

**Consultation and engagement for the Dartmoor National Park
Management Plan 2013-18**

Report on Draft Management Plan Consultation

August 2013

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Consultation Report for the draft Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2013-18

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The National Park Authority has a duty to prepare a National Park Management Plan (Management Plan) and review it every five years. The Management Plan is the main policy plan for the National Park, setting out a vision for the future of Dartmoor and the measures proposed to achieve it. It helps to direct the resources and activities of the numerous organisations and people that are involved with Dartmoor. The previous Management Plan covers the period from 2007 to 2012 and over that time good progress has been made on the Ambitions identified in the Plan (see Delivery Board papers at <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/lookingafter/pl-dnpgmtplan>).
- 1.2. The Management Plan is now being reviewed and updated to ensure that it is still relevant and focused on the key challenges facing Dartmoor over the next five years. The new Plan requires the active involvement and engagement of all those involved or with an interest in Dartmoor. The consultation and engagement process in preparing the Management Plan is therefore critical.
- 1.3. The timetable and review process for the Management Plan is summarized below.

Figure 1: Timetable and review process for the Management Plan

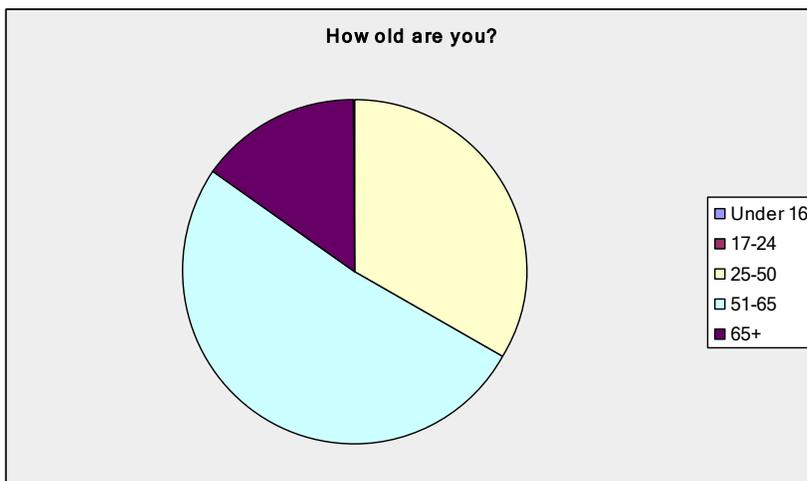
July – September 2012	Gathering views from partner organisations Evidence review State of the Park analysis Sustainability Appraisal scoping
October – December 2012	Public questionnaire Workshops and action planning
January 2013	Drafting National Park Management Plan Sustainability Appraisal of draft Management Plan
February – March 2013	Pre-Consultation check with delivery partners on draft Action Plans
May – July 2013	Consult on draft Management Plan
August – September 2014	Consider consultation responses and review Management Plan Update Sustainability Appraisal

November 2013	Dartmoor National Park Authority meeting to Adopt Management Plan
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- 1.4. Over the Autumn and winter of 2012, the National Park Authority undertook a wide consultation and engagement process to identify the key issues and challenges facing the National Park over the next five years, and identify actions needed to address these. This included meetings with key partner organizations, a public online questionnaire, and a series of three interactive workshops on the three themes of 'Sustain', 'Enjoy' and 'Prosper'.
- 1.5. Following on from this initial consultation, the National Park Authority prepared a draft Management Plan, responding to the issues and challenges identified. The draft Plan includes a simplified Vision, updated Ambitions, and minor revisions to the Special Qualities. The draft Plan also sets out six Priorities for the next five years, and a series of Action Plans to deliver these. As partnership working is key to delivering the Management Plan, a period of consultation with key delivery partners was undertaken on the draft Action Plans during March- April 2013, to ensure that the actions identified were the right ones, and could be delivered.
- 1.6. Public consultation on the draft Management Plan was held from 24 May to 5 July 2013. The consultation was publicised on the front page of the DNPA website, via Twitter and Facebook, and articles in local newspapers. Copies of the consultation documents were made available:
 - via the DNPA website
 - in the National Park Centres
 - at local libraries and a number of information points in key settlements around the National Park and in adjoining areas
 - via the DNPA outreach vehicle
- 1.7. All the Parish and Town Councils were sent copies, and a presentation on the draft Management Plan was made at a meeting of the National Park Forum. Partner organizations were also sent copies.
- 1.8. An online survey was set up for people to comment on the draft Management Plan, with hard copies available on request for those not able to respond electronically.
- 1.9. The results from this consultation are given below.

