



EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK

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EXMOOR

2024

*Your annual guide to
Exmoor National Park*



EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK
1954-2024















 National
Parks



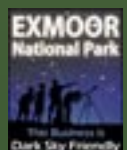
YARN MARKET HOTEL DUNSTER

Special Breaks programme 2024/25:

Exmoor Villages and Churches break - Monday 11th to Friday 15th March 2024 Monday 10th to Friday 14th March 2025 	The Magic of Exmoor Full Moon Breaks Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March 2024 and Friday 13th to Sunday 15th December 2024 	Enticing Exmoor Guided Walking Holiday with WILKES WALKS 7 nights Sunday 14th to Sunday 21st April 2024 	SPRING JAZZ FESTIVAL IN DUNSTER 3 nights entertainment by JOHN SHILLITO'S RIVIERA RAMBLERS DEBS, MECS & THE GANG THE GREAT GATSBY TRIO Friday 26th to Monday 29th April 2024 
Christmas 2024 4 night break from Monday 23rd December 2024 	Dark Skies of Exmoor Stargazing Break Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October 2024 	Moonrakers Arranging Traditional Music Friday 15th to Sunday 17th November 2024 	STOMP OUT THE OLD - SWING IN THE NEW! ANOTHER GREAT NEW YEAR JAZZ HOUSE PARTY WITH THE RIVIERA RAMBLERS 
Twixtmas West Country Attractions Family Break 27th to 30th December 2024 	Yarn Market Hotel Choral Weekend Mozart REQUIEM and SOLEMN VESPERS  5th - 7th April 2024 Led by Ian Chesworth	Choral Singing weekend Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd November 2024 "Fa la la la la la" A feast of fabulous madrigals  Join Robyn Sevastos for a weekend of Choral singing	Choral Singing weekend Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd February 2025 "Words and Music" A music and literary feast, with a variety of settings of enchanting poetry and prose  Join Robyn Sevastos for a weekend of Choral singing

For all accommodation and special break enquiries, please contact:

YARN MARKET HOTEL
 High Street, Dunster, Exmoor, TA24 6SF
 Tel: 01643 821425
 Email : hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk
 website: www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk



Welcome Welkom Bienvenido Bienvenue Willkommen



Welcome to Exmoor 2024.



Sarah Bryan
 Chief Executive Officer
 Exmoor National Park Authority

As we reach our 70th anniversary of Exmoor's designation as a National Park, we have been reflecting on where we have come and what the future may hold.

With its unique character and natural beauty, Exmoor continues to be one of the finest landscapes in England, home to a rich variety of wildlife and cultural heritage. It is also a living, thriving community. It is Exmoor's farmers, landowners and rural businesses who have looked after this landscape; working with the many organisations, agencies, trusts and charities who are passionate about its conservation and its future.

As a National Park we continue to face challenges, and we are committed to working together to achieve some big ambitions. We know that nature needs our help and that we need to live more sustainably. Through many of our projects and programmes we are creating more woodland, restoring wetlands, finding ways to improve water quality in our rivers and working with farmers to develop new ways to manage land for food production, nature, access and beauty.

Over recent years we've all become even more aware of the importance of spending time in nature. Increasing evidence shows that our happiness and health are boosted by even a relatively short time spent in the countryside or near the sea. We continue to work hard to ensure that our incredible Rights of Way network is open, easy to use and accessible to all. Whether you use maps or apps to create your adventure or try one of our 'Exmoor strolls' or 'miles without stiles' we hope you find something to inspire you.

Whatever you do, whether it's enjoying spectacular views from Exmoor's highest point Dunkery Beacon or wild swimming off the North Exmoor coastline, please remember to follow the Countryside Code. Keeping dogs on leads in sensitive sites or where birds may be nesting, clearing up after them, avoiding lighting fires or barbecues, and ensuring you leave gates as you find them are all simple ways to respect and protect this special place.

Because Exmoor is so remote, with little public transport, we have been working extra hard to help children come to Exmoor, especially those where the travel cost may be off-putting. We have discounted rates at our Education Centre and can help with school transport to the National Park.

Look out for free family-friendly events like rock pooling, guided walks and 'Welcome to Exmoor Days', enabling those with limited transport to enjoy more of our landscape and wildlife.

We'd like to thank everyone who has been inspired to support events like these, through our 'Get Involved' programme and through donations to 'CareMoor for Exmoor'. If everyone gave 70 pence (or even pounds if you can afford it) to mark our 70th anniversary, it would go a long way to help us keep our vital work going for future generations.

Cover image: Exmoor's first Ranger Jim Collins on horseback guiding children over Dunkery back down to the Butlins holiday resort at Minehead, c.1970s.

Exmoor 2024 is published by **Exmoor National Park Authority**

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To advertise in **Exmoor 2025** please email:
ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Find us on social media at 'ExmoorNP'



Features:

4 Discover the best of Exmoor National park
 Top walks and how to get the best Exmoor experience at our Centres.

8 Cover Story: Exmoor at 70
 Exmoor Past, Present and Future, Rangers then and now.

10 Engaging Exmoor
 How we're engaging the next generation plus Pop up events and 'Welcome to Exmoor' Days.

12 Exmoor Dark Skies
 Start your Stargazing Adventure. Dark Sky Discovery Hubs. Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2024

16 Sustainable Farming
 How Agriculture can help protect the Environment.

24 Getting Around Exmoor
 Travel and Parking (page 24) Map of Exmoor (centre pages).

26 Plenty to do
 Attractions, activities and experiences Events Calendar starts on page 28.

36 Race To Zero
 Our decarbonisation projects from Woodland to Peatland Ada Lovelace's woodland (page 38)

Also inside:

- 19 **Rural Enterprise on Exmoor:** Supporting a Thriving Local Economy
- 19 **Plastic Free Exmoor:** the latest news from our plastic free community
- 20 **Enjoying Exmoor:** Your stories
- 21 **Park Protectors:** Fun activities for all the family
- 40 **Exmoor Volunteer Stories:** What's in it for you?
- 42 **More Exmoor News:** Your Views. What you want for the Future of Exmoor
- 43 **Exmoor Heritage:** The challenge of energy efficiency in historic buildings

Exmoor - a place worth walking about...

Webbers Post
(Exmoor Strolls walk no.11)



Short walks, long walks and in-between walks.

Our dedicated webpages at www.exmoorwalks.org host details of 35 of Exmoor's top walks, aimed at helping as many people as possible to discover what makes Exmoor special.



Route guides can be bought online or through our National Park Centres and you can also find links to digital mapping, video guides and further information online.



15 short routes from 12 locations, these are our most accessible walks ranging from a third of one mile to 2½ miles. They're a great opportunity for people with a range of abilities and of all ages to experience the moors, valleys, and coast of Exmoor. They are graded using the **Miles Without Stiles** classification (see right) and many of them are suitable for buggies, pushchairs and mobility scooters.



A collection of 10 of our favourite shorter walks, these easy-to-follow routes provide a sense of discovery and exploration for all ages ranging from 1½ to 5 miles. You'll walk through ancient woodland, alongside tumbling rivers and across open heather moors. Many of these routes have refreshments at the start/finish and good services, making them ideal for a half day family adventure.



Discover the heritage, wildlife, and communities of Exmoor through 12 of our favourite longer Exmoor walks from 4 to 12½ miles. Traverse our rugged coastline, cross wild windswept moors and travel through our valleys and combs, immersing yourself in all the elements of Exmoor.



The Chains
(Exmoor Classics walk no.9)

Miles without Stiles



Access For All
Suitable for everyone, including pushchairs and people operating their own wheelchairs.



Access For Many
Suitable for assisted wheelchair users and families with more robust, all-terrain type buggies.



Access For Some
Strong and confident wheelchair users and helpers may find these routes within their abilities. May be suitable for off-road mobility scooters.

Long Distance Trails

multi-day adventures

Some of the UK's finest long distance routes pass through Exmoor National Park. These well planned and waymarked trails are perfect for exploring in sections or as part of a longer walking trip and include:

The **Southwest Coast Path** (forming part of the King Charles III England Coast Path),

The **Coleridge Way** (walking in the footsteps of the Romantic Poets) and

The **Two Moors Way** (linking Exmoor with Dartmoor National Park, with the option of creating a Coast to Coast walk).

The Exmoor Dark Sky Discovery Trail



A nighttime experience

For something a little different follow our illuminous way markers as you follow the Dark Sky Discovery Trail to the heart of Exmoor's Dark Sky Reserve. It's a 1-mile route each way with panoramic views of Exmoor's star filled skies (on a clear night!) amidst the evocative ruins of the former farm at Larkbarrow.



Discover more of Exmoor...

Plan Ahead

Route guides are available on a hardy water and tear resistant paper for the Strolls, Explorers and Classics from our online shop www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/shop and at our National Park Centres (see below for details).

We also supply a range of other walking books and guides to help you discover more of Exmoor.



Simonsbath to Cow Castle
(Exmoor Explorer walk no.9)

Discover more at www.exmoorwalks.org.



National Park Centres Helping you find your Exmoor

Our award-winning National Park Centres provide expert advice and lots of inspiration and ideas to make the most of your time exploring the National Park, including local walks and things to do.



Entry is free and they are accessible and dog-friendly. Find us at:

Dulverton
7-9 Fore Street, TA22 9EX.
01398 323841
NPCDulverton@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Dunster
Dunster Steep, TA24 6SE.
01643 821835
NPCDunster@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Lynmouth
The Esplanade, EX35 6EQ.
01598 752509
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



Summer opening: all Centres open daily 10am to 5pm from 23 March to 3 November 2024.

Winter opening: see website. www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/centres

- Free publications and 'what's on' info
- Maps, books, local produce, outdoor kit and souvenirs for sale
- Zoom in on Exmoor with our state of the art digital microscopes
- Discover Exmoor's wildlife, heritage, landscape and dark skies through inspiring displays and interactive exhibits
- Exmoor films
- Telescope hire
- Exhibitions

Whether you want to plan ahead for your next Exmoor adventure or simply bring a little of Exmoor to your home you can also shop online: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/shop



scan to donate now



Dave and Teddy tree planting on Kings Wood volunteer day



Love trees?

Send a Meaningful Card and Certificate

Dedicate a tree in Kings Wood, Simonsbath in the heart of Exmoor, where we are planting 6000 trees to create a new woodland. Tree dedications include an attractive card and certificate of dedication. Available from £12 at our National Park Centres and from £13 on our online shop.

Sponsor a Large Parkland Tree at Simonsbath

If you're looking for a way to mark a special occasion, or remember someone special to you, then you might like to consider donating to dedicate one of ten new parkland trees to be planted in Simonsbath. Your plaque will be placed on a robust sustainable tree guard which will protect the young tree from cattle and deer for at least 15 years. Your family can watch the tree grow for generations to come, as the Sessile Oak and Scots Pine trees will grow up to 50 metres tall and can live for more than 500 years. A lasting legacy of your £750 donation.

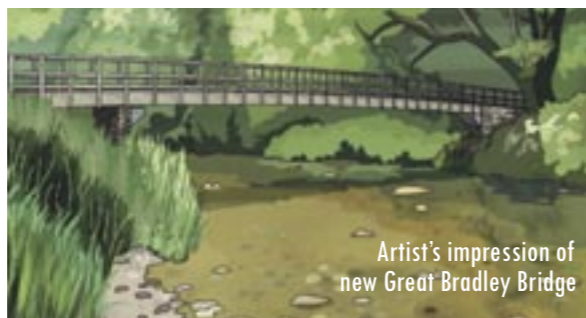


The Richards family who made an incredible £25,000 donation to the Caremoor for Exmoor 'Woods and Trees' appeal.

Love walking on Exmoor?

Donate-a-Gate

For anyone who has loved walking on Exmoor, a donation of £295 will support our replacement of gates and stiles along our 1000km of footpaths and bridleways. In return, we will place a discreet plaque with the wording of your choice on a new gate at a location that holds special meaning to you - perhaps a favourite family walk. A place to visit time and time again to remember a loved one.



Artist's impression of new Great Bradley Bridge

Dedication Plaques

For a donation of £100 to our Great Bradley Bridge appeal, we will add a small plaque onto the new bridge which we will be building in 2024. This could be the ideal solution for anyone loving this popular route and offers families an important place to visit for years to come.

You can help support vital conservation and access projects by donating online at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor, or at an Exmoor National Park Centre.

Top tips to enjoy the countryside

On Exmoor, there are over 1000km of public paths that allow visitors to experience the immense variety of the National Park's natural beauty from woodlands and tumbling rivers to open heather-covered moorland and coastal cliffs.

These public paths are signposted by the National Park Authority using a system of colour coded way markers.

