

Introduction

The first purpose of national park designation is **to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park**. All the Ambitions in this section contribute to the achievement of the first purpose - to the conserving and enhancing of Dartmoor's unique sense of place. There is only one Dartmoor.

Conserving and enhancing Dartmoor's environment provides a huge range of benefits that are beyond monetary value and become of ever greater importance as the regional and urban population grows and rates of change in the wider world accelerate. These benefits include:

- a landscape of international importance in line with the European Landscape Convention 2000;
- wildlife, geological and cultural resources, also of international importance, which are fragile, irreplaceable within a lifetime and, in the case of geological and archaeological resources and the historic built environment, finite;
- rural traditions and ways of life strongly linked to Dartmoor;
- helping meet the water needs of Devon's population;
- storage of huge quantities of CO₂ in the peats and organic soils of Dartmoor;
- capturing of CO₂ from the atmosphere (carbon sequestration) through the blanket bogs of Dartmoor in particular, but also through its woods and vegetation cover more generally;

- an unrivalled recreation resource for relaxation and escape in natural surroundings;
- contributing to the region's health and well-being;
- providing an outdoor classroom.

Dartmoor's unique sense of place is the reason why it is such an important resource for public enjoyment and understanding.

Challenges

There are, however, important challenges, to be faced over the coming years if these benefits are to continue and increase, not least:

- ensuring that national policy continues to support the unique range of benefits provided by Dartmoor. These cannot be achieved through the market economy alone;
- maintaining the viability of upland farming and the retention of hardy breeds of grazing animals to enable farming to continue its vital role in managing the landscapes of Dartmoor; increasing the resilience of Dartmoor's landscapes, habitats and water environment to the effects of climate change, through landscape scale restoration, and the re-linking and management of habitats;
- ensuring that all major management decisions take account of the interdependence of different aspects of the environment and their contribution to public understanding and enjoyment.

Conserving and enhancing Dartmoor's environment provides a huge range of benefits that are beyond monetary value ...



Landscape (L)

Dartmoor is a largely cultural landscape shaped by management of its distinctive and often harsh environment over many millennia. It boasts a chronology of human activity extending back over 8,000 years and has a rich diversity of habitats that has developed in response to traditional forms of land management.

The central granite block forming Dartmoor's high moor is divided in two by the headwaters of the West Dart River to create the north and south moorland plateaux. In total, moorland covers some 46,000 hectares (roughly 50% of the National Park area). This is an exposed, windswept upland landscape with sweeping ridgelines and summits crowned by granite tors, enclosing broad shallow basins filled with blanket bog. These basins feed the headwaters of the fast flowing upland rivers that radiate out from the central moorland, cutting into the flanking slopes of the moor to create narrow steep-sided wooded valleys, with the native woodland hanging onto the boulder-strewn valley sides.

Whilst the wildness of this moorland is now highly valued, this has not always been the case. The Rev. J. Swete, writing at the end of the 18th century described it as *'a wild waste where the eye found not a point to rest on'*. However, by 1842, Samuel Rowe was reflecting the modern view, describing Dartmoor as *'a scene of unsurpassed loveliness'*.

An often under-appreciated aspect of the moor is its very high geological and geomorphologic importance. Over much of the moor, the surface layers have not been greatly disturbed since the last Ice Age when Dartmoor remained the highest area in Britain south of the ice sheets. Consequently, a unique and remarkably complete range of peri-glacial landforms is still visible. This includes not only the tors but stone stripes and patterned ground. The Merrivale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering around 500 hectares, protects some of the best of these features. There are also many artificial geological exposures in quarries and mines, some of national importance.

Surrounding the high moor to the west, south and east is a farmed landscape covering some 48,000 hectares and providing an attractive and distinctive foil to the wild uplands above. This is a landscape of small irregular fields and scattered isolated farmsteads and hamlets linked by a dense network of sunken winding lanes and tracks which cross the narrow fast flowing streams on hump-backed granite bridges. Larger villages have grown in sheltered locations. Around the fringes, small market towns have developed. This whole pattern of settlement, field enclosure and communication is medieval in origin but in many places reflects much earlier influences.



Extensive ancient semi-natural woodlands in the river valleys interlink with small woodlands spreading out into the adjacent farmland. In total broadleaf woodland covers 4,955 hectares of Dartmoor with a further 4,763 hectares of mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland. This wooded character is accentuated by the large number of hedgerow trees. The network of field boundaries further heightens the small-scale nature of this landscape. Boundaries are an important component of Dartmoor's landscape. Relic boundaries dating to the Bronze Age lie abandoned on the open moor; within the present day enclosed land, fields are bounded by the traditional Devon hedgebank, thought to date from the late medieval period but sometimes built on much earlier foundations. By contrast, the vast central 'newtakes' created mainly between about 1780 and 1820, enclosing once open moorland, have distinctive drystone walls that follow a method of stonewalling introduced from the north, causing Mrs Bray, in 1832, to complain of '... vast walls of stones, piled loosely together without cement ... extending in every direction for many miles'.

Whilst the moorland and farmland are clearly very different in character, they form part of an inseparable whole. They are linked physically by the deep wooded river valleys and through history by the traditions of upland hill farming whereby the stock (cattle, sheep and ponies) of the surrounding farms often graze the commons

of the upland moorland under the ancient system of common rights.

This reflects a tradition that probably stretches back at least as far as the Norman period. Today most of the open moorland is common land still in private ownership but managed by those with common rights. Under the *Dartmoor Commons Act 1985*, the Dartmoor Commoners' Council governs the exercise of common rights, animal husbandry and vegetation management on the commons.