2. Consultation Responses

- 2.1 Responses were received from 25 organisations, including 7 Parish Councils (see Appendix 1). In addition, 30 individual responses were received via the online survey. Whilst this is not a large response, it is comparable with similar consultations on other National Park Management Plans, and there were 662 unique page views to the consultation documents on the website (with a total of 1510 views) indicating a high level of awareness of the draft Management Plan. A much higher public response rate was received on the consultation about the issues and priorities for the Management Plan run over the autumn of 2012.
- 2.2 Of those who responded to the online questionnaire, there was an even split between those living within the National Park, and those who lived elsewhere. Of those who did not live within the National Park, the vast majority had visited Dartmoor over the last 5 years. Slightly more men (64%) than women responded, with half being over 51 years old. The majority were not from a black or ethnic minority background, and did not consider themselves to have a disability.



Vision

- 2.3 Comments on the previous Management Plan indicated that the Vision was too long and descriptive, so a more succinct Vision was developed around the three themes of ‘Sustain, Enjoy and Prosper’.
- 2.4 The majority of respondents agreed with the Vision. This included 79% of respondents from the online questionnaire. The comments received, and the response to these, are given in the table below:

Comments	Response
<i>It reflects the need for a delicate balance between sustainability (environmental and</i>	Noted

<i>economic), access and enjoyment. It also represents well the need for a partnership approach in delivering these priorities</i>	
<i>Yes, providing the emphasis is on environmental concerns, sustainability, and supporting the local rural communities of Dartmoor</i>	Noted. This is picked up through the 6 Priorities
<i>I broadly agree - the key is to balance the vision for sustainability and prosperity correctly as the two are both necessary, however, economic prosperity must not be allowed to negate the preservation of the natural environment which should be paramount to all other concerns</i>	Noted. The <i>Prosperous Dartmoor</i> priority picks up the need to link economic prosperity with environmental protection
<i>I agree with its focus on conserving woodlands, wetlands and moorlands</i>	Noted
<i>It is good to see the word 'Enjoy'. It's vital to the success of sustaining the park's beauty and prosperity</i>	Noted. This is picked up in the <i>Enjoying Dartmoor</i> priority
<i>Dartmoor is a unique place and needs a strong plan for everyone to follow</i>	Noted
<i>It fails to address the impact of over grazing by sheep and allowing areas of natural regeneration to occur to increase diversity of the moor, particularly in light of climate change</i>	This is covered in the Moorland Vision and also through the Sustain theme.
<i>It fails to address low-impact sustainable dwellings</i>	This is not specifically included, although it could link to the <i>Resilience</i> core value. There is also an action to 'Support local communities to be more sustainable and self-sufficient through sharing of experiences and good practice' which could include low impact sustainable dwellings. The Core Strategy and Development Management Document provide policy guidance for development in the National Park.

<i>It does not appear to address removal of coniferous plantations</i>	Given current Government policy it is unlikely that the conifer plantations will be removed in the short to medium, or even long term, so the emphasis in this Management Plan is on making the most of the woodlands for recreation, and opportunities to reduce landscape impacts of conifer woodlands.
<i>It is too focused on conservation and tourist access and not enough on the prosperity of the local communities. I do not want less of the first two, but much more of the third</i>	There is a specific priority on <i>Community Focus</i> , and also a priority on <i>Prosperous Dartmoor</i> , which will also benefit local communities
<i>I am disappointed that the military have been given forty years permission to remain</i>	This refers to a specific grant of temporary planning permission for military training on Cramber Tor. The draft Management Plan retains an ambition that all military training on Dartmoor is consistent with National Park purposes and that Defence Training Estate land is managed as an exemplar of conservation and recreation opportunity.
<i>Local farming on the open moorland of Dartmoor can only prosper at continuing and ongoing detriment to its 'natural beauty and wildlife' - and even then only with government and EU subsidy</i>	<i>The Future of Farming and Forestry</i> priority is aimed at supporting sustainable farming and land management, recognising that Dartmoor's landscapes and wildlife are the product of such management
<i>Overall the vision and ambitions could be stronger, particularly for the natural environment, presenting Dartmoor as a competitive place based on its assets (e.g. water, energy, food and culture) all of which are underpinned by nature</i>	Noted. The Plan sets out the range of public benefits provided by Dartmoor's natural assets – or ecosystem services – and there are actions to utilise these to support the local economy

