



DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN
guiding planning applications in Dartmoor National Park

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

February 2025



1. Introduction

- 1.1. Under section 67(1) of the Environment Act 1995, Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the entire area of Dartmoor National Park. Those responsibilities include the mineral and waste planning functions for the area. The Authority also prepares the Dartmoor National Park Partnership Plan (also known as the Management Plan); these are the over-arching strategic documents for the National Park and set the vision and objectives to guide the future of the National Park over a 10 to 20 year period. The current Partnership Plan was adopted in 2021, there is a consistent vision for Dartmoor's future in the Partnership Plan and Local Plan.
- 1.2. Preparation of a Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a requirement of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the 2011 Localism Act). The LDS must publicly set out which local development documents we are to prepare, which of these are development plan documents, which area they cover, whether they are to be prepared with another authority and the timetable against which they will be prepared. The LDS must be formally adopted.
- 1.3. This LDS is a public statement of the programme for preparing and reviewing the formal planning documents for Dartmoor National Park.

This includes:

- Development Plan Documents (identifying strategic priorities and containing policies to address these, for example the Local Plan)
- Supplementary Planning Documents (detailed advice and guidance which adds to adopted policy, such as Design Guidance)
- Other documents, including Local Development Documents (including 'procedural' documents such as the Local Development Scheme or Statement of Community Involvement)

2. Current plans in Dartmoor National Park

2.1. The Dartmoor Local Plan (2018-2036) for Dartmoor National Park was adopted in December 2021. It is a comprehensive Local Plan containing strategic policies, development management policies, site allocations, and minerals and waste policies. It is supported by the extant Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Housing SPD.

Document name	Current status
Local Plan (DPD - Development Plan Document) Sets out the vision, aims and strategy for spatial development in the Dartmoor National Park, provides detailed development management policies, allocates sites for housing and other development, sets out policies for Minerals and Waste development.	Adopted (2021)
Design Guidance (SPD - Supplementary Planning Document) Guidance to encourage a high standard of design in Dartmoor National Park	Adopted (2011)
Housing (SPD - Supplementary Planning Document) Guidance to support the delivery of housing in Dartmoor National Park.	Adopted (2023)
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Sets out the scope and arrangements for consultation and participation for each local development document	Adopted (Revised 2018)
Local Development Scheme (LDS) The timetable for preparation of local development documents (e.g. Local Plan) and Supplementary Planning Guidance	Current (Revised 2025)

Table 1. Current local planning documents

3. Local Development Scheme

- 3.1. This document will include commentary on the complete range of documents the Authority intends to prepare and review. The LDS is required to cover the preparation of DPDs but Statements of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning Documents are included for completeness.
- 3.2. The Authority intends to prepare or review the following documents within the timeframe of this LDS. Key milestones for their preparation/review are set out in Table 2.

3.3. Local Plan (Development Plan Document)

- 3.4. The Local Plan was prepared from 2016, including informal and formal consultation stages and public examination in early 2021. The Inspector's Report was received in November 2021 and the Local Plan was adopted in December 2021 at which point the previous DPDs were deleted.
- 3.5. The National Planning Policy Framework states:

“Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary¹⁹. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan, and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.” (NPPF para 34)

[Footnote 19 states: Reviews at least every five years are a legal requirement for all local plans (Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).]

- 3.6. A timetable for the review of the Local Plan has been proposed within 5 years of the Local Plan being adopted (that being December 2026). The scope of the Local Plan review will be that of the entire Local Plan; it will include the whole area of Dartmoor National Park, and include consideration of strategic policies, development management policies, allocations, and minerals and waste policies.
- 3.7. The outcome of that review is unknown, and despite recent changes to the NPPF, these alone are not conclusive that an update of the strategic policies of the Local Plan is required. The Authority acknowledges the Government's intention to implement wider changes to the planning system through the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 and as such it is very likely that the Local Plan will require an update within the second 5year review period. As such an update to the Local Plan is timetabled to be completed before the end of the second 5year review period (December 2031). The timescales are shown in table 2 and paragraph 3.18. If subsequently, the review process or other legislative changes identify a requirement

to update the Local Plan sooner, than this LDS will be revised and a new timescale published.