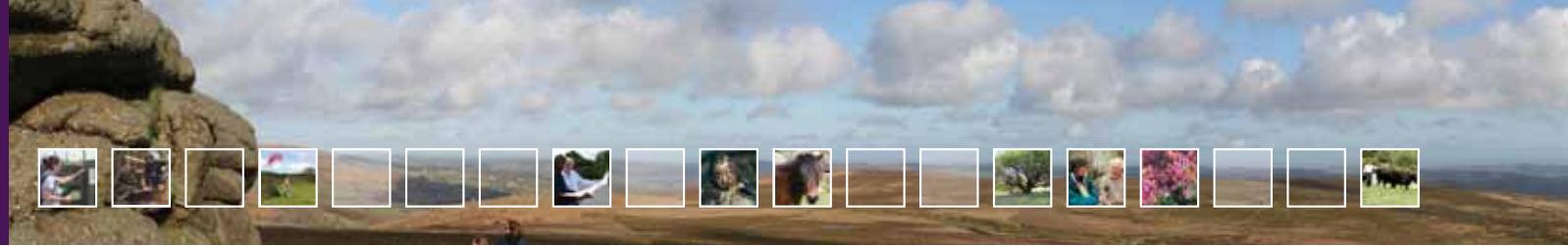
These traditional systems of land management are integral to the ongoing conservation and enhancement of much of Dartmoor's landscape created and maintained by generations of farming families. Nevertheless, in the modern world, these traditional land management systems are not economically viable without public support for the wide range of conservation and public benefits they provide. This has been provided by the Dartmoor Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme, and in the future agri-environment schemes will need to continue to support hill farming.

On the moor, the groundbreaking Moorland Vision provides the framework for future conservation management through sustainable farming. Agreed in 2006 through the collaboration of statutory agencies and supported by the farming community,



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Landscape (L)



it articulates a single clear and integrated spatial vision of a grazed moorland landscape, which will reflect different conservation interests in different locations.

Appropriate, tailored agri-environment schemes will be essential to deliver the Vision.

Significant features within the moorland landscape are the major conifer plantations. These cover a total of 3,920 hectares or one-third of the total woodland area on Dartmoor. These were planted by the Forestry Commission from the 1920s to 1950s, many on land leased from the Duchy of Cornwall. They remain a controversial land use within the context of a national park but provide an extensive recreational resource, as well as playing a pivotal role in the forestry economy of the South West region. The Dartmoor climate supports exceptional growth rates and timber quality. Their management is now being guided by multi-purpose Forest Design Plans developed in consultation by the Forestry Commission. These offer the opportunity to address their harsh visual boundaries and may permit further adjustment of stocking and felling patterns and other changes to take full account of wildlife, archaeological and recreational issues.

It is recognised that many of the plantations have a long commercial life (at least 50-years) and therefore without premature felling will not be removed in the near future.

Nevertheless, it is also one of the aims of the Moorland Vision that in the long term these conifer plantations will be removed from high moor landscapes.

Landscape (L) Ambition:

Dartmoor will retain a rich interlacing of the cultural and natural environment, reflecting a living and working upland landscape

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>L.G1: 46,000 hectares of moorland will be retained as defined by the DNPA Section 3 Conservation Map of Moor and Heath</p> <p>L.G2: The rich mosaic of fields and their associated network of field boundaries will be conserved</p> <p>L.G3: 10 traditional orchards will be restored or created</p> <p>L.G4: The distinctive medieval settlement pattern and associated interlinking network of lanes will be retained</p> <p>L.G5: Existing broadleaf woodland cover, as identified in the 1997 Dartmoor Woodland Survey, will be retained; 100 hectares of new broadleaf woodland will be created</p> <p>L.G6: All significant conifer plantations will benefit from management plans which seek to soften their boundaries and integrate them into the landscape</p>	<p>The retention of long-standing hill farming families and traditional practices is vital to the achievement of this Ambition – see also the Ambition for Land Management (LM)</p> <p>L.M1: Vision and planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Moorland Vision is expanded in association with local landowners and local communities to incorporate interlinking wildlife corridors that extend into the surrounding farmland ◆ The Moorland Vision is implemented on a common by common basis ◆ Implementation of the Moorland Vision is kept under review to reflect changing practices and knowledge ◆ Phase 2 of the Devon County Landscape Character Assessment is taken forward within the National Park ◆ Landscape management guidelines are developed to inform delivery of agri-environment schemes, development and repair work, using the ESA Landscape Character Assessment, the Landscape Character Assessment for Devon County 2006/07 and the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Dartmoor <p>L.M2: Agri-environment schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agri-environment schemes with the flexibility to maintain Dartmoor's distinctive landscape and reflect local circumstances are introduced and implemented ◆ Agri-environment schemes and other available funding streams bring support to farmers in delivering a range of complementary environmental and other public benefits <p>L.M3: Grazing livestock (see also LM.M2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The number and mix of hardy livestock on Dartmoor (traditional hardy cattle and sheep breeds and ponies) are appropriate to meet the conservation objectives for different areas in the National Park <p>L.M4: Field patterns and traditional orchards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A programme to conserve and enhance existing historic field patterns and boundary features is developed, identifying restoration priorities (for walls, hedgebanks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees) ◆ Hedgerow trees are retained as part of hedgebank restoration proposals ◆ The remaining traditional orchards and their condition are identified through an updated survey and a list of these is published ◆ Traditional orchards are restored and created through agri-environment and other schemes

(cont)

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Landscape

(L)



Landscape (L) Ambition:

Dartmoor will retain a rich interlacing of the cultural and natural environment, reflecting a living and working upland landscape (cont)

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>L.G7: 95% of geological SSSIs will be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition</p>	<p>L.M5: Settlement pattern and the country lanes network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All new development respects the existing settlement pattern and the relative size of individual settlements - small scattered farmsteads, hamlets, villages and small towns (achieved through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Country lanes retain their rural character and insensitive engineering works are avoided <p>L.M6: Woodlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New broadleaf woodland creation is encouraged through English Woodland Grant Schemes ◆ Management Plans / Forest Design Plans are prepared and implemented for all major conifer plantations, seeking to soften plantation boundaries, open up strategic views and enhance biodiversity and protection of archaeology (see also HW.M2) ◆ Commercial conifer plantations are managed under a continuous cover regime where this brings clear benefits (see also HW.M2) ◆ A review is undertaken of the relative carbon benefits of conifer plantations and unplanted peaty and organic soils (recognising that some plantations are planted over peaty soils) <p>L.M7: Geological conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Opportunities for the appropriate management of geological SSSIs are maximised ◆ The network of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) on Dartmoor is brought under appropriate management ◆ The theft of minerals is addressed

Tranquillity and Remoteness (TR)

The wildness and peace of the open moor with extensive dark night skies make Dartmoor stand apart as a place of inspiration and spirituality. These are increasingly rare qualities cherished by local communities and visitors alike.

