

Introduction

The communities and businesses of the National Park provide the skills and 'economic engine' needed to maintain and enhance many aspects of Dartmoor's special qualities. They also need to be able to meet their own needs and to maintain community vitality and cohesion in harmony with Dartmoor's designation as a National Park.

There are opportunities to:

- demonstrate sustainable living;
- evolve local economies in ways that positively help maintain the National Park's special qualities. Tourism businesses have a very valuable role to play in this;
- lead the way in meeting broader sustainability objectives in terms of natural resource protection, reduced energy consumption and the increased sustainability of individual communities. These imperatives become all the more important in the face of climate change.

These opportunities reflect that the National Parks of England are living and working environments where many of their characteristic qualities are as much a result of human activity as of natural forces.

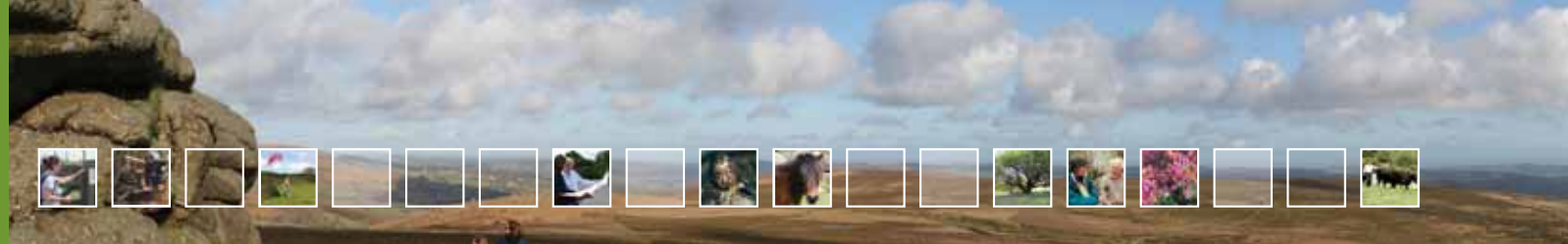
Challenges

Key challenges for the people and businesses of Dartmoor are:

- finding new ways of maintaining the viability of upland farming both through the development of new economic opportunities and through new support mechanisms linked to sustainable land management and the delivery of wider public benefits;
- increasing the economic performance of activities that keep money in the local economy and help conserve and manage Dartmoor's special qualities, for example, through sustainable tourism initiatives, development of local food chains and support for the skills base in traditional crafts;
- meeting the needs of local communities, maintaining community vitality, increasing local pride, and encouraging more sustainable living, while conserving the sense of place of individual settlements;
- reducing carbon dioxide emissions within the National Park with the aim of meeting and exceeding the Government's national targets.

The Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund (DSDF), administered by the National Park Authority, encourages sustainable development projects that help improve the quality of life of current and future generations within the National Park supporting proposals that focus on environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of life.

... communities and businesses of the National Park ... need to be able to meet their own needs and to maintain community vitality and cohesion in harmony with Dartmoor's designation as a National Park.



Land Management (LM)

Dartmoor is essentially a farmed environment, with three-quarters of its area available for grazing. Woodland makes up 11.7% of the National Park area of which one third is conifers and two thirds broadleaf, with extensive areas of predominantly broadleaf on the eastern side of the National Park. These broadleaf woodlands have the potential to make a greater contribution to the local economy.


Dartmoor's harsh climate means that farming has always been an economically marginal activity. Nevertheless, it remains central to the identity of many Dartmoor communities, both as an employer and custodian of the landscape and traditional agricultural practices that have formed the backbone of farming activities across all types and sizes of farm. For over thirty years, Government policy has recognised the need to provide financial support to hill farmers, received through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), without which livestock farming on Dartmoor would not be viable. Since 1994, the Dartmoor Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme has encouraged farmers to adopt environmentally beneficial management practices.

Recent and ongoing reforms of the CAP mean that the overall value of the agricultural support has been falling and is no longer linked to the

numbers of livestock kept. The University of Exeter has predicted that the net farm income received by Dartmoor hill farmers who keep cattle and sheep will fall by 37% over the next eight years.