Paths

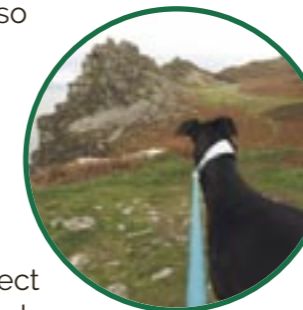
Status of Path:	Public Footpath	Public Bridleway	Restricted Byway
Who can use them:	• Walkers only	• Walkers • Horse riders • Cyclists	• Walkers • Horse riders • Cyclists • Carriage Drivers
Waymark colour:	Yellow	Blue	Purple
	All our wooden signposts are made using timber from sustainably managed woodland in Exmoor National Park		

Dogs in the Countryside

Exmoor National Park is a great place to take your dog for a walk. Pop into any of our National Park Centres, where dogs are always welcome and we can give you advice on where to walk and the dog friendly places to eat and drink.

Please follow this advice for a safe and enjoyable visit to Exmoor.

- Keep your dog under close control so that it doesn't scare livestock, wildlife or other people. Not everyone likes dogs!
- Clean up all dog poo and dispose of responsibly
- Dogs must be on a short lead between 1st March-31st July to protect lambs and young ground nesting birds.
- Regularly, worm your dog and be aware of ticks, adder bites and heat stroke.



The Countryside Code:

The Exmoor countryside is a working environment that is home to a fantastic variety of wildlife. Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Drive with caution to protect Exmoor ponies and livestock
- Don't approach or feed the ponies



Access Land



On land mapped as 'access land', the public has a right of access on foot. Permitted activities include walking, picnicking and any other open air recreation on foot. Landowner permission must be sought before camping or parking up a campervan or caravan overnight.

Be Tick aware

Like many places in the UK, Exmoor has ticks. As well as being an unpleasant nuisance, they can spread potentially serious illnesses such as **Lyme disease**. Remember that you could be exposed to ticks whenever you spend time outdoors.

- Ticks can bite any warm-blooded animal including humans!
- You can prevent tick bites by walking on clearly defined paths, using insect repellent and performing regular tick checks
- Some tick bites can result in infection, so it is important to remove ticks safely and as quickly as possible
- The safest way to remove a tick is by using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers or a tick removal tool
- Contact your GP or dial NHS 111 promptly if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms or develop a spreading circular red rash. Remember to tell them you were bitten by a tick or have recently spent time outdoors

For more information, search on your web browser for **NHS ticks**.

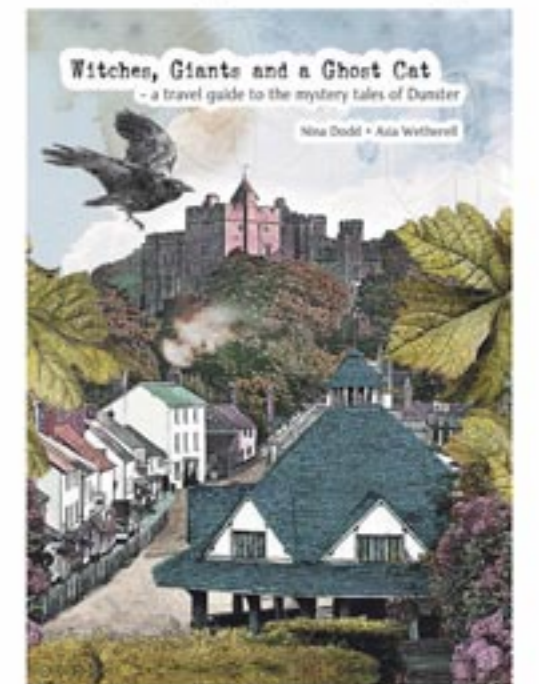
Self-guided ghost walk of Dunster

If you enjoy ghost stories, folktales and history, why not include a self-guided ghost walk in your Exmoor holiday? Author Nina Dodd and illustrator Asia Wetherell have brought out a new book called 'Witches, Giants and a Ghost Cat', which offers a unique look into what people in Exmoor believed in past centuries, the stories they shared and the weird and wonderful ways they tried to shield themselves from ghosts, witches and other magical creatures they believed to be lurking everywhere. The book can be read as a collection of local stories, but it also doubles up as a walking guide to Dunster, an Exmoor village frequently referred to as one of the best-preserved medieval villages in the UK.

The book contains over 60 ghost stories ranging from an 11th century ghost horse haunting Dunster Castle to an encounter with a flying ghost lady at St George's churchyard in 2023! As the stories are not overtly scary, this ghost walk can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

'Witches, Giants and a Ghost Cat - a travel guide to the mystery tales of Dunster' is available for purchase at Dunster Living shop, 30 High Street, Dunster (open every day 10am-5pm) and online at www.dunsterbooks.com.

For more information about Dunster, go to: www.dunster.info





The Exmoor National Park tent at the Dunster Show, 1960s

Rob Wilson-North asks: When times are hard, money is short and there are plenty of worries in everyday life, who cares about National Parks?...

...Well, although that might be how some people feel today in 2024, I'm actually talking about 1945. In the stunned days, weeks and months after the end of WWII, the new government of the day placed the highest priority on rebuilding the health of a weary population and the ravaged infrastructure of this country. Amidst the wreckage of WWII arose a National Health Service, a welfare state and National Parks. By 1947 a sweeping and brilliant report by John Dower (right) was complete, identifying potential National Parks; by 1949 legislation had been passed leading to the first National Park being designated in 1950. The others followed with Exmoor being designated in 1954.



Now, 70 years later, National Parks seem more relevant than ever, and I'm sure their founders would have seen their enduring value at a time of national need.

National Parks are often described as Britain's 'breathing spaces'. What does that mean? Well, they are the green lungs of our country, where there is much less development, much less modern infrastructure and much less pollution than elsewhere. But National Parks were designated for the people of this nation, so they are breathing spaces for everyone – places where we can literally have a breathing space from a fast and often frantic pace of life. In that sense they are more needed now than when they first came into being in the 1950s.

So how will we be celebrating our birthday in 2024? In a fast-changing world Exmoor will be a place of refuge where people can pause, find tranquillity and reflect; where this first European Dark Sky

Reserve will have a night sky as breathtaking as it should be. It will show resilience in the face of climate change, with crystal clear water in its fast-flowing rivers and streams, thriving boglands, increasing woodlands, grasslands rich in wild flora and pollinators. A place where nature is abundant and resilient, where local communities thrive, where visitors from near and far are welcomed and feel welcome, and where we are proud of our shared heritage and confident about the future.



The Wanderlust Women Tour 2022

At 70 Exmoor National Park has so much to give and the challenges it was created for are greater than ever before.

Charlotte Wray reflects on 70 years of Exmoor Rangers... sort of



Head Ranger David Beasley c.1985

2024 sees the 70th anniversary of the creation of Exmoor National Park but it wasn't until 1 June 1963 that the first Ranger, or Warden was employed. Jim Collins became Warden of Exmoor, reporting directly to Somerset Council offices in Taunton. He was told to: "Find somewhere to live, pick up a Land Rover from a local garage and help the public enjoy the amenities of the National Park."



Jim Collins giving talk 1960s

deal with the issues of the day. We help manage our own landholdings, looking for ways to improve habitat and make Exmoor more resilient in a changing climate. We work with our education and outreach team to engage young people with the natural world and improve their mental health, but also to help them feel active in conservation and green careers. We still attend county shows like Dunster and Exford complete with giant jigsaw (right), microscope and tactile map for visitors to learn more about Exmoor. We visit the edges of the National Park in places like Minehead and Ilfracombe to engage with new audiences and run regular rockpooling events in Lynmouth, recording

the wildlife we find on the iNaturalist app. Managing rights of way is still a large part of the job and a great opportunity to work with landowners, as well as providing an invaluable resource for visitors and the local community to enjoy the landscape. We are always looking for new ways to improve accessibility on our path network whether it be through resurfacing, removing stiles or producing new routes that link up with public transport options. We manage two pony herds, work with local emergency services, survey mine shafts, support tourism providers and much more. Plus, answer quite a few more emails than Jim had to!

Much has changed since 1963, with the ranger team expanding and shrinking along the way, but the role of a Ranger is still as diverse as ever. As for that Land Rover, it's still around for now, but with our recent purchase of an electric van, its days may well be numbered.



On World Ranger Day 2019, Exmoor Rangers past and present gathered to celebrate the opening of Jim's Path on North Hill to commemorate Exmoor's first warden Jim Collins.

Jim's first monthly report speaks about guided walks, cutting back overgrown Rights of Way in Dunster, reporting injured livestock and dealing with issues of litter. With many of the local Exmoor family names being mentioned it seems not much has changed in 60 years! The walks were popular, Jim would often guide large groups of children visiting Butlins over Dunkery and back down to the holiday resort (see photo on cover).

60 years on, our team of four Rangers still cut back overgrown rights of way, report injured livestock and pick up litter, but the role has become even more dynamic to



Spending time exploring the outdoors, connecting with nature and each other, developing new skills and building confidence can really help to boost our health and wellbeing.

For young people in particular, our National Parks offer an amazing opportunity to experience new things, challenge themselves and develop an understanding of and care for the natural world that can grow throughout their lives.



Young Ranger Alfie Hamley shares his experience...

In 2022, some of the Exmoor National Park team came into my secondary school to talk about 'green' careers and their roles. I had an interest in this area so was invited to attend a three-night residential – aimed at young people across schools in Devon & Somerset who might benefit from such experience.

Over four days at the off-grid Pinkery Outdoor Learning Centre, in the heart of Exmoor National Park, we had the opportunity to experience what the Exmoor Rangers do on a regular basis, as well as meeting new people and spending quality time outdoors away from devices. Some of the activities included planting new trees, restoring and protecting damaged plants and removing dead/damaged vegetation hindering growth of other trees and plants. We were fortunate to be invited to a carbon-neutral farm in the National Park, meeting the owner and learning about techniques used.

On the final day, we led a dark-skies event, which included a bushcraft and fire-lighting workshop for young children, showing them the beauty and awe of nature. The best bit for me had to be spending every day outdoors in such a tranquil and beautiful landscape, exploring new places I would never have gone to otherwise.

After the residential, I wasn't ready to put away my welly boots. The incredible experiences inspired me to continue my involvement with Exmoor National Park and over the last 2 years, I have been involved in various events organised by Exmoor National Park and Plastic Free Exmoor. Perhaps the most spectacular was the 'Green Spaces Dark Skies' event held in the Valley of Rocks. It involved thousands of people from across North Devon and Somerset coming together to light up the protected landscape, producing artwork through nature and

technology. Events like these not only provide a sense of community, but also portray the wonderful things you can do with nature and the equally incredible things nature can do for you.

I have volunteered at a range of other events. One of these includes a beach clean at Glenthorne, on the Devon-Somerset border of the Exmoor coast looking out across the Bristol Channel. This gave me the opportunity to explore more of the National Park, whilst removing litter and 'ghost gear' that could potentially harm wildlife.



Our Young Rangers took part in an extreme 'Plastic Free Exmoor' Beach Clean at Glenthorne Beach. They collected ocean debris - fishing line and lobster pots, large pieces of rubber, plastic bottles, polystyrene, buckets and tyres.

Volunteering not only allows me to experience the incredible environment around me, but also allows me to give back and help the wonderful people who keep the moors clean and safe. No matter your age, ability, career or experience, being outdoors is one of the most amazing gifts we have, and for those – like us - who are lucky enough to be within arm's reach of such extraordinary landscapes, we should treasure and conserve our outdoor spaces, and encourage everybody to spend a little more time outdoors (even when it's raining).



We want as many young people as possible to have these opportunities, whatever their background and the barriers they may face.

Our education programme supports young people from within Exmoor, the surrounding areas of Devon and Somerset and the wider UK, to experience and explore our beautiful landscapes and hopefully make it part of their lives for years to come.

We try and achieve this in a number of ways:

- We offer discounted residential places at our Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Learning to young people in receipt of free school meals.
- We can often offer support towards travel costs for groups that need it.
- Our Young Rangers Programme is free to participants, ensuring that it's accessible to young people from all backgrounds.
- Our Education Team works closely with schools and group leaders to understand and support their needs.



Our Young Rangers Programme:

We are so proud of the way in which Young Rangers make a difference, through volunteering and inspiring future generations to connect and care for our amazing Exmoor landscapes.

Generation Exmoor

Local schools (Exford and Cutcombe C of E First Schools) and Exmoor National Park Authority have developed a programme of activities enabling year 3 and 4 children to develop an understanding and appreciation of their local landscape. There is a strong

focus on sustainability, responsibility and the impact of our actions on the future of our countryside.

Exford School's most recent OFSTED inspection recognised the value of 'Generation Exmoor' as a key part of the curriculum.

Pop up events and 'Welcome to Exmoor' Days

We've provided transport and a warm welcome to help people from local communities better enjoy Exmoor. Whether it's enjoying the seashore at Lynmouth or exploring Ashcombe Gardens, our 'Welcome to Exmoor' days offer a chance to meet new people and experience the outdoors. It's an opportunity for those who live alone or with mobility issues to improve mental and physical wellbeing.