Priorities

2.5 The draft Plan includes six priorities to focus activity over the next five years. The majority of people supported the priorities. This included at least 80% of respondents from the online questionnaire.

Do you agree with the six priorities that have been identified for the next five years and what we are trying to achieve under each one?

Priority	Yes	No	Don't know
1. The future of farming and forestry	82%	15%	3%
2. Spectacular landscapes, natural networks	91%	9%	0%
3. Making the most of cultural heritage	86%	7%	7%
4. Enjoying Dartmoor	90%	7%	3%
5. Prosperous Dartmoor	81%	19%	0%
6. Community focus	87%	0%	13%

2.6 Just over half (55%) of respondents to the online questionnaire felt that there were things missing from the priorities. The comments received, and the response to these, are given in the table below:

Comments	Response
Sustain	
<i>Dartmoor is a special place for all who live here but it is a 'living moving landscape' and it is important that it is not attempted to keep it in aspic. The priorities need to be sustainable but diverse in order to progress as well as preserve what is important to Dartmoor</i>	Noted. The Management Plan aims to strike the right balance between protecting the National Park's special qualities, and recognising that there needs to be change to enable local communities and businesses to thrive
<i>Welcome the frequent references to the crucial role of farmers and traditional hill farming, and also the many references to increased vegetation, and resulting threats to access, feeling of openness, archaeology</i>	Noted.
<i>There needs to be more encouragement for agriculture to keep people on the land and prevent the young from moving away, including provision of housing for farm workers, and maintaining the skills of the moormen which have to be passed from generation to generation</i>	These issues are recognised in the Management Plan and picked up through <i>The Future of Farming and Forestry</i> and <i>Prosperous Dartmoor</i> priorities
<i>Greater emphasis should be given to agri-</i>	These issues are recognised in the

<p>environment schemes and how future funding will be prioritised</p>	<p>Management Plan and picked up through <i>The Future of Farming and Forestry</i> priority</p>
<p><i>The Plan focuses on the high moor and commons and does not appear to address issues related to the fringes, in-bye and east Dartmoor</i></p>	<p>The Special Qualities have been amended to reflect the enclosed pastoral landscapes of the fringes, in-bye and east Dartmoor. The priorities apply across the National Park, and many of the actions relate to issues on the fringes, including recreation management, development, and links to surrounding areas</p>
<p><i>Concerns about the compatibility of actions on climate change, water quality, soil and grazing. Heavily grazed land has been shown to release more carbon into the atmosphere than land with lots of vegetation cover, yet the Plan seeks to retain a grazed landscape. Similarly sheep grazing massively reduces vegetation cover, and compacts the ground, which stops water retention and leads to erosion and flooding. This also has negative impacts on soil health.</i></p>	<p>The Management Plan seeks to maintain a grazed landscape as this is fundamental to delivery of the Vision and Ambitions. Levels of grazing across the National Park are uneven, with some areas suffering from lack of grazing causing increased vegetation cover which impacts on archaeology, wildlife and access. Other areas have experienced over-grazing in the past, and agri-environment agreements have sought to address this. Research (<i>What's Your Beef?</i> National Trust, 2010) has shown that extensive livestock farming, using traditional systems as seen on Dartmoor reduces net emissions of carbon and even results in a carbon 'net gain' in upland areas.</p>
<p><i>There is a need to commit to re-wilding on the moor and reducing grazing pressure on so many areas. Grazing has its place but must not be overused to the detriment of so many habitats. I suggest certain areas are selected and the grazing pressure removed. Greater emphasis should be put on the fact that the unprofitable agricultural use of the open moorland has led to its ecological degradation. In spite of the agri-environmental schemes, Dartmoor</i></p>	<p>See above. The Management Plan seeks to achieve the right level of grazing to maintain the landscape character, biodiversity and archaeology of the National Park. Action has already been taken through agri-environment agreements to address past levels of over-grazing, and in some areas levels of grazing are too low.</p>

