



**DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN**  
guiding planning applications in Dartmoor National Park

# Local Development Scheme (LDS)

July 2017





## **Dartmoor National Park Authority**

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

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)

## 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. 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	-	-	-	2016
<b>Local Development Scheme</b> The timetable for local plan preparation	Current	-	-	-	2016

**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. The 2016 LDS confirmed the Authority's intention to prepare a single local plan document. This LDS review includes minor updates which reflect refinements to the programme for the local plan review and timetable as it has been considered in more detail. It reflects additional stages in the process to enable further engagement with parish and town councils, and allowance for a gap in staffing over winter 2016/17. .
- 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 4.

#### **3.4. 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 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.

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

The Authority has two adopted SPDs, the Design Guide (2011) and Affordable Housing SPD (2014).

The Affordable Housing SPD is being revised in response to changing government policy around affordable housing, including funding for affordable housing, starter homes, and thresholds for S106 contributions. It is considered it would help applicants make better applications, if the SPD is up to date. This also provides some clarity around the authority's position on housing development whilst the local plan is reviewed.

Revision of the SPD would fall outside the necessary scope of this LDS. It is expected that the review of the Affordable Housing SPD be published for consultation in Summer 2017, and adopted by the end of 2017, and would be consistent with the approach set out in the SCI and the appropriate regulations.

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- The Authority is also working with partners on a jointly prepared South Hams SAC SPD (Supplementary Planning Document). This SPD will provide specific formal guidance on development in or affecting the South Hams Special Area of Conservation (Greater Horseshoe Bats). It will be prepared jointly by DNPA, Natural England, Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council, South Hams District Council and Torbay Council. The aim is to consult jointly on this SPD in Autumn/Winter 2017, and adopt it by the end of 2017/18.

### **3.6. Statement of Community Involvement**

2004 Act requires that LPAs produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Authority prepared a new SCI – Planning: Having Your Say, which was adopted in January 2016. No further work is planned on the SCI within the timeframe of this SCI.

### **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. In April 2016 the Authority agreed<sup>3</sup> not to enter formally into joint local plan arrangements with Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams; or with Exeter, Teignbridge, Mid-Devon and East Devon. It has committed to work closely with both groups, however, in respect of evidence gathering and meeting the Duty to Co-operate.

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.

### **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.

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<sup>3</sup> Authority Report April 2016 [http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/739609/20160401-Authority-Reports.pdf](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/739609/20160401-Authority-Reports.pdf)

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 (DPD)	2016/17	2018	2019	2020

**Table 4.** Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Development Scheme – Programme 2016-2018

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

With reference to the above formal LDS timescales, it is anticipated that the preparation of the local plan will take place as follows.

#### **Phase 1 – Evidence and Issues**

This phase will include:

- The main evidence gathering
- An Issues Paper for public consultation, designed to stimulate stakeholder engagement.
- Parish / Town Councils consultation regarding the development strategy and policy approach for their areas.

This phase is anticipated to run from winter 2016 to autumn 2017.

#### **Phase 2 – Draft Plan Issues and Options (Regulation 18)**

A key aspect of the Draft Plan Issues and Options stage is to

- Confirming the scope of the plan
- Confirming the key issues for the plan to address
- Identifying potential options for addressing the issues
- Publishing a Sustainability Appraisal which examines different options
- Preparing the Draft Plan for consultation

This phase is anticipated in summer 2018

#### **Phase 3 – Pre-submission version (Regulation 19)**

Consultation on this version will include general communication with the complete list of statutory and other consultees, depending on the extent of area specific issues (e.g. land allocations) events or material targeted at specific communities, with opportunities to promote and discuss, could be appropriate.

This phase is anticipated in spring 2019

#### **Phase 4 – Submission and Examination**

This phase will include:

- Submission of the plan to the Secretary of State, for examination
- Public hearing
- Inspectors report
- Consultation on modifications as required
- Adoption

It is anticipated that examination and adoption will take place through 2019/20.



## 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.