Farming on Dartmoor, particularly on the moorland, has traditionally been based around the keeping of hardy breeds of beef cattle and sheep, and the selling of breeding and 'store' animals to lowland farmers. The reforms of the CAP and the requirements of the ESA scheme have caused farmers to reduce the number of animals they keep, particularly breeding beef cows of hardy breeds, and to increase the proportion of animals they 'finish' for human consumption. The number of holdings within the National Park supporting at least one full-time farmer is around 500 but the number of those who put livestock out on the moorland commons has declined to around 120.

Another trend has been for farming families to rely increasingly on income from non-agricultural sources such as tourism or other employment. Nevertheless, it is the continuation of traditional forms of farming, particularly the keeping of hardy breeds of cattle and sheep suited to the moorland and flower-rich grassland, that is essential for the maintenance of many of Dartmoor's special qualities.



Over the next five years, the Dartmoor ESA will be replaced by the Government's flagship environmental scheme, Environmental Stewardship, which provides support for the conservation benefits provided by farming. This scheme is also likely to replace the Hill Farm Allowance scheme that recognises the economic disadvantages faced by hill farmers. It will be vital that Environmental Stewardship, through its various levels, provides timely and adequate financial incentives to maintain and support the forms of livestock rearing and the family-based farming businesses on which so many of Dartmoor's special qualities depend.

As recognised by Defra's Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy, Dartmoor's farmers have the opportunity to take advantage of the growing demand for high quality food and to continue to explore tourism potential to help support the core farm business. The increase in consumer demand for locally produced food and drink and the links that can be made between these products and the high quality environment they come from present special opportunities to farmers on Dartmoor. A widely recognised and credible marketing identity for these products, used by farmers working together, will be needed to take advantage of this growing demand. The Dartmoor Hill Farm Project has already made a start on this work which will need to continue in partnership with others, particularly the tourism sector.

Farmers and other land managers will need business skills and information to be able to respond to new challenges and markets.

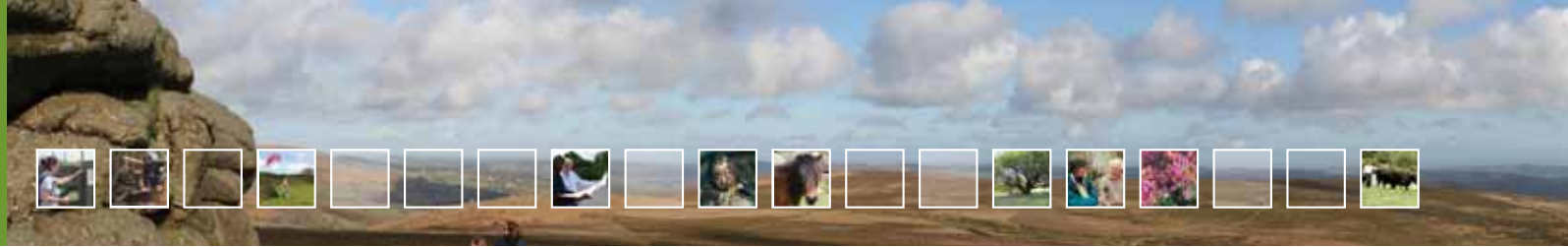
One of the main themes in the Delivery Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the South West is 'Improving and Integrating Training for Rural Businesses'. A wide variety of public, private and voluntary sector organisations provides advice to Dartmoor's farmers. It will be important that this advice is well co-ordinated and sign-posted so that farmers and other land managers receive consistent and integrated messages about how they can support national park purposes through viable business development.

The large areas of semi-natural woodland in the National Park were once managed, but decline in the demand for coppice products and cheap imports of softwood timber have reduced the economic incentives for traditional woodland management. Nevertheless, the situation is changing. Rise of the Far East economies has and will continue to have an effect on timber markets with improved prices for home-grown timber, and in the UK new markets will emerge through demands for woodfuel. Rejuvenation of the wood and timber markets will need to be directed to those woodlands where management will bring maximum benefits, as identified through woodland management plans, especially Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESS

Land Management (LM)



The effects of the changing climate on Dartmoor's natural environment is already being noticed by farmers and woodland owners through a lengthening of the growing season and impact on particular species. Further changes to the climate will have as yet unforeseen consequences which could threaten, or present opportunities for, land management. These need to be better understood.