<i>continues to be in a relatively barren state as compared to its true biodiversity potential</i>	
<i>Include soils as a stronger theme and key ecosystem service e.g. in relation to flooding, erosion, water quality and food production</i>	Soils have been added to the Ecosystem Service table
<i>Greater links should be made between farming and wildlife in the Management Plan.</i>	The Management Plan recognises the crucial role that farming plays in delivering many public benefits, including wildlife, and includes actions to ensure that the policy framework and funding for agriculture helps to continue delivering these benefits.
<i>Given the recent 'State of Nature' report, greater emphasis needs to be given in the Management Plan to the support of wildlife than is currently outlined. Provide greater clarity on the status of habitats and species and firm commitments to improve habitat condition, reverse species declines to continue to provide public benefits</i>	The conservation of wildlife is a central part of National Park purposes, and is reflected in the Management Plan Vision, Ambitions, and Special Qualities. Actions to support the conservation of wildlife are set out in the <i>Spectacular Landscapes, Natural Networks</i> priority. The monitoring will include indicators relating to the status of key habitats and set out targets or direction of travel in relation to these.
<i>Strengthen the elements of the plan relating to working at the landscape scale to support the delivery of the plan's vision</i>	This is included in the <i>Spectacular Landscapes, Natural Networks</i> priority.
<i>Clear guidelines are required to support the long-term sustainable management of woodland, given its importance for local communities and species. Diverse woodland economies adding value to timber could be essential to the revitalization of Dartmoor - benefitting the economy, community, and biodiversity as a whole</i>	This is included in <i>The Future of Farming and Forestry</i> and <i>Prosperous Dartmoor</i> priorities.
<i>The focus on woodland and wetland conservation is welcomed, but too management orientated. Much work has</i>	Noted. Woodland management provides a number of benefits for the local economy and biodiversity. However not

<p><i>been done showing that biodiversity of non-managed woodlands is frequently higher than those under coppicing.</i></p>	<p>all woodlands in the National Park are actively managed, particularly those in the steeply sided valleys where access is difficult. The Management Plan also supports the natural regeneration of woodlands in moorland valleys.</p>
<p><i>Encourage mixed woodland and greater diversity of tree species to build resilience against diseases e.g. sycamore</i></p>	<p>Noted. Implications for landscape character and biodiversity would also need to be considered. There is an action to respond to tree diseases.</p>
<p><i>The long term ambition to remove conifer plantations from the High Moor is misplaced and may prevent investment to secure the wood's full potential benefits. The woods have a significant positive role to play within the National Park – and the many positive changes to the woodland's structure and management over the last 20 to 30-years is under-played</i></p>	<p>The Management Plan does not include a long term ambition to remove conifer plantations. Given current Government policy it is unlikely that the conifer plantations will be removed in the short to medium, or even long term, so the emphasis in this Management Plan is on making the most of the woodlands for recreation, and opportunities to reduce wildlife and landscape impacts.</p>
<p><i>Differences in views expressed in relation to military use, with support for both long-term plans to remove the military, and for continued military use</i></p>	<p>The Management Plan retains the long term ambition in relation to military training, but in the short term seeks to ensure such use is managed in a sustainable way</p>
<p><i>Opposition to the mires project or similar schemes to make the Moor boggy. These create no-go areas (reduced public access). There are also the safety (particularly for schools) and navigation issues because it will take some years before the Ordnance Survey catch up and mark this extended bogland on their maps</i></p>	<p>The Mires Project is piloting restoration of blanket bog to deliver a range of benefits for wildlife, water quality and quantity, carbon storage. The effectiveness of the project is being monitored. The works are being carried out in remote areas and the potential dangers of the bogs on the moor are well known.</p>
<p><i>The cultural heritage aspects of the Plan are too focused on archaeology and historic environment. This misses other aspects of local distinctiveness such as music, language, dialect, literature, customs, art, etc. A Cultural Strategy for</i></p>	<p>The Management Plan recognises the importance of culture and traditions to local distinctiveness. It includes an Ambition on Culture and Heritage, and actions to support the retention of traditional skills, crafts, and customs, and</p>

