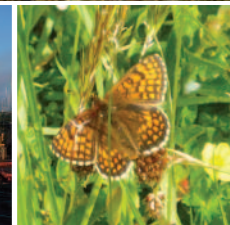
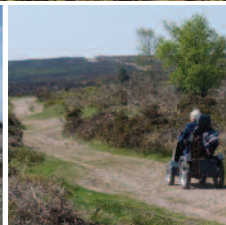


Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017



Working
together
for **Exmoor**



Foreword

The past five years have seen considerable progress and achievement as a wide range of organisations have made their contributions to the ambitious programme set out in the Exmoor National Park Management Plan 2007-2012. We would like to thank all of those who helped with the delivery of that plan and welcome their ongoing contribution to the new Partnership Plan for Exmoor.

'Partnership Plan' has been chosen as the title to more accurately reflect the essential contribution that a wide range of people and organisations make to the quality of life for the people who live and work in the National Park; to the attraction that the area has for its many visitors, and to the conservation and enhancement of the National Park's landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

The new strapline for the Plan, **Working together for Exmoor**, also reflects the collective effort and this has never been more important. The recent downturn in the national economy and the measures taken to reduce public expenditure mean that now, more than ever before, it is vital that we work together and combine our efforts and resources. Only in this way can we ensure that Exmoor continues to be well looked after so that future generations can also benefit from and enjoy the area that we regard as so special.

In order to ensure that our efforts and resources can be used to the best effect we have consulted widely and brought together partner organisations to identify the priorities for action over the period of the Plan. There has been wide consensus on the priorities and a real willingness to work together to make a progress in addressing the challenges that they seek to address.

We look forward to the next five years with confidence that we can continue to build on past achievements by working with all who care about Exmoor - the place, its communities, and the benefits the National Park provides to the nation.



John Dyke, Chairman
Exmoor National Park Authority



Nigel Stone, Chief Executive
Exmoor National Park Authority

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1. Introduction



- 1.1 Exmoor provides a unique landscape of moorland, woodland, valleys, farmland and a spectacular coast. It is a living, working landscape shaped by people and nature over thousands of years. As well as providing a home and workplace for around 11,000 people and hosting around 2 million visitor days each year, Exmoor's landscapes provide a wide range of benefits for wider society as a whole.
- 1.2 These wider public benefits, often referred to as 'ecosystem services', include:
- Healthy food with a long tradition of livestock farming
 - Increasingly important timber and wood fuel resources
 - Landscape character celebrated by National Park designation
 - 19,000 hectares of internationally important moorland
 - Cultural heritage tracing human occupation for more than 8,000 years and with archaeological landscapes, scheduled monuments and historic buildings
 - Public access to moorland and 1,000 km of public rights of way
 - The source of drinking water to more than 0.5 million people
 - Priority wildlife habitats and species
 - Peat soils, farmland and woodlands that stores millions of tonnes of carbon
 - A major attraction for visitors with a direct contribution to the regional economy of more than £180 million per year
- 1.3 These benefits can only be sustained and improved through careful stewardship of the environment. The majority of land and cultural heritage within the National Park is privately owned which means that public benefits can only be achieved with the support and engagement of the people who live and work in the National Park.
- 1.4 The Partnership Plan is a means to bring together a wide range of people and organisations around a set of common goals. These goals include fulfilment of the purposes for which the National Park was designated; contributing towards the government vision for National Parks in England (see Appendix 3), and fostering the social and economic well-being of local communities living and working in Exmoor National Park.

The statutory purposes for which Exmoor is designated as a National Park:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public.

1.5 The Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan sets out what is special about Exmoor and the long term vision, objectives and priorities to be achieved on Exmoor during the period to 2017. It is the key mechanism for focussing and co-ordinating efforts to achieve the purposes for which the National Park was designated. It provides a framework not only for integrating the various activities of the National Park Authority itself (planning, land and recreation management, information and education services, visitor facilities and so on), but also for stimulating and co-ordinating action by other agencies, whether public bodies, the private sector or voluntary organisations. Whilst the Authority has the task of preparing the Plan, it is a Plan for Exmoor not just the Authority - hence its title 'Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan'.

1.6 The Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 will encourage partnership working within Exmoor's communities to deliver the priorities for action. The primary communities are:

- Owners and managers of land, natural and heritage assets in the National Park
- Wider resident community and people who live and work in the National Park
- People who make use of the opportunities for learning and enjoyment that the National Park provides, be they local residents in or close to the National Park and visitors from further afield - the 'users' of the National Park.

This plan is for everyone who cares about Exmoor, the place, its communities and the benefits the National Park provides to the nation.

Figure 1 - Exmoor National Park



Exmoor's special qualities

- 1.7 The special qualities of the National Park are central to helping us decide what is most important about Exmoor that we should seek to conserve, enhance, understand and enjoy for the benefit of people today and future generations living in and visiting the National Park.
- 1.8 In 2006, when developing the Management Plan 2007-12, the National Park Authority sought views from a wide range of organisations and individuals to gain an understanding of those aspects of Exmoor that people most value. This revealed considerable agreement on the qualities that make Exmoor special amongst people from all walks of life, irrespective of whether they live in the National Park or are visiting. The descriptions of Exmoor's special qualities have been slightly amended for this Partnership Plan, but essentially remain as originally identified.

Figure 2 - Exmoor National Park's special qualities are:

- Large areas of open moorland providing a sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity rare in southern Britain
- A distinct and diverse landscape of softly rounded hills and ridges, with heather and grass moors, spectacular coast, deeply incised wooded valleys, high sea cliffs, fast flowing streams, traditional upland farms and characteristic beech hedgebanks
- A timeless landscape mostly free from intrusive development, with striking views inside and out of the National Park, and where the natural beauty of Exmoor and its dark night skies can be appreciated
- A mosaic of habitats supporting a great diversity of wildlife including herds of wild red deer, rich lichen communities, rare fritillary butterflies, bats, and other species uncommon in southern Britain
- A complex and rich historic landscape that reflects how people have lived in, used and enjoyed Exmoor over the past 8000 years, including prehistoric landscapes and monuments such as burial mounds on ridges and discrete stone settings, ancient farmsteads, hamlets, picturesque villages and historic estates
- A deeply rural community closely linked to the land with strong local traditions and ways of life
- A farmed landscape with locally distinctive breeds such as Red Devon cattle; Devon Closewool, and Exmoor Horn sheep; and herds of free living Exmoor ponies
- An exceptional rights of way network, with paths that are often rugged and narrow in character, along with extensive areas of open country and permitted access, providing superb opportunities for walking, riding and cycling
- A landscape that provides inspiration and enjoyment to visitors and residents alike.

Vision for Exmoor National Park

- 1.9 The Management Plan for Exmoor National Park for 2007-2012 set out a clear vision for the National Park and its communities. This vision has been retained and developed in the preparation of the Partnership Plan and is shared with the Local Plan¹ for Exmoor National Park which will provide the planning framework to guide future development in the National Park. The single vision and common objectives will ensure that the policies and decisions regarding future development and the Partnership Plan actions work together and in one direction.

Priorities and programmes for action

- 1.10 Much has changed since 2007 including a major global economic downturn. This has impacted on the UK as elsewhere and the top priority for the government is to reduce the national public funding deficit. The government's spending review in 2010 is leading to substantial reductions in public funding across nearly all government departments. As an example, over the four years to 2015, Exmoor National Park Authority is expecting a reduction of around 30% in real terms in its annual grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Similar or greater reductions are being experienced in local councils and public agencies such as Natural England and English Heritage and in the voluntary sector.
- 1.11 The overall impact will be to reduce the capacity within the public and voluntary sectors and local businesses, and will place an emphasis on closer partnership working and greater community engagement. New ways of working and new sources of funding will also be needed with a greater emphasis on development to help achieve wider objectives. Reflecting this changed context, the focus of the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan is on retaining existing services which are most valued rather than setting a broad range of ambitious targets for improvement.
- 1.12 Thus, in the development of the Partnership Plan we have set out to ensure that - over the next five years, partners focus on those actions that will contribute most towards keeping Exmoor National Park special and meeting the needs and wellbeing of local communities.

¹ Previously known as the Local Development Framework

Figure 3 - Our Vision is 'Working together for Exmoor' so that by 2030,

- Exmoor's distinct and diverse **landscape** is maintained and enhanced, with an increased awareness of its importance.
- There is an increased extent of **wildlife habitats** and linkages between them, more habitats are in good condition and populations of valued native plants and animals are thriving.
- There is an enhanced knowledge of the **historic environment** of Exmoor; increased awareness of the value of its **cultural heritage**, and the most important historical sites, settlements, buildings and features are conserved and their historical character retained.
- Exmoor's **natural resources** are used sustainably, and the full benefits of its ecosystems are understood and harnessed. Pollution is minimised, air and water are high quality, and soils are conserved and in good condition.
- We are closer to achieving a **carbon-neutral National Park** to help mitigate climate change, and have introduced measures to adapt to changes in climate that are already happening.
- There is increased **public awareness and enjoyment** of the National Park; a warm welcome and **high quality experience** for everyone seeking inspiration, tranquillity and active outdoor recreation, leading to greater understanding of Exmoor and its way of life, and a wider appreciation of the contribution that National Parks make to quality of life.
- Exmoor's **communities** retain a continuity of connection with the land; and communities are taking the lead in shaping future development to meet their needs and aspirations including access to services, housing, communications and infrastructure.
- There is a **strong, diverse and resilient economy** where farming, forestry, land management and rural enterprises are playing a lead role in conserving and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities; producing high quality food and other produce, and conserving local breeds. There is a sustainable tourism and recreation economy in harmony with local communities and the environment.

- 1.13 A wide range of organisations and individuals were consulted and engaged to help identify the priorities for the Partnership Plan. Questionnaires were sent out to local residents and businesses; online surveys and questionnaires in Dunster National Park Centre gathered the views of a wide range of local people and visitors, and views were also sought from representatives of youth groups and black and minority ethnic communities. Workshops were held with landowners, farmers, foresters, National Park users, partner organisations and other interested groups to enable more detailed discussion of the issues facing Exmoor; to ask what the priorities for action should be, and to help develop the action plans for those priorities. Altogether, more than 1,000 people contributed in some way to helping shape the Partnership Plan through consultation responses and discussions.
- 1.14 At the same time, information on the condition of the special qualities and the trends and challenges facing the National Park, was collated in the **State of the Park report**, which accompanies this Partnership Plan, and which will be kept updated. Together, the views expressed in the consultation, and the evidence from the **State of the Park report**, have informed the setting of priorities for action.
- 1.15 Through this process, 12 priorities for action have been identified for the Plan period as set out in Figure 4.
- 1.16 The priorities for action have been grouped into three broad programmes:
- **A Thriving, Living Landscape** - working with the people who own and manage land on Exmoor, focusing on priorities that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park and deliver a wide range of public benefits.
 - **Connecting People and Place** - to benefit everyone who wishes to enjoy and learn about Exmoor National Park.
 - **Towards a Sustainable Future** - work with communities and businesses to achieve the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the people who live and work in the National Park and provide sustainable livelihoods for the farmers, foresters, gamekeepers, contractors and others engaged in managing Exmoor's land, coast, natural resources and cultural heritage assets.

Figure 4 - The twelve Priorities for Action for the Partnership Plan are to:

- Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes
 - Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver
 - Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support
 - Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment
 - Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor's natural resources
-
- Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand
 - Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park
 - Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor's special qualities
-
- Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs
 - Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor
 - Help farmers, foresters, land managers and gamekeepers to produce food, timber and other produce while improving environmental quality and providing other public benefits
 - Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park.

- 1.17 Whilst these three programmes have been identified to structure the Partnership Plan, there are clear links between them, and the priorities for action will be delivered through an integrated approach by projects and partnerships that achieve multiple objectives.
- 1.18 Setting priorities inevitably means that not all objectives will be able to be progressed during the next few years, although they will still remain long term objectives for the National Park. This is why the focus has been on setting Priorities for Action, to ensure that the resources that are available, are used to the best effect.

An Integrated Approach - public benefits and ecosystem services

- 1.19 The benefits people get from nature are often described as 'ecosystem services'. Ecosystem services are often categorised as:
- 'provisioning services' provided by natural resources such as food, water, fibre, fuel
 - 'regulating services' provided by natural systems including clean water and air, fertile soils, climate regulation
 - 'cultural services' including recreation, cultural heritage, spiritual and aesthetic values, inspiration and education
 - 'supporting services' providing the basic infrastructure of life including soil formation, the cycling of water and nutrients, fixation of carbon by plants and the ecosystems themselves. All other ecosystem services ultimately depend on these supporting services.
- 1.20 Many of the actions aimed at tackling individual priorities set out in this Partnership Plan influence the management of land and natural systems in the National Park to help sustain and improve the range and quality of public benefits and ecosystem services that are provided. Figure 5 categorises the range of ecosystem services, the contribution made by ecosystems in Exmoor and the links to Priorities for Action.

| Figure 5 - Ecosystem services | Delivery through Priorities for Action |
|---|--|
| Provisioning services | |
| Food (e.g. crops, livestock, fish, game) Exmoor's farmers produce food through the breeding of store lambs, suckled calves and, increasingly, finished lamb and beef. Wild meats such as venison and game, and fish also have an important role to play. | Priority A5, C2, C3 |
| Water supply The catchments on Exmoor provide drinking water for more than half a million people. | Priority A5 |
| Fibre (e.g. timber, arable crops, wool) Historically, Exmoor has been an important producer of wool and timber, and there are opportunities to develop local markets and innovative uses. | Priority C2, C3 |
| Fuel (e.g. renewable energy) Exmoor provides good conditions for renewable energy including hydro, solar and biomass and there is considerable scope for further development of this resource particularly woodfuel. | Priority C2, C4 |
| Genetic diversity Exmoor's local breeds of sheep, cattle and ponies help retain important genetic diversity as well as contributing to local distinctiveness. | Priority A5 |
| Regulating services | |
| Water purification and waste treatment Ecosystems can help in the filtering out and decomposition of organic wastes introduced into water bodies and can also assimilate and detoxify compounds through soil and sub-soil processes. Exmoor has good water quality, although some rivers and ground-waters do not meet current standards of 'good ecological status'. | Priority A5 |
| Water flow and flood risk Healthy blanket peat, porous soils and vegetation, particularly woodlands, help to regulate water flow and alleviate flooding in times of high and low rainfall. Action on Exmoor to restore functioning peatland and manage catchments can help reduce peak flood levels and sustain river flows during drought periods. | Priority A5, C4 |
| Disease and pest regulation Diseases and pests are regulated by natural factors such as predators and climate and a healthy and diverse ecosystem is less vulnerable to pests and disease. | Priority A3, C3 |
| Pollination Pollination of crops is important for food supply. Most wildflowers are also dependent on insect pollination, yet the numbers of wild and managed pollinators such as bees are in decline. | Priority A3, C3 |
| Climate regulation and carbon storage Plants influence climate both locally and globally. Carbon is absorbed from the atmosphere in farmland and woodlands and an important carbon store is provided in the soils. The peat deposits alone on Exmoor are estimated to contain over 1 million tonnes of carbon. | Priority A5, C4 |

| | |
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| Cultural services | |
| Cultural heritage and historic environment Human influence on Exmoor can be traced back more than 8,000 years to Mesolithic hunter gatherers and includes over 200 scheduled ancient monuments and more than 1000 listed buildings. | Priority A4 |
| Spiritual and religious values Exmoor's landscapes and relative tranquillity provide spiritual inspiration and enrichment from nature for many people. | Priority A1, A2, A3, A4 |
| Aesthetic values Exmoor is renowned for the beauty of its landscapes that have inspired arts and culture. | |
| Inspiration Exmoor has strong traditions of literature, art, folklore, oral history inextricably linked to the Exmoor landscape. | Priority A1, A2, A4, B3 |
| Education Exmoor provides a location for both formal and informal education and the Exmoor Curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to learn about and experience Exmoor's environment. | Priority B3 |
| Recreation and tourism More than 2 million visitor days are spent in the National Park each year, and tourism is worth around £80 million to the local economy. | Priority B1, B2 |
| Supporting services | |
| Wildlife / biodiversity Increased recognition of the roles that organisms and their interactions play in driving ecosystem processes has led to efforts aimed at increasing biodiversity, in terms of species richness and composition and restoring and connecting habitats. Exmoor contains important and rare habitats and species and their conservation is vital to sustaining the ecosystems that deliver the range of services set out above. | Priority A3 |
| Primary production The degree to which solar energy is assimilated and biomass accumulated is dependent, in part, on the biological composition of plant communities and their interactions. | Priority A3, C3 |
| Soil production Soil formation is driven by the interaction between plants and micro-organisms and the underlying geology. Many ecosystem services depend on healthy soils but soils form slowly and can be quickly degraded and lost due to inappropriate land management, erosion, climate warming, and inundation of coastal soils due to sea-level rise. | Priority A5, C3 |
| Nutrient cycling Plants, animals and micro-organisms play a crucial role in the cycling of nutrients essential for the delivery of ecosystem benefits. Disturbance of natural processes can lead to enrichment of terrestrial and aquatic habitats by, for example, increased inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from sewage and fertiliser runoff, leading to poor water quality and in some cases undesirable algal blooms. | Priority A5, C3 |

2. Programme A - A Thriving, Living Landscape



Vision for a Thriving, Living Landscape

- 2.1 Each of the Programmes for Action will help to deliver elements of the Vision that we have set out. In working towards a Thriving, Living Landscape, we will seek to ensure that by 2030:
- Exmoor's distinct and diverse landscape is maintained and enhanced, with an increased awareness of its importance.
 - There is an increased extent of wildlife habitats and linkages between them, more habitats are in good condition and populations of valued native plants and animals are thriving.
 - There is an enhanced knowledge of the historic environment of Exmoor; increased awareness of the value of its cultural heritage, and the most important historical sites, settlements, buildings and features are conserved and their historical character retained.
 - Exmoor's natural resources are used sustainably, and the full benefits of its ecosystems are understood and harnessed. Pollution is minimised, air and water are high quality, and soils are conserved and in good condition.