3.8. **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

3.9. The Authority has two adopted SPDs, the Housing SPD (2023) and the Design Guide (2011). Whilst outside the necessary scope of this LDS it is helpful to set out the Authority's intentions regarding the review of these SPDs, as follows.

3.10. The Authority adopted the Housing SPD in 2023 and offers additional guidance to the Local Plan policies on affordable and market housing, custom and self-build homes, rural workers housing, and the delivery of housing sites.

3.11. The Authority intends to review the Design Guide SPD. This will ensure the guidance is up to date and aligns with Local Plan policies, for example on sustainable construction and space and accessibility standards. The scope of the Design Guide SPD may also include a design code dimension to reflect government policy in that area.

3.12. The Authority also has additional guidance which has been prepared jointly with partners. This has not been adopted as SPD. The South Hams SAC guidance was prepared in partnership and was endorsed by the Authority in October 2019. Joint Biodiversity Net Gain guidance was first published in 2021 as technical guidance and was updated in April 2024 to align with legislation.

3.13. **Statement of Community Involvement**

3.14. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that LPAs produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Authority prepared and adopted a SCI, *Planning: Having Your Say*, in November 2018. It is considered necessary to review the SCI prior to the review of the Local Plan to ensure that the consultation and engagement process meets the latest requirements and best practice.

3.15. **Joint working and other plans**

3.16. Although joint development plan documents can be prepared with other planning authorities, there is currently no intention to prepare joint planning documents. In April 2016 the Authority agreed¹ not to enter formally into joint local plan arrangements with Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams; or with Exeter, Teignbridge, Mid-Devon and East Devon. It has committed to work closely with both groups in respect to evidence gathering and meeting the Duty to Co-operate for both the Dartmoor Local Plan, and the respective plans of other LPAs.

3.17. The Authority maintains close liaison with Devon County Council, which is the mineral planning authority for the rest of Devon outside Plymouth and Torbay (and Dartmoor) in preparing evidence and monitoring to inform and support minerals policies.

¹ Authority Report April 2016 http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/739609/20160401-Authority-Reports.pdf

Local Development Document	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Local Plan (DPD) review	Evidence review Consultation	Final report (Summer 2026)					
Local Plan (DPD) update				Evidence review Issues and Options consultation	Ongoing Plan preparation	Draft Local Plan consultation Submission consultation	Submission to Secretary of State Examination Adoption
Statement of Community Involvement	Consultation Adoption						
Design Guidance SPD			Consultation Adoption				

Table 2. Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Development Scheme – Programme 2024-2028

3.18. With reference to the above formal LDS timescales, it is anticipated that the review of the local plan will take place as follows.

Phase 1 Review of evidence

This phase will include:

- Collection of evidence
- Drafting of an interim paper and Topic Papers

This phase is planned to start in summer 2025

Phase 2 Consultation

This phase will provide the opportunity for public consultation on the interim paper and Topic Papers.

This phase is planned to start in early 2026.

Phase 3 Final Report

The interim report will be revised to consider stakeholder views on the conclusions and recommendations made. The final report will be considered formally by the Authority.

This phase is planned to conclude in summer 2026.

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1. Legislation requires local planning authorities to produce an Authority Monitoring Report to assess progress on the implementation of the LDS. The Authority also maintains and publishes other monitoring and reports, including the Brownfield Register, the Self-Build Register, and the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- 4.2. Monitoring systems should assess:
- whether policies in local development documents are being implemented effectively, and whether targets and/or milestones are being met
 - the impact of the policies with regard to national, regional and local targets
 - the effectiveness of the policies and proposals with regard to the achievement of strategic objectives, and whether modification or replacement is required.
- Where policies or proposals need to be changed, the annual review should indicate how that will be achieved.
- 4.3. A robust monitoring framework is now set out in the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report published each year. The review and monitoring of the Dartmoor National Park Partnership Plan and its associated State of the Park Report also provides evidence and material for assessing the documents in the Local Plan.