



Introduction

This summary provides an overview of the *Dartmoor National Park Management Plan*. The complete Plan is available on-line at www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk or in hard copy from Dartmoor National Park Authority Headquarters, Parke, Bovey Tracey or the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown.

Who and what is the Management Plan for?

This is the single most important plan for the future of Dartmoor 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 not just for the National Park Authority, although the Authority, along with many other stakeholders and the local community, will be key to the delivery of the Management Plan. This is a Plan for all who care about Dartmoor and its future.

Consultation

The *Dartmoor National Park Management Plan* is the outcome of extensive consultation with those who have an interest in Dartmoor's future, including statutory agencies and representatives from local communities, amenity and special interest groups, and the general public.

The consultation began with a conference in April 2006. This was followed by a series of workshops which celebrated the special qualities that Dartmoor possesses, identified issues that may affect its future, and explored ways of moving forward. The draft *Dartmoor National Park Management Plan* then underwent formal consultation during June and July 2007. The final Plan has been produced having considered the responses received.

Who is responsible for fulfilling the national park purposes?

Section 62 of the *Environment Act 1995* makes it a duty for all relevant authorities (for example, Government departments and agencies, utility companies and parish councils) to have regard to the national park purposes when coming to decisions or carrying out their activities. This duty safeguards national park interests and also encourages pursuit of the purposes by a wide range of bodies and organisations.

Delivery through partnership

Delivering the Vision and Ambitions of the Management Plan will be a shared responsibility dependent on forging new, and maintaining existing, strong working relationships. Delivery will involve everyone with an interest in the future of Dartmoor, from national agencies and local authorities to local communities and the voluntary sector.



Collectively these make an invaluable contribution to the conservation and enjoyment of the National Park and can contribute much to the future sustainability of Dartmoor.

Cross-cutting themes

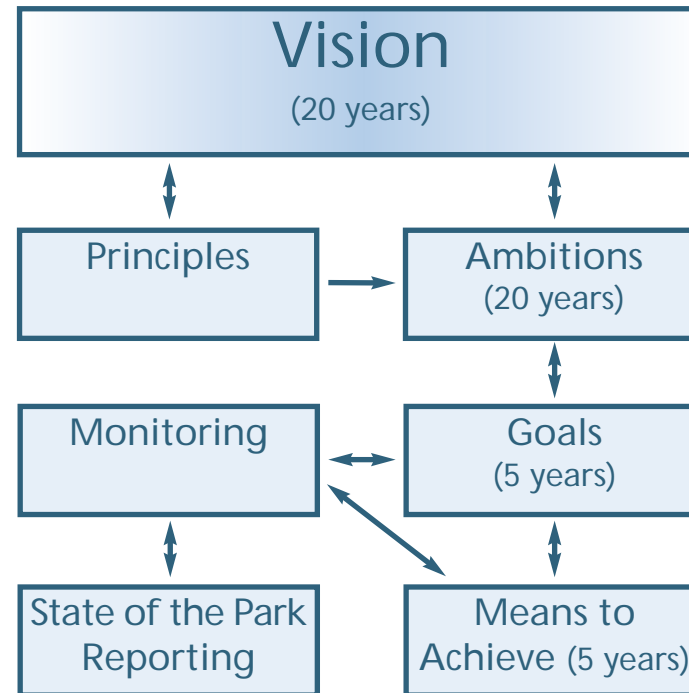
Running through the Management Plan Ambitions are a number of cross-cutting themes that are of particular importance in ensuring a sustainable future for Dartmoor National Park. The cross-cutting themes are:

- climate change
- future of upland farming
- transport
- social inclusion
- evidence and research

Monitoring success

Monitoring and reporting on the success of the Management Plan is essential to inform future management decisions. Successful monitoring requires robust baseline data against which the achievement of individual goals can be assessed.

The relationship between different aspects of the Management Plan



How to access the Management Plan

The following pages contain the Vision and the Ambitions (for the next 20 years) - details about Goals and Means to Achieve, and the Plan in full can be accessed at www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk or in hard copy from Dartmoor National Park Authority Headquarters, Parke, Bovey Tracey or the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown.

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INTRODUCTION

A Vision for Dartmoor National Park in 2027



A Vision for Dartmoor National Park in 2027

At the centre of Dartmoor stands one of the many great granite outcrops (tors) that encircle the central plateaux and give this National Park its unique character. Gaunt against the skyline, it appears like a huge monument to the primeval world, surrounded by the windtugged heather. But it is not just the rock itself that is impressive. Go there and you will be surrounded by the ancient landscape of deep valleys and rockcrested hills, long established hill farms and the buried remains of our Bronze Age predecessors. You can follow the horizon full circle, turning beneath the vast freedom of the sky, while breathing the pure, clear air of the moor. To be there gives you the reassurance that the world need not be overcrowded, polluted and dominated by consumerism. If a glint of sunlight catches a distant tractor,

reminding you that this is part of a working community, it is nevertheless still a place where you can find solitude and nature thrives. Few depart without a better sense of themselves and what they cherish most, despite the pressures of the modern world.