Land Management (LM) Ambition: Viable land management practices will continue to play a central role in conserving Dartmoor's special qualities

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>LM.G1: The viability of upland farming, as measured by net farm income, will not drop below that identified in 2002</p> <p>LM.G2: There will be no overall decline in the number of commoners actively exercising their grazing rights</p> <p>LM.G3: There will be high levels of engagement by farmers in agri-environment schemes, with 75% of farmed and common land in Environmental Stewardship</p> <p>LM.G4: 50 land management businesses will be selling under the Dartmoor brand</p> <p>LM.G5: 1,500 hectares of broadleaved woodland will be under active schemes of management in which woodland products are processed and marketed locally</p>	<p>All means to achieve under Economic Activity (EA) are relevant here</p> <p>LM.M1: Viable land-based businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Business support is provided to farmers and woodland managers to help reduce production costs, increase efficiencies in working with others, and add value ◆ Holistic rural support and advice is provided to land managers through a First Stop Shop ◆ Policy makers and opinion formers are made fully aware, through the South West Upland Federation and other avenues, of the vital role of hill farming in maintaining the environment and cultural identity of the South West region upland areas ◆ The likely implications of climate change on viable farming systems and land management are kept under review and appropriate responses identified <p>LM.M2: Active commons management (see also CD.M4 and W.M3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Initiatives to maintain native / traditional hardy stock on the commons are lobbied for and supported ◆ On each common the level and mix of grazing appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and biodiversity is maintained ◆ The careful use of swaling is promoted in the management of the open moor through the use of the Fire Management Plan and the commitment of the Fire Management Group which co-ordinates the swaling undertaken by individual commons associations <p>LM.M3: Agri-environment, woodland and other land management schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Environmental Stewardship provides economic recognition for the essential role that hill farming businesses play in environmental conservation, visitor enjoyment and the mitigation of climate change ◆ Environmental Stewardship reinforces livestock management systems that are economically viable as well as environmentally sustainable ◆ Land managers preventing carbon loss and supporting the sustainable management of water are financially rewarded through national and regional schemes ◆ The English Woodland Grant Scheme is used to bring woodland under schemes of management to improve biodiversity, where relevant producing timber and wood products for local processing and sale <p>LM.M4 Stimulating and meeting market demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A marketing brand is developed and promoted as part of the Hill Farm Project that accredits land-based producers who are actively conserving Dartmoor's special qualities ◆ Initiatives are developed that promote the procurement of food, wood and other local produce by local businesses and public sector bodies in the south west of England ◆ Increasing use of wood fuel as a renewable energy source within the National Park is met from wood and forest residues harvested from Dartmoor's woodlands (consistent with woodland management plans) ◆ Woodland owners that are developing woodland products are encouraged to join an accreditation scheme such as the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme ◆ Markets are developed for traditional moorland ponies as conservation graziers and as a children's ponies, thereby increasing economic incentives for the rearing of ponies on the moor



Community Well-being (CW)

Dartmoor is a highly attractive and rewarding place to live. The population of the National Park increased by around 10% between 1996 and 2006 and Dartmoor is now home to around 33,500 people.

However, its very attractiveness has led to high levels of demand for houses in the National Park. This has increased house prices beyond the reach of many local people, particularly young families. The lack of affordable houses threatens the viability of community services such as village schools.

Despite high levels of concern about the price of houses, there are other more encouraging trends. The proportion of houses that are privately rented or owned by housing associations has been increasing. Seasonal occupancy (second homes) has also declined in the last ten years (around 3% in the National Park as a whole although it is higher in some of the smaller settlements).

Quality of life is strongly affected by the availability of local services. Post Offices and village shops, pubs and garages are important community assets but face competition from large retailers outside the National Park and from changing patterns of shopping such as use of the internet.

Falling public subsidy for Post Offices in the next five years will present a particular challenge for many villages.

Dartmoor's high quality natural environment makes it an attractive place for people to retire to, while an increasing number of people are choosing jobs that allow them to work from home. Conversely, many young people comment that they have to move out of the National Park to find suitable employment, affordable accommodation and the forms of recreation that they enjoy, although there is a choice of recreational facilities found in the larger communities. As a result, the proportion of people living in the National Park aged between 16 to 59 continues to fall while the proportion of people over 60 is rising.