The national mapping of tranquillity undertaken by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) in 2006 shows that Dartmoor is the single largest unbroken area of tranquillity not only in the south west of England but in southern England as a whole, followed by Exmoor. 70% of Dartmoor is classified as tranquil or very tranquil, with the most tranquil areas centred over the open moorland. Likewise, based on CPRE's mapping of dark night skies, over 50% of Dartmoor in 2000 enjoyed dark night skies unaffected by light pollution.

Nevertheless, wildness, tranquillity and dark night skies are fragile resources easily diminished by noise, lighting and intrusive development both within and beyond Dartmoor's boundaries. Dartmoor is made more fragile by being bounded on all sides by major trunk roads. The A30 west of Whiddon Down on the northern boundary of the National Park is concrete surfaced and has particular impact.

The zonal 40mph speed limit on the roads crossing Dartmoor, combined with boundary gateways and a clear traffic hierarchy, has lessened the impact of traffic on Dartmoor. It has raised driver awareness of

complementary road users and has resulted in some reduction in animal accidents. Nevertheless, speeds of over 100 mph are regularly recorded on the straight roads crossing the moor and traffic continues to grow, showing a 50% increase in annual traffic levels on certain roads crossing Dartmoor between 1971 and 2005 and a 75% to 100% increase over the same time period for the month of August.

Other aspects that can adversely affect tranquillity and dark night skies include: the use of the military roads, green lanes and the open moor by motorised vehicles; military air traffic; live firing; the growing use of private helicopters over Dartmoor; and a growth in security, road and street lighting. Signs and structures associated with military activity can also detract from a sense of remoteness as can the increased development and clutter that can accompany land fragmentation associated with land passing out of mainstream agricultural ownership.

Dartmoor's tranquillity and dark night skies are of strategic importance to the South West region. It is important to see tranquillity and dark night skies as finite resources and to protect them before they are eroded further.

The isolated rural communities of Dartmoor will continue to depend on private transport. The challenges remain to reduce their car use wherever feasible and possible and to encourage drivers to respect and accommodate other road users. In addition to benefiting tranquillity this will help reduce the carbon footprint of Dartmoor.

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Tranquillity and Remoteness (TR)



Tranquillity and Remoteness (TR) Ambition:

Dartmoor will provide the opportunity to experience solitude, peace, dark night skies and a sense of space

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>TR.G1: There will be no further loss in the area of tranquillity as identified through the tranquillity mapping of CPRE (2006)</p> <p>TR.G2: There will be no loss of the extent of dark night skies as identified through CPRE mapping of satellite imagery</p> <p>TR.G3: There will be a prioritised programme for the removal of intrusive structures where not of historic interest on Dartmoor</p>	<p>TR.M1: Retention of tranquillity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The future public use of military roads on Dartmoor is reviewed◆ There will be no mis-use of open moorland and green lanes by motorised vehicles◆ The use of Dartmoor by major noise generating events, such as motor rallies and the recreational use of the National Park's roads by motorcycle groups, is carefully managed◆ The noise impact of both military and private low flying aircraft is minimised◆ 'Whisper tarmac' and planting schemes are introduced to reduce the impact of road noise where major roads abut the National Park boundary◆ Greater observance of the zonal speed limit is pursued◆ The Dartmoor Road Network Hierarchy, set out within the Local Transport Plan, is retained◆ Traffic is managed in particular areas and at particular times to address any issues of congestion or reduced visitor enjoyment, ensuring that traffic can be accommodated within the exciting road network <p>TR.M2: Dark night skies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Highway standards are applied sensitively around and across Dartmoor to minimise light pollution◆ Low energy, non-polluting street lighting is researched and promoted for use within and on the edge of the National Park◆ Planning policies and the planning process restrict new sources of light pollution (achieved through the Local Development Framework)◆ Design guidance is used to promote night sensitive lighting schemes to local businesses and households <p>TR.M3: Controlling intrusive development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Unnecessary and intrusive clutter is removed from the landscape◆ Awareness is increased of the potentially adverse effects of small-scale cumulative development on the landscape of the National Park◆ Planning policies and the planning process are used to resist new intrusive development both on Dartmoor and where they impact on its setting (achieved through the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks of the DNPA and constituent and neighbouring District, Borough and Unitary Councils) <p>TR.M4: Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ A greater shift from use of the private car to sustainable transport options is widely promoted (see also RE.M4, A.M2 and CW.M3)◆ Awareness is increased amongst local home owners, businesses and visitors of the effects of lighting on dark skies. Shared campaigns are developed to "turn it off"

Habitats and Wildlife (HW)

Dartmoor is internationally important for its unique and rich natural heritage which contributes so much to the landscape quality of the National Park. Geographical position combined with a long history of extensive grazing and marginal farming has combined to create a wide range of habitats populated by an exceptional diversity of species. Lichens, mosses, plants and birds from southern Europe can be found only a few miles away from those with a circumpolar distribution. A fuller description of this great wealth is provided in *The Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile* while the *South West Nature Map* identifies the best areas to conserve, create and connect wildlife habitats at the landscape scale within the South West region.

Overall, over 40% of Dartmoor is afforded international recognition as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the European Habitats and Species Directive, representing some of the finest examples in the UK of habitats and species that are rare or threatened in Europe.

The upland blanket bogs and upland heathlands of the open moor and the upland oakwoods of the river valleys are three habitats of international importance on Dartmoor. Areas of blanket bog are the most southerly in England and support some of the best areas of this

habitat in the UK covering no less than a third of the open moorland (some 8,500 hectares). They also support the world's most southerly populations of breeding dunlin and golden plover. Surrounding the blanket bogs are areas of upland heathland and valley mires.

The upland heathland, covering some 7,300 hectares, is dominated by heather and western gorse with plant communities that are extremely rare outside Britain. The valley mires – areas of water-logged peat with characteristic acid wetland plant communities – are found wherever drainage is impeded within the river valleys.

Dartmoor SAC has also been designated for southern damselfly, Atlantic salmon and otter. As salmon are mobile their migration route has to be protected between the SAC and the sea on the Rivers Taw, Teign, Dart, Erme, Yealm and Tavy.

