

Exmoor National Park


Local Development Scheme

Fourth Revision




March 2025

If you have any queries or questions relating to this document, please get in touch with the Policy & Community Team using the contact details below:

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1. Introduction

1.1 Local planning authorities must produce, publish and keep up to date a Local Development Scheme.¹ This Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement of Exmoor National Park Authority's programme for the preparation and review of local plan documents.

2. Context

2.1 Exmoor was designated as a National Park in 1954. The National Park covers 267 square miles and includes parts of Somerset, and North Devon Council areas. Exmoor National Park Authority's role is to ensure that the two statutory purposes of National Park designation are achieved:

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

2.2 The National Park Authority is required, in pursuing these purposes, to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

2.3 National policy and national planning practice guidance (PPG) are clear that the scale and extent of development in National Parks should be limited. Landscape and scenic beauty have the highest status of protection and, together with wildlife and cultural heritage, should be given great weight.² Specific national policy for National Parks is set out in the National Parks Vision and Circular.³

2.4 National Park Authorities are responsible for preparing National Park Management Plans.⁴ The Exmoor National Park Management Plan (the 'Partnership Plan') while not part of the development plan, establishes the long-term vision, aims and strategic policy framework for Exmoor National Park and guides the work of the National Park Authority and other

¹ MHCLG Planning Practice Guidance '[Plan-Making](#)' Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 61-003-20190315
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² MHCLG NPPF (December 2024) Paragraph 189

³ DEFRA (March 2010) English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular provides further guidance and information about National Park statutory purposes, management and other matters. Footnoted in MHCLG NPPF (December 2024). Footnote 66

⁴ HMSO Environment Act 1995, Section 66 (1)

organisations that contribute to the delivery of National Park purposes.⁵ The Local Plan shares its vision with the Partnership Plan.⁶

- 2.5 National Park Authorities (NPAs) are the sole planning authorities for their areas.⁷ As the local planning authority (LPA), Exmoor NPA is responsible for: spatial and land-use planning, including planning policies; minerals and waste planning; development management; planning enforcement, and other related regulatory functions within the National Park

3. Current Plans in Exmoor National Park

- 3.1 The statutory 'development plan' for Exmoor National Park comprises the Exmoor National Park Local Plan DPD (2017) and those policies of the Lyn Plan 2013-28 (the neighbourhood plan for Lynton and Lynmouth parish) which were not superseded by the adopted Local Plan.

Local Plan 5 Year Review

- 3.2 Legislation requires a review of the Local Plan to be completed within five years of adoption to establish whether the plan and policies remain effective. The review was completed in June 2022 - within 5 years of adoption. It included a review and update of evidence and implementation, legislation and changes to national policy and guidance, assessment of monitoring and appeals, a review of housing need and delivery, including of the adopted Local Plan indicative affordable housing figure, discussions with Duty to Co-operate partners and consultation with stakeholders. The review is summarised in the Local Plan 5-Year Review Summary Report and Topic Papers.⁸

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.3 There is no requirement for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) to be included in the LDS. Details of development plan documents and adopted SPDs are set out in Appendix 1. They can be viewed on the planning policy pages of the National Park Authority's website.⁹

⁵ ENP Partnership Plan (2018). A new Partnership Plan is due to be adopted in 2025. [Key Documents | Exmoor](#)

⁶ https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1192437/Partnership-Plan-2018-2023-spreads.pdf

⁷ Section 4A Town and Country Planning Act 1990

⁸ [Exmoor Local Plan 2011 - 2031 | Exmoor](#)

⁹ [Supplementary Planning Guidance | Exmoor](#)

4. Local Plan Review timetable

- 4.1 The timetable in this LDS sets out key milestones in the Local Plan review process. There is current uncertainty in the plan-making system at a national level due to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and indications by the Government of forthcoming changes to the planning system. It is therefore likely that further iterations of this LDS will be required in due course. Table 1, below, sets out the programme for review of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan.
- 4.2 The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) will include an update on the progress of the documents in the LDS, as well as assessing the relevance and effectiveness of the planning policies in the adopted Local Plan.

Table 1 Programme for review of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan

Year	2025/26	2026/27				2027/28				2028/29		
Quarter		Q1 (Apr-June)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Q1	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Q1 (Apr-June)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)
	Local Plan review preparation - evidence gathering /scoping	18A			18B		Reg 19		S	E	M	A

Key			
	Plan making stage		Plan making stage
18A	Issues & options consultation	E	Independent Local Plan examination
18B	Draft plan non-statutory consultation	M	Proposed modifications consultation
19	Regulation 19 plan consultation	A	Adoption
S	Submission to the Secretary of State for examination		Regulations: Town & Country Planning (Local Plan) (England) Regulations 2012

Title	Exmoor National Park Local Plan Review
Role and content	Sets out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for planning in the National Park within the context of the statutory purposes and National Park Authority Duty. The revised Local Plan will set out the policies against which planning applications for development will be considered.
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
Conformity	The revised Local Plan will meet the / requirements of primary legislation covering National Parks and take account of national policy including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Government’s planning practice guidance
Geographic coverage	The whole of the Exmoor National Park

Timetable		
Milestones	Publication of Submission Draft Local Plan for consultation (Regulation 19)	July-September 2027
	Consideration of responses	October-December 2027
	Submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	March 2028
	Local Plan Examination (Regulation 24)	April-June 2028
	Adoption of Local Plan and Policies Map (Regulation 26)	December 2028

Preparation and Review Arrangements	
Lead	Exmoor National Park Authority policy team. Input from NPA specialist officers and partner organisations
Management and agreement	Full approval required by National Park Authority Committee at key preparation stages.
Resources	Exmoor National Park Authority Planning Policy team with support from NPA specialist teams/officers, partner and external organisations and specialist consultants as required.
Community involvement and consultation	Statutory consultation in accordance with the adopted Exmoor National Park Authority Statement of Community Involvement (2022). It is proposed to review the SCI as part of preparations for the forthcoming Local Plan review.
Monitoring and review	Authority Monitoring Report

Appendix 1

Document Name	Current Status	Adoption
<p>Exmoor National Park Local Plan 2011-31 (Development Plan Document) Sets out the vision, objectives and strategic priorities for spatial development in the National Park. Contains both strategic policies which take forward the vision, objectives and strategic priorities and set out the overarching approach to development in the National Park and development management policies which provide more detailed criteria to guide planning decisions. The Plan includes waste and minerals policies.</p>	Adopted	2017
<p>The Lyn Plan: Lynton & Lynmouth Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2028 (Development Plan Document- policies not superseded by the adopted Local Plan).</p>	Adopted	2013
<p>Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Supplementary Planning Document) Provides detailed guidance on the policies relating to landscape character in the adopted Local Plan 2011-2031.</p>	Adopted	2018
<p>Rural Worker and Succession Farm Dwellings Guidance (Draft Supplementary Planning Document) Guidance to assist those seeking to provide a rural worker or succession farm worker's dwelling.</p>	Adopted	2020
<p>Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Sets out how Exmoor National Park Authority will consult, inform and engage with the public and other interested parties on local development documents and planning applications.</p>	Adopted (Revised December 2022)	2022
<p>Local Development Scheme The timetable for local plan preparation</p>	Fourth Revision	March 2025