"It was really perfect, I was very surprised at how lovely it all was and that it was manageable for people that don't find walking easy. You could stand still and there wasn't a sound other than birds!"

- Welcome to Exmoor Day participant



A 'Welcome to Exmoor' Day at Ashcombe Gardens, Simonsbath

Here's what some of our other Young Rangers tell us about the activities they enjoy!

- Going to Horner farm was my highlight as it was nice to see the process of where your food comes from.
- Doing the conservation stuff with the trees. I felt like I was actually doing something to help, made me happy.
- My favourite part was our pond walk because I got to go somewhere that I've never been before and make new friends at the same time, it gave me a lot of confidence in myself that I don't get from school because I was doing something I was good at.
- My favourite part was the walk up to Pinkery pond. I enjoyed jumping in the bogs and getting really muddy. It made me feel really connected with nature to see the pond, but also feel the mud in my wellies, and to smell the fresh air.
- I liked the walk we did with the rangers as it taught us a lot of info, not only about nature but about the origins of the park.
- Being outdoors in nature felt really amazing. Being natural and just appreciating the world around us was great.
- Speaking to the rangers/making new friends. Speaking to the people that came up to see the stars. Doing a presentation makes me nervous. I can't believe I did it, I feel like I learnt leadership skills and that I am worth listening to.
- I got over social barriers such as talking to new people. Also making new friends.
- A challenge I overcame during the trip was helping the families at the dark skies event. It made me feel tired. But happy.
- A challenge for me was taking new information in and I managed to overcome this by listening well.



As light pollution blights the skies above homes across the UK, Exmoor is proud to boast some of the darkest skies in the country.

Webber's Post
Shaun Davey

Officially recognised and certified as Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve since 2011, Exmoor is now visited by thousands of people every year who come to enjoy the year-round opportunities for stargazing and tranquility.

To get the best stargazing experience choose a location away from a town or village, such as **Dunkery Beacon, Molland Moor, Porlock Common** (below) or **Haddon Hill** (right).



Porlock Common
Tim Wetherell



Dark Skies above Haddon Hill
Lewis Clarke

Open views and dramatic landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for gazing up at the planets and thousands of stars visible in a clear night sky.

Plan ahead to book an event or expert to guide you through the constellations and fascinate you with facts about the universe. Wellbeing professionals will help you to relax and unwind under the starry skies.

Visit National Park Centres (where telescopes can be hired and a range of stargazing materials can be purchased), or www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing for more information, including details on where to stay with an accredited Exmoor Dark Sky Friendly business.



Dark Sky Discovery Hubs provide the perfect venues for indoor presentations and outdoor events.

Wimbleball Lake



A purpose-built stone platform allows visitors to lay back and watch the skies. Visit during a meteor shower to see stars shooting across the darkness. Astrophotographers can delight in the moon and stars reflected in the lake, others can sit still and watch and listen to the nocturnal wildlife.

Poltimore Inn, North Molton



Behind the pub is a purpose-built observatory with lots of astronomy equipment which can be booked by individuals and groups of up to 20 people. There are detached lodges with telescopes and a large garden with open views to the rear. Bookable stargazing events, a telescope course, or a variety of presentations throughout the year hosted by astronomers Jo and Pete Richardson FRAS of Space Detectives.

Exford



Visit Exford Bridge Tea Rooms for their monthly indoor presentations with supper and guided stargazing hosted by astronomer Jo Richardson. Jo also takes exclusive bookings for small groups.

Dark Sky Discovery Trail

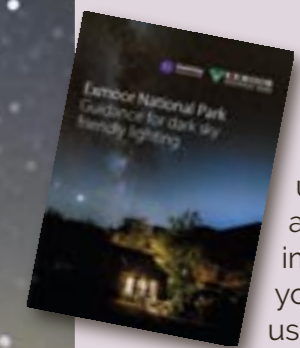
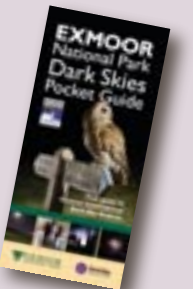


Will Gater (willgaterastrophotography.com)

Not far from Exford in the heart of the National Park, take this self-led walk in a remote rural location where your senses will be immersed in the sights and sounds of Exmoor at night on a two-mile there and back route with 360° views of the night sky. You can watch a short film and find out more about the trail at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing or pick up a £1 guide from our National Park Centres or online shop.

Free leaflets available from our Dunster, Dulverton or Lynmouth National Park Centres:

Dark Skies Pocket Guide
Top tips on when, how and where to stargaze, as well as what to look for in the night sky.



Guidance for Dark Sky Friendly Lighting
A simple guide to help understand light pollution and how you can reduce the impact from lighting around your home or business to help us protect our dark skies.

Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2024
Friday 18 October to Sunday 3 November
For the widest range of stargazing and night wellbeing events, late autumn could be the ideal time to visit Exmoor. From guided night walks, planetarium sessions, indoor presentations and talks, stargazing suppers and yoga or singing under the stars, visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival or pick up a printed programme, available from National Park Centres from August.



Stargazing in the Valley of Rocks
Jon Rowley



We need your help to **safeguard the future of the Exmoor pony**

Visit our website to learn more about our work and the pony, or contribute to our target of £100,000 towards the Exmoor Pony Society Gene Bank Campaign.

Visit exmoorponysociety.org.uk

Guardians of the breed since 1921 | Registered charity number 1043036

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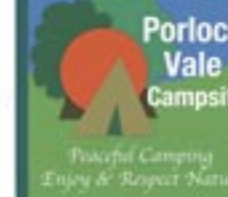
Available by the bag (c.25 ltrs) from Holt Ball Farm, Luccombe, on the National Trust Holnicote Estate.



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Annie, Holnicote



EXMOOR COMPOST



Find out more at WildPonyWhispering.co.uk

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DENISE SAGE, PORLOCK

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For sale at bordercountrybelts.co.uk & Lance Nicholsons, Dulverton

Supporting Sustainable Farming

Agriculture can play an important part in protecting our environment.

Farming in Protected Landscapes funding supports sustainable farming businesses, diversification and nature recovery projects. It can help slow climate change and improve people's access to Exmoor's landscape and heritage.

Here are just some of the projects we've supported:

Root Project

Husband and wife team Carolyn and Hadyn are otherwise known as 'The Root Project', bringing together everything from foraging to farm fitness. With FiPL funding they created a designated space for making ferments and tinctures to feed the soil and plants, and cultivate IMO, a compost of bespoke microbiology.

"We're hugely grateful to have been awarded a grant from FiPL to develop a bio lab, outdoor kitchen and facilities for hosting workshops and group events based on soil, food and gut health. It's a space we can't wait to share with the local community and visitors to Exmoor in 2024."

**Hadyn Potts and Caroline Duval
at Oare House**



Lee Abbey



"We made an application to improve access to our woodlands and repair a fallen dry-stone wall that was not keeping the famous 'Valley of Rocks' goats off our land."

Working with Exmoor National Park Authority on FiPL was a breath of fresh air. It's run by local people who know what they're talking about, they can make the available money work for our farm. The criteria were clear and simple and I felt I could design the scheme I wanted."

"We were delighted to work with the ENPA Rights of way team converting existing footpaths to permissive bridleways and adding tracks not previously open to the public to the bridleway network. We created more circular routes and a link with a neighbour's campsite, café and riding centre, with the new footpath allowing campers a better route to the beach."

We commissioned new signs made by the ENPA field services team from local sustainable wood. There was even money to fell any dangerous trees infected with ash dieback".

"We're now looking forward to other projects we can realise now we've had our second application approved!"

**Simon Gibson
Farm Manager at Lee Abbey**



Horner Farm



FiPL supported buying a mobile chicken house to enable regular moving of the flock behind other livestock, which allows pastured eggs to be produced. This helps fly control and fertilises the ground naturally, reducing reliance on chemical methods.

Horner Farm have added hedgerows and field trees to create 'silvopasture' (where livestock are grazed around trees to improve soil health) and restored species rich grassland. This all improves biodiversity, landscape character and habitat connection.

"Our first meadow making plan started last Summer working with Exmoor National Park Authority to move towards a more species rich meadow. This began with the pigs, using them to disturb the soil, alongside us using a brush cutter to scalp the earth to open up bare ground and prepare for the seed. Not using a tractor minimised fuel usage and compaction, so hand tools and pigs were the options available. Our first step was to use yellow rattle to start to weaken the grasses due to its parasitic characteristics on grass roots. We changed our grazing style and with sheep over the winter to ensure a shorter layer of grass alongside the disturbance. We spread ENPA supplied seed by hand in late Autumn and sat waiting patiently, excited when we started seeing seedlings appear and flower."

In answer to why do we want less grass and more wildflowers? Diversity of plant species benefits everything in the ecosystem from Insects to our animals. It creates resilience in a farm and also, from our analysis, the variety of plants offer greater nutritional benefits to our animals, meaning less input in the future and it allows our animals to self-medicate. 97% of our Wildflower meadows have disappeared since the 1930s; what we can recreate here will look different to what was here before due to the changing climate, but we are excited to slowly bring back more species".

**Holly Purdy
from Horner farm**



Sowing the Seeds

We've been working with 59 landowners, managers, schools and community groups to restore, rejuvenate, and create wildflower meadows across over 325 hectares of Exmoor. We're setting up a wildflower nursery to propagate meadow plant species and become a community growing hub. Your donations to CareMoor help us work with communities across Exmoor to create and restore species-rich grasslands.

They've also supported our purchase of a straw chopper, salt spreader and trailer, all essential for this work.



What we've achieved since 2021

- 146 applications to the FiPL programme
- £746,259 spent on FiPL projects on Exmoor
- 2831 trees planted
- 29.16 hectares of new habitat created
- 3002m of new permissive access created
- 639m stone wall restoration
- 3622m of new hedgerows planted
- 263 hectares of existing habitat improved for biodiversity
- 20 educational FiPL related visits, including local schools and students with special education needs, young ranger groups, and farmer networking meetings. It's an important opportunity for people to enjoy Exmoor's farmed landscape as well as gain a greater understanding of agriculture and food production

You can get more information about the national 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' scheme within the **Community** section of our website: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Please get in touch with our FiPL officers if you have a project idea or would like to find out more: email conservation@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

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As well as rolling moorland, dramatic coastlines and picturesque villages, Exmoor is home to well over 1,000 businesses.



Whether you are visiting, working or living on Exmoor, you can play a part in helping us to support a thriving economy that prospers in harmony with the special environment, creating greater community wealth on Exmoor.

Find out more at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/rural-enterprise



2. Eat Exmoor

Everyone needs to eat and drink. By buying local you are not only getting the true taste of Exmoor but also reducing air miles and supporting those that manage the incredible landscape of the National Park. Look out for the 'Produced in Exmoor' branding highlighting shops and hospitality providers that are supplying local products. The Eat Exmoor guide provides further information and inspiration celebrating the link between Exmoor's landscapes and the produce that comes from them. For more info see www.visit-exmoor.co.uk/eat-exmoor

Three top ways you can support our rural economy...

1. Use our Exmoor Business Directory

Finding local suppliers and services on Exmoor couldn't be easier. Local producers, creative services, retailers, countryside contractors and trade/professional services can all be found in our online directory. You can also find our Park Partners, CareMoor Champions and Dark Sky Friendly Businesses listed here too: directory.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

3. Support National Park Partners

We recognise and reward those businesses that are working with the Park at the heart of all they do as our National Park Partners. By supporting these businesses, you will be supporting those committed to keeping Exmoor special. Find them listed in our business directory or read more at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/park-partners

PLASTIC FREE EXMOOR SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Government research shows that 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution every year.

After Exmoor became the first National Park in the UK to gain Surfers Against Sewage's Plastic Free Community Status, local Plastic Free Business Champions and Community Allies have continued their great work to turn the tide on single-use plastic.

Accommodation providers, shops and food producers have all been pledging to remove at least three items of single-use plastic from their businesses.



Schools, local community organisations, volunteers and environmental groups are helping to spread the word and supporting events, such as beach cleans and litter picks, along the West Somerset and Exmoor coastal and woodland areas.

Plastic Free Exmoor is the guardian for a community collection of litter picking equipment, loaned out to local groups.



By using a refillable bottle, you can avoid single-use plastic bottles and save yourself money. Over the last two years, Plastic Free Exmoor has worked with local businesses and community groups to set up a network of free water refill stations in towns and villages across Exmoor, including along the popular long distance walking trails of the Coleridge Way, the Two Moors Way and the Southwest Coast Path. Go to www.refill.org.uk to find more than 274,000 water stations globally.

What You Can Do To Go Plastic Free on Exmoor

Whether you are a resident or a visitor to Exmoor, you can get involved in the plastic free movement by:

- Supporting our Plastic Free Business Champions and shopping plastic free whenever you can
- Downloading the free Refill App
- Rather than buy new, borrow plastic beach toys from the Beach Toy Libraries at the Beach Hotel, Minehead or from the Kingfisher Kiosk at Dunster Beach.
- Join one of our beach cleans or tree guard clearances... or do a Two Minute Litter Pick (right). Why not organise your own community clear up? Get in touch and we can help you plan it and provide the equipment.



