

# Dartmoor Partnership Plan

## THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

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

#### **Theme: Better for Forestry**

#### **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.

#### **Forces for Change:**

- Shift away from commercial timber production towards conservation, climate resilience and recreation. This is shaped by changing public values, climate change and policy frameworks.
- Heritage and landscape value - As a Protected Landscape, Forestry opportunities are restricted on Dartmoor in terms of sites for planting and limitations to infrastructure for management and extraction
- Climate change – Altering rainfall patterns, increasing storm damage and drought all affect productive plantations and increase susceptibility to pests and diseases
- Pests and Diseases – Cycles of disease affecting productivity such as ash dieback and phytophthora alongside increasing deer and squirrel pressure
- Declining or fluctuating timber value – Commercial forestry on Dartmoor is less profitable due to lower grade timber, transport costs and competition.

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- Biodiversity pressure and ELMS – Government and conservation bodies encourage tree planting and natural regeneration for conservation purposes, providing economic incentives

### **Key Issues and opportunities**

- Explore opportunities to reconnect farming and farm woodland management as part of an integrated and sustainable business
- Subsidies and grants – ELMS, Community Forests and carbon credit markets may reward landowners for tree planting, habitat restoration and sustainable management
- Opportunity to support, grow and coordinate associated forestry businesses such as deer management, venison markets and infrastructure improvements
- While government policy currently supports tree planting, a lack of investment in forestry on Dartmoor will result in long-term supply shortages of certain species. Manage existing stock to maximise resource and develop long-term strategy
- Investigate tree planting options such as wood pasture and scattered trees to soften cultural resistance to trees
- Private and blended investment such as habitat banks, carbon credits and BNG alongside ESG and corporate sponsorship, all emerging areas of interest and growth
- Alternative emerging systems including agroforestry could provide blended land use options that maintain grazing whilst providing climate and commercial benefits
- Societal need for more trees to achieve multiple benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood alleviation, recreation and biodiversity
- Explore options for more commercial hardwood production or mixed woodlands

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- Continue and build an integrated approach to cultural heritage, biodiversity and forestry to identify areas where forestry could be encouraged
- Increase tree nurseries with locally sourced seed to ensure local provenance of native species
- Consider species that are suitable and would thrive in a changing, more hostile climate to provide resilience

### Policy Drivers:

- [Environmental Land Management Schemes](#), Defra Designed to support farmers and land managers across England by providing payments to improve nature and the environment
- [Environment Act, Defra 2021](#), establishes legal duties such as mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain using Local Nature Recovery Strategies in decision making
- [Woodland Carbon Code 2011](#), voluntary UK standard for woodland carbon projects
- [UK Net Zero Strategy 2021](#), Calls for increased woodland creation to remove CO2
- [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](#) (PLTOF) sets out how Protected Landscapes will meet key goals in the Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 and how Defra will track progress. PLTOF targets can be found in Appendix A.
- [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.

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- [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.
- [Delivering 30 by 30 on land in England](#), Defra (2023) - sets out the Government's approach to protecting 30% of the UK's land by 2030.
- [Independent Review of Protected Site Management on Dartmoor](#) - makes a series of recommendations for Defra ministers to consider on the future management of Dartmoor's sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

### **Public consultation on priorities for Dartmoor**

A public consultation on Dartmoor's future priorities was held during August and September 2025. The consultation invited people to share their views on the most important issues to be addressed in the updated Dartmoor Partnership Plan and for Dartmoor's long-term future.

### **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

PLTOF Target	Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2027-2032 Target (short term target)	PLTOF long term target (Dartmoor specific)
<p><b>Target 1</b> Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).</p>	<p>Ambition to be agreed in the workshops</p> <p>Target to be agreed over the review period</p>	<p>7,548ha by 2042 (apportioned figure)</p> <p>To be agreed or amended in the review period</p>
<p><b>Target 2</b> Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042</p>	<p>Ambition to be agreed in the workshops</p> <p>Target to be agreed over the review period</p>	<p>80% by 2042</p>
<p><b>Target 3</b> For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.</p>	<p>Ambition to be agreed in the workshops</p> <p>Target to be agreed over the review period</p>	<p>60% by 2028</p>
<p><b>Target 4</b> Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-</p>	<p>Ambition to be agreed in the workshops</p> <p>Target to be agreed over the review period</p>	<p>100% of priority habitat and newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment under favourable management by 2042</p>

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environment schemes by 2042.		
<b>Target 5</b> Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.	Ambition to be agreed in the workshops  Target to be agreed over the review period	At least 65% of land managers have adopted nature-friendly farming on at least 10% of their land by 2030.
<b>Target 6</b> Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	Carbon negative by 2045.	Carbon negative by 2045.
<b>Target 7</b> Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050	Ambition to be agreed in the workshops  Target to be agreed over the review period	8,030ha peatland restored by 2050 (apportioned figure)  To be agreed or amended in the review period
<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).	Ambition to be agreed in the workshops  Target to be agreed over the review period	2,867ha of tree canopy and woodland cover created by 2050 (apportioned figure)  To be agreed or amended in the review period
<b>Target 9</b> Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	Ambition to be agreed in the workshops  Target to be agreed over the review period	Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

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<b>Target 10</b> Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	Ambition to be agreed in the workshops  Target to be agreed over the review period	Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.
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