soil and water functioning well, dynamic ecosystems, gains in biodiversity, and eradication of invasive non-native species are likely to have positive effects since they will have positive effects for nature and natural beauty on which the economy and employment rely.
- 4.56 The intentions in the Theme better for Cultural Heritage were found to be generally neutral for specific direct effects on the economy. However, it is appreciated that cultural heritage and the historic environment are an important characteristic of the National Park and key element of the special qualities such that overall aspirations for this Theme will contribute positively overall to promoting and supporting the economy especially key business sectors of tourism and recreation – and this is discussed elsewhere in this SA Report.
- 4.57 The intentions for the Theme Better for Farming & Forestry are likely to have positive effects for the SA objectives on economy, education & employment, with the potential for major positive effects through developing new products and markets with a Dartmoor brand. The intention to develop a locally tailored ELMS that will complement the Dartmoor natural systems is likely to have positive effects that will support key business sectors of agriculture, farming & forestry. However, some uncertainty of the significance at this stage as Government policy and funding is still to be further developed. The approach taken by the draft Management Plan is to provide a strategic framework that will manage changing natural systems and support farming and forestry will help ensure positive effects in the longer term.
- 4.58 The draft Plan recognises the potential negative effects through conflicts between other plan objectives – and discusses Key Challenges for Nature

Recovery, More Trees, Existing Conifer Plantations, and a Grazed Moorland Landscape. The Principles provide mitigation measures that will help ensure that there are no significant negative effects for farming and forestry. The long-term ambition to remove conifer plantations from the deep peat and prominent positions on the open moor allows for a phased approach over time which will enable commercial forestry and farming the time to adapt. This is particularly important for moorland grazing where the draft Plan identifies a bigger concern for availability of stock to graze the commons if the new ELMS does not deliver a programme for the uplands that is relevant and economic.

- 4.59 The intentions for the Theme Better for People mostly relate to recreation and access such they are not necessarily directly relevant to economy and employment, except where they relate to recreation and leisure/tourism sectors – and effects are better addressed in the following section on assessment of Better for Business. The SA found mostly neutral effects for many of the intentions in this Theme; however, overall their implementation will improve the recreational/leisure experience such that cumulative positive effects are likely for those employed in these sectors.
- 4.60 The intention to better understand the needs of different users is likely to have further positive effects for those employed in these sectors as they can adjust their activities to fit with identified needs. The intentions to improve routes and develop an ambitious Green Transport Strategy is likely to promote and support the economy and key businesses sectors with positive effects – some uncertainty of precise significance at this stage. The intention to address issues through the Rural Crime Initiative should have further positive effects on businesses.
- 4.61 The intentions for the Theme Better for Communities & Business are likely to have positive effects, including major positive effects indicated for supporting the Next Generation, enabling high quality digital connectivity, encouraging businesses to locate & grow sustainably, promoting innovation & depth in the tourist sector, and encouraging entrepreneurship, helping transition to low carbon economy. Overall, these positive effects are likely to be synergistic and cumulative in the longer term. A particularly strong feature of the draft Management Plan is the recognition of the changing demographics for Dartmoor and its effects on local businesses and local people being able to afford to live and work in the Park. The early and proactive engagement in young people through the Next Generation workshops, Vision & Manifesto, together with the reinforcement through intentions and Principles in the Plan provide a clear strong commitment to supporting and encouraging the continuing sustainable management of the National Park, its businesses and its communities – with strong mitigation measures to resolve the potential negative effects identified and in place for the future.

4.62

Communities, Health & Equality

SEA Directive Topics: Population & Human Health

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 21: To ensure that the needs of all National Park residents are met for affordable housing & access to good quality services & facilities
- SA Objective 22: To promote sustainable transport, reduce traffic congestion & noise, and improve safety, health & air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car
- SA Objective 23: To safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing
- SA Objective 23: To promote inclusiveness, equality and participation and take account of the needs of all sectors of the community in understanding and enjoying the special qualities of the National Park