<i>Dartmoor should be developed</i>	encourages arts and creative groups to draw inspiration from Dartmoor. Whilst the production of a Cultural Strategy would provide greater focus for this, there is currently no funding available for this.
<i>Need for an overarching protective cultural designation for all moorland and moorland newtakes to protect cultural heritage. Opposition to Premier Archaeological Landscapes as they imply that adjoining areas are less significant</i>	Cultural heritage is protected through a range of designations and policies. The role of Premier Archaeological Landscapes is to identify where the priority for management is for their archaeological interest. This does not preclude other areas also being managed for their archaeological interest as appropriate.
<i>Traditional buildings and houses need to be preserved but need to be living and used for a purpose</i>	The Management Plan recognises the importance of traditional buildings as part of the local character and distinctiveness of Dartmoor. Finding a viable future use for historic buildings is key for sustainability.
Enjoy	
<i>Greater emphasis on safety on Dartmoor e.g. simple things such as grid references on small plaques on gateposts</i>	Noted
<i>Would like to see more focus on education related to heritage and sustainability, as the future generations need more awareness</i>	This is a strong theme throughout the Management Plan, with actions under both the <i>Making the Most of Cultural Heritage</i> and <i>Enjoying Dartmoor</i> priorities.
<i>Welcome the focus on management of heavily used sites</i>	Noted
<i>There is a conflict between peace and tranquility and encouraging more people to the Park, including the proposed opening up of paths and cycle tracks etc. It is important to avoid flooding destinations with tourists as this will become unmanageable and potentially be in conflict with local communities. In</i>	The Management Plan does not include explicit aims to increase visitor numbers, but focuses on management of the visitors who do come. The approach is to focus resources on managing the heavily used sites, recognising the impacts that visitor numbers and unsocial behaviour have in these areas, at the same time

<i>particular access to the popular sites with traffic considerations and how the sites are going to be managed on a day to day basis to keep them in a tidy and free from rubbish.</i>	providing Areas of Opportunity which are able to absorb additional visitors. Together it is hoped that these measures will help to ensure that tranquil areas will remain for quiet enjoyment of the National Park.
<i>Greater promotion of the routes accessible for disabled people to attract more visitors</i>	This is included in the Enjoying Dartmoor priority.
<i>Support for guided walks – enjoyable and educational particularly for tourists from other countries.</i>	This is included in the Enjoying Dartmoor priority.
<i>Allow dogs on some organised walks which will help to spread the word of responsible dog ownership</i>	A limited number of walks do accept dogs, but this is not suitable for all walks such as wildlife walks. The PAWS on Dartmoor campaign aims to encourage responsible dog ownership.
<i>Some paths have become almost impassable, and to some degree dangerous due to heavy use and the heavy rain last winter, a programme of remedial work is required with proper prioritisation of the worst paths carried out on a park wide basis</i>	Noted. The actions have been amended to reflect the focus on managing the existing network (given reductions in funding) including remedial work resulting from the extreme weather.
<i>Concerns over damage to the moor from increased mountain biking and parking</i>	
<i>I don't see anything that specifically aims to stop the increasing amount of vehicles mis-using parts of the park by driving on delicate moorland and the destruction they are causing</i>	Although there are some incidents of illegal use by vehicles, these are isolated, and are managed by rangers working with the police who have enforcement powers to stop such activity, although this relies on people being on the ground at the right times to intervene.
<i>Need for greater focus on horse-riding including facilities for safely leaving horse trailers and vehicles, space tacking up and tying up posts, greater information on where to ride safely and route marking, identifying some areas specifically for</i>	Noted. These suggestions can be fed into the review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will take place during the lifetime of the Management Plan.