Areas of grass moor include plant communities predominantly confined to the south west of England. Bracken covers large areas and is invading some upland heathlands and grass moor, yet in other areas can foster a rich spring flora, supporting colonies of high brown and other fritillary butterflies.

Most of the semi-natural woodland on Dartmoor is of ancient origin and is concentrated in the river valleys on the east side of the National Park.



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Habitats and Wildlife (HW)



Classified as upland oak wood, Dartmoor holds one of the main concentrations of these woodlands in the UK with the most isolated examples including Wistman's Wood and Black-a-Tor Copse. Many of these woodlands take on a mystical quality with liverworts, trailing lichens, and moss-clad boulders, with carpets of bluebell and wild daffodil in spring. They also include specialist bird communities including pied flycatcher and wood warbler. In total there are 2,750 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland on Dartmoor of which 70% is notified as SSSIs.

Within the farmland there are also areas of great wildlife value. The hedgebanks, small woodlands and rough valley bottoms form wildlife corridors connecting areas of particular nature conservation interest. Amongst these are Dartmoor's 1,100 hectares of Rhôs pasture – species rich, wet, often heath-like, grazing pasture (representing 20% of the English resource of this now very rare habitat); and around 20 hectares of upland-type hay meadows of national importance. However, it is the intimate mix of habitats that makes this landscape so rich for wildlife, with key species such as ciril bunting and greater horseshoe bat using many different features for roosting, feeding and flyways, including old buildings which are another important wildlife resource.

The full range of actions required to conserve and enhance this resource is set out in the Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan developed and being implemented through an inclusive partnership. Many habitats and their characteristic species are dependent on particular agricultural practices and when these change natural populations and habitats are affected. Past overgrazing on the high moor led to the conversion of heather moor to grass moor. Little of the blanket bog is in pristine condition and many sphagnum flushes are degraded. Much of the blanket bog was degraded in the past by large-scale burning which removed the layer of bog mosses that form the living skin of the bog. Nevertheless, under careful and extensive management the condition of these bogs is improving. Since 1994 the ESA scheme has provided an important means of securing ecological quality. Flexible site-specific management now needs to be taken forward under Environmental Stewardship to further enhance these gains and stabilise the habitats.

In some cases there may be a case for developing conservation grazing schemes to achieve the right mix of livestock and grazing intensities needed to meet particular conservation objectives. Currently the DNPA supports existing herds of Dartmoor ponies on land that it owns.



With climate change, it is particularly important that habitats are made more resilient to change through landscape-scale restoration, re-linking and management.

The aim should be an increase in the cumulative core area of habitats, with a focus on:

- creation of continuous corridors of semi-natural habitat linking the northern and southern moorland blocks
- creation of new habitats around existing semi-natural habitats including a reduction in the intensity of agricultural practices
- management of river valleys as a habitat mosaic linking open moorland with farmland and incorporating mires, Rhôs pasture, scrub and woodland
- a significant increase in semi-natural woodland (broadleaf) through natural woodland regeneration within the river valleys, around the fringes of the open moorland, and on farmland adjacent to existing ancient woodland
- achieving favourable condition on key habitats, particularly blanket bog, so that large quantities of carbon are not lost to the atmosphere.

The upland oak woodlands of Dartmoor were managed for centuries as coppice to meet local timber needs and from the medieval period to produce charcoal for mineral smelting and other purposes.

For the last 50 years there has been little woodland management as local wood markets have collapsed. This history has left a legacy of some dense stands of spindly trees that require thinning to diversify age and species composition and produce a high forest structure. Some ancient woodland areas may now best be managed with as little human interference as possible. In 2005 very few woodlands had a long term management plan and only 30% were under any form of management agreement.

There is also a desire to manage conifer plantations to improve biodiversity and to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to semi-natural woodland following a phased approach. Initially this should be focused on securing and enhancing the most critically threatened remnants of the original ancient woodland, followed by a gradual conversion to stands of semi-natural woodland.



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Habitats and Wildlife (HW)



Habitats and Wildlife (HW) Ambition: Dartmoor will encompass large areas of interlinked habitats in optimum condition, managed for maximum biodiversity. It will continue to support a diverse range of plants and animals characteristic of the area

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>HW.G1: 95% of all moorland SSSIs will be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition</p> <p>HW.G2: A minimum of 1,100 hectares of Rhôs pasture will be conserved, with 60% of high quality Rhôs pasture in favourable condition</p> <p>HW.G3: All ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW), including woodland SSSIs, will be in favourable condition and 80% will have a management plan</p> <p>HW.G4: Remnant ancient woodland features within 75% of PAWS have been secured and 50% (350 hectares) of sites are in a programme of long-term restoration to semi-natural condition</p>	<p>All means to achieve under Landscape (L), Water Management (WM), and Land Management (LM) are relevant here</p> <p>HW.M1: Habitat and wildlife management (see also LM.M2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and Moorland Vision are implemented ◆ Graziers and advisors work together on the management needs of different areas, with different areas requiring different levels, timing and types of grazing sometimes supported by cutting or burning ◆ Agri-environment schemes are targeted to help deliver the Moorland Vision, the favourable management of SSSIs and to meet BAP objectives and targets ◆ At least one major landscape-scale conservation project is established to achieve substantial habitat restoration and enhancement, potentially linking to areas outside the National Park ◆ Conservation grazing flocks and herds (including pony herds) are developed further to meet specific objectives on open moorland areas and to graze areas of Rhôs pasture ◆ A co-ordinated programme is developed to control non-native invasive species on open moorland ◆ Effective mitigation and adaptive measures are implemented for all habitats in response to climate change ◆ Important habitats associated with old buildings are conserved <p>HW.M2: Tree and Woodland Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The number and distribution of veteran trees is better understood and voluntary agreements are considered for their protection and management ◆ Management plans for ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) look at each woodland in its entirety, identifying what management is needed to ensure a positive outcome, promoting functional and structural habitat connectivity ◆ Harvesting within ASNW is based on expert advice according to certification standards⁵ and respects the biodiversity, scale and cultural importance of ancient woodland ◆ Invasive species (plants and animals) are managed in woodlands in accordance with management plans ◆ Best practice is followed in the management of PAWS and the protection of the most fragile remnants of the original ancient woodland ◆ Within PAWS action is taken to control unwanted conifer and non-native broadleaf regeneration <p style="text-align: right;">(cont)</p>