- 4.62 The intentions for the Theme Nature & Natural Beauty that promote well and natural functioning of soils, hydrological and ecosystems will all have positive effects overall for human health through improvements to environmental quality and sustainable natural resources with corresponding improvements to physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.
- 5.63 The intentions for the Theme Better for Cultural Heritage are likely to have some neutral/insignificant or not directly applicable effects and some positive effects. Ensuring that cultural heritage is a key focus for the new ELMS and promoting a sense of community and place through engagement will support mental and spiritual health and wellbeing with positive effects.
- 4.64 The intentions for the Theme Better for Farming and Forestry will support employment through future changes. Having meaningful work is known to have positive effects for health and wellbeing – therefore, overall likely positive effects.
- 4.65 Most of the intentions for the Theme Better for People will have positive effects for human health and wellbeing as they improve, support and encourage recreational uses and access. Major positive effects are possible through developing a plan with GPs, continuing to deliver the Dartmoor Recreation Strategy, and developing an ambitious Green Transport Strategy. These positive effects are likely to be synergistic and cumulative in the longer term.
- 4.66 All intentions in the Theme Better for Communities & Business are likely to have positive effects since they support services, facilities, employment, skills & training – all important to sustain health and wellbeing, directly and indirectly. The draft Management Plan has acknowledged the particular issues associated with changing demographics and applied specific intentions for the next generation and the ageing generation – with potential major positive effects.
- 4.67 The concerns for changing demographics is also recognised as a Key Challenge and Principles are presented, including delivery through the Local Plan, that provide mitigation measures to resolve potential conflicting

objectives for local communities & businesses, visitors, and a high-quality environment.

Implementation of the draft Plan

- 4.68 The implications of the plan as a whole were also investigated and reported, and as required by the SEA Regulations. The summary findings of the SA of the draft Management Plan Themes, including consideration of the Key Challenges & Principles to guide decision-making are as follows:

Table 5.1: Summary SA Findings

Management Plan Themes & Aspirations	SA Topics							
	Natural Beauty	Biodiversity & Wildlife	Historic & Built Environment	Resources: Air, Water, Soils	Climate Change	Countryside Access & Recreation	Economy, Education & Employment	Communities, Health & Equality
Climate Change								
Mitigating climate change by reducing emissions	+	+	+?	+	++	+	+	+
Adapting to a changing climate	+	+	+?	+	++	+	+	+
Next Generation								
Manifesto	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
Better for Nature & Natural Beauty								
Soils functioning well	++	++	0	++	+	0	+	+
Naturally functioning hydrological systems	++	++	0?	++	+	0	+	+
Priority habitats managed adaptively landscape scale	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0
Dynamic, diverse ecosystems at landscape scale	++	++	0?	++	++	+	+	+
Abundance & diversity of species on Dartmoor	++	++	0	++	++	0	0	0
Key species reintroduced	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
Damaging invasive non-native species eradicated	++	++	0	++	0	+	+	+
Net gain in biodiversity by new development	++	++	0	++	++	+	+	+
Maintain & enhance open moorland	++	++	0	+	0	+	+	0
Enhance boundaries of historic field systems	++	++	0	+	0	0	+	0

Restore treed & wooded landscapes	++	++	0?	+	++	+	0?	+
Enhance landscape character by Local Plan	++	++	0	+	0	+	0	+
Better for Cultural Heritage								
Develop process for assessing strategic priorities	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Improve condition & understanding of archaeology	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0
Maintain register of SMs; review PALs	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure cultural heritage is key focus of new ELMSs	+	0	++	0	+	+	0	+
Enhance historic built environment	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
Increase understanding of Dartmoor's cultural heritage	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0
Promote sense of community & place through engagement	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+
Better for Farming & Forestry								
Develop locally tailored ELMS to complement natural system	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Develop Dartmoor Moorland Vision; links moor & farmland	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
Facilitation & advice for landscape scale farm, forestry	+	+	0?	+	+	+	+	+
Greater understanding for high env. low carbon farming	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
Encourage cooperative working	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
New products & markets Dartmoor brand, food culture	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
Better for People								
Better understand needs of different users	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+
Develop cycling & horse riding improvement plans	+	0?	0?	0	0	+	0	+
Improve routes for increased access, increase easy PRow	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	+
Develop strategy for outreach, communication plan	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Develop plan with local GP surgeries	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++
Focus on young people from all backgrounds	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Continue to deliver Dartmoor Recreation Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++
Trial innovative approaches for peak visitor times	+	0?	0	+	0	+	0	+
Use Rural Crime Initiative	+	0?	+	0	0	+	+	+
Develop ambitious Green Transport Strategy	+	0?	0?	+	0	++	+	++
Better for Communities & Business								