<p>horses, covered corrals/barns to camp with horses and enable long distance routes. The growth on gorse and bracken in some areas has made them very difficult to access with horses.</p>	
<p>Support for Haytor Hoppa and need for additional means of accessing the moor using sustainable transport, e.g. on-demand mini-bus</p>	Noted
<p>Role of the High Moor woodlands in absorbing visitors is underplayed</p>	The role of the High Moor woodlands is included in the Areas of Opportunity for recreation, given their capacity to absorb more visitors.
<p>Prosper</p>	
<p>Create a new priority on housing. Need for affordable housing for all local communities, not just a few growth points. Particular unaddressed issue with regards to housing specifically for people employed or engaged directly in agriculture, woodland and active conservation work. Look for solutions other than more house building e.g. make it more difficult to remove agricultural occupancy ties or for farms to be broken up; support low-impact/temporary dwellings. Dartmoor could become a leading centre for ecological building. New homes should be limited to agricultural, affordable and sustainable employment. No new homes in the open countryside or rural villages</p>	Affordable housing is included in the <i>Community Focus</i> priority, including actions to work with local communities to identify affordable housing needs and opportunities to deliver these. The Dartmoor Local Plan sets out policies for how this will be achieved.
<p>Greater focus on encouraging employment and skills development</p>	This is included in the <i>Prosperous Dartmoor</i> priority
<p>A consolidated section on "renewable energy" would be a useful addition. It should pull together relevant material on wind, solar, hydro and biomass (firewood).</p>	The opportunities and challenges related to renewable energy are recognised in the Management Plan.
<p>Varying support expressed for different</p>	The National Park can be an exemplar in

<p><i>technologies such as anaerobic digestion plants, solar panels, hydro electric and wind turbines. Particular concerns raised over solar parks and wind farms, including schemes outside the National Park that could affect its setting and views from the Park. Recognise the value of hedges for woodfuel. Harvest material for biomass rather than swaling</i></p>	<p>responding to climate change, including through renewable energy, but this needs to be appropriate within the National Park context, and avoid impacts on the landscape, wildlife and heritage assets. The impact of schemes outside the National Park is recognised, and although this cannot be directly dealt with through the Management Plan, actions are included to work with neighbouring authorities to avoid impacts on the setting of the National Park.</p>
<p><i>Include greater emphasis on energy efficiency measures and development of building skills to deliver this</i></p>	<p>The Management Plan supports energy efficiency initiatives, specifically through development of the South Devon Community Energy Partnership which will cover Dartmoor. Opportunities for skills development in the energy sector will be added to the actions.</p>
<p><i>Widen the section on carbon and energy to include decarbonising agricultural practices, products and services, and transport</i></p>	
<p><i>Support for dark night skies and reducing light pollution</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>Concern over private-sector involvement in delivery of ecosystem services – particularly water as profit will come before other objectives such as environment, community. The water on Dartmoor belongs to no-one</i></p>	<p>Private sector involvement will be through payments for ecosystem services, which will help to support land management in particular, and will relate to the services provided, not the actual resources themselves.</p>
<p><i>Investment in Princetown, which needs a joined up approach to drawing in tourists, and making the most of the attractions. The prison museum, all the churches, the Duchy Art Centre, High Moorland Centre, all have to support each other, forming an un-missable, unforgettable town</i></p>	<p>Noted. This will be taken forward through the development of the vision for the regeneration of Princetown.</p>
<p><i>Concerns over reductions in public</i></p>	<p>Noted. The Management Plan reflects the</p>

