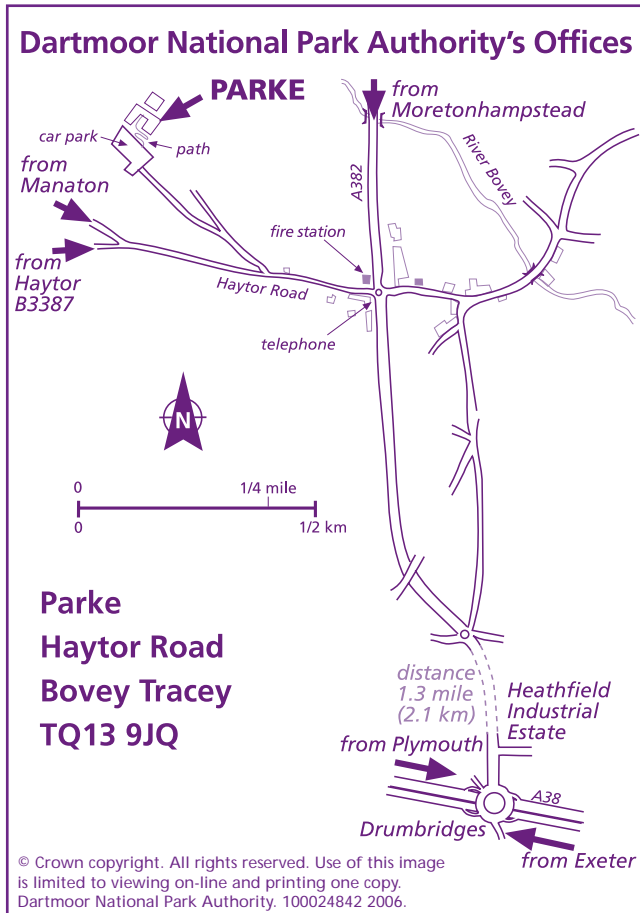


- 5 Statements should be confined to matters which are material planning considerations (advice on this can be sought from a planning officer beforehand).
- 6 After the three minute presentation, the Committee Members may wish to ask the speaker questions to clarify any matters of particular concern.
- 7 After the public statements, and any questions, the Committee will debate the proposal in the normal way, with Officer advice, and make a decision.



Dartmoor National Park and the National Park Authority

The *Environment Act, 1995*, made provision for the establishment of freestanding National Park Authorities. The Act revises the statutory purposes of National Parks which are now designated for the purposes of (i) conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area; and (ii) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (... of the areas) by the public. Furthermore, if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, the National Park Authorities shall attach greater weight to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Other relevant authorities (ministers, public bodies, statutory undertakers, etc) now have a statutory duty to have regard to these purposes in the exercise of their own functions.

The *Environment Act, 1995*, also requires that each National Park Authority, in pursuing the purposes of the National Parks, shall seek to foster the economic and social well being of local communities within the National Park, and shall, for that purpose, co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park.

Members

The National Park Authority comprises 26 Members. Seven Members are appointed by Devon County Council, seven by the District Councils (three from West Devon Borough Council, three from Teignbridge District Council and one from South Hams District Council). Twelve Members are Government appointees. Five of these represent parish council interests and the remaining seven are usually local persons, with specialist knowledge or a particular interest in the National Park.

Staff

The National Park Authority employs about 109 staff including specialists in ecology, tourism and recreation, woodlands, archaeology, historic buildings, information and interpretation, as well as rangers, planners and administrators. They are supported by seasonal information assistants, guides, voluntary wardens and other volunteers engaged in practical work.

Public Participation

at Dartmoor National Park Authority Meetings and Development Control Committee Meetings



Meetings of the Authority

The main business of the National Park Authority is conducted at Meetings held every 2 months. They are held at the Authority's Headquarters at Parke, Bovey Tracey.

In addition, the Authority's Development Control Committee meets monthly, starting at 10.00 a.m, normally but not exclusively on the first Friday. This Committee considers all planning matters, especially planning applications and other development control matters, and its Meetings are also held at Parke.

With the exception of very occasional confidential matters, all of the formal business of both the Authority and its Development Control Committee is conducted in public.

The schedule of National Park Authority Meetings and Development Control Committee Meetings is available on request and can also be viewed on our web site.

Agendas for the Authority and Development Control Committee Meetings are placed on the Authority's web site 7 days in advance of the Meetings.

Public Participation at Authority Meetings

Members of the public have the opportunity to make representations at the Meetings of the National Park Authority.

You are able to talk about the issues being discussed at a particular Meeting, making your points directly to Members. The aim is to open up the democratic process so that you can contribute more to decision making.

Representation may be in the form of a question, a statement, or a petition which must be received at least two full working days before the Authority Meeting (i.e. by 10.00 a.m. on the Wednesday immediately preceding the Meeting).

The representation must relate to an item on the published Agenda and should be sent to the Chief Executive in writing. A daytime contact number must be given so that, if necessary, clarification may be sought regarding the representation prior to the Meeting.

All representations received will be dealt with at the appropriate part of the Meeting. You will be invited to read your statement or question, for which you will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Please note: if you are not present at the Meeting, or someone on your behalf, your representation will not be dealt with.

Please send your written representation to:

**Chief Executive (National Park Officer)
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke, Bovey Tracey
Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9JQ**

tel: (01626) 832093

fax: (01626) 834684

e-mail: hq@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

web site: www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

Public Speaking at Development Control Committee Meetings

The National Park Authority wants to ensure that everyone has a chance to make their views known before a decision is taken on planning applications and enforcement cases which are reported to its Development Control Committee. Everyone has the right to give their comments in writing, but if you have views about an item which is being determined by the Development Control Committee you or your representative are also able to give your views verbally at the Committee Meeting.

It is important to stress that there will be no disadvantage to those who prefer not to, or who are unable to, present their views in person.

All representations are accurately reported in Officers' reports to Members and these written representations are considered equally by Members when making a decision.

The invitation to speak is in respect of any application or formal submission to the Authority under the terms of the Planning Acts and includes requests to approve minor amendments.

Procedure

To ensure that this opportunity is open and fair and to facilitate the smooth running of the Meeting, the following procedure should be respected:

- 1 The following members of the public have the opportunity to address the Committee:
 - (a) the applicant/person responsible for the development or his/her agent or a supporter (only one person is allowed to speak);
 - (b) an objector to the application/development (if there is more than one objector, then one person should be chosen as their spokesperson).
- 2 If you wish to make use of the procedure, please give notice of your intention to do so, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the Meeting. Notice of an intention to speak should therefore be received before 10.00 a.m. on the Thursday preceding the Meeting and should be addressed to the Director of Planning and Sustainable Development, at the Authority's headquarters.
- 3 If you have given notice of your intention to speak, in accordance with 2 above and after an initial presentation by the relevant officer, you will be invited by the Chairman to speak, in the following order:
 - (a) the applicant/ person responsible for the development or his/her agent or a supporter;
 - (b) an objector.
- 4 You may speak uninterrupted for a maximum of three minutes in respect of each proposal or unauthorised development regardless of the number of applications relating to the proposal, e.g. planning and listed building applications in respect of the same development will not double the speaking time. (cont.)