The remoteness of many of Dartmoor's communities, and the need for people to travel to their places of work and for shopping, means that there are high levels of car ownership. Bus services to many communities are non-existent or very limited and fares are relatively high; they are under-used and dependent on high levels of public subsidy. People living on Dartmoor who do not have their own car can find themselves very isolated.

There is a real challenge to provide opportunities to empower people at a community level to develop more socially and environmentally



sustainable ways of living that, amongst other things, respond to the issues raised by climate change.

This will involve developing forms of alternative and innovative transport that will receive popular support and which will not rely on high and unsustainable levels of public subsidy or high use of non-renewable resources. This could take many forms including car share schemes (either private or commercial as in the Fare Car Scheme promoted by Devon County Council), community based bus services and integration with recreational and tourism services, including combined use of services developed for individual tourist attractions. It will also mean finding innovative means of retaining community services, perhaps relying to a greater degree on local control, voluntary activity, and the use of shared and mobile facilities.





Community Well-being (CW) Ambition: Thriving Dartmoor communities will have a range of local services, amenities, housing and employment opportunities

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>CW.G1: The majority of new dwellings permitted in the National Park are affordable houses to meet identified local needs</p> <p>CW.G2: 10 Dartmoor communities will undertake and deliver Parish Plans or Village Design Statements that actively contribute to more sustainable living</p> <p>CW.G3: There will be no net loss in the community services available in the National Park, as measured by the number of villages having most or all of the following facilities: Monday – Saturday bus services; village hall, primary school; shop/ Post Office</p> <p>CW.G4: There will be a significant increase in the number of people using community transport services</p>	<p>CW.M1: Affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning policies and the planning system assist in achieving the goal for affordable housing (achieved through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Greater channelling of resources into affordable rural housing is sought through the influence of the Commission for Rural Communities and the Regional Housing Body/Housing Corporation ◆ Up to date information on housing needs within the National Park is delivered through parish-based housing needs surveys supported by parish councils and the Rural Housing Enabler ◆ All approved applications for local needs housing are monitored within 12 months of completion to ensure occupancy criteria are met, with a re-survey at three year intervals <p>CW.M2: Vibrant communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Devon Local Area Agreement and the County and Districts' Community Strategies reflect the needs and aspirations of Dartmoor's communities where they relate to the National Park area ◆ Parish Plans or Village Design Statements promote sustainable lifestyles, are encouraged to incorporate mitigation and adaptations to climate change and are drawn up with maximum community involvement by parish councils and community groups ◆ The Local Strategic Partnerships guide the group delivery of Parish Plans and Village Design Statement objectives to encourage joint working to achieve strategic targets ◆ The retention of community facilities and services such as Post Offices, schools, doctors' surgeries, shops, pubs and village halls is encouraged through lobbying, seeking dual/multi use or mobile facilities and, where locally supported, by encouraging the formation of community enterprise and business advice to those who run or wish to set up community facilities ◆ Youth projects are encouraged that engage young people living in the National Park in community life and in the maintenance of Dartmoor's special qualities ◆ Awareness is raised of the importance of supporting local services

(cont)



Community Well-being (CW) Ambition:

Thriving Dartmoor communities will have a range of local services, amenities, housing and employment opportunities (cont)

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
	<p>CW.M3: Sustainable travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Local Transport Plan clearly identifies those routes where there would be strong community support for the continuation / enhancement of public transport provision◆ The Local Transport Plan promotes integration between different transport modes to maximise all round benefit and meet the needs of local communities and visitors alike◆ Community and School Travel Plans are developed for individual communities to enable increased use of public/ community transport and an overall reduction in the use of private vehicles◆ Innovative means of reducing car travel (such as the use of post buses and car share) are investigated and implemented to meet community needs and potentially the needs of the visiting public◆ Targeted information is provided to local communities on transport options including community transport services◆ Consideration is given to the transport of goods to, from and within the National Park, and whether there are opportunities to reduce the number and size of commercial vehicles



Economic Activity (EA)

Employment and business are essential parts of life in the National Park, particularly those activities such as farming and forestry that support its special environmental qualities, and tourism that caters for the visitors who come to enjoy Dartmoor.