Objectives for a Thriving, Living Landscape

- 2.2 The Partnership Plan for Exmoor and Exmoor Local Plan share 21 common objectives. In setting the priorities for action to achieve 'a Thriving, Living Landscape' we have sought to address the following objectives:
- Objective 1** - To conserve and enhance the character of Exmoor's landscapes as living working landscapes that remain predominantly free from intrusive developments, maintain a sense of tranquillity and protect Exmoor's dark night skies.
- Objective 2** - To ensure that Exmoor's moorlands remain open, remote and relatively wild in character; that views are preserved, and strategically important areas of former moor and heath are managed in a way that restores their wilder landscape character.
- Objective 3** - To protect and enhance Exmoor's wildlife and habitats and seek to improve the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity of Exmoor's important and valued habitats.

Objective 4 - To maintain or increase the populations of native wildlife species on Exmoor that are valued for their conservation status and local distinctiveness, and control and eradicate invasive non-native species.

Objective 5 - To ensure that the built tradition, character, distinctiveness and historic character of Exmoor's settlements, buildings, farmsteads, landscapes, archaeological sites and monuments are conserved and enhanced and that the cultural heritage of Exmoor is protected through the careful management of development.

Objective 6 - To encourage new development to use local materials, sustainable building design and methods, in ways that contribute to the distinctive character and cultural heritage of Exmoor.

Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance Exmoor's natural resources and to improve air and water quality, conserve water resources, ensure soils are in good condition, maximise carbon storage, and minimise pollution.

Priorities for action for A Thriving, Living Landscape:

2.3 Five priorities for action have been identified under this Programme, although there are clear inter-linkages with the other Programmes, as Exmoor's landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural resources provide the high quality natural assets that attract people to visit and enjoy, and that support local communities' quality of life and livelihoods.

Priority A1 Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes

Priority A2 Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver

Priority A3 Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support

Priority A4 Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment

Priority A5 Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor's natural resources

Landscape

2.4 Exmoor is one of 15 National Parks in the United Kingdom and one of only four in southern Britain. Designated for their natural beauty and for the opportunities they offer for open air recreation, National Parks contain some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain, where it is possible to experience open space, peace, wildness and tranquillity. Looking after Exmoor's unique landscapes consistently came out as a top priority during the consultation.

2.5 Exmoor's landscape character is complex and varied, with its combination of spectacular sea cliffs, open heather and Molinia moorland, rolling farmland, beech hedgebanks, deep wooded valleys and historic settlements. The varied topography creates far reaching views across the diversity of scenery. Views from the National Park, into its wider setting within a deeply rural area are often equally important.

2.6 In 2007, ENPA commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), to describe and assess the different landscapes that make up Exmoor. The LCA provides an important framework to improve the understanding of the landscape, inform decision-making that may affect the condition or visual quality of the landscape, and support positive management. In 2010 ENPA and the Exmoor Society commissioned a Landscape Perceptions Study² which carried out an assessment of how people perceive each of the nine landscape character types. It was evident that it is not only the wilder, open landscapes that inspire people, but the farmed landscapes, woodlands and the diversity of scenery that people enjoy. Of overwhelming importance was the tranquillity, freedom from intrusive development and the ability that gave for spiritual refreshment and well being.

2.7 Landscapes constantly evolve and change, and the challenge is to enable the landscape to respond to pressures for different forms of land management without impacting on the beauty and distinctiveness of Exmoor. Climate change may also bring changes to Exmoor's landscapes, and whilst these changes are difficult to predict, ongoing monitoring will be important to identify any changes and longer term adaptations that may be required.

2.8 One of the main threats to landscape character identified in the LCA, and highlighted in consultation responses, is intrusive development. In recent years there has been increasing interest in renewable energy

² Exmoor Landscapes Perception Study (2011), Fiona Fyfe for ENPA and Exmoor Society

developments, the break-up of traditional farms has continued with increasing subdivision of land holdings and use for recreational activities such as equine development, and the size of some new agricultural buildings has increased significantly. Ensuring that Exmoor remains a landscape relatively free from intrusive development requires the National Park Authority to manage the impact of development on the landscape, through the development management process, as well as guidance on changes that fall outside this. An important part of this is providing the planning framework to guide future development in the National Park through an updated Local Plan. The National Park Authority will also work with neighbouring authorities to influence development outside the boundary of the National Park.

- 2.9 The tranquillity and dark night time skies found on Exmoor constitute one of its most important qualities and something that is increasingly rare in southern Britain, as recognised by the achievement of International Dark Sky Reserve status for Exmoor National Park in 2011. Erosion of this tranquillity can be subtle, but once lost, is almost impossible to regain. The maintenance of the landscape, special characteristics and features are fundamental to retaining Exmoor's distinctiveness, including its tranquillity, dark night skies and 'untouched charm'.
- 2.10 The nature of landscape means that actions set out in other sections in the Partnership Plan are also crucial in delivering landscape objectives.
- The protection and management of the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority A1**
- 2.11 Of all of Exmoor's varied landscape types, the wildness and openness of moorland is particularly valued by people who live in and visit Exmoor. Particular concern was expressed during the consultation over the changes in vegetation and the visual character of many of Exmoor's moorland areas in recent years. Close engagement with moorland owners and farmers and the local community, has revealed a widespread desire to learn from the traditional moorland management practices and develop a tailored approach to moorland management on Exmoor that retains the character of moorland landscapes, while maintaining and improving biodiversity, enabling access and conserving cultural heritage.
- 2.12 A successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled the establishment of the Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership to help

address moorland management and increase community and public appreciation and engagement with moorland on Exmoor. The actions in the Partnership Plan will build on the achievements of this project.

Maintaining the open character of moor and heath in the National Park and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority A2

Wildlife

- 2.13 The main priority for wildlife conservation during the previous National Park Management Plan was to ensure that land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was in 'target condition' ('favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition). This provided a strong focus for action and has led the targeting of agri-environment funding through the new Environmental Stewardship regimes. Monitoring by Natural England indicated that 97% of SSSIs in the National Park had reached 'target condition' by the end of 2010. A key focus for the period of the Partnership Plan will be to ensure that significant progress has been made towards at least 50% of SSSIs on Exmoor moving from 'unfavourable recovering' to 'favourable' condition.
- 2.14 As well as improvements in the condition of priority habitats in the National Park over the past five years, significant progress has been made on Exmoor improving the prospects of important species such as fritillary butterflies, lowland birds, dormice, otters, migratory fish and bats.
- 2.15 However, much remains to be achieved and government policy set out in the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra, June 2011) places a high priority on conservation of biodiversity and the services provided to people by the natural environment. An independent review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network (Making Space for Nature, 2010) concluded that England's collection of wildlife areas is fragmented and does not represent a coherent and resilient ecological network capable of responding to the challenges of climate change and other pressures. The review called for:
- 'a step-change in nature conservation [...] a new, restorative approach which rebuilds nature and creates a more resilient natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and ourselves'.

The review summarised what needed to be done in just four words: more, bigger, better, and joined. This was taken forward through the England Biodiversity Strategy 2020. The 'hot spots' for biodiversity, like Exmoor National Park, have a vital role as the focal point for programmes to help create the more resilient natural environment being sought by government.

- 2.16 Other issues highlighted during the consultation include the importance of continuing to manage invasive species such as knotweed and *Rhododendron ponticum* through co-ordinated programmes of spraying and clearance. A severe outbreak of the Phytophthora blight on Japanese Larch during 2010 has led to significant impacts on landscape. This disease and others affecting important tree and plant species are likely to be an increasing concern and will need close monitoring in future. And no programme for wildlife conservation for Exmoor would be complete without mention of the iconic red deer. Red deer are central to the culture and heritage of Exmoor and many local people are closely involved in the management of deer in the National Park.

Maintaining in good condition, extending and connecting Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority A3

Cultural heritage

- 2.17 Exmoor's complex and varied historic environment provides a unique record of how people have lived here since the last Ice Age. The historic landscape includes thousands of individual sites and structures, and is fragile, vulnerable and irreplaceable.
- 2.18 Threats to heritage assets range from the need to prevent vegetation encroachment to longer-term changes such as rising sea levels which will directly impact on sites and structures and archaeological deposits in the inter-tidal and coastal environment. Flood events can lead to the direct destruction of historic structures such as bridges, mills and other waterside buildings. Currently many historic assets are protected through positive management by landowners under agri-environment schemes. The current round of schemes comes to an end over the life

of this Partnership Plan and the uncertainty about the nature of any successor schemes is a major factor influencing the future of many historic features.

- 2.19 Exmoor's villages and settlements are one of its most distinctive and important features, with a wealth of historic buildings. However, their quality and character can easily be degraded by unsympathetic or inappropriate renovation, repair, extension, redevelopment, or simply by neglect. The historic character of settlements is also easily eroded by small changes over time as well as by new development and insensitive modernisation. The retention of traditional materials and building techniques is important to maintain local distinctiveness and historic character, but this requires the knowledge and skills of traditional craftsmen to be carried on and an adequate pool of suitably qualified and experienced practitioners to carry out maintenance and other works.
- 2.20 The importance of Exmoor's local traditions, culture and ways of life was highlighted in the consultation, and the need to maintain these traditions and capture oral histories. Culture needs to live, but records of cultural activities must be kept in order to ensure their survival; this is especially true at a time when rural communities face the most uncertain and challenging future. There is a need to increase awareness of Exmoor's living cultures by recording and through dissemination to local communities.
- 2.21 Wider knowledge of, and participation in looking after, Exmoor's cultural heritage leads to a valuing of it. Exmoor continues to provide inspiration for creative arts, as it has done for generations. Through support for appropriate projects, the cultural life of the community may be enhanced and its influence extended beyond Exmoor. There is a need to support cultural events and activities which bring communities together. This can build on the wide range of traditional events and encompass new festivals that celebrate the National Park and provide a boost to the local cultural life and economy.

Engaging people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority A4

Natural resources

- 2.22 The condition of Exmoor's air, water and soil is a key part of the quality of life enjoyed not only by those living in and around Exmoor, but by all those visiting it as well. The wider benefits to society provided through managing Exmoor's natural resources - or 'ecosystem services' such as clean water, air, food, inspiration and so on, are being better understood and recognised, as highlighted in paragraph 1.19.
- 2.23 Exmoor's water resources are important sources of supply for drinking water for people living in the National Park and in surrounding areas. They also provide important habitats which support a wide range of species including a number of nationally important species. The pressures facing the water environment of Exmoor include climate change and diffuse pollution, which are being managed through the South West River Basin Management Plan, led by the Environment Agency. This has been set up in response to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) which requires achievement of 'good' ecological and surface water chemical status in all water bodies by 2015 or by 2027 at the latest where this is not practicable. A number of approaches have already been established including Upstream Thinking, and catchment sensitive farming to support good agricultural practices to reduce diffuse pollution from nitrates and ammonia arising from fertilisers and slurry, as well as avoiding soil compaction, erosion, and run-off into water bodies which affects water quality and also causes sedimentation which can damage fish spawning areas. There is also increasing interest in land management practices that help with flood alleviation through slowing down the passage of water through soils and reducing the risk of flash floods. The Exmoor Mires project and Defra multi-objective Flood Management Demonstration project on the Holnicote estate near Porlock are delivering integrated objectives for water quality, water resources, ecological status and flood alleviation, and are also helping to pilot approaches to rewarding farmers and land managers for delivering ecosystem services (see Priority C3 on page 73).
- 2.24 Exmoor's local breeds of sheep, cattle and ponies are an important resource, as hardy breeds adapted to the local environment they provide an economic return for farmers, and through grazing help to manage the landscape and habitats. They are a key element of local distinctiveness, and what people value about Exmoor. In addition, they help to retain important genetic diversity, which is often overlooked,

but has proved to be important in the past (for example Exmoor's local sheep breeds helped to restock mainland Europe after both World Wars), and may be important to respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Maintaining and improving the quality of Exmoor's natural resources is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority A5

Action plans and delivery partners

- 2.25 For each priority, a more detailed action plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of local people and organisations who will be key delivery partners. These action plans will be kept under review and updated as necessary.