<i>transport services</i>	reductions in public transport services resulting from cuts in public funding, however it maintains an aspiration to support sustainable transport, as and when funding becomes available again. In the meantime, alternative solutions such as community and demand responsive transport will be sought.
<i>Community resilience is an essential focus as it underpins achieving many of the other aims. There should be firm commitments to provide the necessary resources to achieve this, including good infrastructure and support for community facilities and activities.</i>	The Management Plan seeks to build community resilience and self-sufficiency, however there are no additional resources to do this, and it will rely on working in partnership with local communities, public bodies and the private and voluntary sectors to achieve.
<i>Support for the recognition that what is good for Dartmoor includes non-traditional businesses and village communities</i>	Noted.
<i>Support for action which improves water holding capacity of the high moor, thus slowing release of water into rivers and reducing possible spate events, particularly in the light of the current concerns about flood risk</i>	Noted.
<i>Concerns over development affecting the Park, including Whitecleave Quarry proposals</i>	Noted. The Whitecleave Quarry proposals will be dealt with through the planning process guided by the Local Plan. The Management Plan objectives will inform this.
<i>Greater links needed throughout the document to health and wellbeing</i>	Noted. Additional information and discussions with health professionals is required to develop these links.
<i>Add a section on Resources (stone, timber, water, minerals, food, energy) and their sustainable use by Dartmoor communities</i>	The important role that Dartmoor's natural resources play now, and in the past, is recognised in the Special Qualities and Ecosystem Services. A range of actions relate to their sustainable use.

General comments	
<i>Overall the Plan is a clear and readable document that is both useful for those with and without technical understanding of the policy and legislation that affects those that live and work on Dartmoor</i>	Noted.
<i>Plan lacks detail of resources needed for effective delivery and whether these are sufficient to achieve the ambitious targets</i>	The action plans specify whether resources are available for each action, or if they are dependent on additional funding being secured.
<i>Plan seems ambitious given spending cuts in public sector</i>	As above. The actions have been identified through discussion with partner organisations and stakeholders, and agreed with lead organisations. The role of the Delivery Board will be to oversee implementation of the plan and make changes as appropriate depending on the resources available.
<i>There are too many 'actions' – many don't have measurable deliverables. It doesn't seem clear which ones are priorities or 'nice to do'. Concentrate effort on delivering fewer actions.</i>	As above
<i>The priorities interlink and as such need to be considered jointly and not as stand alone issues.</i>	Noted.
<i>Provide information on what was achieved by the last Plan e.g. indicating which past goals were met and/or are being abandoned or continued</i>	A section on past achievements will be added.
<i>Improve the structure of the Plan and the navigation between sections</i>	Noted. The Management Plan will be an online resource, and was written with this format in mind, leading to some repetition between sections. A lot of the comments related to sections 1-5 of the draft Plan

	<p>which provide the background of why the Plan has been produced, what the issues are etc. On the online format, the section relating to the Plan itself will start with the Vision and Ambitions, moving onto the three themes of Sustain, Enjoy and Prosper with accompanying text. The Management Plan structure diagram (page 17) will be more prominent, to provide a visual explanation of the Plan, and a commentary will be added to the right hand side of the diagram setting out the purpose of each section.</p>
<p><i>Provide further evidence and justification for the priorities and issues to be addressed, including demonstrating how the Plan will help deliver national requirements</i></p>	<p>Noted. Further evidence and references will be added to the text including links to national requirements.</p>
<p><i>Emphasise the importance of working across boundaries</i></p>	<p>This is highlighted in the <i>Spectacular landscapes, natural networks</i> priority, which recognises that work to conserve and enhance wildlife and habitats needs to operate on a landscape scale, crossing administrative boundaries. Similarly, protection of the setting of the National Park requires cross-boundary collaboration. The delivery section also highlights the importance of partnership working both within the National and surrounding areas.</p>
<p><i>Greater emphasis on research to underpin future management</i></p>	<p>Noted. A number of actions relate to research and pilot projects that seek to provide further evidence to support future management.</p>
<p><i>General support for online version although this should not be the only way of accessing the Plan as not everyone is able</i></p>	<p>Noted. A black and white word version of the full Plan will be available on request, and a colour summary leaflet will also be</p>

<i>to view it online.</i>	available.
<i>Importance of Delivery Board to oversee implementation, ensure there is adequate linkage between the different priorities and be clear what the Plan is trying to achieve and if it is succeeding</i>	Noted. This is highlighted in the delivery section and will be reflected in the terms of reference for the Delivery Board.
<i>The Plan should set out how best practice will be shared and lessons learnt</i>	Noted. Many of the actions include evaluation and sharing of lessons learnt or roll out of relevant projects.