You can find out more by contacting Peter Hoyland at plasticfreeexmoor@gmail.com or go to www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/community/plastic-free-exmoor

Young Wildlife Enthusiast Eben shares why he loves Exmoor.



Exmoor is full of brilliant wildlife and a wide range of different habitats, like beaches, forests, rivers, and moorland. It is easy to spot lots of different types of trees and plants as well as birds and even big mammals like deer. I love going on walks with my family and with the Exmoor Rangers, we once saw rare Lichens, helped get rid of Himalayan Balsam, spotted Crayfish and set Dormouse hair traps (that worked!) I even went on an early morning walk and saw a family of Otters playing near Tarr Steps. Exmoor is full of life. But when you look deeper there is an even more diverse range of species, like mushrooms, fungi and lichens that people don't always notice.

I am a big fungi fan and have even written two books about fungi for charity. Exmoor is fantastic for finding fungi, because it has a good range of plants and trees. Like Gorse which you find lots of on Exmoor and you often see the Yellow Brain fungus (Witches Butter) growing on it. In the woodlands like Horner woods there are lots of broad-leafed ancient trees, so fungi like to grow here too. I once went and



found loads of Fly Agarics, there were 28 in one small spot! In the grasslands too you can find lots of Waxcaps, which are very slimy and colourful, they like to grow in good quality soil, so Exmoor is great for that. Lichens like Exmoor too because of the trees and clean air. I really like the woods around Wimbleball and Haddon hill for finding Fungi and Lichen, but it is so easy to walk by and miss them, so next time you are on Exmoor you should look carefully and see what wonderful Fungi you can see that you might normally miss.



Photographer and Blogger Sarah Hailstone AKA 'Exmoor with Jack' shares what Exmoor means to her and friend Lee...

I began to spend time with Lee, who has Down's Syndrome, in April last year, acting as his enabler on his day out of college. I had known his family for many years, having attended South Molton School with his mum and then later taught his sister Poppy at North Molton Primary School.

As someone with a great love of Exmoor and photography, I thought this would be a new hobby that Lee could experience with me. We headed out together; Lee borrowing my older camera and looked around for 'good scenery' as Lee calls it. Lee has really enjoyed good spots and things to photograph and had one photo reach the finals of an international competition for photographers with Down's Syndrome.

We have incorporated litter picking on Lynmouth beach (below), facilitated by the National Park Centre, and also volunteered at Ashcombe Gardens in Simonsbath on a very wet day. We hope to return next year.



Lee is not a keen walker but Exmoor has many beautiful locations that are accessible with only a short walk. He has really enjoyed getting out and exploring.

We have also tried many of Exmoor's tea rooms to test their chocolate cakes. (Lee's favourite).



Thank you to everyone taking part in **LookWild**, a brilliant citizen science project, and those using **iNaturalist** to help document the rich biodiversity thriving within our cherished National Park.

Join **iNaturalist** and start identifying nature near you today! **LookWild** helps contribute to our data and knowledge of wildlife and habitat health across the UK.

You can share photos or observations with us at www.nationalparks.uk/look-wild

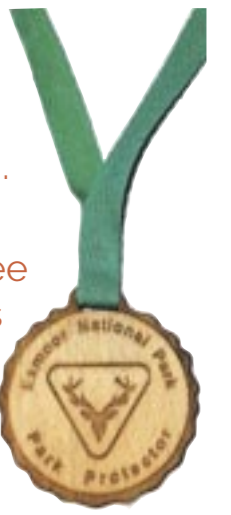








Be an Exmoor Park Protector

We love welcoming people to Exmoor, and we want to make sure you have a great time discovering this special place and doing your bit to look after it. An act of kindness can go a long way to help protect our Park and our own wellbeing.

Complete **8** of these 12 tasks, get them signed off by a grown-up then head to one of our National Park Centres (see page 5) for a free certificate and sticker. Completion medals (right) can also be purchased for just £2. (subject to availability).

Please take photos to share with our National Park Centre staff or ask a grown up to share them on social media tagging **@ExmoorNP** and using the hashtag **#ExmoorParkProtector**.



Two Minute Litter Pick Pick up any rubbish that you find and dispose of it correctly. Across Exmoor, you can find several Two Minute Litter Pick boards with everything that you will need to help look after the environment. Always wash your hands afterwards.  Signature of completion	Have an Exmoor Picnic Food tastes better outside! Stock up on some local products (look out for the produced in Exmoor logo) and remember to go plastic-free too!  Signature of completion	Get a Free Water Refill Join the refill revolution and take a pledge not to buy single use plastic bottled water. Take a refillable bottle wherever you go and visit one of Exmoor's growing number of refill stations and ask for a free water refill.  Signature of completion	Spot a bird of prey Look up and see if you can identify a bird of prey – large predatory birds with sharp talons (nails) and hooked bills (beaks), such as Hawks, Eagles, Falcons and Owls.  Signature of completion
Eye spy Increase your nature knowledge by downloading the iNaturalist App on your phone or using one of our free pocket guides to identify a new creature, tree, flower or plant that you don't know the name of. Find out how to join the Look Wild team at www.nationalparks.uk/look-wild  Signature of completion	Visit a National Park Centre We have three National Park Centres open for visitors (see page 5). Pop along to one of them to meet our friendly staff, do an activity and pick up some free habitat posters and leaflets.  Signature of completion	Get your feet wet Paddle in a stream or rockpool and see what kind of creatures live under the rocks. Don't forget to be gentle when moving anything, they might be someone's home! Be water safe and check the tides.  Signature of completion	Natural art Gather and use natural materials to create your own artwork – this could be a sculpture, picture or even a map!  Signature of completion
Go back in time Walk out to see a bronze age barrow (an ancient burial mound), a stone circle or some historic ruins. Discover and touch history.  Signature of completion	Take a Stroll Our new strolls are perfect short walks for everyone of any age to discover more of Exmoor – take a look at www.exmoorwalks.org . (or see page 5).  Signature of completion	Get to know a tree Exmoor is full of trees. Common trees, rare trees, tall trees (England's tallest is at Nutcombe Bottom!) and short trees. Find your favourite - identify it, hug it, and do a bark or leaf rubbing  Signature of completion	Turn your lights off Exmoor is Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve for a reason. Turn your lights off to see just how many stars are above us. What else can you see or hear outside at night?  Signature of completion

Make your visit to Exmoor National Park count, leave no trace, and take only memories.

Explore a car free, care free Exmoor

Giving the car a break is one of the best ways to experience the very best of Exmoor, immersing yourself and reconnecting with nature.



Parking

If you're exploring by car please park responsibly - Exmoor is a sensitive environment, and a home and workplace to many. So please use designated parking areas only. You can find details of car parks owned by both Exmoor National Park Authority and other partners at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/parking. You can also obtain a parking permit for just £60 (means tested discounts available) giving you free parking at all Exmoor National Park Authority owned car parks for a year!

Our modest parking charges (in selected car parks only) support the vital work we do to look after Exmoor and help everyone to experience this special place.



When driving on Exmoor do so with care and remember that livestock may be present on open moorland roads.

Whether you bus it, walk it, bike it or ride it there are some great opportunities to explore the National Park, while lowering your impact on the area.



Nina Dodd

The Exmoor Coaster (top) is one of the steepest and most spectacular bus routes in the country!

Open top buses operate along the Exmoor Coast between Minehead and Lynmouth from April to September, with some services extending the route from Blue Anchor all the way to Ilfracombe.

EXMOOR COASTER

enjoy a switchback open-top ride along this spectacular coastline with views that will simply take your breath away

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COUNTSBURY
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ILFRACOMBE

adventures by bus

You can find lots more information about bus routes and options for travel to and within Exmoor, as well as opportunities to explore by walking or riding, at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk.



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11



This map is only intended as a guide. More detailed maps are available from our three National Park Centres in Lynmouth, Dunster and Dulverton or online at: shop.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Key													
	National Park Centre		Car Park		Caravan Site		House of Interest		Easy Access Trail		A Class Road		Lake/Reservoir
	Tourist Information Centre		Youth Hostel		Camping Site/Barn		Castle/Abbey Ruins		Suggested Star Gazing Locations		B Class Road		Woodland (within Exmoor National Park)
	Exmoor National Park Local Information Point		Exmoor Pony Herd		Field Study Centre		Cycle Trails		Ilfracombe Aquarium		Minor Road		County Boundary
	Toilets		Exmoor Pony Centre		Petrol Station 24 hrs in Barnstaple and Minehead		Museum		Exmoor National Park Boundary		River		Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
	Accessible Toilets		Riding Establishment		Picnic Site		Residential Centre (groups)		Brampton Burrows Biosphere Reserve		Long Distance Paths		Coleridge Way
									Two Moors Way (Exmoor National Park)		South West Coast Path (Exmoor National Park)		

Plenty to do...

We hope our publication provides lots of inspiration to get outdoors and enjoy the landscapes and nature of Exmoor. Below we list some of the main attractions and activities on offer across the area. Use the grid references to find places near to you using the grid squares on the map in the middle pages, then check the websites to find more precise location and directions.

For detailed listings go to www.visit-exmoor.co.uk or visit one of our **National Park Centres** (see page 5) for expert advice and great ideas.

Museums & Heritage Centres

- Allerford Museum A8**
www.allerfordmuseum.org.uk
- Bampton Heritage Centre E8**
www.bampton.org.uk
- Combe Martin Museum A2**
www.combemartinmuseum.co.uk
- Doverly Manor Museum, Porlock A7**
www.doverlymanormuseum.org.uk
- Dulverton Heritage Centre and Model Railway D8**
www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk/
- Dunster Museum and Dolls Museum B9**
www.dunstermuseum.co.uk
- Exmoor Natural History Centre, Porlock Weir A7**
www.enhs.org.uk
- Lyn & Exmoor Museum, Lynton A5**
www.facebook.com/LynExmoorMuseum
- Minehead Museum A9**
www.mineheadmuseum.co.uk



Combe Martin Museum

Watchet Museum B10

www.watchetmuseum.co.uk

Watchet Boathouse Museum B10
www.lovetwatchet.co.uk



Watchet Boat Museum

Attractions

- Arlington Court B3**
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- Butlins, Minehead A9**
www.butlins.com
- Cleeve Abbey B10**
www.english-heritage.org.uk
- Combe Martin Wildlife & Dinosaur Park B3**
www.cmwdp.co.uk
- Dunster Castle, gardens and watermill B9**
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- Exmoor Zoo, Bratton Fleming C4**
www.exmoorzoo.co.uk
- East Quay Gallery, Watchet B10**
www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk



Rockpooling with the Rangers

Join Exmoor National Park Rangers for a rock pool adventure. Hunt for anemones, crabs, sea sponges and all sorts of other marine critters, on Lynmouth beach

Sandals or waterproof shoes are useful. Everyone welcome!

Meet opposite Lynmouth National Park Centre:

Sat 13 April 14:30-16:30
Sun 5 May 10:30-12:30
Mon 27 May 14:00-16:00
Fri 2 August 10:30-12:30
Mon 5 August 12:30-14:30

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01643 862757



Exmoor Zoo

Glen Lyn Gorge, Lynmouth A5
www.theglenlyngorge.co.uk

Greencombe Gardens, Porlock A7
www.greencombe.org

Ilfracombe Aquarium A1
www.ilfracombeaquarium.co.uk

Lyn Model Railway, Lynmouth A5

Lynton Toy Museum A5
www.lyntontoymuseum.co.uk

Lyn Valley Arts & Crafts Centre, Lynton A5
www.facebook.com/lynvalleyartandcraft

Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway A5
www.cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk

Quince Honey Farm, South Molton D4
www.quincehoneyfarm.co.uk

Torre Cider Farm, Washford B10
www.torre-cider-farm.com

Tropiquaria Zoo, Washford B10
www.tropiquaria.co.uk

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- Guided Walking Events
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- Astronomy Courses
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All delivered by professionals in their field and to the highest standard that is Exmoor National Park.

Wild about Exmoor Experiences and Events
www.wildaboutexmoor.com
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In the heart of Exmoor Country
Burrowhayes Farm Riding Stables
01643 862463

Escorted rides for experienced riders (1-3 hours) in the glorious Horner Valley and on the moors of Dunkery, Ley Hill and Selworthy. Also pony rides for children led by parents through surrounding woodland.

