



## **Dartmoor National Park Authority**

### **Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

#### **Fourth Revision**

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement of the Dartmoor National Park Authority's local plan preparation programme, and will guide the establishment of the documents which form part of the local plan for the Dartmoor National Park.

This includes:

- *Development Plan Documents* (containing formal policies, for example the Core Strategy);
- *Supplementary Planning Documents* (more 'informal' advice which adds to adopted policy, such as Design Guidance)
- *Other documents, including Local Development Documents* (including more 'procedural' documents such as the Local Development Scheme or Statement of Community Involvement)

The Authority's first LDS came into effect in 2005, a first revision of the LDS was adopted in March 2007 and the most recent revision in 2014.

**September 2015**

## 1. Context

- 1.1. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act ('the 2004 Act') brought in 'Local Development Framework' as a new structure to local planning. Local Development Frameworks include:
  - *Development Plan Documents 'DPDs'* (containing formal policies, for example the Core Strategy);
  - *Supplementary Planning Documents 'SPDs'* (more 'informal' advice which adds to adopted policy, such as Design Guidance)
  - *Other documents, including Local Development Documents* (including more 'procedural' documents such as the Local Development Scheme or Statement of Community Involvement)
- 1.2. Whilst the current government prefers the term 'Local Plan' to 'Local Development Framework' (LDF) the structure remains. Regional Spatial Strategies (brought in by the 2004 Act) have since been removed through 2011 Localism Act ('the 2011 Act') which also brought forward key provisions relating to the Duty to Co-operate and the Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.3. More recently, government guidance has also been rationalised significantly, with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replacing the portfolio of Planning Policy Statements in 2012, and the National Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014 which has formed part of the governments 'red tape challenge'. It is also important to note that Government considers that the National Parks Circular<sup>1</sup> should set the context for the local plan coverage of the English National Parks.
- 1.4. Under section 67(1) of the Environment Act 1995, Dartmoor National Park Authority (NPA) is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the entire area of the National Park. Those responsibilities include the mineral and waste planning functions for the area. The Authority also prepares the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan; these are the over-arching strategic documents for the National Parks and set the vision and objectives to guide the future of the Parks over a 10 to 20 years period. The adopted 2014-2019 Dartmoor National Park Management Plan ('Your Dartmoor') establishes important principles for consideration in local planning policy and links closely with the adopted Core Strategy.

## 2. Current plans in Dartmoor National Park

- 2.1. The local plan for Dartmoor National Park comprises the Core Strategy (2008), and Development Management and Delivery DPD (2013), together with the saved policies of the Minerals Local Plan (2004). These documents are supported in their implementation by the Design Guide SPD and the Affordable Housing SPD. These documents set the spatial planning strategy, policies and guidance for Dartmoor National Park in the planning period up to 2026. An overview of the documents which currently form part of the local plan for Dartmoor National Park are set out in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> English National Parks and the Broads. UK Government Vision and Circular 2010. Defra, March 2010.

Document name	Current status	Pre-submission consultation	Submission	Public examination	Adoption
<b>Core Strategy (Development Plan Document)</b> Sets out the vision, aims and strategy for spatial development in the Dartmoor National Park. Provides the background for the formulation of the generic development control and site specific policies.	Adopted	2005 - 2007	2007	2007	2008
<b>Development Management and Delivery (Development Plan Document)</b> A suite of subject related development management policies to guide and control spatial development within Dartmoor National Park. Site specific policies set the planning framework for particular areas and land uses. Certain sites will be allocated for specific uses or purposes.	Adopted	2012	2012	2012- 2013	2013
<b>Minerals Local Plan (Development Plan Document)</b> Policies to control minerals development within the Dartmoor National Park.	Saved policies <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	2004
<b>Design Guidance (Supplementary Planning Document)</b> Guidance to encourage a high standard of design appropriate for Dartmoor National Park	Adopted	2011	n/a	n/a	2012
<b>Affordable Housing (Supplementary Planning Document)</b> Guidance to make clear the Authority's expectations and support the delivery of affordable housing in Dartmoor National Park.	Adopted	2014	n/a	n/a	2014
<b>Statement of Community Involvement</b> Sets out the scope and arrangements for consultation and participation for each local development document	Adopted	-	-	-	2008
<b>Local Development Scheme</b> The timetable for local plan preparation	Current	-	-	-	2014

**Table 1.** Current local planning document prepared by Dartmoor National Park Authority

<sup>2</sup> Annex to the Core Strategy indicates which of the saved policies Local Plan still remain in force and which are superseded.

### **3. Local Development Scheme**

- 3.1. This review includes minor updates which reflect refinements to the programme for local plan review as it has been considered in detail. It was suggested in the 2014 LDS that a minor review may be necessary at this point. The principal change is the deletion of the Minerals Plan (DPD), in favour of minerals policies within the Local Plan. The LDS also now provides clarity as to the Authority's intention to prepare single local plan document.
- 3.2. The LDS is a statement of Dartmoor National Park Authority's local development document preparation programme. Whilst this document will include commentary on the range of documents the Authority intends to prepare and review, it is important to note that the required scope of the LDS is the preparation of DPDs; Statements of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning Documents do not need to be included.
- 3.3. The Authority intends to prepare the following documents within the timeframe of this LDS. Key milestones for their preparation are set out in Table 3.

#### **3.4. Statement of Community Involvement**

2004 Act requires that LPAs produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Authority's SCI was produced prior to the National Planning Policy Framework and most importantly, the Localism Act. The local plan must be prepared in a way consistent with the approach set out in the SCI. The Authority has prepared a revised SCI for consultation, which would be adopted in 2015/16.