Priority A1: Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor’s unique landscapes

Measures of success:

- The condition of Exmoor’s landscape character types is perceived as staying the same or improving

Strategic overview of Priority A1 to be provided by:

Exmoor Landscape Advisory Group

| Strategic activity: Manage the impacts of development to protect Exmoor’s special qualities by ensuring that development is sensitive to the location and conserves the scenic quality of the area | | |
|---|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A1.1 Provide the planning framework through the Local Plan to guide development and conserve landscape character | Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) (Following wide public engagement and consultation) | See Action C1.3 |
| A1.2 Provide guidance on minimising landscape impact of land uses including renewable energy installations; choice of lighting; rearing and management of game shoots; and keeping of horses | ENPA in consultation with key groups | Guidance on renewable energy by the end of 2012 Guidance on game birds by the end of 2012 |
| A1.3 Work in partnership to conserve the landscape setting of the National Park | West Somerset Council (WSC), North Devon Council (NDC), Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) ENPA, Exmoor Society (ES), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) | |
| A1.4 Encourage removal of visually intrusive features such as redundant fences and clutter; underground overhead wires; and mitigate the impact of car parks and service infrastructure. | ENPA, Natural England (NE), National Trust (NT), Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership (EMLP), Exmoor Landscape Advisory Group (ELAG), Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT), Western Power Distribution (WPD) , South West Protected Landscapes Forum (SWPLF) | Feed into Ofgem review 2014 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|---|--|---|
| A1.5 Encourage opportunities to enhance the open and uncluttered character of rural roads within the National Park | Devon County Council (DCC), Somerset County Council (SCC) , Parish Councils, CPRE | Parish led reviews of roadside signage Annual meeting of Exmoor Highways Working Group |
| A1.6 Minimise the visual impacts of new broadband infrastructure and improved mobile services | DCC, SCC with broadband provider SW Internet | See Action C1.6 |
| Strategic activity: Encourage land management that conserves and reinforces landscape character | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A1.7 Support the conservation and restoration of landscape elements and features including designed landscapes, parklands, hedgerows, veteran trees and other notable trees, orchards, and ponds. (Link to Priority A3 and A4) | ENPA, NT, NE, ELAG, Crown Estate (CE), Somerset and Devon Hedge groups, Orchard groups, landowners and managers | Mechanism in place to ensure future management of hedgerows Agree proposals for Simonsbath designed landscape by the end of 2012 |
| A1.8 Explore opportunities for new woodland planting to deliver multiple benefits including strengthening landscape character, storing carbon and enhancing wildlife | Forestry Commission (FC) , woodland owners and managers, ENPA, CE, NT, NE, ES | Map areas of potential for new woodland planting by the end of 2013 Pilot farm scale case studies and publish by the end of 2014 |
| A1.9 Encourage redesign of conifer plantations to deliver landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage benefits | Forest Enterprise (FE), CE, FC, ENPA, NT Woodland owners and managers | 2 forest design plans produced by the end of 2017 |
| A1.10 Manage landscape impacts from forestry and woodland including new tracks and management of <i>Phytophthora</i> | FC, FE, ENPA, CE, NT Woodland owners and managers | |
| A1.11 Encourage good environmental management of Exmoor game bird shoots and minimise visual impacts | Greater Exmoor Shoots Association (GESA) | |

| Strategic activity: Engage with the public and communities to better understand and celebrate Exmoor's distinctive landscapes | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A1.12 Promote understanding and appreciation of the cultural services provided by the Exmoor landscape including spiritual, aesthetic and inspirational qualities, and ensure that programmes of events and activities include opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the landscapes, scenic quality and dark night skies of Exmoor | ES, NT, EMLP, ENPA, ELAG, WRT, Dark Skies Discovery Project, Astronomical societies | ES Annual Conference ES programme of events 2 Dark Skies Discovery events held on Exmoor by the end of 2013 |
| A1.13 Encourage improved public understanding of farmed landscapes and wildlife through farm open days, walks and events, and farm diversification (link to Priority B3) | Farmers EHFP, ES, EMLP, Farm and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAGSW), NT ENPA | 2 events held by the end of 2014 |
| Strategic activity: Monitor change and trends in landscape character to inform future policy and practice | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A1.14 Update the condition assessment and forces for change in the Exmoor Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), to inform the next Partnership Plan review | ELAG | Updated assessment of condition and forces for change by the end of 2016 |
| A1.15 Review the National Character Area profiles for Exmoor and develop integrated objectives | NE | Adopt by Sept 2012 |
| A1.16 Monitor landscape change, the pressures for change, and public perceptions | ENPA, ES NE, English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) | Update State of the Park report by the end of 2016 Establish Protected Landscape Environmental Monitoring Framework by the end of 2013 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold



Priority A2: Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver

Measures of success:

- Number of moorland units with agreed action plan and integrated objectives

Strategic overview of Priority A2 to be provided by:

Exmoor Moorland Board

| Strategic activity: Establish moorland management practices which maintain the open character of moorland and deliver a range of public benefits | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A2.1 Bring together moorland owners, farmers and land managers to establish integrated management programmes for Exmoor Moorland Units | Moorland owners & Commoners, NT, ENPA, NE, Exmoor Hill Farm Project (EHFP), Exmoor Moorland Board (EMB) | 6 pilot schemes by the end of 2013 |
| A2.2 Improve understanding of moorland management on Exmoor over the last century; develop a better understanding of the impact of different management approaches on Exmoor's landscape, farming, wildlife and economy; assess the landscape impacts of different swaling techniques; and learn from and celebrate good practice in moorland management through events, farm visits, training, and promoting educational access | EMB, ENPA, NE EMLP, NT, EHFP, ES, Exmoor Uprising | Complete Moorland Case studies by the end of 2016 'Views of the Moors' oral history project Publish guidance on swaling and landscape impact by the end of 2013 |
| A2.3 Support swaling by helping farmers and landowners with risk assessments, burn plans, equipment, training, liaison with Fire Service, NE consents | Exmoor Fire Partnership (EFP), Moorkeepers | Review of swaling programme by the end of 2014 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---|--|
| A2.4 Work with farmers and landowners to prevent wild fires and develop techniques for managing wild fires to limit their extent and impacts | EFP, farmers, landowners and managers, SWUF, NE | Agree fire management approach for major moorland blocks |
| A2.5 Review Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership and explore future funding opportunities | EMLP steering group EMB | By the end of 2013 |
| A2.6 Monitor the condition of moorland including vegetation condition; heather beetle mapping; burn mapping; livestock numbers (and impacts of grazing); bracken coverage; recreational pressures, litter, signage, and potential impacts of climate change | ENPA, NT, Moor Keepers, Farmers, landowners and managers NE | Update State of the Park report by the end of 2016 Monitor heathland/ moorland condition through integrated site assessments of at least 23 SSSI units by the end of 2016 |



Priority A3: Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor’s important wildlife habitats and the species they support

Measures of success:

- Percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition
- Area of priority habitat creation/restoration
- Status of priority species populations i.e. steady/increasing/recovering

Strategic overview of Priority A3 to be provided by:

Exmoor Nature Conservation Advisory Panel

| Strategic activity: Maintain Exmoor’s important habitats and seek to improve their condition where appropriate | | |
|--|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A3.1 Develop an Exmoor plan to identify action needed to meet national target of restoring 50% SSSIs to ‘favourable’ condition by 2020. Work with landowners and managers to make progress towards this target, and to maintain at least 97% of SSSIs in ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition | NE, ENPA, NT, FC, CE, farmers, landowners and managers, Badgworthy Land Company, woodland owners and managers | Plan produced by the end of 2013 % of SSSIs moved from unfavourable recovering to favourable condition by the end of 2017 |
| A3.2 Identify locally important habitat sites on Exmoor including a review of Local (County) Wildlife Sites and an inventory of all unimproved grassland on Exmoor. Work with landowners to maximise wildlife benefits of features on their land including hedgerows, unimproved grassland, veteran trees, orchards, ponds etc through targeting of grants and advice | ENPA, Somerset and Devon Wildlife Trusts (SWT, DWT), Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC), NE, FC, NT, Orchard groups | Report on review of Local Wildlife Sites by the end of 2014 Identify other locally important sites by the end of 2013 Resurvey of important orchards by the end of 2012 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---|---|
| A3.3 Undertake targeted woodland management to improve habitat for woodland birds, invertebrates and lichens, and make links with the developing SW Woodland Wildlife Initiative (SWWWI) | Woodland owners and managers, FC, ENPA, NT, CE, NE, FWAGSW, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), SWPLF | Produce SWWWI guidance to assist woodland owners and managers by the end of 2017 |
| A3.4 Establish a better understanding of the condition of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and seek opportunities to improve the condition of PAWs in ‘at risk’ condition | FC, ENPA, FE, CE, Woodland Trust (WT), woodland owners and managers | Undertake strategic evaluation of PAWS across Greater Exmoor by the end of 2013 Agree improvement proposals on priority sites by the end of 2015 Hold training day to demonstrate improvement measures by the end of 2017 |
| A3.5 Continue Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project ‘Connecting Habitats, Saving Species’ to ensure appropriate management of important butterfly sites and seek opportunities to restore suitable habitat in other areas. | Butterfly Conservation (BC), ENPA, NE, NT, Environment Agency (EA), farmers, landowners and land managers | Management on 20 sites by the end of 2014 ‘Butterflies of Exmoor’ leaflet by the end of 2013 Report on lessons learned at project completion, 2015 |
| A3.6 Develop a conservation project to support iconic wildlife species | Greater Exmoor Shoots Association (GESA) | |
| A3.7 Develop a vision for Porlock Marsh which responds to potential coastal change, integrates wildlife, landscape, heritage and farming interests, and provides opportunities for improved public access and understanding | Porlock Manor Estate, NT, Porlock Parish Council, NE, ENPA | Meet summer 2012 |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|--|--|
| A3.8 Improve knowledge and understanding of coastal and marine habitats and species along the Exmoor coast Explore opportunities arising from Marine Protected Area designations | Devon & River Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) , DWT, NE, WRT, RSPB | Report at end of 2012 and then annually |
| A3.9 Continue to improve riparian habitats and support native aquatic species throughout Exmoor's river catchments | EA , River Exe and Tributaries Association (RETA), WRT, riparian owners, NE, South West Water (SWW) | Restore and enhance salmon habitat and support other fish stocks through the River Exe project |
| See priority A2 for actions to identify priorities for management of moorland and heathland habitats and key species as part of the Moorland Units work | | |
| See priority A5.3 for actions to restore degraded peatland habitat through the Exmoor Mires Project | | |
| Strategic activity: Support habitat restoration through control of invasive species and diseases | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A3.10 Undertake targeted control of invasive species such as rhododendron and laurel in priority habitats | FC , ENPA, NE, NT, CE, WRT, woodland owners and managers | |
| A3.11 Monitor and control where possible the spread of diseases such as Phytophthora and explore opportunities for habitat restoration where appropriate | FC , ENPA, NT, CE, woodland owners and managers | |
| A3.12 Continue Exmoor Knotweed Control Partnership to control invasive knotweed species and consider expanding project to control other species such as <i>Montbretia</i> , <i>Himalayan balsam</i> and <i>Crassula</i> | Exmoor Knotweed Control Partnership | Review Memorandum of Agreement the end of 2016 Annual project report Seek Water Framework Directive funds to extend control to <i>Montbretia</i> |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Extend and connect Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A3.13 Restore and link moor and heath habitat where opportunities arise through the Moorland Units project (A1.8), agri-environment schemes and Forest Design plan process | Moorland owners and Commoners , EMB, FC, FE, NT, ENPA | |
| A3.14 Extend, link and buffer woodland through new planting in suitable areas. Improve the network of woods, hedges and other wildlife corridors within and beyond the National Park boundary, including to the Quantock Hills | Woodland owners and managers FC, CE, ENPA, NT, RSPB SCC, WSC, Somerset Bat Group, Quantock Hills AONB Service | See action A1.9 for milestone on woodland planting Deliver habitat improvement and linkages for bats as part of Hinkley C mitigation |
| A3.15 Examine the potential to improve habitat connectivity, permeability and species movement within the farmed landscape. | NE, ENPA, RSPB | Produce map of opportunities by the end of 2013 Pilot through the Wimbleball catchment project (Action C3.3) |
| Strategic activity: Improve understanding of wildlife on Exmoor and monitor trends and changes in their populations | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A3.16 Develop a programme of monitoring for key species and habitats; identify research priorities; improve collation of data for wildlife and habitats on Exmoor and its accessibility | ENPA, SERC, DBRC , NE, RSPB, Somerset Ornithological Society (SOS), Exmoor Natural History Society (ENHS), NT, Hawk & Owl Trust (H&OT), EA, CE, Somerset Otter Group (SOG), WRT, Buglife, SW Crayfish Partnership | Update State of the Park report by the end of 2016 Establish co-ordinated Exmoor natural environment record by the end of 2016 |
| A3.17 Undertake a review of priority species on Exmoor | ENPA, Buglife | Report on priority invertebrate species by the end of 2014 Produce list of priority species by the end of 2014 |
| A3.18 Continue to monitor red deer numbers and health | Exmoor and District Deer Management Society (EDDMS) | Annual deer count and report |

| Strategic activity: Engage with the public and communities to better understand and celebrate Exmoor's important habitats and species | | |
|---|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A3.19 Improve understanding of moorland habitats and wildlife and share knowledge of moorland management through 'Heart of Exmoor' (link to A2) | EMLP | |
| A3.20 Explore opportunities for increased community engagement through community woodlands, orchards and raising awareness of ancient trees | FC, CE, ENPA, NT, SCC, orchard groups, Porlock Community Orchard Group | |
| A3.21 Promote opportunities to increase public enjoyment and understanding of the important habitats and species supported by Exmoor's rivers, lakes, ponds and other water bodies | WRT, South West Lakes Trust (SWLT), NT, Pond Conservation, Buglife | Host environmental walks, workshops and family days at Wimbleball Lake |
| A3.22 Promote environmental education activities using coastal habitats | SWT, DWT Marine Conservation Society (MCS), NT | Undertake annual survey Establish volunteering opportunities with MCS |
| A3.23 Reconnect people with the natural environment to help them better understand and appreciate it | NT, NE, ENPA | Deliver NT <i>Getting Closer to Nature</i> programme of activities on Exmoor |
| A3.24 Encourage engagement and understanding of geological diversity through county geological groups and local groups to engage with communities and visitors. Promote materials such as walking guides and geological maps | Devon RIGS group, Somerset Geology Group (SGG) | Exmoor geology guides and walks |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

Priority A4: Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment

Measures of success:

- Number of heritage assets removed from 'at risk' registers
- Increased participation and engagement in conservation of the historic environment and cultural heritage

Strategic overview of Priority A4 to be provided by:

Historic Environment Advisory Group (when established)

| Strategic activity: Engage the owners and managers of heritage assets in their conservation and protection | | |
|--|---|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A4.1 Develop the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Exmoor to be the hub of information about Exmoor's historic environment and cultural heritage and identify and seek to safeguard aspects of Exmoor's heritage that are considered locally important including establishment of additional Principal Archaeological Landscape (PAL) areas | ENPA , English Heritage (EH), Parish and Town Councils, local stakeholders and communities | Establish HER Website by Summer 2012 Historic environment guidance available online by Autumn 2014 Complete a Local List for Exmoor over the life of the Plan Extend Exmoor PALs for the whole of Exmoor by the end of 2013 Complete proposals for Historic Landscape Characterisation development and seek funding during 2013 |
| A4.2 Work with landowners to raise awareness of the value of heritage assets on their land, to rescue 'at risk' assets and to encourage effective conservation | ENPA working with landowners EMLP | Survey Scheduled Monuments 'At Risk' in 2014/15 Undertake Annual Monument Management Scheme actions |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|---|---|--|
| A4.3 Work with the owners of listed buildings and other important heritage properties to raise awareness of the value of heritage assets in their care, to rescue 'at risk' assets and to encourage effective conservation | ENPA working with listed building owners EMLP | Complete Buildings At Risk survey by the end of 2012 Carry out Buildings At Risk in 2017 |
| A4.4 Work with local communities to safeguard the character of Conservation Areas by maintaining up to date Appraisals and by completing enhancement work | EH, ENPA , Parish and Town Councils, local communities | Complete updated Appraisals by the end of 2013 Commence Conservation Area action plans Complete enhancements in 4 Conservation Areas by the end of 2017 |
| A4.5 Work to ensure that historic environment is protected and where appropriate enhanced as part of development and land management or restoration projects | ENPA , SWW, EMLP, EH | Convene Historic Environment Moorland Panel (HEMP) annually to assess progress on moorland projects |
| A4.6 Identify the potential impacts of climate and land management change on Exmoor's historic environment | EH, ENPA , Parish and Town Councils, NT, EA, NE, ES, landowners and managers | Complete audit the end of 2014 of all intertidal and immediately coastal heritage assets that may be affected by sea level rise and identify vulnerable or critical sites and locations Develop SW project on bracken and scrub impacts by Summer 2013 Publish guidance on mitigating climate change impacts on heritage assets by Spring 2016 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Encourage participation and community engagement in learning about and conserving Exmoor's historic environment and cultural heritage | | |
|--|---|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A4.7 Work with local communities, including young people, to set up and promote community archaeology projects and other heritage initiatives | Local archaeological groups and historical societies , North Devon Archaeological Society (NDAS), schools, ENPA, EMLP | 5 community archaeology projects completed over the life of the Plan |
| A4.8 Promote greater awareness and understanding of Exmoor's historic environment | ES, ENPA , NT, local groups and societies, EMLP | Host annual Archaeology Forum; deliver walks and talks programme; Publish regular updates |
| A4.9 Develop volunteer involvement in aspects of cultural heritage activities including the HER | ENPA , ES, Tiverton Archaeological Group (TAG), NDAS, Devon Archaeological Society (DAS), Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS), West Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (WSANHS), EMLP | Increased numbers of volunteers engaged in cultural heritage activities by the end of 2017 |
| A4.10 Promote Exmoor's culture and traditions including the arts and ensure that information is easily available | ES , local museums, EMLP | Publish the Exmoor Review annually Hope Bourne Exhibition and DVD in 2013 |
| Strategic activity: Increase knowledge and understanding of Exmoor's historic environment | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A4.11 Implement the Historic Environment Research Framework 2010-15 | Universities, EH, NT, ENPA, local and county groups and societies, archaeological and building contractors | Review progress, and develop new Framework for 2015-20 |
| A 4.12 Monitor change and trends in the historic environment to inform the development of future policy | EH, ENPA | Update State of the Park report in 2016 |