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www.burrowhayes.co.uk

exmoor adventures

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www.exmooradventures.co.uk - 01643 805001

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www.exmoorcoastholidays.co.uk

West Somerset Railway, Minehead A9
www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

Woody Bay Train Station A4
www.lynton-rail.co.uk

Activities and Experiences

Alykat Seabird safaris, Minehead A9
www.alykatimages.com

Brendon Manor riding A5
www.brendonmanor.com

Burrowhayes Farm Stables, West Luccombe B7
www.burrowhayes.co.uk

Channel Adventures, Minehead A9
www.channeladventure.co.uk

Dean Riding Stables, Parracombe B3
www.deanridingstables.co.uk

Dulverton Angling Association D8
www.dulvertonanglingassociation.org.uk

Exmoor Adventures, Porlock Weir A7
www.exmooradventures.co.uk



Exmoor Adventures

Exmoor Coast Boat Trips, Lynmouth A5
www.theglenlyngorge.co.uk

Exmoor Distillery Tours, Brushford E8
www.exmoordistillery.co.uk

Exmoor Photography Courses (Jack Clegg)
www.exmoorphotography.co.uk

Exmoor Photowalks
exmoorphotowalks.com

Exmoor Pony Centre, near Dulverton D7
www.moorlandmousetrust.org.uk

Exmoor Riding Centre, near Lynton A4
www.exmoorcoastholidays.co.uk

Exmoor Walks
www.mother-moon.co.uk

Exmoor Wellbeing Safaris with Terry Bruce
www.shiatsuyoga.co.uk

Exmoor Wildlife Safaris
www.exmoorwildlifesafaris.co.uk

Horner Farm B8
www.horner-farm.co.uk

Lynmouth Putting Green A5
www.holein1lynmouth.co.uk

Minehead Eye Skatepark A9
www.mineheadeye.co.uk

Moor Wild Experiences
www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk

Osprey Sea Fishing trips, Minehead A9
www.ospreycharter.co.uk

OSKC, Combe Martin (kayak hire) A2
www.oskcwatersports.co.uk

Pine Lodge Riding, Nr Dulverton D7
www.pinelodgeexmoor.co.uk

The Observatory At The Poltimore Inn D5
www.thepoltimoreinnnorthmolton.co.uk

Porlock Weir Charters A7
www.porlockweircharters.co.uk



The Observatory At The Poltimore Inn

Red Stag Safaris
www.redstagsafari.co.uk

Seven fables Book Shop, Dulverton D7
www.sevenfables.co.uk/seven-fables-events

Riverside Project, Brompton Regis D8
www.theriversideproject.org

Surfside Kayak, Combe Martin A2
www.surfsidekayakhire.co.uk

Teddie Boy Cruises, Minehead A9
www.teddieboycharters.co.uk

Wellhayes Vineyard, near Bampton E9
www.wellhayesvineyard.co.uk

West Ilkerton Farm Tours, Barbrook A5
www.westilkerton.co.uk

Wimbleball Lake, near Brompton Regis D8
www.swllakestrust.org.uk

Wild About Exmoor C7
www.wildaboutexmoor.com B7

Inclusion in this list does not infer endorsement or recommendation by Exmoor National Park Authority. Any local providers wishing to be listed in future issues should email ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Exmoor Events Diary 2024

This is only a selection of events happening around Exmoor in 2024. To see more, go to: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/events




Spring in to Art at Lynmouth National Park Centre

A fresh idea bringing together several local artists to paint for the day under one roof.
11am - 3:30pm. Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509



Ruins in the Woods

Walk from Chagot Woods exploring the mineral railway. Also on 8 September
9:45am - 3:45pm. Chagot Woods Car Park
drwthw@gmail.com www.wsmr.org.uk
01984 634177



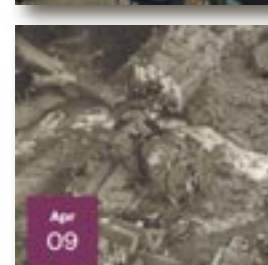
Dunster Outback Walk

A 2-2½hr/4 mile guided walk,
11am Dunster National Park Centre. TA24 6SE
01598 752509
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
Monthly through the year.





Talks at the Pavilion: Plastic Free Exmoor

National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ
2pm - 4pm
01598 752509
Free.




Lynmouth Flood Talk and Walk

A half hour presentation at Lynmouth Pavilion looking at 1950s film and photographs of the Lynmouth Flood Disaster followed by a gentle stroll around the village. A free event with donations to  appreciated. 2pm - 3pm. 01598 752509. Monthly through the year.



A Walk through Dunster's History

A 2 hour guided walk around a village steeped in history.
11am Dunster National Park Centre. TA24 6SE
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
01643 821835. Monthly through the year.



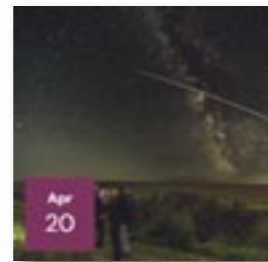
Walking Book Club: Night Swimmers

Join the Seven Fables Walking Book Club in the woods of Dulverton. 2pm - 4:30pm
info@sevenfables.co.uk. 01398 324457
Similar regular events through the year.



Rockpooling with a Ranger

Join Exmoor National Park Rangers to explore the rockpools of Lynmouth.
2:30pm - 4:30pm Lynmouth beach - meet opposite Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ
cwrap@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. 07970099116
Events throughout the summer (see page 26)



Stargazing at the Poltimore Inn Observatory, North Molton

Stargazing event at one of Exmoor's Dark Sky Hubs
The Poltimore Inn East Street, North Molton Devon. EX36 3HR
contact@thepoltimoreinnnorthmolton.co.uk
01598 740338



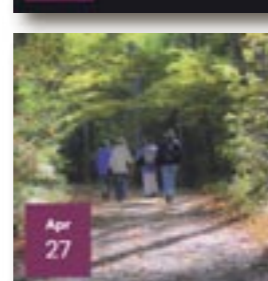
Abstract Landscape Collage with John Crush

Join a local artist on a day long workshop.
10am - 4pm Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
01598 752509



Supper and Stars

Supper with a short walk plus laser guided stargazing at Exford Tea Rooms
6pm - 9:30pm
wildaboutexmoor@yahoo.com
07859066400



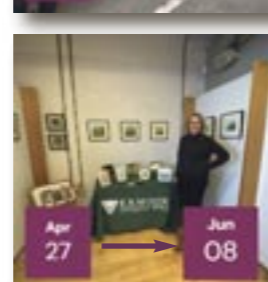
Literary Walk in the Doone Valley

Follow in the footsteps of RD Blackmore.
10am - 1pm Malmsmead National Trust Car Park Lorna Doone Farm, Malmsmead, EX35 6NU.
wildaboutexmoor@yahoo.com. 07859066400



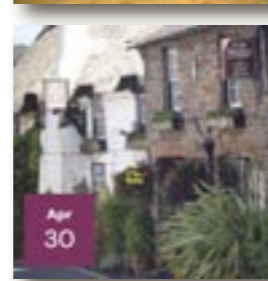
Dulverton Farmers Market

Showcasing the best produce and crafts from Exmoor, Devon and Somerset. On the last Saturday of the month, April to September, from 10am to 2.30pm in the Lion Stables Car Park in the heart of the town. TA22 9EX




Ann Hyde Art Exhibition

From Watercolours, acrylics and, her favourite medium oils, Ann captures the atmosphere of the day with her artworks. Runs to 8th June.
Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
01598 752509



Hidden Porlock

An opportunity to explore the hidden treasures and history of Porlock Village.
Meet at Porlock Visitor Centre TA24 8QD. 10:15am.
visit@porlock.co.uk. 01643 863150.
Monthly on the last day of the month



Parracombe Arts and Literary Festival 2024

Workshops, walks, talks, theatre, music and film.
To 26 May
Parracombe, Devon. EX31 4PR
westcoastnews@btinternet.com. 07966486743



Come and explore
WIMBLEBALL LAKE
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Near Dulverton, TA22 9NU

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contact@cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk
www.cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk

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For further information visit our website
www.lynton-rail.co.uk

Exmoor Events Diary 2024 (cont)

Go to www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/events for full booking details and a greater selection of events.

Photos are intended to give a flavour of what you can expect at the event and are not necessarily specific to the actual event.

Rockpooling with a Ranger

Join Exmoor National Park Rangers to explore the rockpools of Lynmouth.
10:30am - 12:30pm Lynmouth beach - meet opposite Lynmouth National Park Centre, EX35 6EQ
cwray@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk 07970099116
Events throughout the summer (see page 26)

Brayford Duck Race

A fun day for all the family with cream teas, ice creams, hot dogs, plus various stalls as well as a Family Dog Show.
1pm - 4pm. Brayford Village, EX32 7QH
01598 710377.

Cliff Railway Day Steampunk Gathering

The annual Steampunk & Victorian gathering in the towns of Lynton & Lynmouth. EX35 6EQ. Free Cliff Railway travel for Steampunk Travellers, Visiting Victorians and Pastime Pirates in their finery!
10am - 9pm. 01598 753486

Woods and Trees Talk

Join staff from Exmoor National Park for an informative session about the establishment of a new woodland at Simonsbath, named Kings Wood. 2pm - 5pm. Simonsbath House Hotel, TA24 7SH. 01398 322211.

Raleigh's Cross Short Walk

Walk from Raleigh's Cross Inn, exploring the mineral railway. 9:45am - 12:45pm. Raleigh's Cross Inn. TA23 0LN. Also on 6 November. Also Raleigh's Cross Short Walk on 9 June. See www.wsmr.org.uk for details.
drwthw@gmail.com. 01984 634177.

Brendon Open Gardens

4 gardens open for charity. At Higher Tippacott Farm, lunches & teas incl. gluten-free are served. Bric a brac & plants for sale. Display of vintage telephones & toys. £6 per person. Children free 12pm - 5pm. Brendon. EX35 6PU. Also in August. lalindevon@yahoo.co.uk

Natural History Walk

An easy paced stroll to explore and discover the wildlife of the wonderful habitats and landscape around Porlock Weir. 2pm - 4pm. ENHS Porlock Weir Centre, adjoining the Car Park. TA24 8PB. ruthyett@gmail.com. 01643 863124. Monthly through the summer.

Talks at the Pavilion: The Life of an Exmoor Ranger

What does a day in the life of a National Park Ranger look like? A photographic presentation. 2pm - 4pm. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509.

Dunster Festival 2024

A feast of chamber and choral music across the last weekend in May in St George's Church and Dunster's historic Tithe Barn.
rory@dunsterfestival.co.uk 07752418533

Julia Wade Art Exhibition

Julia's Works can be quite spontaneous! But within that organic process, her main focus is on capturing as much atmosphere as possible. Exhibition open 11am - 4:30pm every day from June 9 to August 1. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509.

Exmoor Festival of Nature

An enormous outdoor day of free nature activities. 10am - 4pm Nettlecombe Court. TA4 4HT. frankie.wright@exmoorsociety.com 07805428517

Lyn Valley Classic Show

Over 400 cars will roll into town, super cars, classics, vintage, bikes and even tractors - vehicles for everyone. With stalls and activities for the family. 10am - 4pm. Lynmouth Manor Green. EX35 6EN. 01598 753888.

Dulverton Sounds Music Festival

Come to Dulverton to enjoy a fun filled day of music of all genres. 3pm - 10pm. Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton. TA22 9HL hello@visitdulverton.com. 07785 901017

Stogumber Open Gardens

Gardens open for 2 days, proceeds to local charities. 10:30am - 5:30pm Stogumber Village Hall and car park, TA4 3TG. julianspicer@hotmail.com. 01984 656156.

Porlock Duck Race

Come and join in for a great family fun day of Duck Racing. Ten races plus a grand finale. Great prizes to be won. Licensed bar, BBQ, Tea and Cakes and Ice creams. 2pm - 6pm. Sparkhayes Campsite, Porlock. TA24 8NE. saproctor@yahoo.co.uk. 07922024522

Summer Craft and Artisan Fair

Local crafters and artists from across Exmoor, North Devon and West Somerset. Driftwood, sea glass, photography, produce, as well as some of our amazing local artists. 11am - 4pm. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509. NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk


 Recurring event, happening more than once. See www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/events for more dates.



Secret Gardens of Dulverton
Discover some of Dulverton's secret gardens, open to the public for just one day.
10am - 4pm Dulverton Town Hall. TA22 9EX
hello@visitdulverton.com. 07785 901017




The Dulverton Artisan Food, Drink & Crafts Festival
Over 30 stalls from local producers
10am - 4:30pm. Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton. TA22 9HL
hello@visitdulverton.com. 07785 901017




Porlock Carnival
Come and join in with the fun as the colourful Floats, walking entries, Fire Brigade, Bands, Majorettes, and many more proceed through the village and back again led by the Town Crier.
5:30pm - 9pm Porlock. TA24 8PY.
saproctor@yahoo.co.uk. 07922024522



Dunster Country Fair
Arena Attractions. Equestrian and Canine Events. Trade Stands. Craft Tent & Food Hall Funfair. Licensed Bar & much more.
9:30am - 5pm. Dunster Showground. TA26 6NY



Porlock Horse Show
Horse and Pony Showing, Mountain & Moorland including Exmoor Pony showing, jumping, gymkhana, Exmoor Horn sheep show, Staghorn Show and Dog show.
10am - 6pm West Luccombe Farm, TA24 8HT.
charmainera@icloud.com. 07881406306.



