

# Dartmoor Partnership Plan

## THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

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### **Dartmoor Partnership Plan Review Background Paper**

#### **Theme: Climate Change**

#### **Purpose of paper:**

The [Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026](#) is the single most important policy document for the National Park (also known as the National Park Management Plan). It is the strategic, overarching plan for the National Park and is the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes and duty are met and provides a mechanism for combining national and local priorities.

The Partnership Plan is for the National Park and not just the National Park Authority, or any individual group or organisation. It sets the framework for partnership action to deliver outcomes set out in the Plan and the Vision for Dartmoor.

The Partnership Plan is required to be reviewed at least every five years. This paper provides the background evidence required to support the review of the Partnership Plan.

A background paper has been prepared for each of the seven themes within the Partnership Plan.

#### **Climate change – a significant driver of change for Dartmoor**

Climate change is a significant issue on the National Park, affecting the natural environment, land use, local communities, businesses, and the people who use and enjoy Dartmoor. Chan

- Environmental and ecological - rising temperatures, altered rainfall, peatland degradation, and shifts in biodiversity are causing significant environmental and ecological changes on Dartmoor, impacting species, habitats, and the landscape's natural climate regulation.
- Land use and agriculture - changes in climate and climate mitigation efforts are reshaping Dartmoor's land use and agriculture, affecting farming practices, livestock management, and traditional landscape management.
- Businesses and Communities - climate change could transform Dartmoor's communities and businesses by heightening physical risks, shifting tourism patterns, placing transitional pressures on local enterprises, and increasing the demand for sustainable energy and water management.

# Dartmoor Partnership Plan

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- Climate change drives new policies and strategies that aim to integrate mitigation (reducing carbon emissions) and adaptation (preparing for the impacts).

### Key Issues and Opportunities:

- The Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for Dartmoor National Park evaluates key hazards, sensitivities, adaptive capacities, and exposures across a range of receptors, highlighting the main risks and opportunities while identifying priorities for climate change adaptation.
- [Land Use Emissions Baselines and Targets for UK National Parks – A Synthesis Report](#) - all UK National Parks have worked with Small World Consulting to measure their individual carbon footprints. The resulting report provides science-based targets and pathways to net zero, setting out options to cut emissions and increase carbon sequestration in line with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
- Dartmoor has the opportunity to lead on climate action, leveraging partnerships to meet UK climate targets, restore biodiversity, strengthen food security, and support resilient rural communities.
- To deliver landscape scale initiatives for climate change, there is a need to increase the scale of nature recovery and habitat restoration. There is a significant funding gap – and the public sector cannot achieve this alone. Previous work by the [National Parks Partnership identified a £239M](#) short fall in funding by 2030.
- There is significant opportunity to coordinate national, local, and community initiatives to deliver integrated climate mitigation and adaptation across Dartmoor
- There are opportunities to advance renewable energy generation through sensitively sited installations and the development of localised community energy networks that enhance resilience; strengthened policies within the Local Plan can enable their delivery
- Transport represents both a challenge and an opportunity for Dartmoor, where above-average levels of private car ownership and reliance highlight the need

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to reduce carbon emissions while creating more sustainable and accessible travel options for communities and visitors

- Communities and businesses face increasing challenges in building climate resilience, highlighting the need for integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation

### Policy Drivers

Key national, regional, and local strategies that shape the context for updating the Management Plan include:

- [The Climate Change Act 2008](#), amended in 2019, commits the UK to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050. It sets binding targets, requires climate risk planning, and established the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to advise government.
- The UK's [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, 2021](#) sets out the government's plan to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- The [3rd National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\), 2023](#) aims to boost the UK's resilience to climate change by accelerating adaptation and strengthening collaboration. It requires all Protected Landscapes to integrate Climate Adaptation Plans into their Management Plans by 2028, with clear, measurable and timely actions to address climate impacts.
- [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), Defra (2018), set out the Government's 10 goals for improving the environment, within a generation. It details a series of policies to achieve those goals, and how government will work with communities and businesses to do this.
- [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#), Defra - revises and updates the 25 Year Environment Plan. Includes a detailed delivery plan with policy actions allocated to different government departments, local government, and the private and third sector.
- [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) sets out how Protected Landscapes will meet key goals in the Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 and how Defra will track progress. Targets for mitigating and adapting to climate change targets are shown in Appendix A.

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## THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

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- [The Devon Carbon Plan](#) provides a roadmap for cutting emissions across the county, setting out clear actions and targets to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
- The UN Race to Zero is a global campaign uniting businesses, cities, regions, financial institutions, and education providers to take urgent action to halve emissions by 2030 and build a fair, healthy, zero-carbon future. The [UK's National Parks](#) have become the first in the world to join the initiative.
- The [Vision for Dartmoor](#) sets the ambition for Dartmoor to be carbon negative by 2045.

### Data and trends

The [State of the Park Report](#), produced on a five-year cycle to inform the review of the Partnership Plan, provides a detailed assessment of data and trends relating to the National Park and is the principal evidence base for all themes within the Partnership Plan.

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### Appendix A. Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework – Mitigating and Adapting to climate change targets

PLTOF Target	Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2027-2032 Target (short term target)	PLTOF long term target
<b>Target 6</b> Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	To be provided by Small World Consulting	Net Zero by 2050  Vision for Dartmoor sets the ambition for Dartmoor to be carbon negative by 2045
<b>Target 7</b> Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.	To be agreed in workshops	8,030ha peatland restored by 2050 (apportioned figure)  To be agreed or amended in the workshops
<b>Target 8</b> Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).	To be agreed in workshops	2,867ha of tree canopy and woodland cover created by 2050 (apportioned figure)  To be agreed or amended in the workshops