Priority A5: Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor’s natural resources

Measures of success:

- Water Framework Directive ecological status of surface waters
- Numbers of breeding population of local breeds

Strategic overview of Priority A5 to be provided by:

Exmoor Farming and Land Management Forum

| Strategic activity: Support land management practices that deliver integrated objectives for water quality, water resources, ecological status, flood alleviation and reduce soil compaction, erosion and run-off | | |
|--|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A5.1 Identify a programme of activity for river catchments within the National Park in line with Water Framework Directive objectives to protect water resources, improve water quality and achieve good ecological status for all water bodies | EA, NE, SWW, Wessex Water (WW), WRT, FC | |
| A5.2 Complete Holnicote flood management demonstration project and disseminate lessons learnt to inform future management | NT | Final report and Conference in Spring 2015 |
| A5.3 Deliver Exmoor Mires project to restore degraded peatland habitats and demonstrate its effects on biodiversity, water quality, water storage and carbon storage through monitoring and actively sharing information | EMP | Improvements to moorland biodiversity, carbon storage, water storage and water quality recorded through the monitoring programme |
| A5.4 Support best practice in land management and soil conservation to avoid compaction, rapid run off and erosion | SWW, WRT, EHFP, EA, NT, NE, FWAGSW | Events, open days |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---|--|
| A5.5 Take opportunities to improve sewage treatment capacity and facilities to improve water quality | SWW, WW, EA, NDC, WSC, ENPA, EMLP | Sewage treatment improvements at Simonsbath |
| Strategic activity: Maintain Exmoor’s local sheep, cattle and pony breeds to retain important genetic diversity and local distinctiveness | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| A5.6 Continue to support and promote local breeds, particularly Exmoor Horn sheep and Exmoor Ponies where the core of the breed is on Exmoor, and monitor numbers | Livestock owners, Exmoor Horn Sheep Breeders’ Society, Exmoor Pony Society, Moorland Mousie Trust, Devon Closewool Sheep Breeders Society, Devon Cattle Breeders Society, Rare Breeds Survival Trust, NE | Monitor flock and herd numbers and distribution and report in 2016 |



3. Programme B - Connecting People and Places



Vision for Connecting People and Places

- 3.1 Each of the Programmes for Action will help to deliver elements of the Vision that we have set out. In helping to Connect People and Places, we will seek to ensure that in 2030:
- There is increased public awareness and enjoyment of the National Park, a warm welcome and high quality experience for everyone seeking inspiration, tranquillity and active outdoor recreation, leading to greater understanding of Exmoor and its way of life and a wider appreciation of the contribution that National Parks make to quality of life.

Objectives for Connecting People and Places

- 3.2 The Partnership Plan for Exmoor and Exmoor Local Plan share 21 common objectives. In setting the priorities for action to 'Connect People and Places' we have sought to address the following objectives:
- Objective 8** - To provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds and abilities, to learn about and enjoy Exmoor National Park, leading to a greater understanding of Exmoor and its way of life.
- Objective 9** - To maintain and improve the recreational opportunities in the National Park, particularly the rights of way network, access to open country, other quiet and active recreation based on Exmoor's special qualities; and ensure that opportunities for recreation can be enjoyed by people from all backgrounds and of all abilities.
- Objective 10** - To support, record and understand aspects of culture and traditions that are special to Exmoor.



Priorities for action for Connecting People and Places

3.3 Three priorities for action have been identified under this Programme:

Priority B1 Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand

Priority B2 Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park

Priority B3 Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor's special qualities

Tourism

3.4 National Parks are designated with two purposes of conservation and enjoyment. Exmoor National Park is a major tourism destination and an important area for recreation. It is one of the few remaining areas in England where true tranquillity and a sense of remoteness and inspiration can be experienced. The high quality landscape, peace and quiet, biodiversity and cultural heritage that Exmoor provides are the major attractors for visitors, along with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities. The opportunities that Exmoor offers are rare in southern England and surveys support the view that the area remains an important environmental asset for a wide range of people. Visitor satisfaction is high with 99% of respondents to the 2010 visitor survey stating their overall satisfaction of the National Park as a destination being 'very good' or 'good', and this is likely to be behind the motivation for the high level of repeat visits.

3.5 Visitor numbers have remained relatively stable despite the economic downturn, but promotion and marketing will continue to be vital to sustain Exmoor's tourism economy. Surveys carried out in preparation for the previous National Park Management Plan suggested that there was overall support for a modest increase in visitor numbers to the National Park in addition to growing the value of the visitor economy. In particular, extending the season, and increasing the visitor spend by providing a high quality experience, remain the focus. The achievement of International Dark Sky Reserve status for Exmoor National Park in

2011, the first of its kind in Europe, provides great opportunities for promoting Exmoor as a destination to enjoy the dark night skies. Tourism businesses have a key role to play and the Exmoor Tourism Partnership has been established to bring together local businesses and local authorities to help promote the area. Whilst the increase in visitors will bring welcome economic and employment opportunities, they will also potentially increase pressure on the National Park's special qualities. The action plans recognise the need to monitor any impacts over the Plan period and manage such pressures sensitively.

Promoting Exmoor National Park as a special destination, and developing the Exmoor brand is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority B1

Access and recreation

3.6 Many people explore the National Park by walking, horse riding and cycling and the public rights of way are a vital part of Exmoor's economic infrastructure. Short walks and sightseeing are particularly popular with visitors. Permitted and de-facto access also have a very important role to play for access on Exmoor and many favourite routes include permitted sections. Exmoor's vast areas of open access land provide a fantastic opportunity for the more adventurous walker and some areas of open access for horse riding are also available. Whilst most recreational activities are capable of being accommodated without damage to Exmoor's special qualities, there are circumstances where particular care is required. In most cases, careful management can resolve conflicts, however, in circumstances where this cannot be achieved, greater weight is given to the first statutory purpose of conservation and enhancement (known as the 'Sandford Principle').

3.7 Exmoor is fortunate in having a high proportion of public bridleways as part of its path network, although many of these are narrow and rugged in character. The previous Management Plan set a target to ensure that at least 95% of public rights of way should be open and easy to use in line with national standards by end of March 2011 from a baseline in 2007 of 43%. A partial survey in 2010/11 showed that paths that met the 'ease of use' standard had increased to 96%. The facilities that people use when they visit Exmoor are also important, including

information provision, car parks or public transport, and toilets, and these services will need to continue to be maintained.

Maintaining high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park will continue to be a priority in the Partnership Plan = Priority B2

Understanding and enjoyment

- 3.8 An important part of the enjoyment of Exmoor is understanding what is special about the National Park. The more that people understand what is special about a place, the more connected they are likely to feel to it. Most visitors and local residents share a real enthusiasm to find out more about Exmoor and about aspects in which they have a particular interest. Local residents, particularly those working in the tourism industry or who come face to face with the public in other ways, are best placed to interpret Exmoor to others particularly if they receive support to provide information about the National Park that is accurate and consistent.
- 3.9 It is important to develop new and exciting ways to provide information and interpretative material through as many avenues as possible such as in accommodation, on public transport, at eating places and wherever people wait. Modern communication technologies offer new ways to provide the information people want, at times of their choosing and in a format they prefer.
- 3.10 There were many suggestions as part of the consultation for ways in which people could be encouraged to enjoy the National Park more. These included helping visitors to connect with people who lived in, farmed and managed the land, for example through farm open days, events and festivals, and activities with clubs and societies.
- 3.11 Close liaison with schools and colleges was also supported to encourage young people and families in particular to understand and appreciate what is special about the National Park. Reaching young people in schools and colleges within the National Park has been a focus for the National Park Authority, and expanding this to young people living close to Exmoor and in some of the larger conurbations in the region is another priority so that these young people know of

the National Park, how to get here, and ways in which the area can be enjoyed and looked after.

- 3.12 Provision of opportunities for volunteering can also make a substantial contribution to a deepening understanding and enjoyment of the National Park, and a programme of opportunities is co-ordinated by the Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership. The Mosaic project has helped to increase awareness of Exmoor amongst young people and new audiences including disabled people and those from black and ethnic minority groups.

Working with communities to inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor's special qualities is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority B3

Action plans and delivery partners

- 3.13 For each priority, a more detailed action plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of local people and organisations who will be key delivery partners. These action plans will be kept under review and updated as necessary.



Priority B1: Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand

Measures of success:

- Visitor numbers and value of visitor spend
- Public awareness of Exmoor

Strategic overview of Priority B1 to be provided by:
Exmoor Tourism Partnership

| Strategic activity: Strengthen the Exmoor National Park brand and its association with high quality experiences. | | |
|--|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B1.1 Develop and test a brand identity for the wider Exmoor area | Exmoor Tourism Partnership (ETP) | Exmoor logo launched, brand guidelines issued the end of 2013 |
| B1.2 Explore opportunities to benefit from the National Park brand and participate in national efforts to raise awareness of Protected Landscapes | ENPA , Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA), ENPAA | Britain's Breathing Spaces campaign National Parks week |
| B1.3 Continue to build understanding of public awareness, perceptions of and associations with Exmoor | ENPA ANPA Exeter University | Biennial visitor surveys Contribute to National awareness survey Undertake survey work to understand why some people do not visit Exmoor |
| B1.4 Build on Exmoor's reputation as the leading destination for Country Sports in the South West | Country Sports South West Project (CSSWP) , GESA | Deliver project to 2016 |
| B1.5 Promote the sustainable use of coastal waters for recreational sea angling | D&SIFCA | Assess opportunities for recreational sea angling off the Exmoor coast by end of 2013 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Work with the local community, tourism businesses and providers to provide a high quality experience | | |
|--|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B1.6 Provide advice and support to tourism businesses and those who provide services to visitors to improve the welcome | ENPA ETP | Implementation of ETP Action Plan Deliver annual Keeping Exmoor Special initiatives Revalidate and retain European Sustainable Tourism Charter |
| B1.7 Provide information and advice through a variety of media to help visitors experience and enjoy the National Park (Link to Priority B3) | ENPA ETP, Exmoor Tourism Association (ETA), NT | Exmoor Visitor produced annually Review/update Visit Exmoor website the end of 2015 |
| B1.8 Develop and support iconic, recognisable, cultural events, local arts, crafts, food and walking festivals as part of the Exmoor experience | ETP, ES, NT Tourism Associations Businesses, Artlife, local arts groups | Support a minimum of 10 events pa |
| B1.9 Set up an 'Exmoor charter' giving businesses and other organisations a greater interest in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park, encouraging businesses to act sustainably and provide a quality experience by providing a marketing advantage to accredited bodies | ENPA ETP | Establish pilot scheme by winter 2012 rolling out further within a year |
| B1.10 Maintain high quality facilities and a range of educational and budget accommodation for visitors | Field Studies Council (FSC), Youth Hostels Association (YHA), NT, SWLT, Calvert Trust, Yenworthy Lodge | Number of residential and budget facilities for groups including hostels and camping |

| Strategic activity: Develop a programme of promotional and marketing activities using the Exmoor brand | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B1.11 Build understanding of different audiences, their interests and needs, to underpin targeted marketing for particular groups | ETP ENPA Exeter University | Biennial visitor survey Non-visitor survey by the end of 2012 |
| B1.12 Implement and monitor the Exmoor Tourism Partnership marketing strategy | ETP | Annual marketing Plan Review/update in 2014 |
| B1.13 Identify opportunities to market Exmoor through other campaigns or marketing activity including promotion of Exmoor National Park as a destination for active recreational opportunities and to appreciate and experience dark night skies | ETP, NT, CE, Visit Exmoor, Visit Devon, Visit Somerset, Visit England, ENPA, Exmoor Local Access Forum (ELAF), Calvert Trust, YHA, Dark Skies Discovery Project, Tourism Associations, local businesses and communities | Implementation of ETP Action Plan Exmoor NP features on NT and other websites Deliver Dark Skies Discovery Project and events Dark skies information at Visitor Centres |
| B1.14 Work more closely together to develop co-ordinated 'offers' for visitors and co-operative promotion of what to see and do on Exmoor | ETA, Tourism Associations, tourism businesses | |
| B1.15 Mitigate disruption to tourism from construction of Hinkley nuclear power station and respond to opportunities to promote tourism | WSC, EDF Energy, SCC, ENPA | Implementation of Hinkley Tourism Action Plan |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

Priority B2: Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park

Measures of success:

- Visitor satisfaction with RoW/facilities
- % RoW open/easy to use
- Amount of new access land or RoW/permitted paths agreed

Strategic overview of Priority B2 to be provided by:

Exmoor Local Access Forum

| Strategic activity: Maintain a high quality rights of way and access network, services and facilities, undertake targeted improvements and make linkages | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B2.1 Continue maintenance and protection of rights of way and key permitted routes. Undertake targeted improvements with RoW furniture and surface improvements and possible establishment of new routes by agreement with landowners. Maintain distinctive hand routed wooden RoW signage and wooden furniture. Continue special support for key promoted routes/long distance routes | ENPA, SCC, DCC, WSC, NDC, NT, ELAF, West Somerset and Exmoor Bridleways Association (WSEBA), local communities, landowners and managers | At least 95% RoW in 'easy to use' condition Numbers of stiles/ length of stile free routes User feedback Develop special agreed trail standards and assess network against this |
| B2.2 Monitor use of access land and implement high benefit access improvements where appropriate | ENPA, ELAF, landowners and managers | Quantities and standards of Access land infrastructure |
| B2.3 Ensure access opportunities exist to encourage all users including easy to use short walks and easy to follow signage; and provide good information about the access network to help users with restricted capabilities | ENPA, SCC, DCC, SWLT, ELAF, NT, CE, landowners and managers, local communities | User feedback regarding easy walks Information available in leaflet or web form |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|--|--|
| B2.4 Explore opportunities to increase access on NT farmed estate through whole estate reviews and <i>Getting Outdoors and Closer to Nature</i> agendas | NT | Review of whole estate during 2012/13 Identify opportunities for increased access during 2012/13 |
| B2.5 Maintain a comprehensive range of car parks, public toilets, informal lay-bys and visitor road signage that cater for the needs of all users | ENPA, SCC, DCC, WSC, NDC, NT, FC, CE, WSEBA, landowners and managers, community partnerships | Numbers of car parks, public toilets and user satisfaction Quality assessment of key informal lay-bys and view points |
| B2.6 Explore reinstatement of payments for linear access and review of process to ensure value for money and maximise public benefit | ELAF, ENPA, WSEBA | Availability of linear permitted access payments |
| Strategic activity: Ensure recreation is well managed to maximise enjoyment and protect National Park's special qualities from damage | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B2.7 Continue to monitor recreation and impacts on the special qualities, and liaise with local communities, police and other partners to address issues such as illegal off road driving | ENPA, ELAF, Users, landowners and managers, Police | User satisfaction Update State of the Park report by the end of 2016 |
| B2.8 Development of simple recreation management plans for popular visitor locations where problems exist | ENPA, ELAF, ES, private landowners, community groups | Numbers of plans in place |
| B2.9 Control litter, fly-tipping and dog mess through litter picking, clearance, education and enforcement | WSC, NDC, ENPA, SCC, DCC, NT, EA, landowners and managers, Keep Britain Tidy, volunteers | User satisfaction |
| B2.10 Encourage visitor 'contribution' schemes | ENPA, tourism businesses | Review of CareMoor by Autumn 2012. Revised scheme launched by Autumn 2013 |
| B2.11 Ensure mass participation events are sensitively managed | Event organisers ENPA, landowners and managers, local community | User satisfaction Monitoring reports |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---|---|
| B2.12 Improve the welcome for (on and off road) cycling through improved information, targeted trail improvements and ensure it is sensitively managed | SWPLF, ENPA, SWLT, CE, NT, SCC | One South West project Creation of improved off-road cycling facilities at Wimbleball by the end of 2012 |
| B2.13 Ensure that water based recreation on Exmoor is high quality and that water access is managed by co-operation between landowners and recreational users to ensure such activities do not damage Exmoor's wildlife and other special qualities | Canoe England, EA, Lyn Riparian Owners Association, ELAF, ENPA, Exmoor Canoe Club, NT, RETA, riparian owners, River Barle Fishing Club, SWLT, WRT | Details of canoe access available on Exmoor (locations and numbers of days) User/community feedback |
| Strategic activity: Promote and facilitate more sustainable modes of travel to Exmoor and leisure use within the National Park | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B2.14 Promote a range of alternative travel options to the car through improved information provision, quality of service and, as opportunities arise, facilitate a range of access and travel hubs for transfer between different modes of travel | ENPA, DCC, SCC, ETP | Develop and maintain ExploreMoor website Information included in key visitor publications |
| B2.15 Support opportunities for new and improved access and travel modes including Lynton and Barnstaple Railway, Severn Link ferry, West Somerset Railway link | Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Trust, West Somerset Railway Association, Severn Link ferry, NT, SCC | Availability of new travel opportunities User satisfaction |
| See priority C1.8 for actions to support community based, demand responsive transport initiatives | | |