Rockpooling with a Ranger
Join Exmoor National Park Rangers to explore the rockpools of Lynmouth.
10:30am - 12:30pm. Lynmouth beach - meet opposite Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ
cwray@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. 07970099116
Also on 5 & 7 August (see page 26 for times).



Brendon Open Gardens
4 gardens open for charity. At Higher Tippacott Farm, lunches & teas incl. gluten-free are served. Bric a brac & plants for sale. Display of vintage telephones & toys. £6 per person. Children free 12pm - 5pm. Brendon. EX35 6PU. Also in June.
lalindevon@yahoo.co.uk



Cutcombe Fete
A great fun day out for the whole family
1pm - 5pm. Wheddon Cross Recreation Ground.
katherinedaniel@aol.com. 07702016674.




Exmoor Mines Visit
A visit to some interesting mines on Exmoor. Explore Wheal Eliza and the Cornham Ford workings or others.
9:45am - 3:45pm. Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath.
drwthw@gmail.com. 01398 323841.



Brompton Regis Show and Gymkhana
Brompton Regis Show is fun for all the family.
9am - 6pm Renford Knap, Brompton Regis TA22 9NJ
07973 725848.



Exford Horse Show
Exmoor Ponies, Horses & Sheep on Show. Craft, Produce & Local Trade Stands.
9am - 5pm Exford Showground. TA24 7NC.
secretary@exfordshow.com. 01643831423.



Dunster Show
Dunster Show is the premier Agricultural Show in West Somerset and one of the major one day Shows of the West of England. Taking place on the lawns below Dunster Castle the dramatic backdrop is a perfect setting for a magical family day out. Dunster Showground. TA26 6NY



Challacombe Sheepdog Trials
Sheepdog Trials start at 10.30 am. Family Dog Show starts 1pm. Also stalls, refreshments, sideshows and skittles competition. Adults £3, children u16 free. Whitefield Barton, Challacombe EX31 4TU.
bartontownfarm3217@hotmail.co.uk. 01598 751310



Great Exmoor Ride
A spectacular route suitable for a wide range of riders. Starts at Silk Mills Park & Ride, Taunton. TA1 5AA at 8am. mail@greatexmoorride.com. 07956858851



Wild Swimming Walk with Sophie Pierce
Join writer Sophie Pierce and Seven Fables for a walk, talk and optional wild swim!
4pm - 7pm. Ashcombe, Simonsbath.
info@sevenfables.co.uk. 01398 324457



Talks at the Pavilion: Exmoor's Wonderful Woodland
Exmoor's woodlands are really special and they are home to many rare and unusual species of plants and animals, but they need careful management to keep them that way. 2pm - 3:30pm. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ.



Driving, cycling, running or walking - up or down - Porlock scenic toll road will quietly wind you through ancient woodland, uncovering spectacular views of Porlock Bay, enchanting moorland, and Exmoor's wildlife. 4.2 miles of breathtaking landscape and nature await....

www.porlockweir.co/scenic-toll-road

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VISITOR CENTRE: FREE ADMISSION
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12 to 4pm
(Closed Mon . Tues)
Riding by appointment only
T&Cs apply

Activity Afternoons
Weds 29 May
Wed 31 July
Wed 7 August
Wed 14 August
Wed 21 August
Wed 28 August
Wed 30 October
Rides, grooming, craft activities, refreshments and more.
No booking required

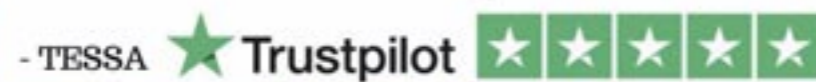
Charity run visitor centre: meet the ponies, special events and activities.
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www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk
info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk
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Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton Somerset TA22 9QE
Licensed with Somerset West Taunton Council LN/0002199

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 This was our 3rd fabulous visit to Exmoor and the quality and choice of properties is brilliant.
 I have always had excellent service from Best of Exmoor. Their communication and issue resolving has always been first class. I just wish they covered the whole of Devon and Cornwall too! Then we wouldn't have to deal with anyone else!



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Exmoor Events Diary 2024 (cont)

Go to www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/events for full booking details and a greater selection of events.

Photos are intended to give a flavour of what you can expect at the event and are not necessarily specific to the actual event.



Dulverton Trail Fun Run & Canicross

5km or 10km routes through beautiful Exmoor countryside.
 9am Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton. TA22 9HL.
hello@visitdulverton.com. 07785 901017.



All Through the Night: Why Our Lives Depend on Dark Skies

Walk and talk with Dani Robertson, a Dark Sky Officer for Snowdonia National Park and author.
 2pm - 4:30pm. Seven Fables, 7 The High Street, Dulverton. info@sevenfables.co.uk. 01398 324457



Exhibition by the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway

Exhibition open 11am - 4:30pm every day from September 17 to October 29.
 National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ
NPCLynmouth@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. 01598 752509



Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival

Head to the Literary Festival page of the Visit Dulverton website to learn who will be attending this year's event and to book your tickets. The 2024 festival will again feature a great line-up of author talks across both days of the weekend of 16/17 November in Dulverton Town Hall.



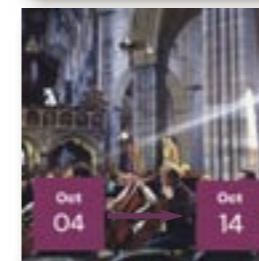
Fall in to Art at Lynmouth National Park Centre

A fresh idea bringing together several local artists to paint for the day under one roof.
 11am - 3:30pm. Lynmouth National Park Centre. EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509



Amy Jeffs' Wild Storyland

Join renowned art historian and Somerset author Amy Jeffs for a walk, talk in the woods of Dulverton.
 2pm - 4pm Seven Fables, Dulverton. TA22 9HB.
info@sevenfables.co.uk. 01398 324457



Two Moors Festival

Chamber Music Festival held over 10 days at various location across Exmoor and Dartmoor.
www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk



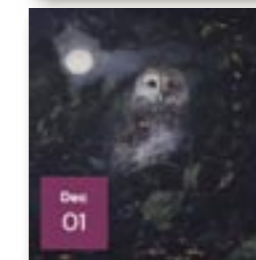
Exmoor Christmas Fair

25 or more local talented craftsmen and women will be selling their unique wares.
 12pm - 6pm. Porlock Village Hall. TA24 8HY.
graham.haw@btinternet.com. 01643863117.



Cream Tea with Inspirational Women

Porlock celebrates International Ada Lovelace Day by inviting five diverse women speakers to tea.
 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Porlock Village Hall TA24 8QD.
graham.haw@btinternet.com. 01643863117.



Darkling: The Owl's Song

Book Signing with Catherine Hyde. This much anticipated title follows in the footsteps of her much-loved previous books, The Bee and the Sun, and The Moon and the Hare.
 1pm - 5pm. Seven Fables, Dulverton. TA22 9HB.
info@sevenfables.co.uk. 01398 324457.



Talks at the Pavilion: Fungi with Patrick Watts-Mabbott

Patrick has an amazing knowledge of fungi and is always very enthusiastic to share it!
 11am - 1pm. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ. 01598 752509.



Dulverton by Starlight

Dulverton is decorated with Christmas trees festooned with lights, and for one Sunday many of the shops are open for people to do some local Christmas shopping.
 2pm - 7pm. Dulverton, TA22 9EX.



Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2024

For the widest range of stargazing and night wellbeing events, late autumn could be the ideal time to visit Exmoor. Visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival or pick up a printed programme, available from National Park Centres from August.



Dunster Winter Festival

The event will be over the weekend of 6-8th December. A new festive event for 2024 within the medieval village of Dunster - keep your eyes peeled for further details in due course.



Talks at the Pavilion: Dark Skies with Seb Jay

Always a very enjoyable talk. Seb Jay explores the wonders of this night-time world above our heads with help from some clever software. Part of Exmoor Dark Skies Festival. Talks at 2pm and 4pm. National Park Centre, Lynmouth, EX35 6EQ.



Morebath Christmas Craft Fair

Christmas Craft Fair, where you can expect every stall to be selling a unique product range, crafted locally by themselves.
 5pm - 9pm Morebath Village Hall EX16 9AJ.
dan@cottagebeerproject.co.uk. 07422731152

WE'VE MADE A PLEDGE FOR THE PLANET - TO JOIN THE

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The 'zero' being 'zero carbon' and the 'race' an initiative backed by the UN and global climate leaders. The future of our natural world, rests on 'decarbonisation' and National Parks have a crucial role to play.

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) is not only reducing emissions but helping to draw down excess carbon from the atmosphere. In fact, we are one of the first National Parks in the world to join the aim to halve global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050.



The solar panels on the roof of our Exford depot means that topping up our electric van is effectively free and zero carbon.

What action are we taking in answer to the climate crisis?

From estate work to school activity days, there's been a switch to electric vehicles and tools, installation of EV charging points across the National Park and a move away from fossil fuels via solar panels, a wind turbine and biomass boiler installation at our Pinkery outdoor education centre. Applying eco principles to listed buildings is no easy task, but even the historic Exmoor House headquarters in Dulverton now has secondary glazing to improve insulation and reduce energy consumption.



Electric vehicle and turbine at our Pinkery Centre For Outdoor Learning

Did you know?

The Exmoor National Park Field Services Team, who look after 1000km of public paths and bridleways across Exmoor, also make the wooden gates, stiles and iconic signposts you might see while out walking or riding. Everything is sawn using electric tools boosted by solar panels. Any offcuts from the process go back into the biomass boiler to provide energy for the depot.



ENPA New locally-made signpost.

Regenerative farming practices, meadow, orchard and temperate rainforest restoration are all part of the climate mitigation strategy and Exmoor National Park Authority is a Partner in the award-nominated 'Southwest Peatland Partnership', restoring carbon-storing peatlands across the region.

You can read lots more on projects like this on the following pages:

RACE TO ZERO

The team at our Pinkery Centre For Outdoor Learning have been working hard on their 'off grid', sustainable energy, the latest installation being a biomass boiler. It was funded by a 'Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme' grant and means the centre can produce electricity from logs, from our own sustainably managed woods.

It's replaced outdated fossil fuel systems and will supply renewable heat and hot water for the whole site, including the classrooms and accommodation units.

The biomass boiler project has been delivered in partnership with Salix Finance and will save 605 tonnes of CO₂ over its lifetime - that's more than 30 tonnes of CO₂ per year.



Woodland conservation

As well as being beautiful natural structures, trees provide so many environmental benefits. Capturing carbon, improving water quality, they're a sustainable building material and tool for flood management. Here in Exmoor National Park, in line with government plans to increase tree cover to 16.5 per cent by 2050 we're aiming to recover our temperate rainforest and offer a lifeline to our woodland habitats. Organisations such as the National Trust and local landowners are helping in this effort and thanks to grant funding, generous donors to the Caremoor - 'Woods and Trees Appeal' and tireless volunteers, more seed and tree planting programmes are moving forward.

Our Trees and Woodlands Team have been busy gathering seeds of native species like oak, blackthorn, hazel and field maple. These will be grown in our newly extended nursery at Exford and planted out as part of our ongoing tree planting projects.

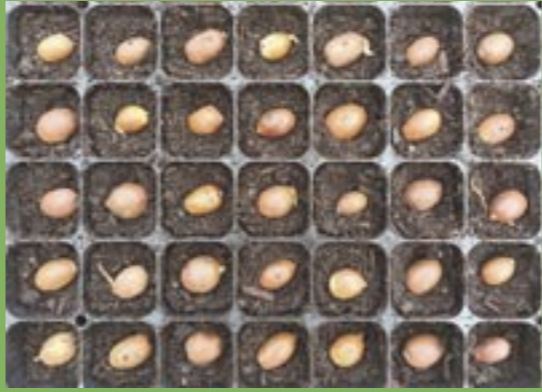
RACE TO ZERO

Did you know?

You can find temperate rainforest in the National Nature Reserves of Tarr Steps, Hawkcombe and Horner Wood?

It's an even more specialised habitat than tropical rainforests, with all kinds of biodiverse plants and lichens growing on the trees.

Practical conservation on Exmoor has safeguarded vulnerable rainforest sites across Somerset and Devon by clearing invasive species, letting more light in through the canopy and creating a future generation of veteran trees.



From little Acorns... all gathered from Burr ridge Wood. About 1000 have been sown in cells, ready to create the next generation of ENPA oak trees.

Saplings from seeds are collected on our estate to ensure that the trees we plant are most likely to thrive. It's about growing the right trees for the right place. We also need to make sure the next generation of trees is better adapted to an uncertain climate so we need to think creatively about where these seeds are sourced.



Thanks to the Devon Environment Foundation and the Forestry Commission who have helped us with grant funding for our Tree Nursery building. It's made with sustainable timber, all from ENPA woodland.