⁵ Under the Forest Stewardship Scheme or UK Woodland Assurance Scheme

Habitats and Wildlife (HW) Ambition: Dartmoor will encompass large areas of interlinked habitats in optimum condition, managed for maximum biodiversity. It will continue to support a diverse range of plants and animals characteristic of the area (cont)

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>HW.G5: 80% of all other targets (total 212 targets) from the Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan will be achieved and new targets set to 2020</p>	<p>HW.M3: Habitat designation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Better protection is secured for locally important sites through the designation of County Wildlife Sites <p>HW.M4: Knowledge and research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Dartmoor Biodiversity Research Group is retained to encourage research that will help steer management for key habitats and species ◆ Knowledge, experience and monitoring is pooled between all those involved in habitat restoration and management on Dartmoor ◆ Partnerships are developed to promote research that improves understanding of the biodiversity of Dartmoor and its management needs ◆ Knowledge is pooled on the likely implications of climate change on Dartmoor's biodiversity <p>HW.M5: Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community awareness programmes celebrate the diversity of Dartmoor's wildlife



Cultural Distinctiveness (CD)

The people and culture of Dartmoor are an integral part of what makes Dartmoor unique. Dartmoor communities have, throughout history, developed distinctive customs and traditions in response to their local environment, related to both the exploitation and enjoyment of the area. There is a potent link between people and the cultural fabric of the landscape.

These traditional ways of life have been captured through the DNPA's Moor Memories oral history project. This has recorded personal recollections of how people lived and worked on the moor over the last century, providing an insight into a way of life that endured for centuries, but which changed significantly in the latter half of the 20th century. These memories are complemented by the Dartmoor Trust's Dartmoor Archive project that now contains over 6,000 historical photographs of Dartmoor, available on the internet.

Embedded in these memories are the traditions associated with upland farming, which have been passed from generation to generation, some of which are being lost, but others - commoning, swaling (the controlled burning of moorland vegetation to improve the forage), and the autumn pony drifts (the annual round up of the ponies on Dartmoor) - still endure.

Traditional skills, developed over the centuries, such as thatching, stone and cob walling and woodland management have contributed much to Dartmoor's distinctive landscape; but these are in danger of being lost, or diffused. This threatens not only to erode the cultural legacy of the moor, but also the ability to manage the natural and built fabric of the landscape in a way that conserves and enhances Dartmoor. Retaining these traditions and skills is therefore important both for the maintenance of the cultural identity of Dartmoor and its future management.

Local livestock markets have declined in recent times, although fairs, agricultural shows and festivals, once forming an important part of the farming calendar, continue, albeit in some cases in different and adapting forms, attracting both local people and visitors. The farm animals of Dartmoor also form an important part of Dartmoor's cultural heritage. These include the much diminished numbers of Greyface and White Face Dartmoor sheep and the South Devon cattle. In turn, the national revival of interest in local foods creates an opportunity to rediscover and celebrate those foods (and crafts) once traditional to Dartmoor. If markets can be developed such products provide new economic avenues linked to the land.



Ponies on Dartmoor of course remain a vital part of Dartmoor's cultural identity. For centuries they have been an important component of the grazing rights exercised by commoners on the open moorland of Dartmoor. Their primary value historically was as pack animals and pit ponies, but today their markets are limited. Numbers have dwindled to around 1,500 of which fewer than 350 could claim to be the pure bred 'native' Dartmoor. The remainder are referred to as the Dartmoor Hill Pony – tough, hardy and adaptable and vital in managing the moorland habitats. The Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust, the Dartmoor Pony Society and the Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony are amongst groups working hard to promote awareness and interest in a future for purebred and traditional hardy hill ponies on the moor, recognising their unique place in the cultural heritage of Dartmoor.

The interest in Dartmoor's cultural heritage is reflected in the numbers of local history groups and the small museums that celebrate the area's rich heritage. Dartmoor continues to be a major inspiration for works of art and literature.





Cultural Distinctiveness (CD) Ambition: Local communities, cultures, skills and traditional ways of rural life will continue to be sustained and celebrated as defining characteristics of Dartmoor

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>GOAL HB.G1 is of direct relevance to this Ambition</p> <p>CD.G1: Traditional local fairs, festivals and agricultural shows will be sustained</p> <p>CD.G2: 15 local communities and other organisations will be engaged in recording or curating their social history</p> <p>CD.G3: A vibrant range of traditional rural skills will be supported, with at least 10 new apprenticeships / placement opportunities each year in skills traditional to Dartmoor</p> <p>CD.G4: The population of native Dartmoor ponies on Dartmoor will show an upward trend from a baseline of 350</p> <p>CD.G5: 80 local businesses will celebrate and support Dartmoor's traditional cultures and skills under the Dartmoor brand</p>	<p>HB.M1: Dartmoor Cultural Heritage Strategy is equally relevant to this Ambition</p> <p>CD.M1: Local fairs, festivals and agricultural shows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Traditional local fairs, festivals and agricultural shows are encouraged and those that have been lost may be revived where there is strong community support <p>CD.M2: Local community engagement and education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The cultural history and identity of Dartmoor features in local, county and regional explorations of cultural identity ◆ Local history groups are supported in maintaining (and storing) their own histories and in publishing findings ◆ The electronic photographic archive being developed by the Dartmoor Trust is supported ◆ Local communities are encouraged to run activities celebrating local ways of life and are aware of the grant aid available ◆ Traditions associated with upland hill farming and land management are kept alive <p>CD.M3: Rural skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local skills are supported through the provision of local training, apprenticeships and mentoring ◆ Traditional skills courses are made available to Dartmoor residents ◆ A traditional skills fair is held and the annual South West Woodfair continues <p>CD.M4: The native Dartmoor pony and other traditional breeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The population of Dartmoor ponies is increased and improved with active support for schemes which encourage the breeding and keeping of native ponies on the moor ◆ Within agri-environment schemes ponies are classified separately from other livestock with their own incentives ◆ Interest in cattle and sheep breeds traditional to Dartmoor is rekindled <p>CD.M5: The arts, local craft and food cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Products traditional to Dartmoor are identified and promoted – food, wood and building products – through the Dartmoor brand ◆ Suitable outlets for the sale of local traditional products are encouraged ◆ Crafts people and local producers of raw materials are brought together ◆ Arts and artists are encouraged to draw inspiration from and celebrate Dartmoor's unique landscape

Archaeological Heritage (AH)

The archaeology of Dartmoor is very special, providing evidence of human presence on the moor extending back for some eight millennia, although the earliest visible remains of activity are about 6,000 years old. It contains inter alia, ceremonial and burial sites, some dating back as far as the fourth millennium BC; field systems and settlements 3,500 years old; deserted medieval farmsteads and associated fields established nearly ten centuries ago; and remains of industrial activity, particularly of a tin industry which is at least 850 years old and possibly much older and which ceased only in the early years of the last century.