Tourism employs the largest number of people on Dartmoor (more than 17% of the workforce, although much is part-time and/or seasonal) followed by the distribution sector (wholesale and retail, 16%) and then providers of business services such as accountants, IT consultants and estate agents (13%). The relative importance of these sectors in the economy has been growing in recent years. In comparison, farming and forestry employ around 6% of the workforce. The number employed is diminishing just at the time when the importance of these sectors to the environment is increasing.

The economy of the National Park is closely linked with the businesses and people in the surrounding towns, particularly Bovey Tracey, Okehampton and Tavistock, but also the cities of Plymouth and Exeter. Many people living in the National Park work in these settlements and many of the people who work on Dartmoor travel in from these areas.

Most of the businesses in the National Park and the surrounding towns employ fewer than 50 employees (being officially classified as small businesses). Building close economic links between these businesses and with local consumers ensures that money is retained in the local economy, local services are supported, and the economy has the opportunity to become more self reliant. Creating clusters of collaborating businesses and shortening supply chains are important goals in the Regional Economic Strategy.

There is increasing consumer interest in purchasing locally distinctive goods and services from local producers. This creates openings for businesses to capitalise on Dartmoor's special character, focusing on goods and services of high quality and value. To support this activity, there is growing interest in the development of an accredited Dartmoor brand that will enable consumers to identify and support products that have strong associations with the National Park and its special qualities. This brand is likely to be particularly relevant to farmers, speciality food producers using local ingredients, and tourism providers on Dartmoor.

The Government's *National Skills Strategy* recognises the essential role of training in successful businesses and a fulfilled workforce.



Dartmoor is fortunate in having a range of colleges and universities in its surrounding towns and cities. It will be important that these training providers are aware of the needs of Dartmoor's workforce, focusing on the skills needed to raise the quality and distinctiveness of the goods and services produced on Dartmoor.

Small and medium-sized businesses also benefit from other kinds of support including market intelligence, mentoring advice, and the opportunity to visit other similar businesses who exemplify good practice. Such support, via Business Link and the South West of England Regional Development Agency, will be of particular value, especially where encouragement is given to achieving more sustainable business practices and supporting the national park purposes through business activities.





Economic Activity (EA) Ambition: Broad ranging economic activity will support Dartmoor's special qualities, provide local sources of employment and use local supply chains, with added value retained in the local economy

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>EA.G1: There will be an increase in the proportion of employed residents working within the 'Dartmoor+' economic area thereby increasing the economic self-sufficiency of the locality</p> <p>EA.G2: There will be an increase in the proportion of residents working at home (to at least 25% of residents in employment against a baseline of 19% in 2001)</p> <p>EA.G3: There will be an increase in the value of businesses within Dartmoor that relate either directly or indirectly to achieving national park purposes</p> <p>EA.G4: The business community will have the skills needed to deliver this ambition, with 200 Dartmoor businesses each year receiving free or subsidised advice and support that helps them to conserve Dartmoor's special qualities</p> <p>EA.G5: There will be a trademarked Dartmoor brand used by at least 100 Dartmoor businesses to recognise their support for conserving Dartmoor's special qualities (in addition to those businesses under LM.G4)</p>	<p>EA.M1: Provision of business infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning policies support the retention of existing business premises and provision of additional business space in sustainable locations, and make provision for working at home (achieved through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Any significant employment provision is supported by a Travel Plan in accordance with best practice guidance to reduce reliance on the private car and impacts on the local and strategic road network ◆ There is a strong infrastructure of business services to support small rural businesses (and home working) in the National Park ◆ Business development training is available to ensure a match between skills and business needs <p>EA.M2: Economic diversity and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Business support (advice, training and grant aid) is provided to businesses to develop additional sources of income that allow them to continue stewardship of Dartmoor's special qualities ◆ Business support (market intelligence, training and small capital grants) is offered to local residents (particularly young people) who wish to start new small businesses located in the National Park ◆ A locally managed LEADER-style rural regeneration initiative is established to assist the economy of the National Park and surrounding areas ◆ The Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund is continued beyond 2008 <p>EA.M3: Raising quality and value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Businesses are supported to raise the quality of their products, services and environmental performance <p>EA.M4: Local clusters and supply chains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Trade associations that encourage mutually supportive clusters of businesses and efficient use of local supply chains are supported to reduce transport needs and retain value in the National Park ◆ Community-based projects are developed that encourage mutually supportive producer/consumer relationships providing locally needed goods and services <p>EA.M5: An accredited Dartmoor brand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A trademark and brand for use on Dartmoor products and services are developed in recognition of the contribution that products and services can make to the special qualities of the National Park ◆ The Dartmoor brand is licensed for use by groups of businesses that are accredited on the basis of their contribution to maintaining and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park