Some of these trees may also have a second life in the landscape as an iconic Exmoor signpost, gate or bridge. Even the nursery construction itself is built entirely from timber from ENPA managed woodlands and concrete foundations have been eschewed in favour of cast aluminium "ground screws", saving 4.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.



Ashcombe bridge

Ashcombe bridge has been made from ENPA sustainable wood using local green woodworker traditional skills. It will be placed in Ashcombe Gardens to help restore the 'Picturesque' landscape and improve public access to circular walks.

'Kings Wood'

In 2023, 13,000 trees were planted at Bye Wood near Winsford. In 2024, we're planting 6,000 trees to create a truly sustainable woodland called Kings Wood in Simonsbath.

Simonsbath was visited by King Charles III on his most recent trip to Exmoor in 2019.

The name of the woodland was chosen to honour his coronation and lifelong passion for tackling climate change. Through the 'CareMoor for Exmoor' scheme, we are inviting donors to sponsor large parkland trees at Simonsbath, each of which will be enclosed by an innovative tree guard, made at our Exford depot from local, sustainable chestnut.



ENPA Staff and volunteers planting out Kings Wood saplings

It's not just about growing trees. The ENPA Woodland Team have also been working on a carefully targeted removal of trees and shrubs in places like Culvercliffe in North Hill or coppicing in Hawkcombe Wood to help nature recovery in important ancient and SSSI woodlands.

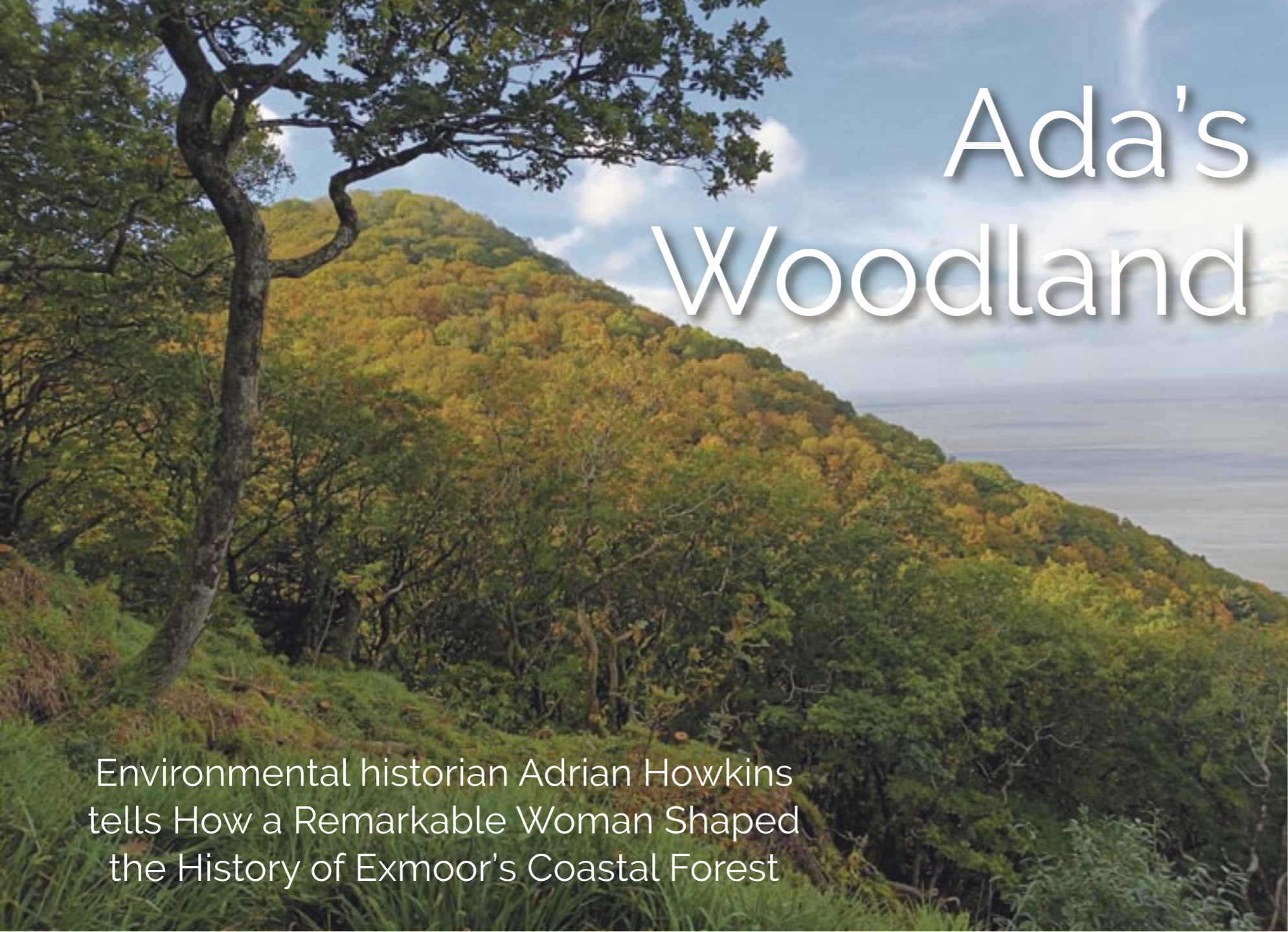
Holly and rhododendron control has been carried out in Burr ridge Wood to prevent further spread of rhododendron and to limit the shade of holly, improving the habitat for species like pied flycatchers which are now thriving.

Work has been carried out in the coastal woods above Culbone Church which have become denser in the past 100 years obscuring features such as a viewpoint over Tor Knap and the Bristol Channel, created by Ada Lovelace in the 19th century (see overleaf). Selective tree removal revealed the wooded slopes in all their splendour as Ada would have intended in her original picturesque landscape.



Culbone Church in Culbone Woods

Ada's Woodland



Environmental historian Adrian Howkins tells How a Remarkable Woman Shaped the History of Exmoor's Coastal Forest

Ada Lovelace has become famous for her pioneering contributions to computing and mathematics. Collaborating with Charles Babbage in the 1830s and 1840s she contributed ideas to the programming of the Analytical Engine, often said to be the first computer. Ada was a polymath and her interests ranged widely. Being the daughter of Lord Byron gave her a strong family connection to the Romantic movement, although her mother sought to limit her literary and artistic endeavours throughout her childhood.

In 1835 Ada married William, the eighth Baron King, and the couple spent an enjoyable honeymoon at King's Ashley Combe estate on the north coast of Exmoor. In this part of the Exmoor coastal forest, the north-facing woods descend steeply to the sea, and there are dramatic views across the Bristol Channel to Wales. Over the following few years Ada would return frequently to Ashley Combe, and her attraction to the landscape was a major motivation for the improvements

made by William to his estate. These changes broadly followed the picturesque fashion of the day, which sought to frame nature as a painting and enhance the experience of the natural world.

Relatively little scholarly attention has been paid to the improvements made by Ada and William to the Ashley Combe Estate. In addition to redesigning Ashley Combe House (which would be demolished in 1974), the couple were also responsible for significant improvements to the extensive woodland on the estate. William oversaw the building of tracks, tunnels and paths, planted numerous exotic trees, and sought to create dramatic viewpoints across the Bristol Channel. Ada's passion for the landscape not only provided an important inspiration for the improvements, but her sense of picturesque style and personal connections with leading gardeners helped shape their design. Interestingly, although both Ada and William brought substantial fortunes into their marriage, most of the money for the improvements

came from the accelerating commercial exploitation of the estate's woodland for coppicing and timber.

The improvements made by Ada and William to the woodlands of the Ashley Combe estate drew on history and shaped the future. The Anglo-Saxon Culbone Church, for example, featured prominently as a destination for the tracks constructed through the woods. As Ada's personal correspondence reveals, some of her most inspiring conversations with figures such as Babbage occurred on these footpaths. In the twentieth century, ideas of the picturesque would influence the decision to include the coastal woodlands in Exmoor National Park. Ada Lovelace played an important role in shaping the history of Exmoor's coastal forests, and her influence arguably deserves more recognition.

Research by Adrian Howkins and Dr. Leonard Baker - historians from Bristol University, working with Exmoor National Park Authority on Exmoor coastal woodland projects.

Protecting our peatlands

Why is Peat important?

Peatlands are often overlooked in the vital role that they play in the climate and ecological crisis. Despite covering only three per cent of the world's land surface, peatlands contain a huge per cent of global soil carbon. In the UK, they contain more carbon than two-thirds of all our woodlands.

These carbon-storing ecosystems support rare wildlife, filter water, underpin farming and provide opportunities for people to get out and enjoy local natural spaces. When they dry out and degrade, as much of our peatlands are doing, their ability to keep carbon in the ground, hold water in the landscape, and provide wildlife habitat is lost.

That's why the Southwest Peatland

Partnership (SWPP), a collaboration between government agencies, charities, businesses, landowners, farmers, research bodies and contractors is taking urgent action to restore peatlands across Exmoor.

Working to restore large areas of degrading peatland across Cornwall, Dartmoor and Exmoor before 2025, funding for this work comes from Natural England's 'Nature for Climate Peatland Restoration' scheme with match funding from organisations like South West Water and Cornwall Council.

By blocking drainage features across Exmoor using natural materials like locally sourced heather bales and logs, the SWPP is working to simply hold water in these landscapes as it would naturally be. A stable and higher water table helps to

create conditions where rare bog species of plants can thrive, carbon can be 'sequestered' or locked in, livestock can drink, and peat can build up once more.

Peatland restoration is more important than ever, with increasing droughts and heatwaves showing that it is vital we take action to restore carbon-storing habitats like peatland for wildlife, people and planet. By diversifying and improving habitats, works may help to buffer the area from flash flooding and help trap sediments from running into local watercourses and rivers. Over the years ahead, we'll be able to see these habitats thrive and become home to a wider range of rare and interesting birds, invertebrates, plants and mammals.

Peatlands are also crucial in our relationship with the past. Peatland landscapes contain some of our most significant historic environment features, which are often exceptionally well preserved.

SWPP Historic Environment Officer Philip Wright is championing the history and archaeology of peatlands

Exmoor's peatlands contain a wealth of archaeological features and landscapes, from Mesolithic hunter gatherer sites to the remnants of training during the Second World War. By making sure that we consider the historic environment at every part of the peatland restoration process, we can help enhance our knowledge of the past whilst protecting these important and often fragile monuments from damage.



The slight earthwork remains of a prehistoric round house at Alderman's Barrow Allotment identified during a walkover survey; the round house was probably constructed in the Bronze Age (2500-700 BC).



A series of drainage ditches surrounding historic turf cutting remains. This was an important part of the historic practice of peat cutting for fuel, as turf was cut in the late spring and left in stacks to dry before being carted back to moorland edge farms and villages later in the summer after haymaking.

Over just the past year, the project has uncovered many new features in advance of works, ranging from prehistoric round houses to post-medieval turf cutting remains. Perhaps most impressive are the remains encountered within the peat itself. This has included a buried prehistoric woodland that grew 3,500-6,000 years ago, complete with well-preserved plant and insect remains that can help us reconstruct the past environment in amazing detail.



Recently planted willow at Alderman's Barrow Allotment as part of restoration works. Paleoenvironmental analysis shows that willow had been growing in the same location around 3,500 to 5,500 years ago.



A well-preserved peat platform surrounded by ditches, where peat would have been stacked out to dry after cutting. Features like these are marked out and avoided by vehicles during nearby peatland restoration work.

Learn more about the work of SWPP at southwestpeatlandpartnership.co.uk or follow along on social media.

Meet some of Exmoor's volunteers

Recently refurbished iconic cast iron signposts, well-maintained paths and newly planted woodland – just a few of the more visible signs of Exmoor volunteers' hard work.

Behind the scenes, they're involved with a whole host of activities, including monitoring wildlife, habitat restoration, delivering our free literature to businesses across Exmoor (including this publication!) and helping to organise local activities.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and are an essential part of the team that helps look after our National Park. Motivated and incredibly generous in giving their time, volunteers benefit from personal development and improved wellbeing.

Here are some of our volunteers sharing their thoughts and experiences.

Ian - Trustee, The Hope Centre, Minehead & North Hill volunteer

A group of our clients help with practical conservation tasks on North Hill. Volunteering helps the group with meeting new people. They find the exercise, working as part of a team and making a difference uplifting. We are looking forward to continuing our work there in 2024.

Debbie - Non-native Invasive Species volunteer

I have been volunteering on the ENNIS project for several years now, monitoring invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and helping control Himalayan Balsam. It gets me out in the beautiful river valleys of Exmoor, and I get to meet interesting people. On a recent trip to the Mosel Valley in Germany - seeing the riverbank invaded by huge Knotweed patches and little else growing among it, I really appreciated the difference my own volunteering was making to Exmoor.