The density of archaeological remains is reflected in over 17,500 entries in the Historic Environment Record and in 1,206 Scheduled Monuments (6% of the national total) within the National Park. Here, for example, can be discovered the greatest concentration of prehistoric stone rows anywhere in Britain; and over 10,000 hectares of Bronze Age field systems (whose boundaries are known as reaves) which illustrate a highly organised system of land division 3,500 years ago. Significantly, Dartmoor provides the very rare opportunity to discover extensive, complex and integrated archaeological landscapes that illustrate the ways in which people have lived and worked over time.

This layering of archaeological features on Dartmoor, with earlier features visible within later archaeological **landscapes**, is best described as an archaeological palimpsest.

During the development of the Moorland Vision, 14 Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) were identified; these are considered to be of international importance, ranking amongst the finest archaeological landscapes in Europe. Evidence of human occupation is also found in more ephemeral sources, such as below ground archaeological deposits in buried peat and pollen, and find-spots of prehistoric tools. Many features of archaeological significance are abandoned but others are dynamic and still in use, such as some present-day field boundaries which originated three and a half thousand years ago.

Despite ever increasing knowledge of the archaeological heritage, the resource itself is irreplaceable and finite. It cannot be renewed or re-created; once lost, it is lost forever. It must be protected – not only by conserving sites and landscapes themselves, but also their setting. Understanding their current condition and significance through survey and investigation is vital in informing future management. Local societies and organisations have a valuable role to play in archaeological research, survey and interpretation.



SENSE OF PLACE

Archaeological Heritage (AH)



Practical management of the fabric of Dartmoor's archaeological sites and features has been undertaken by the DNPA, both alone and in funding partnerships with English Heritage, the latter through the Monument Management Scheme (which supports the conservation of nationally important monuments) and through Local Management Agreements (under which the DNPA has taken on the day to day responsibility for sites in the care of English Heritage). The Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme has facilitated the conservation of the archaeological resource. Within woodlands and plantations protection of archaeological sites has been achieved through appropriate management plans and funding schemes. A historic features scheme has been introduced to protect and conserve artefacts and features of local importance; these include the distinctive network of leats (artificial drainage channels constructed from the 16th century onwards) which provided water for industrial, agricultural and domestic needs.

Nevertheless, there is no room for complacency. Growth of scrub and bracken, as a result of reduced grazing levels on moorland combined with the effects of climate change, is now both masking the archaeological resource and potentially causing damage. In the face of this challenge, maintaining the required grazing levels on the PALs, supported by controlled burning and vegetation control is of particular importance.

There also continues to be a need to ensure the appropriate management of archaeological sites in the wider landscape, ensuring that they form an element of any new agri-environment scheme.



Archaeological Heritage (AH) Ambition:

Dartmoor's extensive archaeological and historic landscapes will comprise sites and features in optimum condition

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>Goal HB.G1 is of direct relevance to this Ambition</p> <p>AH.G1: All Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) identified in the Moorland Vision will be brought into active management with their condition improving</p> <p>AH.G2: There will be a 5% reduction in the number of Scheduled Monuments at high or medium risk</p> <p>AH.G3: There will be a developing, accessible and easy to use Historic Environment Record (HER) providing comprehensive coverage of the historic environment</p> <p>AH.G4: Positive action will be taken in at least 150 cases to safeguard or improve the condition of archaeological features or artefacts</p>	<p>HB.M1: Dartmoor Cultural Heritage Strategy is equally relevant to this Ambition</p> <p>AH.M1: Premier Archaeological Sites (PALs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Archaeological surveys are completed for all 14 PALs ◆ Criteria are established for measuring the favourable condition of PALs ◆ A spatial management plan is developed and implemented for each PAL agreed with owners and commoners <p>AH.M2: Scheduled Monuments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Scheduled Monuments are managed in partnership under the Monument Management Scheme and Local Management Agreements ◆ The Monuments at Risk Survey (MARS) for Dartmoor is repeated in 2011/12 ◆ Scheduled Monuments within agri-environment schemes continue to be brought into favourable management ◆ Farm Environment Plans highlight the management needs of Scheduled Monuments <p>AH.M3: Historic Environment Record (HER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A Historic Environment Countryside Advisory Service officer is employed within DNPA ◆ An Action Plan arising out of the HER audit is implemented ◆ Public accessibility to the HER is improved <p>AH.M4: Archaeological sites, features, and artefacts (recorded on the HER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Practical conservation works are undertaken on archaeological sites and features ◆ Vulnerable artefacts are protected through a micro chipping scheme ◆ The DNPA Historic Features Scheme is continued ◆ The re-cataloguing of collections in local museums is supported and promoted <p>AH.M5: Knowledge and research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ University programmes cover paleoenvironmental research and investigation of the archaeology of peat ◆ A cultural heritage research seminar is held once every three years ◆ Historic leats, their condition and their associated features are recorded <p>AH.M6: Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The archaeology of Dartmoor is celebrated and interpreted, encouraging a better understanding of the historic environment ◆ Regular community events are held celebrating local heritage ◆ A cultural heritage panel is established, linking professional organisations, amenity societies and community groups with an interest in the broad cultural heritage



Historic Built Environment (HB)

The character of Dartmoor owes much to its historic built heritage, which is an essential component of its distinctive landscape and contributes significantly to an understanding of life past and present on the moor. Like Dartmoor's archaeology, it is a special and finite resource.