New Development (ND)

Where new development takes place within the National Park it is important that its design is of high quality in sympathy with the character of the area and, wherever possible, uses locally sourced traditional materials, such as granite, cob, thatch and timber. If traditional building materials are to be used in new buildings, there should be local supplies of granite, native hardwood timber, and thatch. There will also be a need for craftsmen and women who have the knowledge and experience to make appropriate use of these materials. Traditional skills can also be used to support modern sustainable building initiatives, for example, straw bale and timber construction.

Nevertheless, innovative design, which reflects local distinctiveness, will be welcome where this clearly increases the sustainability of the building, especially in areas of water conservation (potentially including rainwater harvesting) and energy efficiency. High levels of energy efficiency in all new buildings will make an important contribution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions within the National Park. It will also be a vital component in achieving the Government's target of ensuring that all new homes in England are carbon neutral by 2016.

Carbon neutral means that, over a year, the net carbon emissions from energy use in the home are zero.

Standards of building design are improving all the time, particularly in terms of energy efficiency.

Innovative and more environmentally sustainable forms of construction are being developed. It will be important that architects and developers working within the National Park are challenged and encouraged to make full use of these.





New Development (ND) Ambition: New development will positively contribute to local distinctiveness. It will also be constructed with high standards of design and energy efficiency

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>ND.G1: Design guidance will promote the use of local materials and energy efficiency technologies in all new development</p> <p>ND.G2: There will be national recognition, through design awards, of at least one new built development in the National Park</p> <p>ND.G3: At least 85% of all newly built development will meet the 'excellent' industry standards for energy efficiency⁶</p>	<p>ND.M1: Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A local design forum promotes high quality in new design, especially the innovative use of traditional materials to achieve energy efficiency and water conservation, with links formed with the regional centre for sustainable construction (the Genesis Centre, Taunton) ◆ Design guidance and relevant grants are promoted to: encourage sustainable building through the use of local traditional materials in new developments; achieve high energy efficiency and contain costs for affordable housing for local needs <p>ND.M2: Availability of local materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local supply chain initiatives are promoted that bring together producers of timber and thatching straw around Dartmoor with building contractors operating in the National Park ◆ The DNPA Local Development Framework supports small scale quarrying of stone for local construction <p>ND.M3: Construction skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Knowledge is available, through formal training or Continuing Professional Development, on building design and construction to deliver high standards of design, innovation, water conservation and energy efficiency, including the use of local materials

⁶ Industry standards are provided by the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Model (BREEAM) with accreditation under the Code for Sustainable Homes

Energy (E)

Responding to the Kyoto protocol, the Government set a domestic target in 1997 to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. As exemplars of sustainable development, National Parks should be leading the way in meeting and exceeding Government targets for reduced emissions of CO₂.

The starting point must be reduced energy consumption. Dartmoor's communities and businesses have an important opportunity to identify how they are contributing to climate change and to adopt positive measures to reduce their carbon footprint. Key areas will be increased energy efficiency in the home, reduced travel and the reuse and recycling of materials. As part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions, public policy is now focused on increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. National targets set out in the 2003 Energy White Paper *Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy* have been developed and apportioned between different generating technologies at a regional level through the Revision 2020 strategy.