#### **3.5. Local Plan Review (Development Plan Document)**

The Authority recognises the statutory need to maintain an up to date development plan. The Authority's Core Strategy was adopted in 2008. Whilst it is considered consistent with the NPPF it is recognised that the economic and statutory context of this plan has moved forward. The Development Management DPD was adopted in 2013, after the publication of the NPPF and demonstrates a continued integrity to the overarching strategy and evidence which supports the Authority's local plan.

The review of the local plan will likely focus upon strategic housing policy, strategic economic development policy, and settlement strategy matters. The scope and extent of other potential areas of change will be determined through early engagement with stakeholders. The review will lead to a consolidated single 'local plan' for the National Park. This document will cover the whole of Dartmoor National Park.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority is the Minerals Planning Authority for the National Park and as such this is a statutory function. The NPPF says Minerals Planning Authorities should "identify and include policies for extraction of minerals resource of local and national importance" and "define Minerals Safeguarding Areas". The local plan will include as necessary, minerals policies for the whole of Dartmoor National Park.

### **3.6. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

The Authority has two adopted SPDs, the Design Guide (2011) and Affordable Housing SPD (2014). It is not anticipated that these will require review within the timeframe of this LDS. If it is the case that the Authority considers their revision necessary, whilst it would fall outside the necessary scope of this LDS, their revision would be consistent with the approach set out in the SCI and the appropriate regulations.

### **3.7. Joint working and other plans**

Although joint development plan documents can be prepared with other planning authorities, there is no intention to prepare joint planning documents. The Authority is in close liaison with Devon County Council, which is the mineral planning authority for the rest of Devon outside Plymouth and Torbay, in preparing evidence to inform minerals policies within the local plan, and with the constituent District and Borough Councils in preparing and revising other DPDs. The NPA responds to DPDs produced by the surrounding LPAs in the interests of 'joined up' planning and to ensure that the special qualities of the National Park are protected. The Authority recognises the importance of the Duty to Cooperate and will continue to work positively with stakeholders in the preparation of the local plan.

The Authority does not intend to prepare any Area Action Plans or Supplementary Planning Documents within the timeframe of this LDS.

### **3.8. Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal**

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local development documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Local planning Authorities must also comply with a European Union Directive on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of certain plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The Authority will continue to take a robust approach in the preparation of an environmental report which informs and supports the different stages in the preparation of a DPD.

### **3.9. Key milestones in the production of a development plan document**

Table 3 sets out key milestones in the preparation of a DPD.

<b>Initial Evidence Gathering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate initial aims and objectives for local plan</li> <li>• Begin evidence gathering process</li> <li>• Identify relevant environment, economic and social objectives to inform Sustainability Appraisal</li> </ul>
<b>Initial consultation and continued work on evidence gathering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with local communities, businesses and other interested parties (Regulation 18)</li> <li>• Take into account representations received from consultation process in line with (Regulation 18)</li> <li>• Engage with Duty to Cooperate partners</li> <li>• Ensure compliance with the SCI</li> <li>• Continue evidence gathering</li> <li>• Test emerging options through Sustainability Appraisal</li> </ul>
<b>Publication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft plan published for representations for a minimum of 6 weeks (Regulations 17 and 19)</li> </ul>
<b>Submission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan submitted for examination, along with Sustainability Appraisal, evidence base and a statement of representations and main issues (Regulation 22)</li> </ul>
<b>Examination of submitted plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Inspector assesses plan to determine whether it has been prepared in line with the Duty to Cooperate, other legal requirements and whether it is sound in line with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulations 23/24.</li> <li>• Local Planning Authority can ask Inspector to recommend main modifications to make plan sound or comply with other legal requirements</li> <li>• Inspector issues report at end of examination</li> <li>• Exceptionally, the Inspector will recommend the draft plan is withdrawn if it has not been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate or if it is likely to be found unsound</li> </ul>
<b>Adoption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft plan formally adopted by the local planning authority in line with section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</li> <li>• Monitoring of implementation of Local Plan policies required in line with Regulation 34.</li> </ul>

**Table 3.** Local Plan Development - taken from National Planning Policy Guidance (Regulations refer to *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012*)

Local Development Document	Public participation on the scope and content of the document*	Publication	Submission	Adoption
Local Plan Review (DPD)	2016/17	2017	2018	2019

**Table 4.** Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Development Scheme – Programme 2015-2019

\* This includes consultation with the statutory bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.

#### 4. Monitoring and review

4.1. Legislation requires local planning authorities to produce an annual monitoring report to assess progress on the implementation of the LDS.

4.2. Monitoring systems should also assess:

- whether policies in local development documents are being implemented effectively, and whether targets or milestones are being met
- the impact of the policies with regard to national, regional and local targets
- the effectiveness of the policies and proposals with regard to the achievement of strategic objectives, and whether modification or replacement is required.

Where policies or proposals need to be changed, the annual review should indicate how that will be achieved.

4.3. A robust monitoring framework is now set out in the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report published in Spring/Summer of each year. The review and monitoring of community plans and strategies and the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan also provides evidence and material for assessing the documents in the local plan. Development Plans will be revised/reviewed on a 5 year timescale; Supplementary Planning Documents will be reviewed on a 5-10 year timescale or in both cases, as required in response to other material matters arising from ongoing monitoring.

4.4. A State of the Park Report is also prepared as a supporting element of the Management Plan, which will also be a useful source of monitoring information.