Priority B3: Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor’s special qualities

Measures of success:

- Number of volunteer days
- Numbers of new audiences visiting

Strategic overview of Priority B3 to be provided by:
Exmoor Learning and Engagement Panel

| Strategic activity: Provide information on Exmoor’s special qualities through a variety of media and outlets responsive to user needs | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B3.1 Maintain good, up to date information on Exmoor’s special qualities. Provide opportunities for people to access this information through a variety of routes including websites, National Park Centres and utilising developments in technology and social media | ENPA | Provide and develop ENPA website compatible with developments in technology and use of social media |
| | ETP, ETA , Tourism Associations, local businesses and communities, | Promote Visit Exmoor website and encourage coordination of tourism industry websites |
| | ES | Investigate potential for relocation of ES resource centre |
| B3.2 Support a network of interpretation and information provision across the National Park, working with a range of partner organisations, businesses and communities | ENPA , Tourism Associations, local businesses and communities, NT, RSPB, FC, CE, Tourist Information Centres, Local Information Points | Maintain National Park Centre network and develop their role in supporting community information provision Support Local Information Centres Review of Local Information Points by April 2013 |
| B3.3 Develop an inspiring, high quality interpretation and information centre in the Lynmouth Pavilion | ENPA , Lyn Economic and Tourism Alliance, Tourism interests, local businesses and communities, NT, D&SIFCA | Deliver new National Park Centre by Spring 2013 Develop events and activities Engage with local community, organisations and visitors to develop content and programmes |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Inspire and engage people about Exmoor’s special qualities and encourage enjoyment and understanding amongst new audiences including families and younger people | | |
|---|---|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| B3.4 Coordinate and publicise a core annual programme of events, walks and activities | ENPA , ETP, ETA, EMLP, NT, ES, RSPB, Tourism Associations, local businesses and communities | Produce Exmoor Visitor newspaper annually Maintain updated website events programme Publish Annual Exmoor Review |
| B3.5 Continue to promote engagement with new audiences through the Mosaic Youth Roll Out Programme, Mosaic Disabled Champions Programme, Heart of Exmoor project programme and New Audiences Fund. Undertake research on perceptions of new audiences to inform future engagement | ENPA , EMLP, NT, Mosaic Project, Exeter University | Minimum of 10 new groups pa Complete perceptions research PhD by the end of 2013 |
| B3.6 Focus on local schools and communities in and near to the National Park to increase their awareness, enjoyment and understanding of Exmoor | GEEEF , EMLP, ES, NT, Calvert Trust | At least 3000 participants pa engaged in activities related to National Park purposes |
| B3.7 Support a range of volunteering opportunities for local communities and visitors to the National Park | Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership , NT | Deliver annual programme of opportunities achieving at least 2000 volunteer days pa |
| B3.8 Support improved access and facilities for disabled visitors to provide a high quality tourism experience | Calvert Trust, SWLT | Support routes suitable for Trampers at Wimbleball lake, access improvements at Wistlandpound and Wimbleball |

4. Programme C - Towards a Sustainable Future



Vision for Towards a Sustainable Future

- 4.1 Each of the Programmes for Action will help to deliver elements of the Vision that we have set out. In working Towards a Sustainable Future, we will seek to ensure that in 2030:
- Exmoor's communities retain a continuity of connection with the land, and communities are taking the lead in shaping future development to meet their needs and aspirations including access to services, housing, communications and infrastructure.
 - There is a strong, diverse and resilient economy where farming, forestry, land management and rural enterprises are playing a lead role in conserving and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities, producing high quality food and other produce, and conserving local breeds. There is a sustainable tourism and recreation economy in harmony with local communities and the environment.
 - We are closer to achieving a carbon-neutral National Park to help mitigate climate change, and have introduced measures to adapt to changes in climate that are already happening.



Objectives for Towards a Sustainable Future

- 4.2 The Partnership Plan for Exmoor and Exmoor Local Plan share 21 common objectives. In setting the priorities for action to help in moving 'Towards a Sustainable Future' we have sought to address the following objectives:
- Objective 11** - To enable Exmoor's communities and partnerships to plan development in their neighbourhoods to help meet their needs and aspirations while conserving the special qualities of the National Park.
- Objective 12** - To address local and affordable housing needs, making the best use of existing developed land and buildings; ensuring a mix of housing and a housing stock which helps sustain local communities.
- Objective 13** - To improve the sustainability, resilience and self-sufficiency of the National Park's settlements by supporting the retention, provision of, and access to community services and facilities.

Objective 14 - To achieve a strong, diverse, resilient and self-sufficient economy and encourage economic and employment opportunities which do not conflict with National Park purposes.

Objective 15 - To achieve profitable farming, forestry and land management in ways that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park whilst producing food and other produce, and conserving distinctive local breeds.

Objective 16 - To support the tourism industry in providing a warm welcome and a range of sustainable accommodation, services and facilities, leading to a high quality Exmoor experience for visitors and local communities alike.

Objective 17 - To achieve high quality telecommunications and essential utilities and infrastructure in ways commensurate with the conservation of the National Park's natural beauty, landscape wildlife, cultural heritage and special qualities.

Objective 18 - To support sustainable transport for residents and visitors by improving public and community transport services and opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding including linkages across the National Park boundary.

Objective 19 - To minimise the net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and support measures which contribute to carbon neutrality in ways that both conserve and enhance the National Park.

Objective 20 - To adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change on Exmoor's communities, businesses, landscape, wildlife and coast including flood risk, sea level rise, unexpected weather events and so on.

Objective 21 - To minimise waste and emissions and support opportunities for reuse and recycling in ways compatible with Exmoor's National Park designation.

Priorities for action for moving Towards a Sustainable Future:

- 4.3 Four priorities for action have been identified under this programme:
- Priority C1** Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs
 - Priority C2** Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor
 - Priority C3** Help farmers, foresters and land managers to produce food, timber and other produce while protecting and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities and delivering ecosystem services
 - Priority C4** Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park

Local communities

- 4.4 In virtually all discussions with communities in the National Park the need for local affordable housing receives top priority. A good start has been made and since 2005, 66 new local need affordable homes have been given planning permission with a further 19 permitted in principle. However, the economic downturn and cuts in government spending have led to substantially less public funding available for housing provision. The new development policies being set out in the Local Plan are taking account of these wider changes and the need to establish new mechanisms to encourage affordable housing provision.
- 4.5 Government is also undertaking a series of changes to the planning system and encouraging greater involvement of communities in shaping development through an increased emphasis on 'localism'. Exmoor National Park Authority has responded positively to this and is piloting the new approach to 'Neighbourhood Planning' in Lynton and Lynmouth. The emphasis on localism is particularly appropriate in Exmoor, given the very different needs and circumstances of communities across the National Park.

- 4.6 A core public transport network exists linking the main towns and villages across Exmoor. In addition community transport providers operate in areas not otherwise served by public transport supporting the local community as well as visitors. With the current public transport network under threat from reductions in Local Authority spending such community services are likely to become more important to maintain community access within the National Park.
- 4.7 Wherever possible, it is vital to ensure that local communities and businesses can take advantage of opportunities and infrastructure that are taken for granted in more urban areas. A key example is the need for access to the effective communication networks provided by 'broadband' telecommunications. During 2011, a joint bid by Somerset and Devon County Councils was successful in attracting more than £30 million towards the establishment of rural broadband infrastructure in the two counties and this provides a great opportunity for Exmoor.

Thus, support for community led initiatives that help to meet local needs is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority C1

Local economy

- 4.8 In the previous Management Plan a priority was given to encouraging employment opportunities for young people, and this remains a high priority as evidenced by the consultation responses. Some success was achieved during 2011 with the development a major apprenticeship programme led by West Somerset Community College and part-funded by the Exmoor National Park Authority Partnership Fund. The scheme employs a Rural Employment Enabler to work with potential employers and apprentices to provide two year placements for more than 100 young people over three years.
- 4.9 The emphasis of the Partnership Plan is on support for strong elements of the existing economy such as tourism and farming, while encouraging new business opportunities where they can benefit and contribute to the special environment of the National Park.
- 4.10 There is significant potential to increase the value added locally to sustainable materials produced in the National Park such as wood and wool. Whilst some of the wood grown is being used to produce fuel,

furniture, joinery, construction materials, and other wood products, it remains significantly under-utilised. Meanwhile, most of the wool produced from Exmoor's estimated 300,000 sheep and lambs is exported out of the area for onward processing. Efforts will be made to overcome some of the barriers to greater usage of local sustainable materials, helping to create employment and new business opportunities. Entrepreneurship will also be supported where the business opportunities developed do not adversely impact on the special qualities of the National Park.

Helping businesses to be more sustainable, supporting entrepreneurship and improving economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor, remains a priority in the Partnership Plan = Priority C2

Farming, foresters, land managers and gamekeepers

- 4.11 The vital role that farmers, foresters, land managers and gamekeepers have in maintaining Exmoor's special qualities has long been recognised, and this was again confirmed through the consultation. For many farms on Exmoor the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme has provided an important source of income linked to environmental management by farmers. Uptake of the scheme has been very high in the National Park and it is generally well regarded by farmers who have participated in the scheme. Of particular value has been the inclusion of capital funding for hedge laying and other practical management works which has helped to maintain important features of the landscape and support farm contractors. The ESA scheme will be phased out by 2013 when the vast majority of existing agreements will have come to an end.
- 4.12 The ESA is being replaced by a national Environmental Stewardship scheme and during the period of the Partnership Plan it will be important to manage the transition to the Environmental Stewardship scheme to maximise the benefits for environment and economy of the National Park, and to respond positively to new opportunities. Of particular importance will be the engagement of farmers and landowners in the design as well as the delivery of future environmental management schemes, together with closer monitoring of the impacts of different management approaches and greater local flexibility in implementation.

- 4.13 Alongside the changes to environmental schemes, there are also likely to be significant changes in the farming and forestry sectors as demand for food, timber and other products grows. Pressures for increased food production are being seen both nationally and globally, and farmers will increasingly need to balance improvements to levels of production and competitiveness with ongoing improvements to farming's environmental performance. The Government has made a commitment through the Natural Environment White Paper to identify means of increasing food production in ways that also improve the environment. Models of such 'sustainable intensification' are being developed by Defra through the Green Food Project. In the same way, increasing demands for timber, particularly as fuel for biomass boilers and other types of renewable energy production, will need careful management to ensure that opportunities for economic growth and job creation are balanced with landscape, nature conservation and cultural heritage interests.
- 4.14 The way in which land is farmed and managed is crucial to the delivery of wider benefits. Truly sustainable farming and land management can continue to provide high quality food, timber and other products where there is an active 'market', while maintaining a healthy environment that also provides a wide range of other benefits to people - the 'ecosystem services' outlined in Figure 5. These benefits include clean water, managed flood risk, and opportunities for recreation, enjoyment and inspiration.

Helping farmers, foresters and land managers to produce food, timber and other produce while protecting and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities and delivering ecosystem services is a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority C3

Climate change and carbon management

- 4.15 The Management Plan 2007-12 recognised the challenges facing the National Park arising from climate change, and set an ambition for Exmoor to respond to this by becoming a carbon-neutral National Park. As the changes in climate become more apparent, there is an ongoing need to better understand the impacts on Exmoor's landscape, wildlife, historic environment, communities and economy, and the measures needed to help adapt to these changes. However, the National Park is also helping to demonstrate measures to help mitigate climate change particularly through carbon storage in woodland, soils and peat.

- 4.16 Reducing energy use is another key aim, and good progress is being made with local communities to conserve energy and encourage greater use of renewable sources to meet local energy needs. The introduction of incentives such as the feed-in-tariff have increased interest in providing electricity from renewable sources such as solar photovoltaic cells, which will be beneficial from a climate change mitigation perspective.
- 4.17 There could be greater benefits from similar incentives that may be introduced to encourage renewable heat, such as woodfuel which could help to address fuel poverty in many of Exmoor's communities where people do not have access to mains gas, and are struggling to cope with rising fuel bills. This also brings economic opportunities for creating new markets for wood and could increase management of existing woods with benefits for wildlife. The benefits that renewable energy can bring to Exmoor need to be carefully managed to ensure that they do not damage the special qualities. Intrusive developments such as large scale wind turbines were particularly highlighted as concerns during the consultation.

Making progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park remains a priority for the Partnership Plan = Priority C4

Action plans and delivery partners

- 4.18 For each priority, a more detailed action plan has been developed in consultation with delivery partners. These action plans will be kept under review and updated as necessary.