Monitoring and Indicators

2.7 The draft Plan includes a set of indicators to monitor how progress is being made towards the long term Vision and Ambitions. The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed indicators. This included 68% of respondents from the online questionnaire. The comments received, and the response to these are given in the table below:

- *Broadly, increased woodland cover seems a good indicator. However I would just say that the quality (managed/grazed/unmanaged) of the woodland might be as important as extent. Also, perhaps you should be aiming for a higher amount of woodland cover*
- *Need more feedback from interested parties. Evidence that groups are working together. Measuring change of attitudes*
- *The Land Management indicators should be substantially reappraised to favour the proper natural regeneration of the moorland habitat.*
- *Farming: total area under agri-environment schemes does not in itself indicate good condition but it a step in the right direction. Similarly total numbers of livestock; for what objective? Livestock production or environmental condition - these could contradict each other. Area under active management is good, as you want working landscapes. Perhaps a target figure could be identified for these indicators to put into context? CAP changes will mean that areas under agri-environment schemes are likely to go down*

- *Natural Resources: perhaps also flow indicators or water storage as part of this? e.g. aiming for minimal days at 'low' flow however difficult to perhaps quantify?*
- *More complete species surveying needed (other than just key species). Lichen/Bryophyte surveys Hedgerow quality/management monitoring*
- *Housing: % houses permanently occupied as opposed to holiday or part time occupation - and % of permanently occupied dwellings where the main earner commutes to outside the area - this might give a true extent of the imbalance in housing provision in the Dartmoor community at present.*
- *It is critical that the plan is a living being and that there is real transparency in showing actual progress against planned outcomes as part of day to day working*
- *Include indication of what the targets or desired outcomes are*

2.8 In addition, suggestions were invited for additional monitoring or data that could be used.

- *Overall support for greater involvement of local communities in monitoring, although some concerns were expressed that whilst laudable, this should not divert scarce resources away from key delivery areas*
- *Find innovative ways to obtain feedback from Park users as part of monitoring, for example by applying for the Cabinet Office Customer Service Excellence standard.*
- *There is a real need to strengthen wildlife monitoring on the moor to get an accurate picture of the current status of many species, e.g. curlew & snipe.*
- *You should be tracking GVA/ Head, employment levels, average household incomes, people working in the Park having to commute from outside, academic achievements of children in the park (GCSE/ Staying on in full time education post 16/ A Levels/ progression to HE, NEETS, People of working age on Benefit), all underpinning outcomes on community prosperity*
- *Study the areas and pockets of open moorland which have been fenced off from grazing stock (e.g. water authority land etc)*
- *Possible to consider inclusion of some of our project data on certain river catchments (SWW Upstream Thinking / Catchment Investigations and Defra CRFs - subject to project IP) and also from the recent Tamar Pilot Catchment Management Plan (covers multiple issues and ESSs).*

- *If you came up with a tick box for 'what I saw today' RSPB watch type web site I would use it to reply on.*
- *Indicators for cultural heritage are too restrictive. The health of Dartmoor's culture will be seen in the vibrancy of its traditions and arts scene; in the work of artists, musicians, writers and composers; in how Dartmoor's landscape, history and traditions are made relevant for a modern audience; in the involvement of people and communities in arts and culture.*

Appendix 1 List of organisations who responded to the Consultation

Ashburton Town Council

Buckfastleigh Parish Council

Buckland Monachorum Parish Council

Chagford Parish Council

South Brent Parish Council

South Tawton Parish Council

Sticklepath Parish Council

Dartmoor Commoners Council

Duchy of Cornwall

Dartmoor Preservation Association

Dartmoor Society

Devon Archaeological Society

Devon Health and Wellbeing Board

Devon Wildlife Trust

Gidleigh Commoners Association

Horsesense

Forest Enterprise

Natural England

NFU

RSPB

South Brent Action and Community Group

South Hams District Council

South West Devon Community Energy Partnership

Westcountry Rivers Trust

Woodland Trust