Promote sustainable new development services, facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+
Sustain a tranquil place & Dark Night Skies status	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+
Support Next Generation & engagement for communities	+?	+	+?	+	+	+	++	++
Help communities make choices about resources	+?	0	0	++	+	0	0	+
Develop natural capital markets, promote local food	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Enable high quality digital connectivity	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	++	+
Encourage businesses locate & grow sustainably; skills training	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+
Support Dartmoor's ageing population	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
Encourage Dartmoor's special qualities through culture & arts	0	0	+?	0	0	0	+	+
Promote innovation & depth in tourism sector	+?	+?	+?	0	0	+?	++	+
Encourage entrepreneurship; help transition to low carbon economy	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+

- 4.69 The draft Management Plan has recognised the inter-relationships between sustainability themes and objectives such that aspirations for Climate Change and the Next Generation are clearly presented as cross-cutting themes that are embedded and integrated throughout the Plan. This approach will have positive effects for all SA objectives and sustainability topics with major positive effects in the longer term for the SA objectives on climate change.
- 4.70 Overall, the SA found positive or neutral (insignificant or not directly applicable) effects for the Plan Themes; there were no negative effects identified. Potential adverse effects have been identified, including possible conflicts between plan objectives, and considered through plan-making such that any significant negative effects have been mitigated through embedded measures. The draft Plan has an ambitious bold Vision through to 2045 – and this is most appropriate for considering the effects of climate change. The Plan has identified the Key Challenges for going forward and proposed Principles to guide decision-making – these comprise further mitigation measures to help resolve any emerging likely negative effects.
- 4.71 The SA found major positive effects for the key intentions to manage nature and natural beauty, including progressing naturally functioning systems and dynamic ecosystems a landscape scale, and cultural heritage and the historic environment. The challenges for supporting farming and forestry through a period of Government and Brexit policy and funding changes are recognised and the Plan includes intentions to support greater understanding for high environment/low carbon farming whilst sustaining the economy and employment. Some uncertainty was recorded by the SA for the precise significance of positive effects, particularly until the new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMSs) are developed and implemented.

- 4.72 The findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment were integrated into the SA; the screening stage of the process determined that there would be no adverse likely significant effects (LSEs) on the identified European sites – either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, and no further assessment was required at this time. The HRA screening noted that the Management Plan was at a strategic level and the details of the plan's intentions and principles were not necessarily at sufficient detail to assess yet – this would come later as further specific plans and strategies are developed. The HRA screening suggested where consideration of HRA may be needed in the future.
- 4.73 Major positive effects were found through the SA for the support for the next generation and the ageing populations of Dartmoor. The findings of the Equality Impact Assessment were integrated into the SA; no negative effects were found for the protected characteristic groups and minor suggestions were made – to include consideration of 'all abilities' as well as all backgrounds and ages; to consider making explicit accessibility for both mental and physical disabilities. Major positive effects were identified for SA objectives on health & wellbeing – provision of housing and work is known to have positive effects for health. The continued delivery of recreation and tourism activities, including sustaining Dartmoor as a tranquil/dark skies place and the ambitious proposals for a Green Transport Strategy will promote more active and healthy lifestyles for residents and visitors.
- 4.74 The draft Management Plan has been prepared at a time of much policy and funding change, including Brexit and the proposals recommended in the Government's Landscape Review (September 2019). The Plan has been bold with an ambitious Vision and aspirations for achievement, taking into account the longer term. The Plan has identified the Key Challenges going forward and has suggested Principles to guide decision-making that provide strong mitigation measures to help resolve any negative effects within a strategic framework. Overall, the SA found positive effects with any likely negative effects mitigated to neutral or insignificant with some minor uncertainties until further project level studies are progressed; no likely significant residual negative effects were identified. The Plan is bold and ambitious – and reflects the Authority's declaration for a climate change and ecology emergency – providing a strategic framework for managing Dartmoor's National Park. Challenges will remain to adjust to the emerging new policy and funding regimes such that priorities for action can be implemented.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 4.75 The HRA screening identified that due to the strategic nature of the Management Plan, and the limited potential environmental pathways for impacts to the European sites outside of the National Park, there were no identified adverse Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) for air quality changes, recreational disturbance, changes to water quality or levels, or habitat

loss/fragmentation – alone or in-combination with other plans, specifically the Plymouth & SWJLP and the emerging GESP.