Phil - Guided Walk leader

Exmoor is such an exceptional place, with its beautiful coastline, unspoiled moorland and richness of wildlife. Volunteering has hugely increased my appreciation of the area, enabling me to join in with other likeminded people and to contribute to life here. My knowledge about the area has grown, and there have been hours of fun, companionship and the rewarding feeling of making a positive difference to the area.



James - Coastal Ecology volunteer

I started volunteering on Exmoor as it is an opportunity for me to get out and about and join in with ecology events. As a retired teacher and biologist, I've always especially enjoyed field work, particularly when it helps others to appreciate the natural world. This has been my first season and I have helped with coastal ecology safaris. It has been lovely to see the excitement of the visiting children (and their parents!) when they discover wildlife they've not seen before.



Gill - Ashcombe Gardens volunteer

Getting stuck in with whatever needs doing is a great start to my day. I love being in the fresh air and

have built up a great circle of friends since moving to a new area.

Steve - too many roles to mention!

Retirement has given me time to indulge some of my many varied interests. I have completed courses in first aid, bryophytes, ferns, lichens and dry-stone walling. I undertake rights of way surveys, help maintain local cast iron signposts, I'm a walk leader, event support assistant, I do tree planting and, along with my wife, deliver ENPA's free publications throughout Exmoor.



This year I'm assisting in the restoration of Exmoor Mires - there are always new activities to be involved in and I look forward to them all!

Tony - Ashcombe Gardens, Dark Skies and Tree Nursery volunteer

Fresh air, plenty of exercise, good company and interesting activities! What more could you ask?



Ellen - Beach cleans

Beach cleans provide a focus for our walks and are thoroughly enjoyed by my four-legged companions, Cody and Mieke.



Claire & Phil - Rights of Way and crayfish monitoring volunteers

We love being out in the woods throughout the year, checking paths, reviewing walk routes, helping the rangers with the upkeep of the rights of way. Wading in Exmoor's beautiful rivers catching invasive crayfish is an aspect of the moor not many get to see!



If their words have inspired you to want to find out more about volunteering with Exmoor National Park, visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/getinvolved

Your insights help shape Exmoor's future

Thank you to everyone who took part in our public opinion survey in 2023 to help guide the development of a new Partnership Plan for Exmoor National Park. The plan is launching in this our National Park's 70th Anniversary year.



One of our key roles as a National Park Authority is working with our partners to develop a Partnership (Management) Plan for this special area every five years.

We have a lot of research and data to feed into the new plan, but it is also important for us to hear your views. Exmoor is protected as a National Park for the nation. It is our role to work together with those that live here, help manage this landscape and enjoy all it offers, to ensure it remains as special tomorrow, as it is today.

A report summarising the key findings and sharing the comments of nearly 1,000 people who responded, has been published on our website at: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enpa/key-documents

New Life breathed into Exmoor Historic Signposts

Some of Exmoor's most iconic historic signposts have been reinstated thanks to the care and dedication of local volunteers.



Many visitors admire Exmoor's iconic cast-iron signposts and they are a source of local pride. Following significant damage to a few highly important signposts and ongoing maintenance costs, several thousand pounds was raised through the CareMoor donations scheme to restore them all to their former glory.

One of the repaired signposts is located near Brushford, the second which was damaged by suspected vandalism and needed extensive repair is located at Withypool. Our volunteers have been hard at work in surveying, painting and managing their labour-intensive reinstallation.

When volunteer Margaret Rawle salvaged the broken finger parts it meant a lot of money could be saved by welding the original pieces. We are also hugely

grateful to Brushford parish council who paid for the welding work, and to everyone who made kind donations to the Caremoor historic signpost fund.

If you spot any damage or vandalism of Exmoor signposts, please email info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

If you want to help keep Exmoor's unique and historical signposts looking their best, visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor to donate.

Signposts were taken down during the Second World War for fear of invasion, and many were reinstated in the immediate years after the war ended. The cost of replacing even just one finger on historic signposts is around £1,000, as each one is unique and needs to be specially cast in a foundry.

Investing in Exmoor heritage for the future

Driver is an 800-acre hill farm owned by Exmoor National Park Authority. It lies high on the south facing slopes of 'The Chains' between Simonsbath and Challacombe.



The Chains is well known due to the plans to establish forest there in the 1950s.

The farm is likely named from the 'dry ford' below the farm, rather optimistically as the rainfall on this part of Exmoor is very high. It's a beautiful and iconic part of Exmoor with far reaching views southwards out towards Dartmoor.

In May 2023 the longstanding tenant at Driver surrendered the tenancy and the farmhouse with all of the land came back into the ENPA's management.

In December 2023, the Exmoor National Park Committee unanimously decided that Driver should be a priority for investment.

This is an incredibly special part of Exmoor - somewhere to celebrate Exmoor's unique heritage, where people can come to discover and love this extraordinary place and where the ENPA's commitment to enhancing nature can be fulfilled.

It's a time of financial challenges, but ENPA can afford such investment from a range of grant funding and partly from the sale of other land assets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The National Park will carry out repairs to the house, traditional barns and modern infrastructure and work out how to take Driver into the future.

There will be a guided walk over the land at Driver during 2024 as part of our annual walks programme, so do look out for this and come to explore this wonderful place that will contribute so much to Exmoor's future.

Through the Porthole

As well as fun, free interactive activities for all the family, the Exmoor National Park Centre in Lynmouth hosts regular workshops, exhibitions and displays of local art.



The landing outside the Pavilion Café has a wonderful, large, circular window that looks out on to the ever-changing seascape of the Bristol Channel, across to the coast of South Wales and the Black Mountains beyond. The light, it turns out, is just perfect for painting, akin to conditions found at St Ives in Cornwall, a place highly prized by artists for its light-quality. This could be down to the relatively similar aspect enjoyed by both towns facing the morning sun.

There are four artists that come regularly to paint at the easel in the Studio and talk to visitors about what inspires them. They also sell their prints, cards and originals, a percentage of which comes back to the National Park to support our work. Paintings, mostly with an Exmoor theme of either wildlife or landscape, now adorn the lift shaft and walls upstairs, bringing a splash of colour for visitors to the Centre to enjoy.

It is hoped that the Porthole Studio, and the exhibition spaces, will continue to grow in popularity with local artists and this somewhat accidental, collaborative initiative, will continue to support both them and the Centre as a whole.

Keep up to date with what is happening at our National Park Centres at facebook.com/ExmoorNPCs

NEWS IN BRIEF CONTINUED...

Exmoor Commons Photo Library

A new online photo library has been launched to provide people with free to access and use images of Exmoor.



The library was the brainchild of Shaun Davey, who is both an Exmoor National Park volunteer and a respected landscape photographer. Shaun has worked with other local photographers including Sarah Hailstone, Leanna Coles and Nigel Stone, who have all generously contributed images in a bid to showcase the beauty of the National Park, providing an alternative to stock image libraries.

Speaking to the BBC when the library was launched Shaun said "It's a win-win situation for both the photographers involved and the users of the images. The users of the images get access to free,



Heddon's Mouth by Sarah Hailstone via Exmoor Commons

high-quality photography, and the photographers get their work exposed, so it works for everyone."

There are well over 1,000 images in the library so far, which may be used by individuals or businesses for purposes such as: web sites, social media, and

newsletters. They can also be used as reference in the creation of artwork provide a credit to the photographer / Exmoor Commons is given.

To access the library and full information on the use of the images please visit www.flickr.com/groups/exmoorcommons

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Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings



Historic Buildings Officer **Tom Thurlow** talks us through the balance of retaining both the heat and the character in Exmoor's old buildings.

Buildings form a central part of Exmoor's historic environment. Its settlements are comprised of farms, hamlets, villages and small towns, and their buildings are perhaps the most striking part of the historic landscape.

The climate crisis and increases in energy bills has given rise to making buildings more energy efficient. It is estimated that in the UK the building stock accounts for 17 per cent of total carbon dioxide emissions. With an estimated 35 per cent of the UK's buildings being of heritage value, we cannot ignore them if we are to hit national net zero targets by 2050.

Unfortunately, retrofitting older buildings can have a negative impact on what makes them special. The removal of timber windows with uPVC, the addition of internal or external wall insulation and poorly placed solar panels can all detract from these buildings and settlements. In some cases, these alterations can actually make the building less efficient, cause damp issues and generate additional CO₂.

'Whole-life carbon' costs of alterations, not just the potential saving in operational energy and carbon, have to be factored in. The whole-life carbon cost is the carbon used throughout the lifespan of a building or building element, including construction, use, maintenance and demolition or reuse. Some alterations can cost more in energy and carbon than they save during their service life.

It is possible to make significant improvements to even the most inefficient old buildings without losing what makes the building special. **Here are some top tips:**

- The most important element is to understand the buildings construction and to get it in good condition. Older buildings manage moisture in different ways to most modern buildings. While a modern building repels moisture, traditional buildings with stone or cob walls will be vapour permeable. This means moisture can penetrate the wall to a small degree, but then can be released back into the atmosphere.
- If the wall is of traditional construction (such as cob or stone), then any cement-based render or pointing should be carefully removed. These materials can trap moisture which enters through tiny cracks, ultimately causing dampness and in some cases structural issues. If the wall is damp, then energy is lost by heating the damp air it creates. A damp wall can be 30 per cent less energy efficient than a dry wall so using the appropriate lime mortar, render and finishes will make the building more efficient and less prone to mould and condensation issues. A whole building approach should always be undertaken.
- If you are considering retrofit measures, then keep in mind that an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) can underestimate how energy efficient a traditional building is. Getting a thorough energy audit from someone with an understanding of older buildings is often money well spent.
- Applying draft proofing to windows, along with secondary glazing, is one of the most cost-effective measures that can be carried out. Research has shown draught proofing can reduce air leakage from windows by between 33 per cent and 50 per cent, significantly reducing the heating requirement needed for the room. Heat losses by conduction and radiation through a window can be reduced by over 60 per cent by using secondary glazing. Removing timber windows and installing uPVC may be tempting but is likely to be aesthetically harmful, can result in the loss of handmade features such as glass and ironmongery, and they are likely to have a shorter life than a good quality timber window. The production of uPVC is also dependant on oil and is very energy intensive. A well-maintained timber window is better for the building and the environment.
- Great care and consideration should be given if external or internal wall insulation is being applied. This is because it not only has a significant impact on the character of a building, but it can also affect how moisture moves in the wall. If it is not installed correctly, it can cause serious damp issues and even structural defects.
- Insulating solid floors can remove historic finishes and buried archaeology. If adding insulation under a suspended floor, the void under the floor must be ventilated.
- Loft insulation is an easy and affordable way to make buildings more energy efficient. Again, for traditional buildings vapour permeable materials such as wool or hemp should be used. Always avoid spray applied insulation.
- Low energy lighting, such as LED bulbs, is a cheap and easy way to make efficiency savings. Upgrading boilers and making sure hot water tanks are well insulated are unlikely to impact on a building's significance. Even small changes such as putting lids on saucepans can make noticeable differences.

For further information please visit the Historic England website to find free guides and technical advice.

If considering retrofit measures, it's always worth contacting the ENPA planning team to find out if consents are required. Contact plan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk and find more info at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/planning

Places to Stay

Escape to a rural retreat and camp under the stars or indulge in a luxury hotel with panoramic views of the coast or moors. Live like a local in self-catered accommodation or enjoy the ease of a welcoming B&B. Exmoor has something to suit all tastes and budgets. Look out for options welcoming four legged friends, offering accessible accommodation or award-winning establishments recognised for the quality of their offer.

Further opportunities can be found on the Visit Exmoor website at www.visit-exmoor.co.uk. Booking direct supports our rural economy and often provides the best value.

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Multi-Award winning 16th Century Inn, in the heart of Exmoor National Park

Set amidst high moorland, besides the meandering river Exe in the picturesque village of Exford - 16th Century coaching Inn with a proud tradition of welcoming travellers by wheel, by hoof or by foot.

Your Moorland Stay - 28 individually styled rooms designed with your comfort in mind modern luxury combine with country charm. Spectacular riverside and moorland walks from your doorstep, stabling next door - an ideal base for stays with family and friends

A Flavour of the Moor - Whether a hearty meal in the relaxed atmosphere of a traditional Alehouse, a delicious homemade cream tea served by the river or indulge in our celebrated Exmoor Sunday Carvery.

Exmoor Dining - Seasonal, local, fresh & distinctive are key elements of our restaurant menu rich in organic produce from surrounding farms and served in our elegant dining room.



Fireside Sanctuary After a long day exploring, relax in oak beamed bars serving an impressive selection of local real ales or enjoy a wee dram by a crackling fire on cold days. Boasting one of the finest selections of single malts in England - with over 200 whiskies for your approval.

Open from day break to starry nights all year round.

- Morning Coffee • Bar Lunches
- Afternoon Teas and Evening Meals served daily throughout the year

To discover more & view our Special Offers & Late Availability
please email enquiries@exmoor-whitehorse.co.uk
or visit our website at www.exmoor-whitehorse.co.uk
or call 01643 831229