Priority C1: Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs

Measures of success:

- Communities are proactive in identifying their needs and finding their own solutions
- Increased participation in community planning
- Increased access to broadband and mobile services

Strategic overview of Priority C1 to be provided by:

Parish and Town Councils

| Strategic activity: Support and work in partnership with Exmoor's communities to plan for and achieve their aspirations | | |
|--|---|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C1.1 Work with Parish and Town Councils and local communities to identify priorities that can be supported through the planning process and community-led planning | ENPA, Parish & Town Councils, Community Councils, local communities | Lynton & Lynmouth Neighbourhood Plan referendum and Plan adopted by April 2013 |
| C1.2 Promote better awareness and engagement amongst local communities by encouraging participation in the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum and developing contacts with young people | Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum, Parish & Town Councils, ENPA | Articles and publicity in Park Life magazine |
| C1.3 Provide updated planning policy in the Local Plan to guide future development | ENPA | Draft Local Plan preferred strategy autumn 2012 |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Encourage the delivery of local and affordable housing that is appropriate to and meets the needs of local communities | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C1.4 Provide the planning framework to support delivery of affordable housing to address the needs of local communities | ENPA | Draft Local Plan preferred strategy autumn 2012 |
| C1.5 Support communities to identify local housing need and potential sites | North Devon West Somerset and Exmoor Rural Housing Project, Homes and Communities Agency, Registered Providers, NDC, WSC, ENPA | |
| Strategic activity: Maintain and where possible improve accessibility and sustainable modes of travel | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C1.6 Improve access of communities and businesses in Exmoor to high speed broadband and other communications technologies by: ● ensuring that broadband roll-out benefits Exmoor ● improving mobile phone coverage | Somerset and Devon County Councils through 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' project SW Internet, ENPA, local businesses | Wheddon Cross pilot satellite broadband project completed by the end of 2013 Improved broadband network by the end of 2015 |
| C1.7 Work with partners to meet community transport and travel requirements, particularly for those without access to a car | DCC, SCC, ENPA | Maintain key public transport services |
| C1.8 Encourage community led sustainable transport initiatives such as demand responsive travel, cycleways | AtWest, SCC, Exmoor Trust, community groups | Continue Moor Rover and SLINKY bus services |

Priority C2: Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor

Measures of success:

- Number of apprenticeships moving into (full time) employment

Strategic overview of Priority C2 to be provided by:
Exmoor Local Enterprise Forum (when established)

| Strategic activity: Improving economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor | | |
|---|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C2.1 Deliver apprenticeships programme relating to land-based activities, outdoor recreation, the low carbon sector and tourism, and support other apprenticeship programmes, traditional skills and crafts, work experience, and long term volunteer placements | Rural Employment Enabler, West Somerset Community College (WSCC) North Devon + (ND+), WSC, ENPA, NT, EMLP, Calvert Trust, FC, D&RSIFCA | 108 apprenticeships arranged with local businesses by the end of 2014 |
| C2.2 Encourage enterprise among young people related to Exmoor's special qualities through the Pinnacle Award | ES | Annual awards through the life of the Plan |
| Strategic activity: Support entrepreneurship and help local businesses to become more sustainable | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C2.3 Engage with the 'Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership' with a view to maximising opportunities for securing funding for sustainable economic development in the National Park for the duration of the Plan | ENPA, WSC, West Somerset Business Forum (WSBF), Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership | Establish Exmoor Local Enterprise Forum by the end of 2012 Establish rural growth hubs in Exmoor as part of the proposed HOSW LEP "Rural Growth Network" |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|---|--|---|
| C2.4 Set up a business mentoring programme for SMEs and micro-businesses (existing and start-up) | WSC, ENPA, ND+ | Mentoring programme in place by the end of 2012 |
| C2.5 Provide the planning framework to guide future economic development, supporting the needs of businesses operating in the National Park (link to Priority C1) | ENPA | Draft Local Plan preferred strategy autumn 2012 |
| C2.6 Raise awareness of external funding opportunities for local businesses, supporting the development of strategic funding applications | Exmoor Local Enterprise Forum (when set up) ENPA, WSC, ND+, WSBF | |
| See Priority C1 for actions to improve access for businesses to high speed broadband and other communications technologies | | |
| Strategic activity: Encourage businesses and entrepreneurs in activities that utilise and add value to Exmoor's sustainable local resources such as food, wood and wool | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C2.7 Support business innovation and start-ups that result in value being added to Exmoor's sustainable local resources | DCC, SCC, ENPA, WSC, NDC, ND+ | |
| C2.8 Support increased use of appropriately sourced local timber in construction, furniture and other new markets through marketing, branding, processing and certification including through development of "Exmoor Woodcert" | Exmoor Woodland Carbon Project, ENPA, FC, CE, woodland owners and managers | Hold training day demonstrating woodland management and timber processing by the end of 2014 Achieve 20% increase in "Exmoor Woodcert" membership by the end of 2013 Consider mechanism for member ownership and management of "Exmoor Woodcert" by the end of 2015 |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|---|--------------------|---|
| C2.9 Support opportunities to add value to local food production through processing, branding and quality associated with the Exmoor brand (link to Priority B1) | EHFP, NT | NT to explore tenants rural enterprise and business forum during 2012 |
| C2.10 Help develop a market for game and add value to local produce by linking suppliers, processors and tourism businesses (link to B1.4) | CSSWP | |
| C2.11 Explore the potential for business opportunities utilising and adding value to locally sourced wool | EHFP | |



* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

Priority C3: Helping farmers, foresters and land managers to produce food, timber and other produce while protecting and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities and delivering ecosystem services

Measures of success:

- Uptake of HLS/UELS agri environment schemes & measures of environmental quality
- Farm incomes / state of markets

Strategic overview of Priority C3 to be provided by:

Exmoor Farming and Land Management Forum

| Strategic activity: Explore different land management practices which produce food, timber and other produce whilst protecting and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities and delivering ecosystem services | | |
|---|---|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C3.1 Explore opportunities for 'sustainable intensification' that seeks to enhance food production while improving environmental quality. Learn lessons from different approaches and case studies within the National Park and elsewhere | EHFP , farmers, NFU, ENPA, NT, WRT, Universities, EBLEX | Bring together farmers and interested groups to explore options for 'sustainable intensification' on Exmoor by June 2013 First report by the end of 2013 |
| C3.2 Explore potential for alternative sources of income from ecosystem rewards ● Influence future round of 5 year plans for water companies to include payments to farmers/ landowners for ongoing water quality and supply ● Input to development of national policy on ecosystem rewards to ensure flexibility to adapt to Exmoor circumstances | ENPA ENPA, NE, EA, NFU, SWUF, WRT Exeter University | Submission to OFWAT 2014 |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---|--|
| C3.3 Develop an integrated, multi-objective project for Wimbleball lake and surrounding area to address water quality, habitat improvements, sustainable farming and carbon management through joint working and development of ecosystem services incentives | ENPA, SWLT, EA, NE, FC, SWW, WW, WRT, NFU, farmers, landowners and managers, local communities, recreational groups | Develop Vision by the end of 2012 Secure funding and establish project team by the end of 2013 |
| C3.4 Promote more effective management of undermanaged woodlands for the achievement of multiple objectives | FC, ENPA | |
| C3.5 Establish the potential for the sustainable use of woodland and hedgerows which are not ecologically sensitive for woodfuel, and help build a market for its use (including through installation of renewable energy technologies) | Exmoor Woodland Carbon Project FC, CE, ENPA, woodland owners and managers, hedge groups | Audit of current resource by the end of 2013 Hold 1 site based workshop showcasing woodfuel technologies and operational management by the end of 2013 Develop web-based resource identifying exemplars of supply chain and woodfuel installations, the Exmoor resource, and advice and support available to woodfuel enterprises by the end of 2014 |
| See priority C2 for actions to encourage business activities that utilise and add value to Exmoor's sustainable local resources such as food, wool and wood. | | |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Undertake a series of actions to help improve the economic prospects of livestock farming in the National Park | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C3.6 Assess the implications of proposed changes to the Common Agricultural Policy for Exmoor and respond to consultations | SWUF , NFU, CLA, ENPA | SWUF submissions at key points during CAP Review consultation process |
| C3.7 Monitor the transition from ESA to ES and implications for Exmoor including indirect effects on employment, loss of capital grants etc, in order to maintain and build on achievements of previous schemes (link to Action C3.9) | ENPA, NT, Exeter University, NE | Study on lessons learnt from ESA in the South West Annual update and map of agri-environment funding |
| C3.8 Ensure future agri-environment schemes have the flexibility to conserve and enhance Exmoor's special qualities, reflect local distinctiveness and reward farmers for delivering a range of environmental and other public benefits; and promote closer involvement of farmers and landowners in the operation of future environmental management schemes | ENPA, NFU, SWUF, EHFP, NE | Establish pilot for farmers and landowners to take the lead in delivering environmental outcomes and input to future operation of ES |
| C3.9 Update the (Exmoor/SW Uplands) Farming Survey and analysis of farm economics including assessment of livestock numbers, the value of livestock within the National Park and implications post CAP 2014 review | SWUF | Farm economics report by the end of 2014 |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| C3.10 Respond to opportunities from Uplands Policy Review and continue to support livestock farmers through access to Rural Development Programme funding. | EHFP | |
| C3.11 Explore options for future funding of Exmoor Hill Farm Project | EHFP steering group | Options by mid 2013 |
| C3.12 Monitor and assess the impacts of animal diseases on farming, local economies and the environment and seek to minimise adverse impacts where possible | SW Healthy Livestock Initiative, EHFP | Exmoor Mires study on potential for a link between moorland rewetting schemes and incidence of liverfluke Establish measures to tackle the spread of bovine TB in cattle |



* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

Priority C4: Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park

Measures of success:

- Increased engagement/community take-up of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures
- Better understanding of how land management practices can contribute towards carbon storage

Strategic overview of Priority C4 to be provided by:

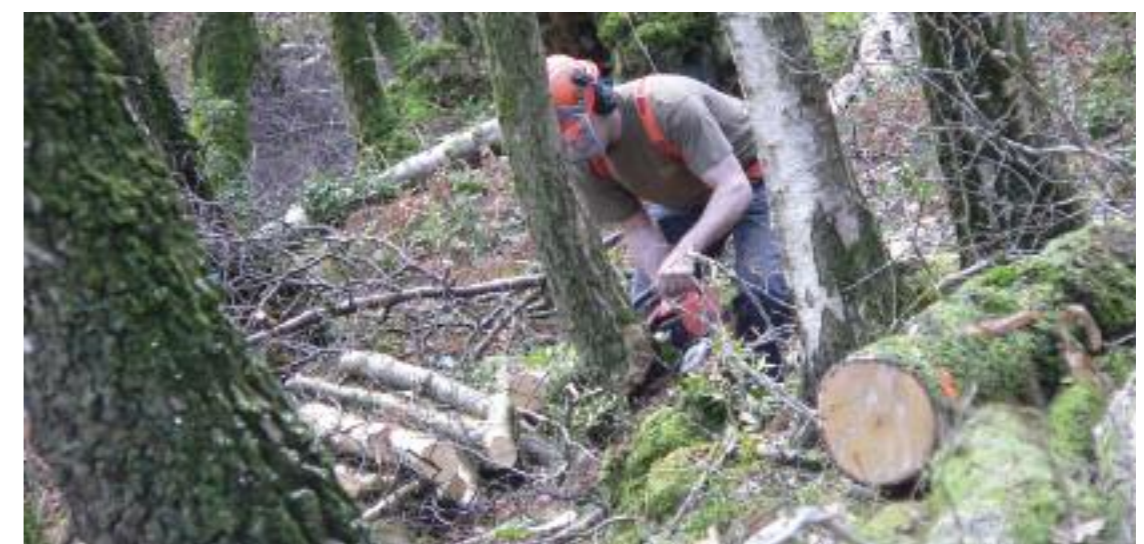
Carbon-neutral Exmoor Steering Group

| Strategic activity: Support initiatives that help businesses and communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change | | |
|--|--|--|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C4.1 Encourage and facilitate networking, knowledge-sharing and collaboration between organisations, businesses and communities in Exmoor seeking to respond to climate change | ENPA, Somerset West Private Sector Housing Partnership (SWPSHP), NDC, Forum 21, ES, Community Councils for Devon and Somerset (CCD&S), local low carbon sector businesses, ETP | Annual Exmoor Low Carbon Festival held in October encouraging participation from communities and local businesses |
| C4.2 Through Carbon Neutral Exmoor, continue to encourage and support the development of settlement sustainable energy planning, seeking integration where possible with other community planning initiatives (e.g. Parish Planning, Neighbourhood Planning) and advising where renewable energy technologies would be unsuitable due to impacts on sensitive wildlife, landscape or cultural heritage' | ENPA, CCD&S, Forum 21, SWPSHP | Exmoor's larger settlements (pop 250+) have a sustainable energy plan (or component of a wider plan) in place by the end of 2017 |
| C4.3 Help communities to raise and access funding for low carbon initiatives | ENPA, Exmoor Trust, Forum 21, SWPSHP | Creation of Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund in 2012 |

| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
|--|--|--|
| C4.4 Encourage community ownership of renewable energy infrastructure appropriate to Exmoor National Park | ENPA Forum 21 | The first community-owned renewable energy scheme operating in Exmoor before the end of 2017 |
| C4.5 Encourage consideration of climate change adaptation issues during the development of Neighbourhood and Parish Plans | ENPA, EA, CCD&S | |
| Strategic activity: Encourage land management practices that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage and build the resilience of the landscape to the impacts of climate change | | |
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C4.6 Encourage land management practices that store carbon and water in the landscape, and mitigate flooding, including improved management of soils, restoration of peatland and opportunities for woodland planting | ENPA, SWW, NT, WRT, FC, EHFP, EA, CE, NE | See action A1.9 for milestones relating to woodland planting |
| C4.7 Encourage low carbon farming through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of farm carbon footprinting to raise awareness of opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon storage and reducing costs maximising take-up by farmers of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies that are compatible with NP purposes Identifying and supporting development of demonstration low carbon farm(s) | ENPA, EHFP, FC, Soil Association, FWAGSW, NT | Identification / development of carbon footprinting tool appropriate to Exmoor farming systems First demonstration farm in place by the end of 2014 |
| See action C3.5 for actions to support the sustainable use of woodland for woodfuel through the Exmoor Woodland Carbon Project | | |

* Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of delivery partners. Lead partners (where designated) in bold

| Strategic activity: Develop the evidence base required to inform the approach to achieving carbon neutrality and climate change adaptation | | |
|--|--|---|
| Action | Delivery partners* | Milestones |
| C4.8 Support further research regarding greenhouse gas fluxes relating to different land uses in Exmoor National Park | ENPA, local universities and research institutes, NE, FC | Report(s) completed by the end of 2013 |
| C4.9 Review and update existing research regarding hydropower potential in the National Park | ENPA, EA, NE | Report completed by the end of 2013 |
| C4.10 Review progress towards the target of achieving carbon neutrality for Exmoor National Park by 2025 | ENPA | Review completed by the end of 2015 |
| C4.11 Support research and development in relation to anaerobic digestion (AD) of a scale that is appropriate to Exmoor's farms and communities | ENPA, EA | Farm scale AD demonstration project in place by the end of 2012 |
| C4.12 Develop a framework for monitoring the impacts of climate change | ENPA, NE, EA, ENHS | Framework in place by the end of 2013 |



5. Partnerships for Action - Implementing the Partnership Plan



5.1 The Partnership Plan is the key mechanism for focusing and co-ordinating efforts to achieve the purposes for which the National Park was designated. Figure 6 below illustrates its central role.

Figure 6 - Role of the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan



5.2 The Partnership Plan, and priorities for action, sit within the context of international and national legislation, policy and strategy, as identified in the Programmes for Action.

5.3 The European Landscape Convention was developed by the Council

for Europe and signed up to by the UK Government in February 2006. The Convention raises the profile of landscape across the whole of Europe and is the first international agreement specifically addressing landscape issues. The Convention aims to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European cooperation on landscape issues.

- 5.4 The State of the Park report has provided much of the evidence regarding trends affecting the National Park. This, plus consultation with local communities and businesses, and people visiting Exmoor or with an interest in it, has informed the identification of priorities for action.
- 5.5 The Local Plan³ for Exmoor National Park will provide the planning framework to guide future development in the National Park, and as such, will be a key mechanism for delivering much of what is set out in this Partnership Plan. A joint Vision and Objectives have been prepared to ensure that the policies and decisions regarding future development are consistent with the Partnership Plan. The Vision and Objectives are therefore long term, but the priorities for action identified in this Partnership Plan focus on the next five years, and will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Delivery partners

- 5.6 The National Park Authority has a key role in overseeing and leading action to achieve National Park purposes, and while doing so, to foster social and economic well-being of Exmoor's communities. The Authority is the lead organisation for many of the actions set out in the plan and is a key player in many of the delivery partnerships. In prioritising its commitment to the Plan, the Authority has taken regard of the financial and staff resources at its disposal and the projections over the next five years. As well as making the most effective use of the resources made available from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs via National Park Grant, the Authority will work with partners to seek additional funding where this can be used to achieve targets set out in the Plan.
- 5.7 Delivery of many of the objectives will be achieved through partnerships and projects, some of which already exist, and others that may be established to address a specific need. A list of key delivery

partnerships and projects is given in Appendix 1.

- 5.8 Many of the Priorities for Action will be progressed in an integrated way by ongoing partnership projects, which deliver multiple objectives. These projects are outlined in Appendix 2.

Securing resources

- 5.9 The resources for all the action plans have not been secured at the time of writing of the Plan. Many of the most significant actions will require the pooling of resources by several organisations and success in attracting funding from a range of public, private and voluntary sector sources.
- 5.10 It is vital that we engage as many people as possible in helping to achieve the Plan targets. More emphasis will be placed on encouraging volunteers and community groups to get involved in helping make the vision for Exmoor a reality.