Dartmoor's characteristic settlement pattern is of scattered farmsteads and hamlets found in the river valleys and on the moorland fringes, set within enclosed farmland. Superimposed on this pattern, are towns and villages. The towns, often located on the moorland fringe and on important routes, reveal their medieval origins in the survival of long, narrow burgage plots. Parts of those settlements which retain their historic integrity have or will be designated by the National Park Authority as conservation areas. Conservation Area Appraisals have so far been undertaken for 22 settlements and these will inform the preparation of management plans, which will address positive conservation and enhancement measures.

Dartmoor's historic buildings are predominantly vernacular, that is, constructed from local materials in locally distinctive styles. The use of granite dominates the high moor, but a variety of materials has been used around the fringes, including limestone to the south, slatestones

and shillets in the north west and cob to the north east. Thatch was the traditional roof cover, although slate became common in the 19th century. The form and location of buildings has in many cases been influenced by the climate, so many are built in sheltered spots, with solid walls and small openings.

The prosperity enjoyed by Dartmoor in the later medieval period, deriving from the wool and tin industries, finds expression in substantial farmhouses and a wonderful collection of impressive and distinctive churches. One of Dartmoor's most iconic medieval buildings is the internationally important longhouse, where people and animals were sheltered under one roof. Of the 130 or so examples that survive, in only a handful does the shippon end (that portion which housed the animals) survive unconverted to domestic use.

Most traditional farmstead buildings date from the 18th or 19th centuries and cluster around the farmhouse in an irregular pattern; they are an important historic resource, being the hub from which the landscape was managed, but also revealing, in their variety, the much more mixed nature of farming in times past.

Town buildings are predominantly 18th and 19th century in date and many differ from the rural tradition in both form and use of materials.



The construction of timber-framed walls, protected by slate hanging or render, is an urban characteristic.

Aside from buildings, there is a wide variety of structures and artefacts which belong to Dartmoor's historic built environment; these range from bridges, to milestones and telephone boxes.

In total there are 2,750 listed buildings within the National Park, but also many other buildings and structures of local significance; the Government, through its Heritage Protection Review is encouraging local authorities to draw up a formal register of historic assets, which would include these.

The condition of all listed buildings is being kept under review through a rolling quinquennial Buildings at Risk (BAR) Survey. About 4% of the protected historic building stock appears on the National Park Authority's Buildings at Risk Register and positive action is required to reduce this level.

Understanding of the historic building stock is further complemented by other surveys and investigations. Such improved understanding is vital in prioritising and informing building conservation in line with English Heritage guidelines.

A particular emerging challenge for the future will be to ensure that historic buildings increase their energy efficiency in ways that retain their historic character.

All this is against a background where the upholding of traditional building skills is being threatened and there is increasing desire to use alien and unsustainable materials. A challenge facing the historic built environment is the retention of the character and historic interest of buildings and structures whilst adapting to the effects of climate change.



SENSE OF PLACE

Historic Built Environment (HB)



Historic Built Environment (HB) Ambition: Dartmoor’s historic built environment will be locally distinctive, reflecting the use of traditional styles, patterns, materials and skills. The high quality of the resource will be sustained in good condition

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>Goal AH.G3 is of direct relevance to this Ambition</p> <p>HB.G1: A broad Cultural Heritage Strategy will guide all aspects of cultural heritage conservation and enhancement within Dartmoor National Park</p> <p>HB.G2: Management plans will be completed for all Conservation Areas in Dartmoor National Park</p> <p>HB.G3: The historic resource of buildings and structures will be in improved condition with 97% of Listed Buildings at non-risk status</p> <p>HB.G4: Clear criteria will be established to identify and record locally important historic buildings and other structures</p>	<p>AH.M3: Historic Environment Record (HER) is equally relevant to this Ambition</p> <p>HB.M1: Dartmoor Cultural Heritage Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A programme is agreed and implemented for the production of the Cultural Heritage Strategy <p>HB.M2: Conservation Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There is a clear programme for the development of Conservation Area Management Plans ◆ The designation of additional Conservation Areas is kept under review ◆ Enhancement and repair needs within Conservation Areas (ensuring pro-active conservation) are prioritised <p>HB.M3: Settlements generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning controls are used to maintain the historic character of Conservation Areas and the other settlements of the National Park, ensuring that new development contributes to the conservation and enhancement of their character / appearance and does not detract from their individual historic qualities (taken forward through the Local Development Framework and informed by character appraisals) ◆ Village and Town Design statements are prepared ◆ Design guidance and planning briefs are developed for individual sites where this will help sustain the character of the historic built environment ◆ Road signs and street furniture are used that are in keeping with the individual historic character of settlements <p>HB.M4: Historic buildings and structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The condition of listed buildings is assessed through a quinquennial Buildings at Risk Survey (BARS) for Dartmoor and the BAR registers are maintained and published ◆ The grade I listed longhouse at Higher Uppacott is managed as an exemplar by the DNPA ◆ The potential for a register of locally important historic buildings identified against established criteria is explored ◆ All historic building recording, repairs and alterations follow the principle of ‘Informed Conservation’ developed by English Heritage Guidance, and advice is offered to owners of historic (including listed) buildings on their maintenance and repair and appropriate methods for adapting to and mitigating against climate change ◆ A range of grant schemes is applied to encourage the reuse of redundant historic buildings and the proper repair and conservation of historic buildings and structures ◆ Planning controls help conserve the historic character and fabric of buildings and structures of historic interest (taken forward through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Development schemes and highway proposals, and the increased traffic that may result, are assessed to ensure that they do not have an adverse effect on the fabric of historic features

(cont)



Historic Built Environment (HB) Ambition: Dartmoor's historic built environment will be locally distinctive, reflecting the use of traditional styles, patterns, materials and skills. The high quality of the resource will be sustained in good condition (cont)

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
	<p>HB.M5: Knowledge and research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research to increase understanding of the historic built resource is encouraged and commissioned ◆ Links are created between universities, special interest groups, local authorities and relevant national organisations concerned with the built environment to promote research and understanding relevant to the cultural heritage <p>HB.M6: Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Leaflets/booklets and events celebrate Dartmoor's historic built heritage Dartmoor



Water Environment (WE)

Dartmoor plays a pivotal role in the water resources of Devon and east Cornwall, a role that is likely to assume heightened importance as the climate changes and the population continues to grow in the south west of England.