- 4.76 Overall, it is considered that the draft Dartmoor National Park Management Plan is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the identified European sites – alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The Management Plan is an aspirational plan that sets a strategic framework for development of more specific strategies, plans and actions; at this strategic stage there is insufficient information or locational specificity to assess the effects on the European sites. As any specific projects or plans are developed, there may be a need to consider further HRA.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 4.77 The strategic Vision and aspirational Themes with strategic objectives were subject to equality impact assessment and details are provided in Appendix III of this SA Report. The assessment found that the components of the Plan will lead to positive effects on the protected characteristics – and with no negative effects being identified. The EqIA suggested some minor amendments that could enhance the positive effects indicated for the protected characteristics - to include consideration of 'all abilities' as well as all backgrounds and ages; to consider making explicit accessibility for both mental and physical disabilities. The screening assessment has found that draft Dartmoor Management Plan is unlikely to have negative effects on protected characteristics or persons identified under the Equality Act 2010 and as a result a full EqIA will not be required.

5.0 MONITORING PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The SEA Directive and Regulations require that the significant effects (positive and negative) of implementing the plan should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen effects and to be able to take appropriate remedial action. Government guidance⁶³ on SA/SEA advises that existing monitoring arrangements should be used where possible in order to avoid duplication. The DNPA has advised that progress towards the Vision in the Management Plan will be measured through a number of 'measures of success'. Outcomes will be monitored through periodic updates to the State of the Park Report⁶⁴.
- 5.2 The SA Scoping Report Framework set out how indicators align with issues and objectives for sustainable development for the Dartmoor National Park area. The EqlA (Appendix III of this SA Report) noted that Devon County Council produces annual reports on equality in the county. Taking this into account with the monitoring undertaken by the DNPA, the EqlA concluded that further monitoring regarding equality and diversity is not considered to be required.

⁶³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

⁶⁴ <http://www.yourdartmoor.org/delivering/measuring>

6.0 CONCLUSIONS, CONSULTATION & NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 At an early stage of plan-making, the SA helped identify and refine three possible strategic approaches for the development of the draft Management Plan. However, as the preparation of the Plan developed with cross-cutting themes and inter-related strategic objectives, and after an initial testing with SA, it was determined that the three strategic approaches were not sufficiently distinct to enable any meaningful comparative assessment. Therefore, it was concluded that the possibilities for reasonable alternatives had been considered but it was not appropriate or necessary to progress such strategic options any further in the assessment.
- 6.2 The SA, incorporating SEA, has been undertaken according to good practice and in line with Government requirements and guidance. The SA is aligned with the SA of the new emerging Dartmoor Local Plan that will also be a key factor in the delivery of the Management Plan Vision and intentions. The SA used the SA framework of objectives for sustainability with the baseline information and professional judgment to test the draft Vision and Themes with their aspirations/intentions – tested to the same level of detail. The SA also considered the Key Challenges with Principles for decision-making and these comprise mitigation measures for potential future adverse effects.
- 6.3 Overall, the SA has found that implementation of the Dartmoor Management Plan will have likely positive effects or neutral (insignificant or not directly applicable) effects for the Plan Themes; there were no negative effects identified. Aspirations for Climate Change and the Next Generation are clearly presented as cross-cutting themes that are embedded and integrated throughout the Plan. This approach will have positive effects for all SA objectives and sustainability topics with major positive effects in the longer term for the SA topic on climate change. Mitigation measures are provided through avoidance and recognition of potentially conflicting Plan objectives and considered through plan-making such that any significant negative effects have been mitigated through embedded measures.
- 6.4 The SA found major positive effects for the key intentions to manage nature and natural beauty, including progressing naturally functioning systems and dynamic ecosystems a landscape scale, and cultural heritage and the historic environment. Some uncertainty was recorded by the SA for the precise significance of certain positive effects, particularly until the new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMSs) are developed and implemented.
- 6.5 A pragmatic and proportionate Habitats Regulations Assessment was undertaken and the findings of the were integrated into the SA; the HRA screening stage of the process determined that there would be no adverse likely significant effects (LSEs) on the identified European sites – either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, and no further assessment was

required at this time. The HRA screening suggested where consideration of HRA may be needed in the future.