Monitoring implementation of the Partnership Plan

- 5.11 Exmoor National Park Authority has a key role in monitoring progress of the Plan as a whole and in continually monitoring the condition of the National Park so that we can be sure that the Plan is succeeding in achieving the vision and outcomes for Exmoor and in retaining Exmoor's special qualities. In order to fulfil this strategic role the Authority will:
- Publish an annual review of progress against the objectives and priorities for action set out in this Plan.
 - Set in place mechanisms to monitor the state of the National Park environment and maintain an up to date 'State of the National Park' report - available through the Authority website.
 - Convene an Exmoor Partnership Panel, comprising National Park Authority members and the Chairs of the partner forums who provide the strategic overview of each Priority for Action (see figure 7). The Board will review progress, agree any refinements to the Plan and contribute to public reports on Plan progress.
 - Convene an annual meeting of delivery partners to report on achievements and update the action plans as required.

³ previously known as the Local Development Framework

Figure 7 - Priorities for the Partnership Plan 2012-2017 and strategic overview of action plan implementation

| Priority | Strategic overview |
|---|--|
| A1 Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes | Exmoor Landscape Advisory Group |
| A2 Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver | Exmoor Moorland Board |
| A3 Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support | Exmoor Nature Conservation Advisory Panel |
| A4 Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment | Exmoor Historic Environment Advisory Panel |
| A5 Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor's natural resources | Exmoor Farming and Land Management Forum |
| B1 Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand | Exmoor Tourism Partnership |
| B2 Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park | Exmoor Local Access Forum |
| B3 Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor's special qualities | Exmoor Learning and Engagement Panel |
| C1 Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs | Exmoor Association of Parish & Town Councils |
| C2 Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor | Exmoor Local Enterprise Forum |
| C3 Helping farmers, foresters and land managers to produce food, timber and other produce while protecting and enhancing Exmoor's special qualities and delivering ecosystem services | Exmoor Farming and Land Management Forum |
| C4 Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park | Carbon-neutral Exmoor Steering |

Acknowledgements

5.12 Exmoor National Park Authority would like to thank the large number of organisations and individuals who have contributed towards the development of this Partnership Plan. Particular thanks are due to organisations that have committed to working together to help achieve the action plans set out in the document. Without this support little could be achieved.



Appendix 1: Delivery Partners and Partnerships

The following organisations are key partners in the delivery of the Priorities for Action within the Partnership Plan:

- Artlife is a consortium of nine member organisations and has developed an arts service to support arts and cultural initiatives to benefit West Somerset. www.artlife-somerset.co.uk
- Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) is the association of the 15 chairmen and convenors of the UK National Park Authorities. Advised by the 15 National Park Authority chief executives, the chairmen and convenors work together to share experience and manage joint training projects, public relations activities and special events. UK ANPA is not a lobbying body, nor does it seek to speak on behalf of the family of 15 National Parks. However its key roles include: engaging with the public and answering queries about National Parks as a group; and promoting the National Parks as special places www.nationalparks.gov.uk
- AtWest (Accessible Transport South West) is a community transport service offering wheelchair-friendly and accessible transport for the residents of West Somerset. Services include Moor Rover - a flexible transport service for residents and visitors wishing to access Exmoor for walking, cycling, bird watching, fishing, and many other leisure activities. The bus will pick up and drop off anywhere on Exmoor, and can also transport bicycles, wheelchairs, dogs and luggage. www.atwest.org.uk
- Badgworthy Land Company and its parent The Badgworthy Trust were formed in 1926. The company is one of the largest private landowners within Exmoor National Park, owning well-known sites such as the Doone Country of Badgworthy, Brendon Common and Snowdrop Valley. The company works to enhance and protect the landscape and joins with the Exmoor National Park Authority to encourage managed access, and with Natural England to preserve areas important to endangered species of national importance. www.badgworthy.co.uk/
- Buglife is a charity devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates and aims to halt the extinction of invertebrate species and to achieve sustainable populations of invertebrates. www.buglife.org.uk
- Butterfly Conservation is a charity which aims to conserve butterflies, moths and our environment, and is a key partner alongside Dartmoor

National Park Authority in the Two Moors Butterfly Project 'Connecting Habitats, Saving Species'. www.butterfly-conservation.org

- Calvert Trust Exmoor is located on the edge of Exmoor National Park, next to Wistlandpound Reservoir. Its centre provides outdoor activity adventures for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities, together with their families and friends. www.calvert-trust.org.uk/exmoor
- Canoe England is the English home association of the British Canoe Union (BCU) and the membership body for canoeists, clubs, centres and associates within England. Working alongside the BCU and their stakeholders, they support and develop canoeing within England, in areas such as Participation, Facilities, Waterways & Environment, Coaching, Volunteers, Paddler Pathways, Competition and Membership Services. They have approximately 33,000 members, 420 affiliated clubs and 150 approved centres. In addition, they liaise with a range of youth groups, armed services, higher and further education and outdoors providers. www.canoe-england.org.uk
- Community Council for Devon is an independent charitable company founded in 1961, and part of a national network of Rural Community Councils. Its aim is to 'help communities help themselves' by advising communities and supporting projects throughout rural Devon. www.devonrcc.org.uk
- Community Council for Somerset exists to support action in local communities. It provides support on a wide range of issues affecting local communities including affordable housing, planning, energy, community and social enterprise. It forms part of a national network of Rural Community Councils. www.somersetccc.org.uk
- Country Land and Business Association (CLA) is the membership for owners of land, property and business throughout rural England and Wales. www.cla.org.uk
- CPRE Somerset has over 600 members and several district groups with active volunteers who campaign for the protection and enhancement of the countryside and discuss long term issues affecting West Somerset and Exmoor National Park. CPRE Somerset form part of, and are supported nationally by, the Campaign to Protect Rural England.
- The Crown Estate (CE) is an independent organisation established by

statute to manage the land that belongs to the reigning monarch, including the Dunster Estate on Exmoor. The surplus revenue from the estate is paid each year to the Treasury for the benefit of all UK taxpayers. www.thecrownestate.co.uk

- Devon Archaeological Society (DAS) was founded in 1928 and has a membership of over 800 people interested in learning about and promoting the archaeology of Devon. devonarchaeologicalsociety.org.uk
- Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) collects and collates information about Devon's marine and terrestrial biodiversity. It is hosted by the Devon Wildlife Trust and supported by a partnership of Local Authorities, statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations. www.devonwildlifetrust.org
- Devon Cattle Breeders Society is the breed society for the Red Ruby Devon Cattle. It was founded in 1884 to promote and maintain the purity of the Red Ruby Devon Breed
- Devon Closewool Sheep Breeders Society was formed in 1923 to promote the Devon Closewool sheep - a very hardy local breed with a docile temperament making it ideal for the first time flockmaster, or the commercial farmer looking for an easy care, low input sheep. www.devonclosewool.co.uk
- Devon County Council (DCC) is responsible for a wide range of local government services including education, social services, highways, transport, waste management and economic development. As well as delivering these services directly in the Devon part of Exmoor National Park, the County Council has delegated specific responsibility for maintenance of public rights of way to Exmoor National Park Authority. www.devon.gov.uk
- Devon Hedge Group was formed in 1994 and is a forum working to promote the appreciation and conservation of hedges found across the county. www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/natural_environment/biodiversity/devon_hedges/devon_hedge_group.htm
- Devon RIGS (Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites Group) is a voluntary organisation of individuals from professional geologists to amateurs interested in conserving the county's important

geological history. www.devonrigs.org.uk

- Devon & River Severn Inland Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA) was fully established in April 2011 under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries. D&SIFCA took over the fisheries and conservation management and enforcement responsibilities of the previous Devon Sea Fisheries Committee and Environment Agency. The D&SIFCA district covers all tidal waters (out to six nautical miles) along Devon and Somerset including the Exmoor coast, and the Severn as far as the tide flows.
- Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) is an environmental voluntary body with more than 33,000 members and 45 nature reserves across Devon. The Trust undertakes wildlife conservation and education work in Devon, and works with landowners to support productive and wildlife rich landscapes.
- EBLEX is the organisation for beef and lamb levy payers in England and undertakes a variety of activities on behalf of levy payers to help the beef and sheep meat supply chain become more efficient and add value to the beef and sheep meat industry. www.eblex.org.uk
- EDF Energy is one of the largest UK home and business energy suppliers. EDF Energy plans to build and operate a new nuclear power station at Hinkley C near Bridgwater.
- Environment Agency (EA) is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body whose aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. The Agency plays a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of government through its functions and roles, including the control of waste, pollution, water abstraction, and flood management. www.environment-agency.gov.uk
- English Heritage (EH) aims to protect and promote England's historic environment and ensure that its past is researched and understood. Within Exmoor National Park, English Heritage provides resources to Exmoor National Park Authority to help conserve Scheduled Ancient Monuments and undertake research into the historic environment. www.english-heritage.org.uk
- English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) exists to support policy and practice by coordinating the views of the ten English

National Park Authorities (NPAs). It does this by: Providing a collective voice for the views of the English NPAs; Raising the profile of the work of the authorities to policy makers, Parliamentarians and other decision makers; Facilitating discussion amongst NPAs on issues of common concern; Supporting the development and capacity of the NPAs to effect change; Working in partnership with other bodies where this adds value. www.enpaa.org.uk

- Exeter University research centres undertake research into a wide range of inter-disciplinary subjects, including rural policy, environment and sustainability. www.exeter.ac.uk/research
- Exmoor Canoe Club formed in November 2004, runs a full and inclusive calendar of events throughout the year, including river trips on Exmoor, sea kayaking on estuaries and in bays on the south and north coast of Devon and surfing trips in Somerset and Devon. The club also runs training courses and skills sessions on Wimbleball Lake and the Rivers Barle, Exe and Dart. www.exmoorcanooclub.org.uk
- Exmoor & District Deer Management Society (EDDMS) works with landowners across Exmoor to help manage deer in the area. The Society undertakes an annual count of red deer in Exmoor National Park and surrounding areas.
- Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions was formed in 1997, and is owned by approximately 180 mainly farmer shareholders throughout the area. It organises livestock, farm and property sales and runs the livestock markets at Cutcombe and Blackmoor Gate. www.exmoorfarmers.co.uk
- Exmoor Horn Sheep Breeders' Society exists to conserve and promote the Exmoor Horn sheep - one of two native sheep breeds to Exmoor www.exmoorhornbreeders.co.uk
- Exmoor Natural History Society (ENHS) is a registered charity that aims to study and record the wildlife of Exmoor National Park, and assist in its conservation. The society carries out wildlife surveys and recording.
- Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) is a special purpose local authority that takes the lead in achieving the purposes for which the National Park is designated. The National Park Authority is the sole planning authority for the National Park area and works with others to look after the environment for all to enjoy in partnership with a thriving local community. www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

- Exmoor Pony Society was set up in 1921, largely by local breeders and enthusiasts, to ensure the continuation of the true, pure-bred Exmoor Pony. www.exmoorponysociety.org.uk
- Exmoor Society (ES) is a charity established in 1958 whose overall aim is to protect the National Park status. It acts as both a watchdog and a champion for the special qualities of the National Park and includes an annual programme of events, walks and talks and the publication of the Exmoor Review. It has a Resource Centre open to the public at the Parish Rooms, Dulverton. www.exmoorsociety.org.uk
- Exmoor Trust is an independent charity that seeks to raise funds and support for initiatives relating to Greater Exmoor, its inhabitants, ecology and environment. www.exmoortrust.org.uk
- Exmoor Uprising arose as a pressure group and has developed into an independent voice that ensures that the concerns and interests of local people on Exmoor are heard and taken into account. Particular topics raised by the group have included local housing provision, planning, local employment, access, farming, moorland management and local culture.
- Farm and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAGSW) provides practical advice, guidance and training to support both financial and wildlife benefits to farmers. www.fwagsw.org.uk
- Field Studies Council (FSC) is a pioneering environmental education charity with seventeen centres located throughout the UK including a centre at Nettlecombe Court. www.field-studies-council.org
- Forum 21 is a local community group supported by West Somerset Council which aims to promote a sustainable environment, economy and society in West Somerset. The Forum is open to everyone who lives in, works in or visits the district. www.west-somerset-forum21.org.uk
- Forestry Commission (FC) aims to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment. On Exmoor, there is a close working relationship between Forestry Commission and the National Park Authority including the delegation to the Authority of Commission functions. www.forestry.gov.uk/england
- Forest Enterprise England (FE), part of the Forestry Commission, manages the nation's forests, to secure environmental, social and

economic benefits. Forest Enterprise manages about 1146ha of woodland on Exmoor. www.forestry.gov.uk

- Greater Exmoor Shoots Association (GESA) is the membership organisation for local shoots based in and around Exmoor National Park.
- Hawk & Owl Trust (H&OT) is a registered charity working to conserve owls and other birds of prey in the wild and increasing knowledge and appreciation of them. www.hawkandowl.org
- Homes and Communities Agency is the national housing and regeneration agency for England. The HCA provides investment for new affordable housing and to improve existing social housing, as well as for regenerating land, and is also the regulator for social housing providers in England. www.homesandcommunities.co.uk
- Keep Britain Tidy is an environmental charity running the anti-litter campaign for England and other programmes such as Eco-Schools, Blue Flag and Quality Coast Awards for beaches, and the Green Flag for parks to demonstrate practical action. www.keepbritaintidy.org
- Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Trust is a not-for-profit organisation owned by its members and run almost entirely by volunteers with the aim to fully restore as much as possible of the legendary Lynton & Barnstaple Railway. The heritage and educational aspects of the Railway are central to the aims of the Trust.
- Lyn Riparian Owners Association (LROA) is formed from landowners and those holding fishing rights on the East Lyn, and acts as a forum for discussion of matters affecting the well-being of the river with representatives of the Environment Agency.
- Marine Conservation Society (MCS) works with industry, government, schools and individuals to conserve and protect seas and coasts and the wildlife that live in these habitats. They achieve this through research, conservation projects and campaigning for increased protection of marine resources. www.mcsuk.org
- Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) borders a small area to the south of the National Park and is responsible for district council functions including planning.
- Moorland Mousie Trust is a charity that works for the welfare and promotion of the rare breed Exmoor pony. www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk

- Natural England (NE) acts to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. Natural England is the lead agency for managing nature conservation sites and agri-environment schemes in the National Park. There is a close day-to-day working relationship between Natural England staff and those of the National Park Authority. www.naturalengland.org.uk
- National Farmers Union (NFU) represents the farmers and growers of England and Wales. Its central objective is to promote successful and socially responsible agriculture and horticulture while ensuring the long-term viability of rural communities. www.nfuonline.com
- National Trust (NT) works to preserve and protect the coastline, countryside and buildings of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Trust owns and manages important land holdings on Exmoor including coastal heaths in North Devon, Watersmeet valley, Holnicote estate and Dunster Castle. www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- North Devon Archaeological Society (NDAS) was established in 1959 and promotes awareness of and interest in archaeology and the historic environment with particular reference to northern Devon. www.ndas.org.uk
- North Devon Council (NDC) is responsible for delivering district council functions across North Devon including planning (outside the National Park area), environmental health, housing, waste collection, tourism and leisure services etc. www.northdevon.gov.uk
- North Devon+ (ND+) is the economic delivery agency for the area, working with local authorities and the private sector to deliver projects and initiatives that encourage and support business growth, improve quality of life, and address social and economic inequalities. <http://www.northdevonplus.com>
- Parish and Town Councils Exmoor has 43 Parish and Town Councils totally or partially within the National Park, which represent local people and have a range of duties (according to their size and how active they are) including street lighting, managing cemeteries, allotments, commons, village halls, war memorials and markets.
- Pond Conservation is the national charity dedicated to protecting the wildlife of freshwaters: ponds, rivers, streams and lakes. They give

advice, carry out research, promote practical action and lobby policy makers to ensure that freshwater wildlife and habitats have a secure future. www.pondconservation.org.uk

- Porlock Community Orchard Group was established in April 2009 to care for the orchard which is part of a tenanted farm owned by the Blathwayt Estate situated on the western edge of Porlock and known locally as Coombe Orchard. The group has been engaged in rebuilding the orchard with particular emphasis upon its biodiversity including new trees and a wildlife hedge planted; a wildlife area established; and bees introduced. Community training and events are also undertaken.
- Porlock Manor Estate includes the historic harbour and fishing port of Porlock Weir, stretching up the steep wooded slopes and valleys rich in wildlife to Birchanger, where the country opens out onto rolling moorland. porlockmanorestate.org/
- Quantock Hills AONB Service - The Quantock Hills are an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which means that its distinctive character, natural beauty and cultural heritage are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. The area received its protected status in 1956.
- River Barle Fishing Club Limited was formed after the acquisition of the estate around and including the Tarr Steps Hotel, Tarr Farm, farm land and woodland as well as extensive fishing rights. The latter were placed into a limited company and funds were raised in a private placement share offering in 2001. The total length is approximately six miles excluding the middle section which is privately owned.
- Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) works to secure the continued existence and viability of the UK's native farm animal genetic resources, so enabling farmers to meet the challenge of sustainable farming in an era of climate change and increasing cost pressures and to maintain a variety of food and farming products for consumers derived from sustainable livestock production systems. www.rbst.org.uk
- River Exe and Tributaries Association (RETA) represents the interests of fisheries and fishermen on the River Exe. RETA leads negotiations with a range of bodies to protect and promote the interests of the fishermen on the river. RETA also supports the South West Rivers Association in its work to promote and protect fisheries' interests in the region and nationally.