The tor and its surroundings epitomise what makes Dartmoor a national asset. But even this is not the whole story. From the blanket bogs and valley mires to the high moors, woodland and enclosed fields, Dartmoor National Park remains a unique and varied landscape, with habitats of international importance, an extraordinary range of wildlife and wide expanses of wildness. It is also a cultural landscape, where extensive archaeological remains testify to generations of human activity.





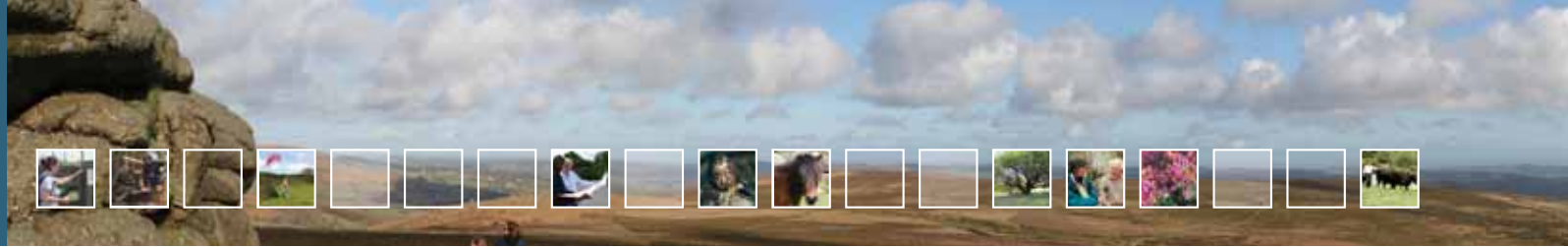
At the same time it is a place where people live, work and play, with consequent competing demands on resources.

Farming and tourism are encouraged and balanced, both to manage the landscape and to enable it to be enjoyed. The conservation of the ancient fabric of the towns, villages and farmsteads remains a high priority, as does the protection of the moor from creeping urbanisation, such as light pollution and highway infrastructure. A modest degree of expansion is allowed in the larger settlements, to accommodate new employment and to provide housing for a thriving local population. Responsible use of natural resources and a commitment to generating energy in sustainable ways is fostered in order to minimise damage not only to Dartmoor but to the wider environment.

Crucial to all of this is the continuing relationship between the local communities and the National Park itself. Both the working economy and the National Park's cultural identity are vested in the local people.

They provide the continuity, support and living heritage that make each place much more than a mere location on a map. This vision for Dartmoor National Park is therefore one of balance, in which both stability and change are beneficial to local people and visitors alike, and the special qualities of Dartmoor are conserved and enhanced for future generations as well as for those who visit and live in the National Park today.





Sense of Place

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.

Ambitions

- **Landscape:** Dartmoor will retain a rich interlacing of the cultural and natural environment, reflecting a living and working upland landscape
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** Dartmoor will provide the opportunity to experience solitude, peace, dark night skies and a sense of space
- **Habitats and Wildlife:** 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
- **Cultural Distinctiveness:** Local communities, cultures, skills and traditional ways of rural life will continue to be sustained and celebrated as defining characteristics of Dartmoor

- **Archaeological Heritage:** Dartmoor's extensive archaeological and historic landscapes will comprise sites and features in optimum condition
- **Historic Built Environment:** 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
- **Water Environment:** 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



Access for All

The second purpose of national park designation as set out in the *Environment Act 1995* is **to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.**

Dartmoor is highly valued for the recreational and tourism opportunities it offers. Much is being done to increase understanding and enjoyment of Dartmoor's special qualities for all people.

Ambitions

- **Interpretation, Information and Communication:** High quality and accessible communications will increase understanding of Dartmoor National Park and enable the enjoyment and safeguarding of its special qualities
- **Learning and Education:** High quality, diverse learning experiences will be available for people of all ages and backgrounds to enable them to understand, value and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of Dartmoor
- **Recreation and Enjoyment:** Dartmoor will offer a variety of opportunities for everyone seeking inspiration, peace and active recreation in harmony with each other, the local community and the area's special qualities
- **Enabling Access:** Dartmoor will provide opportunities for access for all
- **Tourism:** All forms of tourism on Dartmoor will provide high quality visitor experiences and will make a contribution to the environment, local economy and communities of the National Park

Communities and Business

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.

Ambitions

- **Land Management:** Viable land management practices will continue to play a central role in conserving Dartmoor's special qualities
- **Community Well-being:** Thriving Dartmoor communities will have a range of local services, amenities, housing and employment opportunities
- **Economic Activity:** 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
- **New Development:** New development will positively contribute to local distinctiveness. It will also be constructed with high standards of design and energy efficiency
- **Energy:** Dartmoor will be an exemplar of low energy consumption and the production of renewable energy from sources compatible with Dartmoor's special qualities
- **Military Training:** 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