- 6.6 Major positive effects were found through the SA for the support for the next generation and the ageing populations of Dartmoor. The findings of the Equality Impact Assessment were integrated into the SA; no negative effects were found for the protected characteristic groups and one suggestion was made – to include consideration of all abilities as well as backgrounds and ages.
- 6.7 The draft Management Plan has been prepared at a time of much policy and funding change, including Brexit and the proposals recommended in the Government's Landscape Review (September 2019). The Plan has been bold with an ambitious Vision and aspirations for achievement, taking into account the longer term. Overall, the SA found positive effects with any likely negative effects mitigated to neutral or insignificant with some minor uncertainties until further project level studies are progressed; no likely significant residual negative effects were identified. The Plan is bold and ambitious; challenges will remain to adjust to the emerging new policy and funding regimes such that priorities for action can be implemented and in order to secure the resources needed to deliver the aspirations of the Plan.
- 6.8 This SA Report will accompany the draft Dartmoor Management Plan on consultation during early 2020. Comments received on the SA and the draft Plan will be taken into account in finalising the Management Plan prior to adaptation later in 2020. This will be accompanied by a SA Adoption Statement in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

APPENDICES:

- I **Statement on Compliance with SEA Directive & Regulations**
- II **SA Scoping Report (Final, December 2019) available at <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/management-plan/management-plan-review>** and including the details of the baseline evidence and the development of the SA Frameworks for assessment.
- III **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening Report (also available separately at <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/management-plan/management-plan-review>)**

Appendix I: Statement on Compliance with SEA Directive & Regulations

The EU SEA Directive⁶⁵ (Annex 1) requires certain information to be provided in the Environmental Report. This requirement is implemented into UK legislation through the SEA Regulations (2004)⁶⁶.

This is Appendix 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report that constitutes the Environmental Report as required by the SEA Directive and the UK SEA Regulations.

This Appendix 1 sets out how the requirements for SEA have been met and signposts where this information is found in the Sustainability Report (December 2019)

SEA Directive & Regulation Requirements	SA Report Section	Summary of Contents
<i>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans</i>	Section 1 Introduction	Sets out the Vision and main objectives of the Dartmoor Management Plan Review
	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarises the relationship with other plans and references the detailed review provided in the SA Scoping Report (2019)
<i>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarises the relevant baseline conditions for sustainability (including the state of relevant environmental aspects) in the Dartmoor area. The information is set out in more detail in the SA Scoping Report (2019) that also indicates the likely evolution of current conditions and trends where available
<i>The environmental characteristics of the area likely to be affected</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarised in Section 3 of Main SA Report; where relevant and available; this information is detailed in the SA Scoping Report
<i>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relation to any areas of a particular environmental importance</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarises existing sustainability (including environmental problems) for the Dartmoor area. This section also summarises information for Natura 2000 sites in line with Habitats Regulations Assessment requirements (HRA Report available separately, December 2019).
<i>The environmental protection objectives relevant to the plan</i>	Section 2 SA Methods Section 3	Provides the summary of objectives for sustainability in the Dartmoor area (including environmental objectives) and

⁶⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

⁶⁶ <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/post/postpn223.pdf>

SEA Directive & Regulation Requirements	SA Report Section	Summary of Contents
<i>and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation</i>	Context & Baseline	the implications of these objectives for the Management Plan (refers to details in the SA Scoping Report 2019); explains how the environmental considerations have been taken into account.
<i>The likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects</i>	Section 2 SA Methods Table 2.1	Presents the SA Framework of objectives that shows which of the issues listed by the SEA Regulations are progressed by which SA objectives.
	Section 5 Table 5.1	Summarises the likely significant effects of implementing the Management Plan (including environmental effects). Where possible, an indication is given of whether the effect is likely to be cumulative, short, medium and long term
<i>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan</i>	Section 5 Table 5.1	Where potential significant negative effects are predicted the SA has sought to provide suggestions for mitigation possibilities.

SEA Directive & Regulation Requirements	SA Report Section	Summary of Contents
<i>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information</i>	Section 2 Paras 2.12-2.15 Also 7.1	Explains the context for options in plan-making & reasonable alternatives in SA/SEA; outlines the approach taken & reasons for not progressing any assessment of strategic approaches to the Plan.
	Sections 2 & 3 Methods & Context, Baseline	Outlines how the assessment was undertaken – the appraisal methodology and difficulties encountered in compiling information are noted.
<i>A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring</i>	Section 7	Provides measures proposed for monitoring the sustainability (and environmental) effects of the implementation of the Management Plan.
<i>A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</i>	Report preface (available separately)	Provides a non-technical summary.