Described by W.G. Hoskins as '*the Great Source*', the large granite basins on the high moor, filled with blanket bog, feed the headwaters of the majority of the main rivers of Devon and those within the eastern catchment of the Tamar, including the East and West Okement, Taw, Teign, Bovey, Dart, Avon, Yealm, Erme, Plym, Walkham, Tavy and Lyd.

These rivers, and the eight water supply reservoirs that have been constructed within the Dartmoor river valleys (Kennick, Tottiford and Trenchford, Venford, Burrator, Fernworthy, Avon and Meldon reservoirs), meet the majority of the water needs of Devon's population and are therefore of strategic importance. A network of leats (artificial channels) still contain flowing water.

The fast flowing, tumbling rivers of Dartmoor, are a dynamic and much loved part of Dartmoor's landscape, as are the leats which have assumed a strong historic significance.

The rivers and leats generally have a high water quality while the rivers and reservoirs are an important recreational resource, in particular for fishing, and canoeing on the River Dart. The rivers and streams are also important habitats in their own right, home to the otter, Atlantic salmon and many other species, and form part of a wider network of water-dependent habitats, such as the valley mires and the nationally important remnant areas of Rhôs pasture.

With climate change, the sustainable management of the blanket bogs, other organic soils and water resources of Dartmoor is of ever-increasing importance. The blanket bogs along with the other organic soils of Dartmoor are strategic carbon sinks. They hold huge quantities of carbon and the bogs are capable of absorbing large amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere but are easily damaged by uncontrolled burning and drying. Critically, the blanket bogs must not dry out and must be under favourable low intensity management, as required to maximise their biodiversity value. Wetter winters and drier summers will bring both the potential for greater winter flooding and summer droughts. Already a considerable number of river sections within Dartmoor are considered by the Environment Agency to being 'over abstracted' for public water supply at times of low flow in the summer to the detriment of amenity and biodiversity.



Equally the moor has become significantly drier over the last 30 years. Without management climate change will lead to further drying of the moor and the rivers that radiate from it.

However, with careful forward planning and the sustainable management of the wider river catchments, there are opportunities for all round benefits. Extending areas of water dependent habitats within the river catchments of Dartmoor could be used, not only to bring biodiversity benefits, but to hold water back in the winter months. This would reduce flooding downstream and allow for the slow release of water into rivers and streams in the summer months, so helping to reduce low flow conditions. With modern highly sensitive river engineering works, as pioneered by the River Restoration Centre, there is the potential for these changes to be introduced in ways that have no adverse effects on the natural character of the river courses.

This, of course, also requires the careful management of water abstraction licences, reducing abstraction where low flows persist and ensuring that no abstraction adversely affects the nationally and internationally important water dependent habitats and species of Dartmoor. The rivers and leats of Dartmoor also have potential through the use of micro-hydro and other small hydro schemes to generate renewable energy so long as this

is achieved in ways that accord with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.





Water Environment (WE) Ambition: Dartmoor's distinctive water environment will be of the highest quality. It will be managed for maximum environmental benefit and sustained as a local resource

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>W.G1: All Dartmoor water courses will have the highest water quality, meeting the Water Quality Objective (RE1) of the Environment Agency's River Ecosystem Classification</p> <p>W.G2: Licensed water abstractions (ground and surface water) will not adversely affect water levels in water dependent habitats, in particular areas of blanket bog, Rhôs pasture and valley mires, and the migration routes of Atlantic salmon</p> <p>W.G3: There will be no further increase in over abstraction within the river catchments on Dartmoor, as measured by the number of Environment Agency Water Resource Management Units classified as 'over licensed' or 'over abstracted'</p> <p>W.G4: All blanket bogs will be brought under optimum management for absorbing and storing carbon</p> <p>W.G5: At least one major scheme will be taken forward to store flood waters on Dartmoor in ways that enhance important water dependent habitats</p>	<p>W.M1: Water quality and carbon storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of the Water Framework Directive, Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) and the Habitats Directive Review of Consents processes are used to maximise benefits for water quality and the semi-natural habitats within Dartmoor's river catchments ◆ The Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative is used to enhance semi-natural habitats, manage the storage of carbon in organic soils and improve water quality in priority catchments on Dartmoor ◆ Sustainable land management of water catchments and organic soils is encouraged through Environmental Stewardship and other schemes ◆ Buffer zones are provided to either side of water courses where they pass through conifer plantations or farmland <p>W.M2: Surface and ground water levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) process for Dartmoor is used to ensure that abstraction is not adversely affecting water-dependent habitats or flows in the headwaters of the river catchments ◆ All new development within the National Park minimises water use (achieved through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Water efficiency measures are promoted for households and local businesses <p>W.M3: Dartmoor's blanket bogs and other water dependent habitats (see also LM.M2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The condition of the blanket bogs of Dartmoor is improved to maximise their role in storing and absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and as natural regulators of stream and river flows (through appropriate management of the bogs themselves and their catchments, and replenishment of groundwater levels) ◆ Appropriate water levels are retained in valley mires and areas of Rhôs pasture <p>W.M4: Managing flood waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Through the Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) process, flood management approaches are promoted that maximise opportunities for the restoration and enhancement of water-dependant habitats (blanket bogs, valley mires, wet woodland and Rhôs pasture), with water-dependant semi-natural habitats used to retain flood waters in the upper catchments ◆ New developments incorporate measures to manage flood risk (achieved through the Local Development Framework)

(cont)



Water Environment (WE) Ambition: Dartmoor's distinctive water environment will be of the highest quality. It will be managed for maximum environmental benefit and sustained as a local resource (cont)

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>W.G6: Five priority leats are restored and maintained so there is no significant leakage of water (see also E.G5)</p>	<p>W.M5: Rivers and Leats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All river management enhances riparian habitats (helping to meet objectives in the Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan) ◆ A record of flowing leats is created with prioritised actions identified ◆ A programme is established to restore and maintain priority flowing leats to ensure they supply water for agricultural, domestic and potential energy needs <p>W.M6: Knowledge and Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understanding is improved of the water cycle on Dartmoor and the likely implications of climate change