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and other wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all. www.rspb.org.uk
- Severn Link Ferry aims to provide a ferry service connecting the South West of England at Ilfracombe with South Wales. <http://www.severnlink.com/severn-link/about-severn-link/>
- Soil Association is a membership charity campaigning for healthy, humane and sustainable food, farming and land use. www.soilassociation.org
- Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS) was formed to promote the study of archaeology, historic buildings, natural history and local history. The Society owns Taunton castle, which it leases to Somerset County Council for the Somerset County Museum. It also has an important collection which is housed in the Museum and Somerset library. www.sanhs.org
- Somerset County Council (SCC) is responsible for a wide range of local government services including education, social services, highways, transport, waste management and economic development and delivers these services directly in the Somerset part of Exmoor National Park. As in Devon, the County Council has delegated specific responsibility for maintenance of public rights of way to Exmoor National Park Authority. www.somerset.gov.uk
- Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) is the central repository for species, habitat and geological data within Somerset. Its mission is to ensure biodiversity can be measured, recorded and therefore protected for our future benefit. www.somerc.com
- Somerset Hedge Group promotes responsible hedge management through demonstrations; competitions; advice on training courses, management and grant aid; publicity and other initiatives. www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk
- Somerset Otter Group is a branch of the Somerset Wildlife Trust that records and monitors otter distribution along Somerset rivers. www.somersetwildlife.org
- Somerset Ornithological Society promotes the study and conservation of birds in Somerset. The Society produces an annual report Somerset Birds, as well as organising talks and walks to further the appreciation

and preservation of birds in the wild. www.somersetbirds.net

- SW Internet is a community interest company developing wireless broadband network to remote rural areas in the South West.
- South West Lakes Trust (SWLT) is a charitable trust established in 2000 to manage, provide and promote public access, recreation, and conservation on and around inland waters in the South West of England, including Wimbleball Lake on Exmoor. Around 2 million visits are made to sites managed by the Trust each year, many by visitors who come from outside the region. www.swlakestrust.org.uk
- Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) was established as a registered charity in 1964. The Trust has around 20,500 members and 75 nature reserves throughout the county. The Trust's mission is 'to build a landscape rich in wildlife where people live happier, healthier lives' through influencing planning and policy initiatives, research and monitoring, advice and conservation projects and engaging communities. www.somersetwildlife.org
- South West Water (SWW) provides drinking water and waste water services to the North Devon area of the National Park, and is also responsible for Wimbleball reservoir.
- Tiverton Archaeological Group (TAG) is an amateur archaeology group operating in the Tiverton area of Devon, who organise excavations, tours and talks.
- Visit Devon provides information on accommodation, attractions, and activities in Devon. www.visitdevon.co.uk
- Visit England is the national tourist board for England, responsible for marketing England to domestic and established overseas markets and for improving England's tourism product. www.visitengland.org
- Visit Exmoor provides information on accommodation, attractions, and activities on Exmoor. www.visit-exmoor.co.uk
- Visit Somerset provides information on accommodation, attractions, and activities in Somerset. www.visitsomerset.co.uk
- West Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (WSANHS) holds monthly talks in Minehead and organises field excursions.
- West Somerset Community College (WSCC) is situated in Minehead and is the only Secondary School on Exmoor serving a 600 square mile

rural catchment area that includes the coastal villages of West Somerset and much of Exmoor. Over 1200 students between the ages of 13 and 18 attend the College www.westsomerset.wd-uk.com/

- West Somerset Council (WSC) is responsible for delivering district council functions in across West Somerset including planning (outside the National Park area), environmental health, housing, waste collection, tourism and leisure services etc. www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk
- Western Power Distribution (WPD) is the electricity distribution network operator for the Midlands, South Wales and the South West, including Exmoor National Park.
- Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) is an environmental charity established in 1995 to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments in the Westcountry and to advance the education of the public in the management of water. www.wrt.org.uk
- West Somerset and Exmoor Bridleways Association aims to improve access to new and existing bridleways and other rights of way and to promote an awareness of the bridleways amongst its members. www.westsomersetbridleways.org.uk
- West Somerset Railway Association currently has over 5,000 members who support the association in keeping steam alive on Britain's longest heritage railway. www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk
- Wessex Water (WW) provides drinking water and waste water services to the West Somerset area of the National Park, including drawing on water supplies from Wimbleball reservoir.
- Woodland Trust is a charity that works to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife, plant native trees, and inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
- Yenworthy Lodge is an outdoor educational centre offering a wide range of activities and experiences. yenworthylodge.co.uk
- Youth Hostels Association (YHA) exists to help all, especially young people of limited means, to travel and discover England and Wales by providing cheap, safe and secure Youth Hostels in superb coastal, countryside and city locations. The YHA has hostels at Lynton, Exford and Minehead www.yha.org.uk

Partnerships and Advisory Bodies:

- Dunster Working Group is a partnership of local authorities, voluntary organisations and business that seeks to enhance environmental quality, economic viability and social well-being for Dunster Village and the surrounding area. Contact Exmoor National Park Authority
- Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum provides a forum for consultation and discussion of matters of principle affecting the National Park and an opportunity to promote better understanding between the National Park Authority, local communities and other bodies having an interest in the National Park. The Forum meets at different venues across the National Park and members of the public are welcome to attend. www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/committees/consultative-and-parish-forum
- Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership is a working partnership between the custodians of Exmoor including the National Trust, South West Lakes Trust, Crown Estate, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority. The Partners agree to provide volunteering opportunities that support their individual and collective priorities as appropriate, with ENPA providing a coordinating role between the partners guiding volunteers to the most appropriate tasks for them. ENPA also provides training and protective clothing for volunteers across the partnership.
- Exmoor Fire Partnership was set up to improve the effectiveness of controlled moorland burning and reduce the damage done by unauthorised burns. It includes Exmoor National Park Authority, National Trust, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Crown Estate, Forest Enterprise, Quantocks Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Natural England
- Exmoor Knotweed Control Partnership aims to control and eradicate invasive Japanese knotweed from Exmoor National Park and its associated river catchments. The partnership includes the Environment Agency, the National Trust, Natural England, Exmoor National Park Authority and both Devon and Somerset Highway Authorities.
- Exmoor Landscape Advisory Group (ELAG) is a partnership of landscape planners and managers from the public, private and voluntary sectors which reviews all landscape matters in the National Park, in particular the relationships between people and place.

- Exmoor Local Access Forum is an independent statutory advisory body comprising individuals with a broad range of interests including local landowners and recreational users of the National Park. The Forum's primary function is to advise the National Park Authority and others about improvement of public access for open-air recreation and enjoyment.
- Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership is a group of organisations, societies, the local authority, government agencies and educational and voluntary bodies who have come together to support those who take care of moorland, and help people to enjoy and appreciate it. www.HeartofExmoor.org.uk
- Exmoor Tourism Association was formed in 1982 by tourism operators wanting to maximise the benefits of sustainable tourism for its members, the local economy and communities. They are a non-profit organisation, using subscriptions for the promotion of members and of Greater Exmoor.
- Exmoor Tourism Partnership is a partnership between the tourism industry and local authorities in the Greater Exmoor area. Key priorities of the partnership are more effective marketing of the Exmoor "brand", raising awareness of Exmoor as a holiday destination, and improving the quality of the tourism offer, including marketing, visitor information, accommodation, tourism products and infrastructure.
- Greater Exmoor Environmental Education Forum is an umbrella body for The Field Studies Council (Nettlecombe Court), Somerset Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority, Quantocks AONB and the National Trust. Local schools and other field centres also take part.
- Greater Exmoor Network for Renewable Energy (GENRE) is a group of people from the public, voluntary and private sector formed in January 2004 interested in bringing about appropriate renewable energy installations on Exmoor.
- Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership has been formed under the leadership of the private sector supported by the local authorities from Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay and the area's District Councils. It is one of 32 partnerships created since the Government's Local Growth White Paper published in October 2010. Its role is as a leadership organisation, collaborating with Local Authorities and partner organisations to create economic opportunity, jobs and prosperity. www.heartofswlep.co.uk

- Lyn Economic & Tourism Alliance is a working partnership established by Lynton Town Council working with key partners to investigate ways in which the Council could take the lead in initiatives aimed at improving the economic and tourism well being of Lynton, Lynmouth and the surrounding communities.
- Exmoor Moorland Board brings together moorland owners, the NFU, Exmoor Society and archaeologists to advise on priorities for moorland management and integrate moorland interests and aspirations
- Somerset West Private Sector Housing Partnership is a Partnership between Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and West Somerset to deliver the private sector housing functions of the District Council. The Partnership is responsible for delivering grants (principally repair grants and low interest loans); Disabled Facilities Grants; enforcing housing standards; voluntary Landlord Accreditation Scheme; bringing empty properties back into use and energy efficiency/fuel poverty.
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Somerset-West-Private-Sector-Housing-Partnership/Who-we-are>
- South West Protected Landscapes Forum (SWPLF) is the umbrella body for places of natural beauty in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, the Isles of Scilly, Somerset and Wiltshire with a brief to provide a bridge between the separately-run protected landscape areas and to assist and encourage them with: Sharing of knowledge and experience; Promotion of learning; Development of skills; Co-ordination and joint working; Strategic planning and promotion.
<http://www.southwestlandscapes.org.uk>
- South West Uplands Federation (SWUF) is a farmer led alliance of hill farmers and representatives from the relevant statutory agencies. The alliance encourages discussion and agreement between agency staff and farmers. www.swuf.org.uk
- West Somerset Business Forum (WSBF) brings together the public, private sectors and voluntary sectors to coordinate a strategic approach to delivering economic outcomes for West Somerset

Appendix 2: Partnership Projects

- Country Sports South West project (CSSW) is a three year Rural Development Programme for England funded project that aims to ensure that the South West region, which is renowned for its unique landscape and countryside, becomes the premier tourism destination for country sports and celebrated for its local game and fish. It is jointly funded by the EU and Defra, in partnership with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and the Westcountry Rivers Trust
- Exmoor Hill Farm Project (EHFP) is a 4 year Rural Development Programme for England funded project run by North Devon +. The project aims to support the livestock producers on Exmoor to improve the viability of their businesses through accessing funding, training advice and support. www.exmoorhillfarmproject.org.uk
- Exmoor Mires Project (EMP) comprises South West Water, Exmoor National Park Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. Over 5 years from 2010 to 2015 the project will spend £2.5 million on habitat restoration, monitoring, research and education. The overall aim is to improve the hydrology and ecology of upland blanket bogs and valley mires on Exmoor and to understand more about their functioning, ecology, hydrology and archaeology. www.exmoormires.org.uk and www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
- Exmoor Moorland Initiative is led by the Exmoor Moorland Board with support from the Exmoor National Park Authority. The Board includes farming representatives, moorland owners, Exmoor Society, Exmoor Trust, Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), Natural England, an archaeologist and three members from the National Park Authority. www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
- Exmoor Woodland Carbon Project aims to explore 3 main themes to establish the contribution which woodland on Exmoor can make to a carbon neutral National Park. The first is to scope out a vision for and the impacts of increased levels woodland management and expansion on the special qualities and character of the National Park. The second is to understand the current situation in terms of stored woodland carbon and how current and future management may affect it. The third is to formalise and develop the wood-fuel and timber resource using industries to support woodland management and expansion. The project is supported through the Forestry Commission's Woodland Carbon Task Force workstream

- Holnicote Multi-objective Flood Management Demonstration Project is looking at catchment wide land management changes to reduce flood risk. Driven by Defra and supported by the Environment Agency and the National Trust, this project hopes to demonstrate that by looking at whole catchments and strategically targeting shifts in agricultural practice, sustainable support to flood management may be achieved. In addition, it is recognised that through land management change comes the opportunity to enhance other ecosystem services such as landscape quality, biodiversity, amenity and recreation, making investment in land management change as a means of approaching flood risk potentially more beneficial to society at large.
- Mosaic is a national project, led by the Campaign for National Parks, that aims to build sustainable links between black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and the National Parks and Youth Hostels Association (YHA). The concept is being extended to engage young people following an action research project on Exmoor and Dartmoor and will be trialled on Exmoor with disabled users, subject to funding.
- North Devon West Somerset and Exmoor Rural Housing Project was set up in 2002 in response to widespread concern that there was a high level of unidentified and unmet housing need in the area. The project hosts a Rural Housing Enabler to assess local housing need and help to deliver additional affordable homes. The Project is a partnership between North Devon Council, West Somerset Council, Exmoor National Park Authority, the Homes and Communities Agency, and Registered Providers. Contact the Rural Housing Enabler at Exmoor National Park Authority
- Rural Employment Enabler - established in 2011 to deliver a programme of apprenticeships with local businesses with a focus on land bases industries, outdoor recreation, the low carbon sector and tourism. The project is hosted by West Somerset Community College and funded by Exmoor National Park Authority
- SW Crayfish Partnership (SWCP) was established in response to the severe decline of native White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) in South West England. The project involves re-homing at-risk populations of White-clawed crayfish to new safe havens known as Ark sites, monitoring existing populations and captive breeding populations at Bristol Zoological Gardens. www.buglife.org.uk

- SW Healthy Livestock Initiative is funded by the Rural Development Programme for England, with the aim to achieve an uplift in the profitability of the livestock industry by improving health and welfare among farmed animals. www.swhli.co.uk
- SW Woodland Wildlife Initiative is a developing partnership project between the RSPB, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Butterfly Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, Plantlife, Woodland Trust and the Protected Landscapes aimed at supporting the recovery of declining woodland wildlife.



Appendix 3: Government vision for National Parks in England Government's vision for the English National Parks and the Broads

By 2030 English National Parks and the Broads will be places where:

- There are thriving, living, working landscapes notable for their natural beauty and cultural heritage. They inspire visitors and local communities to live within environmental limits and to tackle climate change. The wide-range of services they provide (from clean water to sustainable food) are in good condition and valued by society.
- Sustainable development can be seen in action. The communities of the Parks take an active part in decisions about their future. They are known for having been pivotal in the transformation to a low carbon society and sustainable living. Renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, low carbon transport and travel and healthy, prosperous communities have long been the norm.
- Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, restored and expanded and linked effectively to other ecological networks. Woodland cover has increased and all woodlands are sustainably managed, with the right trees in the right places. Landscapes and habitats are managed to create resilience and enable adaptation.
- Everyone can discover the rich variety of England's natural and historic environment, and have the chance to value them as places for escape, adventure, enjoyment, inspiration and reflection, and a source of national pride and identity. They will be recognised as fundamental to our prosperity and well-being.



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