Clearly some of these renewable sources are not suitable for adoption within the National Park. The area's harsh climate and thin soils present few opportunities for growing high yielding

energy crops, nor would they be suitable within the landscape, or contribute to biodiversity targets. The need to preserve the quality and tranquillity of the landscape means that wind turbines, other than those serving individual households, would be equally inappropriate. On the other hand, small-scale hydro-electric in the right locations, ground source heat pumps and anaerobic digestion from waste, are likely to be compatible with the special qualities of the National Park. Increased use of wood as a source of energy also offers positive opportunities to encourage appropriate woodland management.

It will be important that a detailed understanding is developed of the opportunities and impacts that these energy generating technologies present to Dartmoor's special qualities. Local planning policy and targeting of the national and regional financial incentives will play an important role in achieving the self-sufficiency of Dartmoor's businesses and communities in meeting their energy needs. Moving towards self-sufficiency in energy production will also assist in meeting the Government's target that all new homes will be carbon neutral by 2016.





Energy (E) Ambition: Dartmoor will be an exemplar of low energy consumption and the production of renewable energy from sources compatible with Dartmoor's special qualities

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>E.G1: Government targets for reducing carbon emissions on Dartmoor will be exceeded by 5%</p> <p>E.G2: 10 larger communities delivering action plans to achieve a 35% reduction in CO₂ emissions below 1990 levels (see also CW.G2)</p> <p>E.G3: At least 1,500 kw will be generated by new small-scale hydro-electricity plants operating in the National Park (of between 150kw and 500kw each)</p> <p>E.G4: 60% of new build developments and 10 community services will make use of micro-renewable energy generation</p> <p>E.G5: At least 3 community renewable energy schemes will be developed</p>	<p>E.M1: Reducing energy consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As an example to others, the National Park Authority's use of energy from non-renewable sources is monitored across its entire estate, and an agreed programme of ongoing reduction in its carbon footprint set in place ◆ A baseline is established for measuring the reduction of carbon emissions on Dartmoor and an action plan is developed to achieve agreed reductions ◆ The resources (advice, guidance and financial support) are provided for community groups to undertake energy audits of their communities (households and businesses) ◆ Business support is provided to encourage energy efficiency and innovation to reduce the carbon footprint of business activity within the National Park ◆ Capital grants available nationally and regionally are promoted to households and businesses to increase energy efficiency ◆ Carbon efficiency is used as a criterion for judging overall public benefit when assessing applications for grant aid and other forms of assistance ◆ At least one community-based project is established that exemplifies a low carbon lifestyle ◆ Communities of interest, such as business clusters, are encouraged to deliver improvements in energy efficiency through the Local Strategic Partnerships <p>E.M2: Appropriate generation and utilisation of renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning policies support micro-renewable energy generation that is compatible with Dartmoor's special qualities and is most carbon-efficient (achieved through the Local Development Framework) ◆ Sensitivity analyses are used to assess the location of different forms of renewable energy generation within the National Park ◆ Capital grants available nationally and regionally are promoted to households, businesses and the public sector to support micro renewable energy generation, especially that using local wood, hydro and heat pumps

Military Training (MT)

Dartmoor has provided an important and challenging environment for military training for over 200 years. Today the Armed Forces train on some 13,000 hectares of freehold, leasehold and licensed land comprising some 12.5% of the National Park, or some 25% of Dartmoor's open moorland landscape. The principal licence for Okehampton and Merrivale Training Areas granted by the Duchy of Cornwall as landowner for a period of 21 years is due to expire in 2012. The third main area at Willsworthy is predominantly in MOD freehold. At times of live firing, public access is excluded on an average of 50 days each year at Okehampton, 80 days at Merrivale, and 140 days at Willsworthy. Individual and dry tactical training where only blank ammunition is used can take place at any time within the Range Danger Areas and other designated training areas.

Relationships between Defence Estates and the National Park Authority are very sound, and over the period of the current Duchy Licence since 1991, including the previous National Park Management Plan, much progress has been made in reducing the impacts of training, enhancing conservation benefits, and improving access arrangements.

Public complaint has diminished, and damage has reduced but the potential for damage remains.

