

INTRODUCTION

Dartmoor National Park
Management Plan 2007-2012



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The *Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2007-2012* is the single most important plan for the future of the National Park. It is the strategic plan for the National Park, one that will guide decisions affecting Dartmoor's future over the coming five years. It is a Plan for the National Park as a whole and many organisations and local communities are key to its successful delivery.

The aim of the Management Plan is to act as the overarching strategic guide for achieving the purposes of national parks. These purposes are:

to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and

to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public

National park authorities also have an additional statutory duty:

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

State of the Park Reporting

Monitoring the success of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan is essential to inform future decisions. Guidance¹ advises that State of the Park Reports (SotPR) include evidence of the current state of, and issues affecting:

- the special qualities of the National Park;
- how these special qualities are enjoyed and by whom;
- and the economic and social well-being of National Park communities.

The purpose of the report is therefore:

- to identify the pressures and issues affecting the National Park;
- to ensure that the National Park Authority and other organisations are aware of the most important issues affecting the National Park;
- to measure whether work that is being done is having a positive effect;
- and to identify any new issues or priorities.

Monitoring of the Delivery of the Plan

The Plan states that successful monitoring requires robust baseline evidence against which the achievement of individual goals can be assessed. The purpose of this baseline report is to describe the current state of the National Park in order to monitor change on the ground through the life of the Plan.

¹ The Countryside Agency: *National Park Management Plans – Guidance* (2005)

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Figure 1. Dartmoor National Park Management Plan monitoring process