In advance of any negotiation of a renewed licence from the Duchy of Cornwall, Defence Estates is committed to a full Environmental Appraisal covering all military activities on Dartmoor, and engaging a wide range of stakeholders. The process allows scope for negotiation to reconcile further competing interests and the impacts of military training on Dartmoor, its visitor and resident communities. Notwithstanding recent progress, the Council for National Parks and the Dartmoor Preservation Association have called for an independent review rigorously to assess future levels of need, and to examine options and alternatives to the renewal of licences on Dartmoor.

The fundamental conflict between military training and national park purposes centres on the loss of access at times of live firing, the visual intrusion in the landscape of warning signs, look-out shelters and flagpoles, and noise intrusion from military activity, notably helicopters. Conversely, there is a strong tradition of military training and presence in the South West region, much public sympathy for the role of the Armed Forces and their need to be trained to standards of excellence, and recognition of the significant contribution that the Armed Forces make to the local economy.

In the long term, the National Park Authority retains a vision and ambition that military training damaging to national park purposes should cease.



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESS

Military Training (MT)



In the short term it is important to maintain progress in reconciling the competing interests, and to sustain good working relationships. Dartmoor is already an exemplar that demonstrates how the two national needs of military training and national park purposes can be managed sympathetically. As steps along this way there should be continuing examination of the size and shape of the existing training areas, public access information and management, off track vehicular use, landscape impact reduction, helicopter operations, clearance of unexploded ordnance, activities damaging surface vegetation and archaeology, and standards of training area supervision. Through the Environmental Appraisal, Defence Estates is committed to this process, and to maximising environmental and economic benefit to the area.

Current Government policy stresses that the best resolution is through co-operation, and recognises the important contribution of defence use to the local social and economic well being of national park communities. Government expects that new, renewed or intensified use of land in the national parks should be subject to formal consultation, and to environmental impact assessment, and tested against any provisions set out in planning policy guidance.

The MOD is also required by the *Environment Act 1995* to have regard to national park purposes. On Dartmoor, Defence Estates continues to comply with such requirements.

Military Training (MT) Ambition: All military training taking place on Dartmoor will be consistent with national park purposes, and Defence Estates land is managed as an exemplar of conservation and recreational opportunity

Goals (for 2012)	Means to achieve
<p>MT.G1: Management and use of the military training areas will ensure environmental benefits as defined within the Dartmoor Training Area's Integrated Land Management Plan</p> <p>MT.G2: There will be an agreed gain in the level and certainty of access by the public to the military ranges</p> <p>MT.G3: The quality of public access to the military training areas will be improved</p>	<p>MT.M1: Current management delivering environmental benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An integrated land management plan for all areas of the Dartmoor Training Estate is developed and implemented by MOD ◆ A Conservation Group is maintained covering all the Dartmoor Training Areas, playing an active role in delivering conservation and access benefits with appropriate partner input ◆ Sensitivity maps for geology, cultural heritage, flora, fauna, organic soil conservation and water supply are developed and the Training Areas managed accordingly ◆ Sensitive areas are undisturbed by training during the ground nesting bird breeding season ◆ An overt monitoring process is developed and implemented by Defence Estates and overseen by the Dartmoor Steering Group ◆ The code of conduct for the protection of archaeological sites continues to be observed <p>MT.M2: Improved levels of public access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Negotiation between the DNPA, the MOD and the Duchy of Cornwall seeks to reduce the area of public exclusion during live firing ◆ An increase in the number of days on which the public has access to the military ranges is agreed <p>MT.M3: Improved quality of public access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Defence Estates accelerate appropriate clearance and manage the risk of unexploded ordnance ◆ Redundant military artefacts, where they have no historic value, are recorded and removed sensitively ◆ Military training is planned and carried out so as not to contribute to erosion and damage ◆ Negotiation between the DNPA, the Defence Estates and licensing landowners over the renewal of licences to train seeks to reduce the impact of dry training on the public <p>MT.M4: Improving environmental performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MOD keeps under continuous review its need for training on Dartmoor and reports its findings to the Dartmoor Steering Group annually ◆ Continuing agreed military activity is subject to full review at ten yearly intervals ◆ Major investment in new facilities or the licensing of further land for military use do not take place unless there is a proven overriding national need ◆ Noise and operational limitations on the use of military helicopters are established ◆ The Environmental Management System for the Dartmoor Training Estate delivers continuously improving environmental performance